

The first workings on the Lower Fraser appear to have taken place on the bars between the points now known as Hope and Yale, in March or the beginning of April, 1858. About the same time, or perhaps, earlier, 150 men were reported to be working on the Fraser near Lytton. But the early summer floods, due to the melting snow, would soon prevent access to the bars until far into July. In the interval the eager crowd of gold-hunters probably occupied themselves partly in prospecting and working the gravel-benches above the level of flood water. Those rapidly assembling near Yale, most likely, would

10,000 was distributed along the river. The number between Cornish Bar and Yale, in November, was 4,000. Hope contained 400 more and Yale 1,300. In Hope district an ounce a day was said to be common wages, while some miners are reported to have earned two or more ounces per day for weeks together. During the season of 1858 most of those who had been rocking on the bars below Yale are said to have returned with \$2,000 to \$4,000 after paying expenses. Sluicing was also employed near Yale. The yield then occasionally rose, so it is said, to \$25 per man per day. At Fountain, 100 miles



Coal Outcropping on the Beach—West Arm, Quatsino Sound.

also be partly engaged in devising means of transport through the wild, forbidding canyon. Others again doubtless pushed on through the canyon in the hope of finding coarser gold in the higher stretches of the river, when the water should subside. Before the river fell,* thousands had left the country under the conviction that the water would never fall sufficiently.

In June, 1858, the miners on the lower part of the river distributed between Langley and the Canyon, 30 or 40 miles above Yale. (See Fig. 1.) By October, according to official estimates, a population of

further up the Fraser, miners were reported to be making from \$8 to \$100 per day. A notice of the extraordinary finds (boom-pans) then reported are purposely omitted.

In June, 1858, about 100 miners were engaged on Robinson Bar, near Lillooet, and earned, it is said, from \$80 to \$90 per day each for the first four or five days, but afterwards their earnings became less.

In October, 1858, coarse gold was found in the benches at Yale, and the miners were with difficulty restrained from digging away the townsite.

The highest point reached on the Fraser, by pro-

*History of British Columbia, by H. H. Bancroft, to which the writer is indebted for much of the early historical information contained in this communication.

*The river reaches its highest about the 15th June.