

learn, promises well. With this exception, nothing new has been attempted on this creek the present season.

"The benches of Lower Antler Creek, now mined exclusively by Chinese, continue to yield fair returns. On the upper portion of the creek, the Yellow Lion Co's claim has paid very well for the amount of work accomplished. The difficulty of procuring a supply of water during the dry season of the year is a serious drawback to this company. The Nason Co, which has now the most complete and effective machinery on any mine in the district, is at the present time just starting work underground. The shareholders in this company have pushed ahead their extensive works during the season with vigour, and now believe that they will be successful in finally proving the value of their ground during the coming winter.

"The Waverly Hydraulic Co., of Grorse Creek, has made good progress during the season, and judging from the appearance of the gravel in the 'face,' have at last reached ground that will pay; but, owing to a large cave late in the fall, they were unable to make a 'wash-up.' Little has to be said regarding Lightning Creek or its tributaries. The Cypress claims on Dunbar Flat (purchased last year by the Chinese), has paid exceedingly well, and is, perhaps, the only claim on the creek paying over fair wages. Legislation would appear to be required in view of the large extent of ground held on Lightning Creek, by absentees, under a 'real estate' title, whereby the project of bringing up a bed-rock drain is completely blocked. It is definitely known that a very large extent of this ground from the town of Stanley down, would yield handsome returns, were the same properly drained.

"On Slough Creek and Devil's Canyon, discoveries on the high benches, and in some instances well up the sides of the mountain, continue to be made. A large number of Chinese have worked here during the summer, in some instances taking out exceedingly good pay. A few whites have taken up claims which they will work by hydraulic pressure, where a supply of water can be secured. One company on Slough Creek is at present running a tunnel for a hill channel, which is thought to exist. I regret to say the company who, last season, applied for and obtained from the Government, permission to lease a large extent of the deep ground on Slough Creek, has failed, so far, to effect an organization.

"Returns sent in from the Quesnellemouth Polling Division show a slight increase in the gold product of that division over last season.

"The closing of the Assay Office at Barkerville is to be a severe loss to the community. It not only occasions a direct loss to the miner in a depreciation of the value of his gold dust, but will have a tendency to discourage quartz prospecting, as it leaves us without the means of testing the value of minerals which may be found. The office having become so nearly self-sustaining, it is hoped that the Government will succeed in finding a properly qualified assayer, and cause the office to be again opened.

"The following is an approximate estimate of the gold yield of the district for the year 1884, exclusive of Omineca:—

Barkerville Polling Division	\$153,600
Lightning Creek "	78,000
Quesnellemouth "	77,660
Keithley Creek "	89,595
Estimated yield from date to 31st December. {	25,000
	<hr/> \$423,855

"But little has been done in the way of developing our quartz mining industry during the season. The Burns Mountain Quartz Mining Co., (limited), indeed pushed ahead their tunnel to a point where it was expected the ledge would be found, but, failing to strike which, the work was suddenly stopped for some time. They have, however, just resumed operations, and will continue the tunnel some distance further.

"The Dominion Quartz Ledge Co, whose mine is situated some 30 miles south of Barkerville (referred to in my report of last year), sent out prospectors during the summer, who succeeded in sinking on the ledge 12 feet, and cross-cutting it at that depth. They brought in some of the rock, which it is proposed to send to San Francisco for a test.

"It is reported that the Messrs. Girod, late of Quesnelle, now in France, have succeeded in bonding the Sadoux quartz mine near Mosquito Creek, to a company of French capitalists, and that work will be shortly commenced on the mine.

"In view of the early completion of the Canadian Pacific Railroad, many old Caribooites continue to leave the district, with the object of making themselves homes somewhere along the line of railway, while but few new comers appear to take their places in the mines. This state of affairs may be expected to continue until the completion of the railroad, when a reaction will probably take place. So far, the construction and maintenance of the railroad has been most injurious to the interests of this district, as, while the works of construction have attracted away a large number of our most enterprising miners and prospectors, the maintenance of that portion of the line over which the cars now run, has actually, owing to the exorbitant tariff, increased the prices of all kinds of supplies in Cariboo. This fact will be better understood when it is known that before any railroad works were commenced a sufficient number of ox-teams and pick-trains were employed on the road between Yale and Cariboo to meet all requirements. But, anticipating a fall in the rates for freight, many of the carriers disposed of their stock, till, at the present time, the carrying trade is in the hands of a few, who naturally make all they can out of the situation; while merchants, anticipating a fall in the freight rates on the completion of the railroad to Spence's Bridge, withheld their orders till late. Even with the scarcity of teams on the Cariboo road, I am informed that some of those actually go to Yale for their loads, travelling from Spence's Bridge to Yale and back, a distance of 160 miles, loaded one way only, and are able successfully to compete with the railway company's charges.

"I have ventured to say this much to show that if the district appears to be on the decline, there are other than local causes affecting its prosperity, as, to my knowledge quite a number of persons are leaving the district, owing to the unusually high prices of provisions. I am informed by merchants here that the lowest freight rate from Victoria to