

be neglected by them that will further the end in view and conduce towards the proper recognition of Kamloops by the Mining world.

*Mining Districts near Kamloops
Lake, British Columbia.*

By G. F. Nonckton.

The district of British Columbia to which this paper refers is the western part of the area drained by rivers flowing into Kamloops lake, with an east and west width of 35 miles and a length from north to south of 75 miles. It forms a part of the interior plateau, and shares with the rest of that region, which is 100 miles wide, and runs northward through the whole extent of the province, its peculiar characteristics, a marked want of vegetation in the lowlands, due to the dryness of the climate, and a system of terraced mountains separated by deep narrow valleys. The rainfall does not exceed 12 inches a year in the lower valleys, which are from 1,100 to 2,000 feet above sea-level; but it is greater on the heights above them. The mountains are usually thinly wooded, and contain many large open areas covered with grass, which make this region a great cattle country. All the higher ground is dotted with alkali lakes. The summer is very hot, grapes and water-melons growing luxuriantly in the open air, while the winter is very cold 22 Fahr. being no uncommon temperature. The clearness and dryness of the atmosphere has caused the district to be a favourite resort for consumptives.

The greater part of the region may be said to be unexplored, as with the exception of a rough sur-

vey made by the Geological Survey Department, it has not been mapped, and is untravelled even by the cowboy and the Indian. Comparatively little development has yet been done in the district, as the local capital available is but small, Kamloops, the only town in the district, having a population of 1,500, while the other central point, Savonas, is a very small settlement. It must be admitted that the people of Kamloops have not done so badly with the means that they had at their disposal. The region has been the happy hunting ground of the heaven-born mining expert, who can scarcely read or write, who last year was a grocer, and next year, by a process of natural selection, will become a vendor of tin cans, but who for the nonce, by means of a long tongue which he can twist round the longest words to be found in the dictionary of mineralogy, is able to confound the men of slower intellects.

The progress of the district has also been greatly hampered by the continued restaking of claims without doing any work upon them. This is rendered possible by the law which allows 12 months in which to do the assessment work and permits the transfer of the claim before it is done. Miles of rich mineral country are thus tied up. When the mining excitement first began in Kamloops, the saw-mills did a good business sawing location stakes, which must square 4 inches and stand 4 feet high. On Sundays a procession of carriages loaded with these stakes might be seen wending their way out to the nearest mineral region, over which carriages can be easily driven. As soon as a rock

Assayers' and Prospectors' Supplies at