

The hydraulic installation practically completed in 1911 by the late John B. Hobson was in use in 1912, but, as there was much more preliminary work to do in opening the new pit than had been expected, it is probable the recovery of gold there was small. Beside this mining on Spanish creek, there was also work done on the North fork of Quesnel river, and on Kelthley, Snowshoe, Martin, and other creeks, but details have not been received.

Omineca.—While attention is again being given to placer-mining on the Omineca river, and preliminary work was done there last season, it is unlikely that operations were far enough advanced to have resulted in the recovery of much gold.

General.—Construction of new roads and trails in various parts of this big district has had the active attention of the Provincial Government, so that additional facilities for travel have thus been provided. Means of communication will be greatly improved when several of the proposed railways have been built. It is probable that much railway-construction work will be undertaken during this year and next.

CASSIAR DISTRICT.

The extensive area known as Cassiar District includes the following mining divisions: Atlin, Idard, Stikine, Skeena, Queen Charlotte, and Portland Canal. As yet, there is comparatively little mineral production in this large district other than that of placer gold in the Atlin Division. Revised figures for 1911 showed Atlin's proportion of the district's total of \$268,442 to have been \$228,776, of which \$225,000 was for placer gold. However, developments taking place indicate that a similar disproportion will not be continued, for Skeena may be expected to soon commence producing lode metals, even if the mining of coal be longer deferred. The approaching completion of the Grand Trunk Pacific railway through the greater part of the Skeena river and the Bulkley Valley country will provide needed transportation facilities, and the mining and shipment of metalliferous minerals on a commercial scale may be expected to be undertaken during 1913. Productive coal-mining, however, is likely to be postponed at least another year.

Atlin Mining Division.

As has already been mentioned, there was experienced in Atlin Mining Division in 1912 an unusual shortage of water for placer-mining operations, and consequently less mining-work was done than would have been under favourable conditions. Notwithstanding this drawback, however, it is estimated that more gold was recovered than in the 1911 season—about \$250,000 last year, as against \$225,000 in 1911. Placer-mining was done on the following streams: Pine, Spruce, McKee, Birch, Boulder, Ruby, Wright, Otter, Wilson, Lincoln, and Davenport creeks, and O'Donnell river.

The North Columbia Gold Mining Co., of which J. M. Ruffner is general manager, is reported to have been somewhat handicapped by an inadequate supply of water, so that the season's results were not quite as good on the whole as in 1911, though in one of the pits worked by this company more gold was recovered than in any previous season. An increased yield from Spruce creek is estimated, notwithstanding that fewer mines were worked there than in other years. A substantial increase is thought to have resulted from operations on Ruby creek, on which hydraulic mining was done in ground known to be rich, but not previously reached when gravel-washing. On several of the other creeks above mentioned insufficiency of water led to smaller returns in gold. On the three streams last on the list prospecting only was done, in each case with encouraging results.