

dollars worth of gold was produced this year, much of this being, however, not reported to the Government officials and smuggled out in order to avoid the royalty tax. In the other districts of the Cassiar country practically no mining was carried on, with the exception of the hydraulic operations of the Thibert Creek Mining Company. Here probably not more than five or six thousand dollars worth of gold was recovered, a land slide occurring in August, thereby limiting the working season to a few weeks only. The Omineca gold yield was also insignificant. The largest operators, the Arctic Slope Company, after starting the season well enough, ran out of supplies and only worked a portion of the season, barely paying expenses. In Cariboo, production from the

River at Lytton, and on the Quesnel River, in Cariboo, are said to have proved moderately successful, but the Thompson River enterprise has so far proved disappointing.

The coal mining situation has shown little change. Output has been fairly well maintained at the level of the 1901 production from the Vancouver Island collieries, and large shipments continue to be made to the California market, notwithstanding the competition occasioned by the utilization there of mineral oil as fuel for industrial purposes. An important discovery of a bed of anthracite coal is reported to have been lately made near Comox. The Crow's Nest Coal Company have added to the number of their coke ovens, increased the output and performed a great



View in Quatsino Narrows, Looking South.

largest mines was seriously curtailed by a shortage of water supply, attributable to another unusually dry season, the output from the Consolidated Cariboo Hydraulic being considerably less than for some years past. On smaller properties some very rich ground was discovered, and important exploitation work was carried on at Slough Creek, where efforts are being made to recover the gold from the ancient river channel systems at depth. From Wild Horse Creek, in East Kootenay a yield of approximately twenty thousand dollars in value is reported, and placer mining operations on a small scale have also been conducted in the Similkameen, Big Bend, Nelson and other districts. Gold dredging undertakings on the Fraser

deal of development work during the year. Operations have been, however, somewhat hindered, by labour disputes, while the regrettable disaster of last May, besides causing a large loss of life, occasioned much damage to the property. The branch line of the Great Northern Railway is now nearing completion, and this will provide further facilities for the marketing of the product, although at the present time the company experiences some difficulty in keeping pace with the local demand. During the summer exploration parties and individual prospectors have been engaged in exploring the East Kootenay field, with the result that many new discoveries of coal seams are reported. Preliminary development work is also be-