

a colony had been established. Difficulties, which in this age can be only partially appreciated by those even best acquainted with the country, were overcome. To give a life-like picture of what the early prospectors had to contend with, would be next to impossible, and if given, would hardly be credited. To the appalling ruggedness of the country, which everywhere offered a stern resistance to their advance, were added the daily companionship of famine and the hostility of enraged Indians. Their heroism, if such it can be called, although of a venal character, was worthy of admiration, and was useful in paving the way for another and a better order of things.

Early in the spring of 1859 the human stream again began to flow to the north and in larger volume than the year previous. It lasted unabated throughout the summer, and reports were being constantly brought down concerning the richness of the upper country. By November the Quesnelle had been reached, and between the Thompson and this point there were twelve bars, at each of which hundreds of men were employed and obtaining excellent results. During this year mining was still practically confined to the Fraser and Thompson, although some of the pioneer prospectors had found their way to the Cariboo country. Road building was pushed forward with commendable zeal, and indeed Governor Douglas showed a determination that the country should be developed as rapidly as possible, and every facility which it was in his power to grant should be given to the miners. In the summer of 1860 the streams of Cariboo attracted the attention of prospectors, and during this and next year a rush thither was made. There the miners of British Columbia found the highest realization of their dreams. There they built camps and washed millions worth of gold from Keethley, Lowhee, Antler and Williams Creeks. Before this time, however, changes had taken place in the government of the country, of which some account will have to be given here.

On the 25th of August, 1858, the Imperial Parliament passed an act to provide for the government of British Columbia, by which name for the future should be known that territory between the United States boundary on the south and the Naas River on the north, and between the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific ocean,