

With the exception of some tunnel work on Burns' Mountain, no prospecting for quartz was done. Samples of quartz taken from a ledge found on one of the tributaries of Willow River by Foster and Paris, assayed at the Government Assay Office \$15 07 per ton of 2,000 lbs., with traces of silver.

JNO. BOWEN,
Gold Commissioner.

MR. STEPHENSON'S REPORT.

FORKS QUESNELLE, 15th November, 1882.

SIR,—I have the honour to forward herewith the mining statistics for Keithley Division, Cariboo District. Although I have been as careful as possible in collecting information, I must acknowledge a serious falling off from last year's yield of gold in nearly all the different sections of this division.

The unprecedented high waters of this season, certainly did in many instances retard work, and on Keithley Creek did considerable damage to several of the creek claims. But upon the other hand for hydraulic and ground sluicing claims, where plenty of water is needed, the season has been unusually good for a plentiful supply.

As yet there is very little hydraulic mining in this section, chiefly owing to heavy outlay necessary to get water upon the benches that would pay to be worked as hydraulic claims.

The river mining has been greatly retarded by the water keeping at a high stage until late in the season, thereby causing quite a number of Chinamen to go down the country, who, had the water been as low as usual at the time of the year, would have been mining upon the river bars until the cold weather set in; but this season the cold weather has come before the water has gone down, therefore, we have very little river mining this fall.

On the Fraser River, from Quesnelle to Soda Creek, there are comparatively few miners this year, they having apparently worked the diggings found last year without any new discoveries for the current year.

W. STEPHENSON,
Government Agent.

REPORT OF MESSRS. PETRIE, McDONALD, JOHNS AND PORTER. To the Commissioner of Cariboo District:

SIR,—We, the undersigned, having received a portion of the Government fund for exploration purposes, beg leave to submit the following report which contains a summary of our proceedings since 15th August last:—On that date we left Barkerville and proceeded south over Bald Mountain until we struck Swift River and its tributaries. Here we found small prospects on the surface; but as we were not prepared to sink for deep diggings, continued our way in a southerly direction across the divide between Swift River and the main Quesnelle.

On the south side of the divide, we found a very large quartz ledge from 15 to 20 feet in width with well defined walls. The ledge runs in a N. E. and S. W. direction and is traceable on the surface for over 700 feet, the croppings in places rising 10 feet above the ground. It is so situated on the side of the mountain that we judged a tunnel run in a distance of 500 feet would tap the ledge 1000 feet from the surface.

On the south side of the divide we found a section of country, which heretofore seemed to have been en-

tirely overlooked. We found one large stream to which has been given the name of Porter Creek, having a number of small tributaries, upon several of which we found gold upon the clay. We made an attempt to sink on one of these, but for lack of windlass and rope, could only get down about 18 feet. This stream empties into Porter Creek about a mile from where we were sinking. Subsequently we ascertained that Porter Creek empties into Swift River about five, or perhaps six, miles below where we were working.

In the meantime our supply of provisions was getting exhausted, but fortunately one of our party about this time killed a cariboo, and as grouse were very plentiful we prolonged our stay several days, and found that on Porter Creek the valley in places is over a mile in width, that small prospects could be found over the whole of this distance, which confirmed us in the belief, that we had found a favourable field to prospect in, and we determined as our provisions were exhausted to return to Barkerville and refit ourselves again, and come back to test the deep ground. Accordingly we started back, and reached Barkerville on the 23rd September. Receiving further aid, we started back again, on the 28th, provided with rope, windlass, buckets, etc. In order to get through with horses and pack animals, we were obliged to go by way of Stanley, following the old Swift River trail for about 15 miles, and then cutting our way through the timber the remainder of the distance. This occupied us ten days, and as the cold weather was setting in we had to build ourselves a cabin, which took eight days more. We then commenced sinking a new shaft about fifty feet from the old one which we had left at 18 feet, and continued sinking until the 21st November, having reached a depth of 56 feet, when we were again obliged to return to Barkerville for more supplies.

The shaft is well and securely timbered. The ground is for the first few feet gravel, then about ten feet clay, then more gravel for about thirty feet, after which, comes a hard dry slum to bottom.

The sinking is pretty good (hard and dry); we can only conjecture as to depth to bed-rock, but think it will not exceed 25 feet from where we left off. We have named this creek Ollalie Creek.

As the Government fund for exploration is exhausted, as well as our own individual resources, we have made an appeal to the general public for assistance, and have met with such a generous response that we intend returning in a few days to continue sinking, if possible, our shaft to bed-rock.

FRANK PETRIE,
ALEX. McDONALD,
ALEXANDER PORTER,
SILAS JOHNS.

Barkerville, B. C., 30th November, 1882.

MESSRS. JOHNSTON AND McDONALD'S REPORT.

To John Bowen, Gold Commissioner, Richfield:

SIR,—We beg to report the result of our prospecting tour to the north of Sugar Creek:—Starting from Sugar Creek on the 15th August, we went down Valley Creek twenty miles, then went north-west to Stone Lake Valley, a distance of ten miles. We then struck a creek, about the size of Stouts Gulch, running to the east, on which we sunk three prospect holes and got colours of gold in each, but not enough