

it is richer than others, and I think the future will show we have a fair share in British Columbia. We commenced mining on the Fraser River at Hope, 96 miles from the mouth, and our hardy and enterprising men kept forcing their way up stream, amidst privations and sufferings which were enough to appal the bravest heart, and which cost many a noble fellow his life. The nature of the deposit, and the character of the gold was invariably the same; that is, the deposit was shallow and the metal light, or what is commonly called "float gold." Comparing these circumstances with their experience in California and Australia, certain men determined to penetrate the interior in search of coarse gold deposits which they felt assured must exist in the neighbourhood somewhere, and at no great distance. The expedition was successful—gold in paying quantities was found along Quesnelle River and its forks, of a much coarser character than any yet taken out. Encouraged by these results they penetrated still further, until, shortly after, they struck the world-renowned Cariboo, a district which has since become so celebrated.

The year 1861 may be considered as the period of permanent discoveries in Cariboo, and from this period may be dated the material and political existence of the Colony in the great family of nations. Williams' Creek, the compeer of which has never yet been furnished by any country in the history of gold digging, became the parent of the Colony's glorious prosperity at first, and of its subsequent part prostration. It is necessary to bear this in mind, or you cannot intelligently comprehend either of these conditions, in their extreme of affluence or their extreme of indigence. Yet both, under the guidance of an all-wise Providence, have played no unimportant part in aiding the completion of the great scheme of confederation; the one by making known the vastness and endless wealth of the country, the other by teaching us the need of resting its future on something more permanent and solid than the fluctuations incident to gold mining.

From Williams' Creek explorers started in every direction, as far as the nature of the country admitted. Provisions and tools had to be packed (or carried) adding to our knowledge, in a short time, a series of creeks of more or less distinction, which, taken together, in wealth and extent seemed to make the future of the country as permanent as its present was brilliant.

The people rose with the grandeur of the day, and were prodigal of their means to make the country worthy its reputation. The great want of the country was easy communication from the source of food supply to the mines; a want which, from the character of the country to be intersected by a waggon-road, was not easily attained. Yet with a spirit worthy of the pioneers of this Province, the work was commenced and completed in three years, at a total cost of £151,000 (\$754,148). I speak now of the main waggon-road, as it stands to-day, a total of 383 miles from Yale to Cariboo a road, it is safe to say, that has no equal in any British Colony for size, convenience, engineering triumphs and durability. In addition to this, there was another road from Douglas, through Lilloet, to Clinton, about 130 miles, which cost £100,000 (\$504,955); besides a third trail-road built afterwards to our southern