

year, the mine being only partially equipped, for the final run they cleaned up \$41,875 for work carried on for 29 days of 24 hours each. This year, after having washed away the debris which fell from the capping and the frozen mass of slide material which always accumulates in hydraulic mines during the winter season, they are now piping on pay gravel. When this mine is thoroughly opened, which will probably not be before 1899, I think it will turn out a million a year. This long waiting is the worst feature of hydraulic mining, but, on the other hand, no industry is so sure of returning its 10 to 500 per cent. when work on pay gravel commences under conditions by which the full development of the mine may have been reached. Following the South Fork of the Quesnelle, we next arrive at the ground belonging to the Victoria Consolidated Company, which I hope will prove equally as rich as that belonging to the Cariboo Company, whose property it adjoins. Beyond this we have the Quesnelle Forks Mining Syndicate's ground, which is situated at the old junction of the North and South Forks, some short distance from the present junction. On the other side of the South Fork we have the claims of the North Fork Canal and Hydraulic Mining Company (almost directly opposite the ground belonging to the Quesnelle Forks Hydraulic Mining Syndicate) as well as the Rose Gulch and two or three other properties which, I have no doubt, with better appliances than those now in use, and with greater capital for working expenses than the present owners possess, will some day prove exceedingly profitable.

Setting out from Quesnelle Forks and proceeding up the North Fork we reach, first of all, leaving out of consideration bench and bar diggings, Kangaroo Creek. This creek, as far as surface diggings are concerned, has proved very rich, and, in addition to a long tunnel which has been driven to strike the old channel, there is also a shaft which has been sunk some 40 feet below the level of the present river. Just as the miners, all honor to them for their pluck, had penetrated the "blue clay" and struck pay gravel the water came in on them, and, as their resources were limited, active work was for a time discontinued. They, however, have proved an exceedingly interesting geological fact, viz.: that there is an ancient channel far below the present water system. This fact, in addition to the knowledge gained from the Cariboo Company's ground, proves that there are at least two old channel systems, one above and one below the present river. Proceeding up river we strike, first of all, Grey and Company's property. Here an attempt is being made to divert the course of the stream and apparently success will be attained. This river in innumerable places has (unlike the main Quesnelle, the current of which is too swift, as a general rule, for this purpose) been wing dammed, so that I do not see how, provided the river can be diverted, a rich reward will not be reaped by the shareholders. Almost adjoining this property is that belonging to the Fishback Hydraulic Gold Mining Company, Limited, consisting of about 830 acres of what is apparently, or I should say certainly, an old channel of the North Fork. Prospects from the surface of this mine say, for 20 feet down, contain much more gold than the surface of even the far famed Cariboo. What may be the amount realized at the lower levels can only be left to the imagination, suffice it to say that at the outlet many and many a thousand dollars were taken from the gravel in the old days by the rocker. Beyond this property is that belonging to the Consolidated Victoria Hydraulic Mining Company, which company also owns the ground adjoining the famed Cariboo, mention of which I have already made. Proceeding northwards we pass various

streams, all more or less gold bearing, until we reach the Cariboo Lake, into which Keithley Creek, perhaps one of the richest creeks in this district, empties. Re turning to the left bank we find the following hydraulic claims situated on or near Black Bear and Spanish Creeks, viz.: the Moore Company, Black Bear Company, Toms and J. Mather. Farther down stream we find a large number of claims held by the North Fork Canal & Hydraulic Mining Company, which are almost opposite to those owned by the Fishback Company. Various claims are also held by small owners until we reach the junction of the North and South rivers at Quesnelle Forks.

From the Forks down stream the first mine of any importance, although many acres of the bench lands have been staked out, is that belonging to the Maud Hydraulic Mining Company, Limited. As I am president and managing director of this company, I cannot say anything against it or for it. So much, however, I will say, that we have eight locations amounting in all, I think, to about 800 acres with a water right of 9,000 inches, which latter can, by construction of several dams, be brought on to the company's property without building even a single mile of ditch. From rim-rock to rim-rock of this channel the distance is about 4,000 feet: this measurement being taken at a point about 300 feet below the surface. My opinion is that the old channel on which the Cariboo Company's ground is situated was joined by another old channel (which ran parallel to the present North Fork) at some point at a short distance east of the Maud property. From my knowledge gained from the formation of the country, as well as from tests of the fineness and character of the gold from this property compared with those from the old channels to the eastward I am led to believe that this company owns the main ancient channel. This property can at the same time be both hydrauliced and drifted. Proceeding down stream we pass the locations of the More Head Creek Syndicate, on which not much development work has yet been done. Further on we come to the grounds of the 20 Mile Creek Syndicate, on which development work has been carried on for one or two years. I might mention that from this point to the Forks 20 miles of the river have been leased by capitalists who intend to place dredgers at work during the present season. If they can make a tithe of what one man made last season they will make gold almost as cheap as silver. This man waded into the river until the water was near the top of his gum boots and took gravel from the bottom, which he carried ashore and washed, in four days cleaning up six ounces. This property, as well as the Fishback, is now being transferred to a large syndicate which is on the eve of expending large sums of money in equipping their mines. The whole of this river has been taken up for dredging purposes and at present two plants are in operation, viz.: the Fader bucket dredge and the ordinary dredge under the able direction of Colonel Underwood. Various rumors have been afloat as to the amount of gold taken out but the amounts named seem too high to be true. Below the 20 Mile Creek is the ground owned by the Montreal & B. C. Prospecting & Mining Co., which probably has a larger area of mining property than any other company in B. C. From what I can gather, systematic development work has been carried on and the result of tests of the pay gravel have been extremely satisfactory. At the mouth of the Beaver River is the property belonging to the Beavermouth Hydraulic Mining Company, Limited, which I believe has lately been sold to an English syndicate. From what I hear the deposit seems to be the same as that in the ground of the Montreal Company. Beyond this again we find the French Company exploring