### First Discovery on Horsefly River.

In April, 1859, a party consisting of H. O. Bowe and others made a discovery of gold about ten miles above the mouth of the Horsefly River and in the following month another party (amongst whom was Mr. John McLean, now at Quesnelle) also found gold at the same point. While the ground was considered rich the original discoverers passed on to more easily worked claims. At that time the excitement about Keithley Creek commenced. A horn was blown and the people in the vicinity being called together they were told of the riches of Keithley Creek and the result was a big camp.

The Chinese firm of Tong Kee then took up the ground on the Horsefly found by McLean and the others, and it is estimated that they took out over half a million dollars of gold. Tong Kee then sold to Harper and he in turn sold to Ward's company who are now preparing to operate it. There has been some dispute about the property, but this having all been settled the California company is now prepared to go on and work it for all it is worth. The claim runs diagonally across the river and is about a mile and a half long by one mile wide, the bulk of it being on the west side of the river. The ground to be worked is considered to be alluvial gravel partaking of the auriferous nature. The gravel is from fifteen to eighty feet deep and is supposed to be an old gravel bed, the streaks being very rich.

The ground is to be worked by the hydraulic elevator process, the ditch line being about four miles in length and taking water from Mussel Creek. The water is to be delivered at a pressure of 300 feet.

The ditch was dug this spring and the pipe moved on the ground during the winter and spring. Rivetting has been going on since February and it is expected that piping will commence before the end of the season, so that it will be next year before the real work of mining will be begun. The ground is comparatively level and admirably adapted to the hydraulic elevator plan of working. A sawmill and other buildings have been erected at the headquarters, 35 miles east of 150 Mile House and connected by good roads.

Aside from the two great mining companies on the Horsefly there are a number of other claims being worked on a smaller scale, several of which promise good results.

### The Cariboo Mine.

The property is situated on the south side of the Quesnelle River, about four miles east of the town of Quesnelle Forks. It comprises eight mining leases, aggregating 426 acres of land which covers the auriferous deposits of an ancient river channel, which is separated for a considerable distance from the modern deep and canoyn-like gorge of the south fork of Quesnelle River, and forms the north rim of the ancient river channel which is now found filled to a depth of 400 feet with a heavy deposit of high grade auriferous gravel.

Near the lower end of the property on Dancing Bill Gulch, successful hydraulic mining on a small scale with 5 inch pipes and $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch nozzels, was carried on by Chinese companies for a period of about eighteen years; about one acre of gravel 300 feet deep was excavated without reaching the bed-rock or bottom of the channel.

The water is delivered and utilized through a system of ditches 7 x 13 x 3 feet deep, $17\frac{1}{2}$ miles in length from the mine to the source of supply at Six Mile Creek, the outlet of Polleys and Boot Jack Lake, which have a storage area of about 2,200 acres, and have been converted into storage reservoirs by the construction of substantial dams eight feet high across their outlets. This supply is augmented by the water of numerous streams on line of main canal, which ensures a supply varying from 2,000 to 3,000 miner's inches throughout the season.

The mine is equipped with a portable hydraulic plant, consisting of two lines of 22 in. and one line of 18 in. steel pipe aggregating 4,000 ft. in length, also five No. 8 Giants, having nozzles varying from 5 in. to 9 in. in diameter.

The gold saving appliances consist of 526 ft. of 3 x 5 ft. sluices and 588 ft. of 3 x 6 ft. sluices, paved with improved iron riffles.

The water is delivered at the mine on the floor of the hydraulic excavations with a head of 300 ft.

During the progress of the work of equipment and installation of the heavy plant and opening the working hydraulic pits extending over the seasons of 1894 and 1895, water was used about 48 days in the removal of about 210,000 cubic yards of earth, gravel, and boulders, a large percentage of which was composed of accumulations of tailings and boulders left piled in Dancing Bill Gulch by the Chinese miners, and the product therefrom has been $65,467. Two working pits are now opened in the upper gravels, the banks of which are about 300 ft. in height.

The floors of these hydraulic excavations lie from 50 to 100 ft. above the bottom of the channel. This lower bench of high grade gravel will be opened and worked as soon as the upper workings are carried forward a sufficient distance to leave the lower workings safe from the danger of caves from the upper workings.

The mines are now on a basis for profitable production, and it is expected that during the ensuing season of 1896, the mine will be run nearly full time and the output very large.

### The Horsefly Mine.

During the summer of 1891 Mr. J. B. Hobson, a practical engineer of great experience, with two men went over the ground on the Horsefly River where at the present time active hydraulic operations are being carried on. In the fall of the same year practical steps were taken for the organization of a company which in 1893 was fully incorporated. Mr. Hobson then made a minute examination of the ground ten miles wide by twenty long, drawing maps in which every stream, lakelet, prominent hill, and gulch of any consequence were shown. On this report the parties interested took up about 1,500 acres about 53 miles north of the 108 Mile House on the Cariboo Road and about six miles south of Quesnelle Lake. There are eleven mining leases in all, and the exact acreage covered by these comprise 1,475 acres of land covering the auriferous gravel deposits of an ancient river a portion of which is similar in character to the famous ancient river deposits in California known as the Blue Lode.

The hydraulic system completed last year under the supervision of Mr. Hobson brings water from Mussel Creek, which is tributary to the Horsefly River, by a ditch and pipe line $12\frac{1}{2}$ miles in length and with a capacity for delivering 1,800 miner's inches of water.

The pipe line is of steel 30 in. in diameter, made in two inverted syphons aggregating 8,300 feet. There are also three sections of flume 3 x 5 feet aggregating 600 feet. Water can be delivered from the main ditch with a head of 168 feet and from the pooling reservoir near the mine with a head of 106 feet, although it has not been found necessary to use it to that extent. The bed-rock constituting the floor of the hydraulic workings is about ninety feet above high water mark of the Horsefly river.