

Creek, a tributary of the Omenica, was found in 1868, and Vital Creek, a branch of the former, in 1869. In 1870, diggings were found on Germansen Creek and the following year on Slate, Manson and Lost Creeks. No further discoveries were made until Tom's Creek was struck in 1889.

The population of the country reached its maximum about 1872, and has since steadily declined. In 1893 four miners were working on Germansen Creek, eight on Manson Creek, three on Vital Creek and about twenty on Tom's Creek. The other creeks have been worked out and deserted.

The total production of the camp up to the present time, judging from the fragmentary statistics of the district published in the Annual Reports of Minister of Mines for British Columbia, and from other sources, probably approaches closely to, if it does not exceed, a million dollars.

The gold in the Omenica region has been obtained principally from the gravels overlying the older rocks, in the beds of the present streams. The gravels, as a rule, have little depth, and the productive portions of the different streams seldom exceed three miles in length. No deep diggings or extensive hydraulic workings have so far been attempted in the district.

The auriferous gravels underlying the boulder-clay on Germansen, Manson and other creeks in the district have a wide distribution and promise favourable results if worked on a sufficiently large scale. A short tunnel was driven into a bank of this description on Germansen Creek by Mr. Clinton in 1892, and sufficient gold taken out to pay small wages. Water can be obtained almost anywhere from lakes and mountain streams, within a reasonable distance, and the only drawback to successful hydraulic mining is the great expense attendant on the carriage of material and supplies from the coast. The absence of easily navigable waterways, and the mountainous and swampy character of the surrounding country, present obstacles to transportation which can only be overcome at great expense. At the present time, the greater part of the supplies are brought in by pack animals from Hazelton at the Forks of the Skeena, the rate to Manson Creek amounting to 17 cents per pound.

Some prospecting has been done in the Omenica region every season since its auriferous character became known, but the district has by no means been thoroughly explored. The discovery of pay gravels on Tom's Creek, close to Vital Creek, twenty years after the later was found, shows how loose the examination has been, nor need this be