

added materially to the cost thereof. This tunnel and uprise should be completed without delay, so as to facilitate the working of the high-grade deposits included in the lower bench and on the bed-rock, and the cutting out of about 4,000 ft. of sluice which is very expensive to maintain.

"Condition of the Mine.—The large amount of necessary repairs and development work done during the progress of the past two seasons' work leave the water supply system and the mine in as good condition as possible for the continuous use of an abundant water supply; but the mine will not be in first-class condition until the sluice tunnel is opened and the bank can be worked in one bench from service to bed-rock. The upper gravels washed during the season showed a marked increase in grade, indicating that

ing to a request for information, Mr. R. Ward, the manager, writes as follows:—

"Operations were seriously hampered by the lack of water, actual piping being limited to a period of some 30 odd days, and the mine being practically closed down for the season by the beginning of August. The amount of gold taken out was 343.53 oz., valued at \$10,849.37; expenditure, \$8,000. The number of men employed at no time amounted to more than 12.

"As regards future operations—we are now bringing in a drill, to learn approximately the nature of the substrata of the leases and the values contained therein. This is to be done mainly with the idea of determining whether dredging on the property is practicable or not, the present system of hydraulicking and



The Forest Rose, on Williams Creek.

the low-grade zone encountered in the current-crossing has been passed.

"A bank blast of about 6,000 kegs of black powder, to cost about \$27,000, is strongly recommended. Such a blast would disintegrate and break up ready for economical washing the heavy capping of indurated volcanic-mud, at a cost not exceeding one cent per cu. yd., as against a cost of about 12 cents per cu. yd. to break it up with dynamite and hand labour. The proper disintegration of indurated alluvial deposits tends to increase the washing duty of the water, thereby increasing the gold output, besides working a material reduction in the cost of mining."

Ward's Hydraulic Gold Mining Company.

Ward's Horsefly Hydraulic Co. did remarkably well for the length of time it was enabled to work. Reply-

elevating the gravel being found unsuitable, mainly on account of the greater part of the workings being below the level of the river. This drilling we hope to accomplish to a great extent this winter, but a good deal will of course depend on the mildness or otherwise of the weather."

KEITHLEY CREEK.

Referring to the Onward claim, on Keithley Creek, owned by Messrs. Veith and Borland, Mr. G. A. Veith says:

"The Onward Co., of Keithley Creek, has been working steadily with two shifts for the past year and expects to work during the present winter, employing from 15 to 18 men. The ground being worked is an old channel in the hill, 1,100 ft. from the channel of the present creek. It is not over rich but pays a divi-