

two feet of it taken up by the bucket proving by its character that the gold on bed-rock is capable of recovery. But the excavation of the necessary pit and the labour required to remove the tailings made the work somewhat tedious and it was only towards the end of the season that any effective work became possible.

Dynamite was successfully used to shake up the hard yellow gravel, this being accomplished by boring a line of drill holes with a Keystone drilling machine. These holes were put down about 20 feet back from the face and 50 feet apart and fired by electricity. The results proved very satisfactory. It is the intention of the company next year to install a small motor on the drilling machine, and by this means the expense of drilling will be much lessened.

By the time the dredge had gone sufficiently forward to allow of freely dumping behind, the bucket lips had worn down so as to lose their cutting efficiency and as it was too late in the season to put on new

pleted the dredge should be ready for the commencement of operations by August 1st of next year. This dredge will be supplied with power from the British American Dredging Company's line and a pole line has been constructed a distance of seven and a half miles to connect therewith.

To Mr. Switzer, general manager of the B. A. D. Co., is due the credit of organizing this company—of which he is managing director—as well as organizing the B. A. D. Co.—which has resulted in bringing into British Columbia American capital in large amounts. Mr. Switzer was one of the early pioneers of the Atlin district, in the future of which he has unbounded confidence, which the result of this past season's operations fully justifies.

During the past season the district was visited by Mr. R. Tolmie, the Deputy Minister of Mines, who thus, assisted by Dr. H. E. Young, M.P.P., was enabled to familiarize himself with conditions. It is

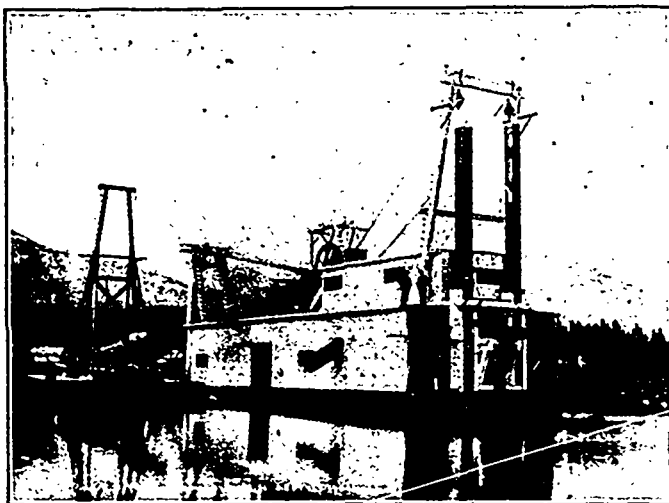


Main Winch on Dredge.

lips the general manager, Mr. Switzer, decided to suspend work for the season on October 18th. It is meanwhile the intention of the company to place on the buckets new thicker and wider lips at the beginning of next season.

This season's work has demonstrated several important facts: (1st) That the ground can be worked by means of dredging, (2nd) That this type of dredge will do the work, and will take up the gold with the bed-rock; (3rd) That the boulders are not an insurmountable difficulty and can be handled in most cases, (4th) That the values in the ground are such that a dredge digging to less than one-fourth of its capacity should afford a most profitable investment.

A second dredge was in course of construction this year on the property of the British Columbian Dredging Company, on Upper Spruce Creek, most of the lumber and machinery being hauled from Atlin to the company's property, a distance of 15 miles. This dredge is larger than the plant already described, and of the open connected type, having a capacity of 5,000 cubic yards per day. The hull being now about com-



The Dredge—Stern View.

hoped that as a result of Mr. Tolmie's visit, the Department will be in the future in a better position to adjudicate upon and adjust matters of dispute relating to property rights in Atlin and hence the costly expedient of litigation will be avoided.

Reviewing briefly mining operations in the district during the past year it may be presumed that the outlook has considerably improved and the future promises better than ever before. Hydraulic operations were conducted on Pine, Spruce, Boulder, McKee and Birch creeks with generally satisfactory results. A considerable area of new ground was acquired by Eastern syndicates and this area will be carefully exploited next spring with a view if conditions promise well to the installation of gold-saving dredges thereon. A part of Upper O'Donnell Creek was prospected this season by a local syndicate with encouraging results. Bull Creek, a tributary of O'Donnell, was also prospected in the same manner and good results obtained. O'Donnell Creek and its tributaries form a larger area than the Pine Valley, and the finding of gold therein in paying quantities will open up a very large district