

them vigorously this summer. Mr. Geo. W. Stuart of Truro, has been engaged as consulting engineer for the company.

Darrs Hill.

There is little new to report from this district. The manager of the Daffern is laid up with a broken leg and little is doing at the mine.

Harrigan Cove.

A small syndicate has been formed in Halifax to test some of the properties here which have been prospected during the winter. A small steam plant has been sent down.

Stormont.

Work on the Richardson, Amungosh and Country Harbor Co's properties is being pushed, and from yields already recorded, the output for 1894 will be a handsome increase on that for 1893. Extensive improvements are contemplated in some of the properties, which, when completed, will add greatly to the output.

Lake Catcha.

Reports from this district indicate that recent developments in the Oxford property have shown new bodies of rich quartz, and that the output of the mine will be largely increased this year.

Oldham.

The companies operating here have all reduced their forces during the winter. The Rhode Island Co. now have their steam plant in running order, and a contract has been let to sink the shaft to the 400-ft. point. The Columbia Co. are driving in what is believed to be the Britannia lode, formerly very rich in pockets.

Ontario.

The Martha mica mine at Perth continues to yield a satisfactory output of mica.

The Leidyard gold mines are being opened up at Belmont. At a depth of 55 feet the vein looks up well, showing some fine gold and nice-looking sulphurets. The mill building is under construction and machinery is being put in at the mine.

Manitoba and N. W. T.

During the past year operations at Cannore and Antracite have been prosecuted with great vigor by H. H. McNeill & Co. At the former place the consumption of coal for the use of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company's locomotives was a great factor, as the slack of the mine has been utilized to a great extent and will be during the greater part of the year, except probably in extremely cold weather. The slack has been rendered much more valuable as fuel by washing.

Lethbridge Colliery.—Owing to the depression in the Western States caused largely by the silver crisis, the demand from this mine has been materially decreased. More than 50 per cent. of the output of this colliery has, since the opening of the line from Lethbridge to Great Falls, Montana, found a market south of the line. Now that the Canadian Pacific Railway has taken over the line from Lethbridge to Dunmore and widened the gauge to standard width, it is anticipated by the proprietors of this colliery that their market in Manitoba and the Territories will be considerably improved in consequence. The cost of labor and waste of material in transferring the coal at Dunmore will thus be avoided, which will materially decrease the cost of handling the coal, and the margin thus saved will probably be an important item in the profits of this colliery.

Knee Hill Mines.—The construction of the railway from the neighborhood of Calgary to these mines has commenced. This line, known as the Red Deer Valley Railway, utilizes the track of the Calgary and Edmonton Railway line for a distance of four miles from Calgary, where it branches off. When the road is completed it is probable that mining operations will immediately be instituted. From indications the quantity and quality of coal available at these mines appear to be most promising.

Considerable mining has been done at Edmonton on a small scale, chiefly to supply local consumption. A small quantity has been shipped to Calgary; but owing to the amount of moisture contained in this lignite, unavoidable exposure to atmospheric influences considerably depreciates the value of the same, except during very cold, dry weather. Several smaller mines, chiefly in the foot-hills of the mountains, have been operated in a very crude manner, supplying fuel for consumption in the immediate vicinity. The lignites on the Souris have not been developed as far as anticipated, no doubt owing to the financial stringency of the past season.

The revenue derived by the Dominion Government from the sale of coal lands was \$900, making the total revenue up to 31st October, 1893, \$141,983.27.

British Columbia.

Caribou District.

Mr. John Bowron, Gold Commissioner, writes:—"In referring to some of the principal mines now in course of development, I shall begin at the southern part of the district. On the Horseshoe River, the Horseshoe Hydraulic Mining Co., Limited, of which H. Albott, Esq., of Vancouver, is President, and Mr. J. S. Holburn is Manager, has acquired, either by location or purchase a large area of hydraulic mining ground, situated immediately above the Falls, having admirable dammage, which is of the utmost importance to hydraulic mining. This company, which kept a force of men employed during last winter in running tunnels, has well pleased with the prospects obtained, and as soon as the ditches are completed will bring in an immense quantity of steel piping, preparatory to commencing work on a scale of magnitude hitherto unknown in the district.

"I have much pleasure in reporting the success of Mr. A. D. Whittier in inducing a London syndicate to furnish the necessary capital to provide plant for working the lower part of Williams' Creek by hydraulic lift. The company is registered under the Imperial Statutes as the 'Whittier Gold Concessions Syndicate.' The Williams' Creek concession is the first property the Syndicate proposes to develop.

The Stough Creek Co. has been most unfortunate in losing two of its leading men. Mr. Magee, one of the contractors, and manager for sinking a working shaft, after visiting the works, had occasion to return to Victoria, where he was stricken down with diptheria, to which he succumbed in a few days; after which Mr. Gans, of Tacoma, was engaged as manager. While Mr. Gans was at Ashcroft making arrangements for the forwarding of two thirty horse power engines, boilers and apparatus (which had been purchased in the east), he met with an accident which proved fatal. The machinery, however, is now on its way to the mine, at which ten men are engaged preparing for winter work, and I am assured by Mr. Fife, of Tacoma, the president of the company, that notwithstanding these lamentable drawbacks they will persevere in their endeavors to prove the value of their mine.

On Shepherd Creek, the Di-Scovery Co. have devoted nearly the whole season to bringing up a drainage ditch, and constructing a dam to store water. This claim promises to be remunerative in the future. Other companies have located ground on this creek and are running tunnels or otherwise prospecting the ground, with fair chances of success.

The foregoing represents in brief some of the principal new mining enterprises started within the last eighteen months, the mention of which will at least serve to show that "Old Cariboo" is anything but a "played out mine," and, as some may remark, "From evidences afforded me in my official position, I am led to the conclusion that the district is entering upon a new and prosperous career, scarcely inferior and certainly more lasting than the famous golden days of the early sixties.

There is another source of wealth possessed by the district, to which I referred in my last report, the development of which has not as yet been undertaken. Upon having my attention drawn to an article in Chamber's Journal for February, 1892, upon "Dredging for Gold in New Zealand," I was more than ever impressed with the adaptability of our large streams for being worked by dredging, but as I hope soon to be in possession of all facts relating to the nature of the appliances used in the mining here referred to, I shall for the present only mention the fact of the presence in large quantities of fine gold in our river beds.

To speak of the paying claims, or those contributing to the gold product of the district for the year, would be but a repetition of my last year's report, with the single exception of Joseph Shaw & Son's claims on Hardacre Creek, which has paid for some time this season, with every indication of continuing to do so for many years to come. The Nason Co., on Antler Creek, after overcoming one misfortune after another, have at last succeeded in pumping out their diggings, and are just starting to prospect the mine, which, if perseverance merits success, should prove a "Bonanza."

The total output of gold for the season is, as far as can be ascertained, somewhat greater than last season, which must be regarded as highly satisfactory, as so many well-miners have been engaged in opening new mines and other non-productive works, that the Chinese have been much the larger producers.

Keithley Creek, Alexandra and Williams Lake Divisions.

Mr. Stephenson, gold commissioner, reports the mining season, although late in opening, has upon the whole been favorable for placer mining all through this section, as the supply of water during the summer was

above the average. The actual number of claims producing gold has been about the same as the preceding year, while the estimated amount taken out is slightly in excess, which shows that the regularly organized companies have done quite as well as last year. This always has a good effect, even on the Chinese, as it proves they can do better by forming into companies and opening up claims, which prove more remunerative than the haphazard individualist manner. On Keithley and Snowshoe Creeks there is very little change to report from last year; there have been no new developments that I am aware of, and but very little prospecting has been done on these creeks during the past season. On Harvey Creek there are still a few miners working, but nearly all of them are going over the old worked ground, and any prospects in the new finds are very slight. On the North Fork of Quesselle River and Spanish Creek operations have been light for the season, the greatest amount of work on the North Fork being done by the Victoria Hydraulic Mining Company in prospecting some gravel benches. As far as I could learn, the results so far are not satisfactory, and work was suspended early in the latter part of the mining season. The company on Spanish Creek still kept going ahead with their work during the whole year. They are running a drive up the hill looking for the old channel, and are taking out some gold, but nothing like pay for their work. Still they think the prospects are sufficiently good to continue on in hopes of finding something better.

From Quesselle Forks down the main Quesselle, about forty miles, all the work during the season has been confined to desultory mining. The Chinese working on the small gulches while the water lasted, and when the water falls in the river they go to places along the river where they can obtain dirt that will pay for roasting. During the latter part of the season there have been whites down the river looking for hydraulic claims in the vicinity of what is known as 20-Mile Creek (twenty miles below Quesselle Forks). The result of their work I see in notices of application for leases of several locations in that section, and, as I am given to understand, they really mean business and have the necessary means to carry on the work required, it is to be hoped they will get the ground they applied for. The expenditure must be considerable to any company that will bring water upon those benches in sufficient quantity to properly work them, therefore I think that any company with capital that wishes to honestly prospect and endeavor to develop the mineral resources of the country should be liberally dealt with. The means of getting down the river to 20-Mile Creek, or, in fact, anywhere down the river, are very poor, there being no trail, and a bearing on the Quesselle River is at times rather dangerous work. On the South Fork of Quesselle River the small hydraulic claims operated by Chinese have done about as well as usual, their limited supply of water necessarily making their work light for the season. The South Fork Hydraulic Company worked on an average ten white men in opening up their claim (lease) until August last, and still they remains an immense amount of work to be done before the claims will be in shape to get returns. The expenditure of this company on Horsely, I think, will amount to about one hundred thousand dollars before their mine is in thorough working order, while they estimate the purchase and the cost of preparing the South Fork of Quesselle property for working at about three hundred thousand dollars. A few such enterprises as these managed by thoroughly competent and practical men will all in a long time bring Cariboo once more to the front as a mining district.

West Kootenay, Southern Division.

Mr. Fitzsubbs, mining recorder, reports:—"During 1893 there were 161 mining claims recorded, 69 transfers, and assessment work has been done on 117 claims. Fourteen placer claims and five transfers of same were recorded. There are within the southern division 22 placer leases in existence, 15 of which are on the Salmon River, six on the Pen d'Oreille and one on Forty-mile Creek. One hundred tons of ore shipped from the Silver King mine, was shipped to Swansea which will yield over \$100 per ton.

Concentrating Plant for the Number One Mine.

—The construction of the concentrating plant at the Number One Mine, Ainsworth, is being rapidly pushed forward. Most of the machinery is at the mill, and the work it is expected will be finished early next month.