

# FRANKLIN CAMP, IN BOUNDARY DISTRICT, AGAIN VISITED BY GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OFFICIAL.

**F**RANKLIN CAMP, in the Boundary district of British Columbia, has again been visited by a member of the staff of the Geological Survey Department of Canada. In 1900 Mr. R. W. Brock, of the Survey, whose name is well known in connection with the geology and mining industries of the Kootenay district, made an examination of Franklin camp, which is situated up the north fork of Kettle River, about 45 miles by wagon road from the town of Grand Forks. In his report of that visit, after describing the gold-bearing rocks of the district Mr. Brock gave particulars of the more promising claims, especially the Banner and the McKinley, and spoke encouragingly of the prospects and possibilities. At that time the camp was considerably hampered by two difficulties—first, that of transportation, being then three days' travel from Grand Forks, and, second, that bug-bear then so often the reason of delay in development in mining camps, namely, the ridiculously high prices put on their claims by prospectors, who seem to think that because a lode happens to carry valuable mineral it necessarily contains it in paying quantity.

Mr. Brock has lately returned from a second visit to this camp, and his views on it will shortly be included in the Summary Report of the Geological Survey which the Director has, it is understood, decided to bring out as soon as possible after the return of the field officers, instead of publishing it in June or July of the following year, when it would have lost half its value. Meanwhile it is learned that Mr. Brock is well satisfied with the progress made in the camp during the last six years. The McKinley, which has probably had \$30,000 expended on it, and the Banner are still two of the principal mines and are under development by a company, while the Gloucester, which at the time of Mr. Brock's visit was only down 15 ft., is being worked under bond by the Dominion Copper Company.

In general Franklin camp ores contain, beside their copper content, only a small value in gold, although the Gloucester ore is reported to carry nearly \$6 per ton, a proportion sufficiently large to be treated as a by-product if there are no chemical difficulties.

Several small companies are doing work on the Maple Leaf and other groups, and a number of prospectors are also busy on their claims.

The two above-mentioned initial difficulties have disappeared or at least are disappearing. The camp can now be reached in a day from Grand Forks and a railway is being constructed from that place, which will naturally considerably reduce mining expenses.

Moreover, the prospectors have brought their ideas of prices and values down to a business basis, and have realized that the mine purchaser of to-day wants something more for his money than a hole in the ground.

Mr. Brock sums up his views of the camp in the

following words: "While none of the claims are yet past the prospect stage (though the McKinley is developing satisfactorily), and none have been proved to any considerable depth, the camp possesses some of the ear-marks of a mineral-bearing district. Additional discoveries are extremely probable, and there seems to be a reasonable prospect of something in the camp developing into a mine."

# GOLD DREDGING ON THE FRASER RIVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA.

**W**RITING to the *Mining Journal* of London, England, Mr. H. G. Stringer, who for some time was in charge of the Fraser River Gold Dredging Company's dredging operations on the Fraser, lately contributed to that journal the following information:

Sir,—Bucket dredging on the Fraser River, although instituted as far back as 1898, has until the last 12 months met with scant success, but now that the principal difficulties have been overcome, the industry is beginning to go ahead, and in a few years' time will probably boom.

The chief causes of failure have been, first, the want of knowledge of the river, and second, the failing to take advantage of the knowledge when gained by the skilled practical men working the dredges. In the first place, sufficient notice was not taken of the ups and downs which had to be contended with in New Zealand, where dredging has been in vogue some 40 years, and where the industry has been brought to a great success. Many of the rivers in that country are very similar to the Fraser, and had the same class of machinery been more minutely studied in the first instance, a great deal of money would have been saved and success attained long ere this: the two main features for these swift-running rivers being strength and simplicity of machinery.

The first bucket dredge was put on the Fraser at Lytton by one John Cobbeldick. This was a powerful dredge, with 5-ft. buckets, and possessed many good points, but was, unfortunately, not adapted for bar dredging, wherein lay the Fraser's chief source of wealth. It possessed neither a projecting ladder nor tailings stacker, and to the want of these must be attributed one of the causes of failure of this dredge; but this could easily have been remedied, and the dredge could have rendered a good account of itself. As previously mentioned, the dredge possessed many good points; among the principal was the winch, which was powerful, easily handled, and suited in every respect to the river.

The second dredge, put on by the Fraser River Gold Dredging Company at Lytton in 1903, was a complete failure, although a special crew of experienced dredgemen from New Zealand was brought over to work her. She lacked both strength and simplicity—the two essentials. She had five engines, as against two, and the pontoons lacked freeboard, and the decks being continually under water made it always a source of