

ly operated this year as to enable distributions of profits to be made aggregating \$117,000. A third dividend of three cents per share, on the issued shares numbering 1,300,000, or \$39,000, was declared during September, and the mine has thus yielded in profits since its acquisition by the present company, a total amount of \$237,000. By the last distribution the North Star takes the lead for the current year to date, as the most important dividend-paying mine in the Province. The ore mined from this property is of very ordinary grade, and success is therefore chiefly due to economy of production the result of systematic working and careful management.

Dredging operations are now in progress on the North Thompson river, if the prospects continue as bright as at present the success of the enterprise is quite assured. According to late reports rich pay gravel has been encountered at a depth of about 16 feet in the channel at the lower end of the claim, and the dredge is now working at this point with most satisfactory results. This month preparations were completed for the inauguration of another dredging undertaking on the Fraser river, and there is every reason to hope that by the introduction of New Zealand methods the difficulties which have stood in the way and interfered with the success of enterprises of this nature in the past will now be surmounted. Some of the streams, however, which it is proposed to dredge were thoroughly prospected in the early days of mining in the Province, and in many instances worked and wing-dammed, both by whites and Chinamen. In these cases it is not likely that dredging, even though the best methods are called into requisition will prove remunerative and a word of caution may therefore, not be altogether out of place.

DR. ROBERTSON ON THE YUKON.

THE opinion of Dr. Robertson, British Yukon inspector of mines, that the Klondike has an active life of at least twenty years still before it, and that no diminution of the output is to be expected for ten years to come is exceedingly comforting, the more so as it is based upon an exhaustive study of the district and an accurate knowledge of the conditions prevailing there. The following interesting interview with Dr. Robertson takes a sound view of the capabilities of the Klondike and fully bears out the attitude of the MINING RECORD in discussing the output for this season. We republish it from the *Vancouver Province* :—

"The opinion I have given as to the life and gold-producing possibilities of the Klondike, is based on a thorough inspection and study of the mining conditions of that remarkable camp. Improved methods of mining, cheaper transportation which means, necessarily, cheaper living, cheaper labour and many other things, are contributing to increase the production of gold and rendering the effort to get it more profitable. It has been demonstrated that the dredge can be successfully operated in the Klondike. When I left the district a few days ago they were working a dredge on No. 42 below on Bonanza. There it is proving a success. The claim could not be worked successfully from a financial standpoint by the usual placer method. But the dredge is giving good returns.

"In comparison with what profitable mining there is ahead, in view of these improved conditions, one must realize that they have only begun to open up the Klondike. Yes, the output will continue large. There will be no perceptible decrease in the yield for ten years.

"I expect to see great things accomplished in the Klondike by steam shovel and hydraulic operation. The latter, of course, requires a lot of water, the supply of which, when exhausted in the creeks, I think will be the Klondike river.

"There is now one steam shovel in successful operation on Lower Dominion, and Dominion is a great creek. There is any amount of rich ground. One firm alone, Dougherty & Stiles, owns a mile of hillside on the left limit of Lower Dominion, beginning at 133 below Lower Discovery.

"One of the best indications that the Klondike is to be long lived is to be found in the permanent and very expensive public improvements. The new administration under Gov. Ross in the Yukon is making wonderful improvements. The expenditures for roads alone this season exceed \$250,000. Good roads are being constructed to the mines. They are being built along the creeks and not over the ridges as formerly. The road that follows the creek is the one that gives the miner real service. The cross-country roads, experience demonstrated, were not much genuine benefit.

"The government municipal improvements are many. The administration buildings in Dawson would be a credit to almost any city.

"The reduction of the royalty from 10 to 5 per cent. with an exemption of \$5,000, has been a material factor in bringing about an increase in the annual output of the Klondike. And within a twelvemonth I look to see the royalty abolished altogether and an export duty of 2 per cent. substituted. This will force the establishment of an assay office in Dawson.

"In considering the fabulous yield of the Klondike since its discovery five years ago, one naturally begins to speculate on the life of the camp and say it will soon peter out. Eldorado creek has been developed up to claim No. 40. There is but little ground in that distance that has not been washed in some shape. But all of this creek will be rewashed. Even the tailings will be gone over again and a hydraulic application will produce a vast amount of gold from the 35 or 40 claims that now appear to be worthless. The miners have demonstrated that Eldorado is susceptible of hydraulic. The placer mines on this creek long ago successfully used small force pumps and also pulsometer pumps for cutting down the frozen gravel instead of using the steam points for thawing purposes.

"Bonanza creek, which, when finally worked out, will probably have produced as much gold as the celebrated Eldorado, is not now more than one-third worked out. Many of the smaller creeks of the district regarded as worthless from the standpoint of the primitive placer method of development, are paying well where machinery is employed. Think of the possibilities of the hillsides and benches! Very little, in comparison with what there is open for development, of this character of ground has been worked. In fact there is very little soil within the confines of the whole Klondike district that does not carry gold.

"This season good strikes have been made on Montana and Montreal creeks, tributaries of Indian river, which is practically part of the Klondike district. These and many other unworked streams will doubtless demonstrate that they carry good pay ground. For, as I said before, gold seems to be everywhere in the Klondike. It runs from the surface to bedrock."