

of spring freshets prevented the great waste of water usual at such times. Subsequent summer rains in the Cariboo District also very much assisted in keeping up the water-supply.

The shortage of work general throughout the Province during the early summer caused a greatly increased number of men, both whites and Chinese, to undertake small placer operations; this was particularly noticeable in the districts adjacent to Quesnel and Quesnel Forks.

During the summer months the unusually low water exposed bars on the Fraser and Thompson rivers which are seldom accessible, and these were worked in numerous places by Indians and Chinese, with good results.

In the Barkerville section of the Cariboo District the larger hydraulic companies made a greater output than usual, while an increased number of individuals appear to have been working in a small way; this is also true of the Quesnel and Quesnel Forks sections, which report much larger amounts of gold recovered than has been the rule for some years past.

This is accounted for by the general shortage of other work throughout the northern part of the Province, which caused many men to once more take up placer-mining, even if it only produced wages.

No authentic news has as yet been received from the Omineca District, where considerable work has been going on, most of which, however, is of a preparatory nature, and it is not expected that any great output has been made this year, probably not more than about \$12,000 all told.

In the Atlin District the shortage of water was very noticeable, some of the companies being so short as to be only able to work effectively for half the season. On the other hand, some of the companies were evidently working in richer ground; it is not known whether this was by good luck or by intentionally attacklug only the richer parts, in an attempt to compensate for the water shortage.

Very little summer rain fell and its absence was much felt during the latter part of the season. Notwithstanding these drawbacks, it would appear that a somewhat increased production was made in this district.

In the Liard-Stikine District the Boulder Creek Hydraulic Mining Company had a successful season, taking out about \$20,000 from its ground on Thibert creek. Bull and Finn and Mitchell Bros., working in the same vicinity, made small outputs.

Four different partnerships were at work on Dease creek, with success enough to at least pay wages.

This year some gold was taken out of the Tahltan river by Indians and others working in the river-bed.

It is to be noted this year that two or three parties were working down the Liard river, at McDame creek, and on Rosella creek, a section that has been practically abandoned of late years.

The Stikine and Tulameen rivers produced more gold this year than for some years back and give promise of again being a factor in the placer-gold industry.

Vernon District also yielded some gold from hydraulic operations in Siwash creek.

Yale Mining Division made an unusually good output, owing to the very low water in the rivers exposing the bars.

The Fort Steele Mining Division made a better output than for some years past.

Lode Gold.—The quantity of lode gold produced seems to have been less than in any of the last three years. The output is estimated at \$5,051,203, as compared with \$5,100,004 in 1914, a decrease of \$57,711. The chief reason for this decrease is a very heavy decline in the output of the Nelson Division and a lessening of the outputs in the Boundary and Coast Districts. To offset this there were increases in Omineca, Skeena, and Trail Creek Divisions.

The amount of the total decrease is so small that, when the full returns are received, the balance may be changed to the other side, and so, speaking approximately, it may be said that lode-gold productions in 1914 and 1915 were the same.