

was to have been mine, on McDame's Creek, paid its owners over \$40,000. It was three years before I began to recover my health, and after a long spell of idleness in Victoria, I returned to Cariboo in '78 and located a claim on Snowshoe, which yielded me \$40 a day for a short time, but the devil was still in the luck, for didn't I just then while working at a claim on Four-Mile, a branch of Keithley, meet with the accident that near put an end to me altogether, and left me blind of one eye ever since. We were driving a tunnel, and the only fuse obtainable was defective. We were anxious to get through with the tunnel and so took chances with the fuse. But that's where I got left. It was some time before I was much good for mining after that, so I kept store at Keithley for Veith & Borland for a spell. As soon as I was able, however, out I went prospecting again, and located the ground on Spanish Creek, known as the Moore claim—a large channel, but requiring to be opened up. The upper part of the gravel averaged about a dollar to the square yard. What I wanted to do was to prospect the deep ground, but my partners over-ruled me, on obtaining a small prospect alongside the rim, which gave from one to nine ounces to the sett of timbers. They have never crossed the channel nor prospected the deep ground, although they have run over 2,000 feet. However, I threw up my interest and located some claims on Bear Creek in 1894, working them until my money gave out. I also located some ground at the mouth of Morehead Creek which I sold to the Consolidated Cariboo Hydraulic Company, and this is supposed to be the best ground now owned by that company. And that brings us up to modern times. I am still mining and expect to make a big stake yet."

MINING IN THE YUKON.

THE following information relating to mining in the Yukon Territory has been taken from the annual report for the year ended June 30, 1903, of the Commissioner:

"In regard to the gold mining industry in the Yukon, the returns for the last year are satisfactory, and the promises for the future are more so. Preparations have been made for an unusual amount of work during the coming season. Whether the gold output for the present summer shall equal, exceed or fall below last year now depends wholly upon the rainfall. If the season is as wet as last year, or more so, the output will exceed last year's. If there is anything in the nature of a drought the output will decline proportionately with the severity of such drought.

"The gold output of the Yukon depends as completely upon the rainfall as do the agricultural crops in other parts of Canada. It depends more now upon the rainfall than it did formerly, when water was used chiefly for supplying the sluice-boxes and enabling the separation of the gold from the pay-dirt therein. This will be apparent from knowledge of the fact that now much dirt is removed from place by hydraulic methods, and for this purpose more water is required than when the dirt was handled entirely by means other than hydraulic up to the time it was placed in the

sluice-boxes. I do not, however, anticipate as large an output this year as last, for the reason that last year was an unusually rainy season, and still more because many properties which yielded largely last year, and are still capable of yielding largely, will produce very little, owing to the fact that enormous plants are being installed for working them, and these plants cannot be expected to be more than finished and ready for work before fall. From these operations I expect much in the season of 1904.

"The new discoveries have not been worked as largely as expected, although there is little doubt of the great value of some of them.

"The Duncan Creek country is certainly good. The shallow diggings on that creek and vicinity show great promise, but the depth to bed-rock on the creek has prevented any large development until machinery was available, and this could not be until a road was constructed. Such road will be constructed this year; some machinery will then go in, and the next season will, I believe, justify the great faith of many excellent miners in the richness of Duncan Creek.

"A recent strike has been made in the Alsek country, in the vicinity of Lake Dezadeash, and about 100 miles south of Whitehorse, from which the citizens of Whitehorse expect much. It is too soon to speak in regard to this.

"That fortunes are still made in the Yukon is shown by an incident of the year's mining operations. The North American Transportation & Trading Company let a 50 per cent. lay to three men on claim No. 28, Upper Bonanza, from which little was expected. They took out during the winter, and washed up in the spring, ground from which was obtained \$204,000 net. This sum was the return from 22,000 buckets of dirt, each bucket, therefore averaging over \$9. A bucket contains 6 pans, and there are 150 pans in a cubic yard of dirt. The company obtained \$102,000 as their share, and the fortunate laymen divided the same amount among themselves.

"Some progress is being made in quartz development, and it is hoped that diamond drills will be provided, which will aid such development, and also enable the copper properties at Whitehorse to be proved.

"Quartz in place has been located on what is known as the Violet Hill group off Eldorado Creek. Some territorial assistance has been voted to aid the development of quartz and other mining, and I propose to devote this to proving the Violet Hill group, as this is the most promising presentation of quartz, and proof of its value will stimulate the prospecting and development of quartz mines. I trust, before another year expires, to be able to report at least one well-established quartz mining venture.

"The temporary removal of duties on certain classes of mining machinery has, in my opinion, been amply justified by the importation of several large plants, which I believe, will next season prove large producers, and more than return to the Government the loss of duties, and will, if successful, create a still larger demand for similar machinery after the remission of duty has ceased to operate."

The report of the Assistant Gold Commissioner.