

vestigation which the district so needed. Mr. Hobson has been doing pioneer work in the district and has had all the difficulties of the pioneer in any new enterprise to contend with."

The extent of the hydraulic mining operations carried on under Mr. Hobson's management was indicated in a report made by him to his directors in February, 1900. Only a brief excerpt may be reprinted here, as follows: "The property comprises 34 placer mining leases, aggregating 2,584 acres of land. These leases cover for a distance of about ten miles, the auriferous deposits of a system of ancient rivers. The deposits included in the company's property vary from 400 to 600 feet in depth from surface to bottom of channel. The quantity is estimated at 500,000,000 cubic yards of auriferous gravel that is available for future washing by hydraulic process. The company's water-supply system, as now completed, consists of 33 miles of well-constructed canals, having a capacity for delivering at the mine 5,000 miner's inches of water, under a head of 420 feet. The sources of supply are at Bootjack Lake and Polley Lake, about 19 miles distant, and Morehead Lake, 10 miles distant, from the company's mines at Bullion. These lakes have an aggregate capacity for storing 1,016,000,000 cubic feet of water. This storage supply is augmented by the waters of other streams tributary to the main canals between the storage reservoirs and the mines. The mine equipment consists of a portable hydraulic plant of four lines of 30-in. and 22-in. rivetted steel pipes, aggregating 6,000 feet; six No. 8 hydraulic giants, with deflecting nozzles, varying from six to ten inches in diameter; one steam power hoisting and pumping engine for sinking shafts for bank blasting; also a complete outfit of mechanics' and mining tools, and implements of all kinds, sufficient for 150 men. The mine lighting plant consists of six Wells' lights of 3,000 candle-power each. The telephone system includes three lines, aggregating 35 miles, with 15 instruments. The gold-saving appliances consist of a double-extended system of sluices, 7 feet wide by 4 feet deep, aggregating 2,380 feet in length.

During nine years, 1897-1905, nearly a million cubic yards of gravel was washed and gold to the aggregate of \$1,042,708 recovered. Dry seasons experienced in several years made the water supply very inadequate, but as confirming Mr. Hobson's persistent contention that with an abundant supply of water, the recovery of gold would be large and the results profitable, it is on record that in 1900, when the time run was 172 days and the quantity of water used 460,278 miner's inches, gold to the value of \$350,086 was recovered, at an aggregate cost of \$151,182, against which may be placed the extremely disappointing results in 1903, when the time run was 53 days, the quantity of water used 127,083 miner's inches, and the gold recovered only \$44,944, and that at an operating cost of \$81,451.

Before the opening of the 1906 season, the Consolidated Cariboo Company's interests had all been disposed of to the Guggenheims, of New York, and it then seemed that the great ambition of Mr. Hobson's life during many years would be realized. This ambition had been the obtainment of an ample supply of water to enable him to demonstrate that his belief was justified, that with plenty of water operations would be profitable every year. His estimates called for an expenditure of \$498,243 to complete the Spanish Lake water supply. He was assured the money would be provided, and the season of 1906 was spent

But it was not to be. The "Annual Report" for 1907 has this reference by the Provincial Mineralogist to the undertaking:

"The most important mining property in Quesnel mining division has, for many years, been that of the Consolidated Cariboo Hydraulic Mining Co., at Bullion, in carrying out the necessary work as far as could be on the south fork of Quesnel River. This property was taken over in 1906 by the Guggenheim Exploration Company, of New York, which company started in, after a careful examination of the property, to bring in a large additional quantity of water from Spanish Lake. The estimated cost of this additional water system was about \$500,000, of which more than \$200,000 was spent in 1906. The work was actively renewed in the spring of 1907 and carried on until July, when all work was suspended and since then the property has been idle. The new company has since announced its intention of abandoning the enterprise completely. The cause of this stoppage of work is not definitely known, but it is reported to have been, at least partially, that the then approaching financial panic in the East, which subsequently involved the New York company, necessitated a curtailment of outlay of capital."

Result of Abandonment of Mines.

There is little doubt the decision of the Guggenheims to abandon the great enterprise with which Mr. Hobson had for so many years been closely associated, and in the building of which he had spent some of the best years of his life, was a great shock to him. He became seriously ill, and for a time many of his friends feared he would not recover sufficiently to enable him to again actively engage in mining. However, he rallied sufficiently to enable him to resume work, and, under the impression that the leases of the whole of the property had been allowed to lapse, he once more engaged in hydraulicking on the old ground. His success was sufficient to cause the Guggenheim interests to pay up arrears of rentals on some of the leases, and then they obtained from the court an injunction which prevented Mr. Hobson from continuing his work there. Since then, "dog-in-the-manger" like, the holders of those leases have neither worked the ground themselves nor permitted Mr. Hobson to do so. But he was not to be beaten, for he set about bringing water on to ground on the north fork of Quesnel River, near the mouth of Spanish Creek, which ground was covered by his own leases and from which he could not be ousted, and throughout 1910 he, with dogged persistence and pluck, carried out his new plans. The season of 1911 saw him back again, after having wintered in California and returned in the spring in greatly improved health, but conditions did not permit of much gravel-washing being done. As the season closed, his health again failed, and on November 28, last, he left Casa Banca, on Quesnel Lake, for Victoria, where he was at once taken to the Jubilee Hospital. Two weeks later he was removed to "Gisburn," and slowly his condition improved until, on Sunday, January 7, he was able to walk a little in the garden, while his cheerfulness increased the confidence of his family that he would soon get better. Early Monday morning, though, he became very ill, and by daylight on Tuesday morning he was dead. He left a widow, and three sons of 18, 13, and 5 years of age respectively.

His Belief May Yet be Vindicated.

It may be that in the near future the firm belief of the late Mr. Hobson in the practicability of deriving