

tent in 1861, and then abandoned until 1864. The working of Harvey and Cunningham Creeks was postponed until about the same time.

The remarkably rich creeks known as Williams, Lowhee and Lightning were discovered in the summer and autumn of 1861. The gold output of Cariboo in that year was estimated by the Victoria daily press at \$2,000,000.

In 1862 some claims on Williams Creek are said to have produced 100 ounces per day during the season, and the Cunningham claim turned out on several occasions—according to report—over 600 ounces per day. Four hundred miners were at work on Williams Creek in that year.

Below is an interesting table—partly from the report of the Minister of Mines for 1875—showing the value of the gold obtained from certain claims on Williams Creek, below the Canyon, up to the 1st of November, 1875. Also, the length of channel from which it was won and the yield per lineal foot of channel.

Claim.	Length of channel.	Value of gold produced.	Value per foot of channel.
Adams . . . . .	100 feet	\$ 50,000	\$ 500
Steele . . . . .	80 "	120,000	1,500
Diller . . . . .	50 "	240,000	4,800
Cunningham . . . . .	500 "	270,000	540
Burns . . . . .	80 "	140,000	1,750
Canadian . . . . .	120 "	180,000	1,500
Neversweat . . . . .	120 "	100,000	833
Mofiat . . . . .	50 "	90,000	1,800
Tinkler . . . . .	140 "	120,000	857
Watty . . . . .	100 "	130,000	1,300
	1,340 "	\$1,440,000	av'ge \$1,075

Lightning Creek did not yield so largely as Williams Creek, but the output was greater whilst it lasted. The former creek was abandoned in 1864 owing to the difficulty of reaching the deep channel, but in 1870 sinking was successfully resumed. It was worked altogether for a length of about three miles. According to the report of the Minister of Mines for 1875 the claims on this creek up to the 1st of November in that year had produced the following amounts of gold:

Claims—	
Campbell and Whitehall . . . . .	\$200,000
Dutch and Siegel . . . . .	130,000
Dunbar . . . . .	30,000
Lightning . . . . .	153,962
Discovery and Butcher . . . . .	120,000
South Wales . . . . .	141,531
Spruce Point . . . . .	99,908
Van Winkle . . . . .	136,625
Victoria . . . . .	363,983
Vancouver . . . . .	451,642
Vulcan . . . . .	274,190
Costello . . . . .	56,955
	20,476

\$2,179,272

From 1862 to 1874, inclusive, there is a lack of information as to the Cariboo output. For 1875, 1876,

and 1877 it is given in the following table from the report of the Minister of Mines:

Claim—	1875.	1876.	1877.
Lightning . . . . .	\$513,527		
Burns . . . . .	10,900		
Nelson . . . . .	9,750	\$137,306	\$222,017
Cottonwood . . . . .	5,000		
Swift River . . . . .	3,300		
Williams . . . . .	68,760		
Conklin Gulch . . . . .	41,200		
		224,071	162,385
Stout Gulch . . . . .	4,200		
Grouse . . . . .	4,414		
Lowhee, Jack of Clubs, Mosquito, McArthur and Antler . . . . .	26,400		
North and South Forks Quesnelle . . . . .	40,040	82,460	
Keithley . . . . .	25,515		
			20,370
Harvey and Snowshoe . . . . .	13,162		
	\$766,258	\$443,837	\$404,772

Year—	Year—
1878. . . . . \$380,535	1888. . . . . \$250,377
1879. . . . . 500,000	1889. . . . . 217,892
1880. . . . . 564,000	1890. . . . . 158,150
1881. . . . . 610,737	1891. . . . . 185,050
1882. . . . . 471,525	1892. . . . . 194,020
1883. . . . . 457,787	1893. . . . . 202,000
1884. . . . . 423,855	1894. . . . . 192,350
1885. . . . . 347,700	1895. . . . . 282,400
1886. . . . . 288,300	1896. . . . . 384,050
1887. . . . . 288,300	1896. . . . . 384,050
1887. . . . . 247,673	1897. . . . . 325,000

The natural tendency of the richer discoveries in the Cariboo creeks was to denude the main river of its workers, since which time operations on the Fraser have been of a very desultory character. The output since 1876 has been as follows:

Year—	Year—
1876. . . . . \$ 34,144	1887. . . . . \$180,700
1877. . . . . 12,000	1888. . . . . 146,285
1878. . . . . 14,000	1889. . . . . 94,664
1879. . . . . 73,900	1890. . . . . 110,555
1880. . . . . 45,600	1891. . . . . 72,006
1881. . . . . 99,652	1892. . . . . 63,063
1882. . . . . 95,520	1893. . . . . 64,476
1883. . . . . 122,640	1894. . . . . 62,857
1884. . . . . 184,034	1897. . . . . 97,313
1885. . . . . 168,200	1896. . . . . 98,773
1886. . . . . 196,700	1897. . . . . 96,160

These tables will show better than many words the recent course of mining both in Cariboo and on the Fraser. The latter table probably includes some gold from Bridge River.

Since the exhaustion of the more accessible deposits—whether shallow or deep—the output has fallen away considerably and, as shown in the above tables, has for the last 25 years been, on the average, less than half a million dollars a year. The reasons for this decline are very evident, but cannot be given here without anticipating much that is to follow. The great difficulties and consequent cost of transportation are in some measure responsible. Although these were very appreciably reduced by the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway, yet to many parts of the