

fitable mining, in 1858 was near Fountain. Wing-damming was successfully tried at Mormon Bar that season, and the bench diggings in the same locality were said to be very rich, a party of eight persons, averaging two ounces a day to the hand with rockers, thirty feet above the highest water level. The ground there and for several hundred feet above the river was so rich that a ditch seven miles in length was built. In the first five days' washing after the ditch was completed, they are reported to have taken \$1,198 out of the sluice. During this season work was also prosecuted on the Thompson, but less successfully

In the spring of 1860, sixty miners were engaged on the Quesnelle River and were said to be making from \$10 to \$25 per day, occasionally turning up nuggets weighing from six to eight ounces.

After the disappointing returns of 1858 a period of depression and depopulation set in, although the number of miners actually employed in 1859 and 1860 was 33 and 46 per cent., respectively, greater than in 1858. The output of gold in 1859 was valued at \$1,600,000. That of 1860 at about \$2,228,000.

Renewed interest in the country was aroused in the fall of 1860 by reported discoveries in Cariboo—



Mouth of Tunnel, Nutzenuchtum Creek Coal Seam, Quatsino Sound.

than on the Fraser, and in later years much more erratically.

The returns for 1858, according to the Deputy Minister of Mines, were about \$700,000.

In the spring of 1859 the restless, advancing prospectors, still looking for something better, explored the river as far north as Quesnelle. Then they turned up Quesnelle River. Towards the end of that season reports reached those on the Lower Fraser that the search for gold in the Quesnelle River had been successful. During the season fresh discoveries were being made at intervals on the lower parts of the Fraser, whilst work was continued on the profitable bars and benches already known.

Harvey, Keithley, Grouse and Cunningham Creeks having been discovered. In January, 1861, a second "Excitement"—greater even than that of 1858—was created by the reports of the extraordinary richness of Antler Creek. About the end of May 1861 from 1,000 to 1,400 men—mostly engaged in road-making and transportation had found their way into the remote Cariboo country. Later in the season the number of miners alone is said to have been about 1,500. Individuals on Antler Creek are said to have made as much as \$1,000 per day, while the yield of several sluice claims was 60 ounces a day to the man. During 1861 this Creek is said to have yielded over \$10,000 a day. Grouse Creek was mined to a small ex-