

REPORT.

The want of any trustworthy map of the Cariboo District has, so far, prevented the detailed geological examination which its prominent position in respect to gold production has long called for. So much geographical information was necessary, as a first step toward its geological mapping on such a scale as to be useful to those engaged in the development of its placers and auriferous lodes, that the Geological Survey was not in a position to undertake this otherwise desirable work.

Geological survey of Cariboo.

In consequence, however, of an arrangement entered into last spring, between the Government of British Columbia and the Geological Survey, by which, on account of the extent of the geographical work, the Government agreed to furnish one-half of the amount necessary to prosecute the survey, this long-desired work was entered on in the season of 1885. The conduct of the survey was placed in the hands of the Director of the Geological Survey, and I was instructed to carry it out.

Joint action of Provincial and Dominion Governments.

The present report is intended merely as an interim one, in which the operations of the season of 1885 are detailed, and the method of completing the survey is indicated.

Progress.

Accompanied from Ottawa by Mr. James McEvoy as general assistant, Victoria was reached by us July 3rd; and as soon as possible thereafter the necessary arrangements were made, and we proceeded to Cariboo District. While in Victoria I engaged Mr. S. P. Tuck as surveyor; and at New Westminster, Mr. L. R. Valigny as draughtsman and surveyor. Mr. E. B. Adams was engaged at Sumas as teamster, packer, and general assistant. Having arranged a rendezvous at Yale, Mr. McEvoy was, on Saturday, July the 18th, dispatched in charge of the waggon party, with equipments and supplies, northwards by the Cariboo Waggon Road. On Sunday, July the 19th, Mr. Tuck and myself proceeded more expeditiously by rail and stage.

Assistants.

Equipment and start.

At Quesnelle, situated on the Fraser, in latitude 53° N., Mr. Tuck, on the 24th of July, began the measurement of a wheel traverse of the waggon road from that point into the mining region, which reached Barkerville, distant 56 miles, on the 4th of August, simultaneously with the waggon party. The latter had travelled for seventeen days at the rate of twenty-seven miles a day.

Road Traverse.

Cariboo District, famous for its yield of twenty-eight to thirty million dollars of placer gold between the years 1859 and 1886, or fifty-five to sixty per cent. of the entire product of British Columbia, may be defined as the area enclosed by the great bend of the Fraser, and lying north of latitude 52° . In its narrower sense, as referred to in connection with actual mining operations, it lies within the parallels of latitude 52° and 54° N., and the meridians 120° and 123° W.; and it comprises, thus limited, an area of about 6,000 square miles. Judicially, and politically, Cariboo District covers the entire plateau between the coast and Rocky Mountains. It is the plateau of the cordillera lying north of the Canadian Pacific Railway and within the drainage basin of the Fraser. But this region is bisected in a north and south line by Fraser River, and it is only the eastern half, or the Rocky Mountain slope, that can be embraced, in virtue of its economical bearing, as within our field of investigation.

Geographical position.

Limits of field.

Its position and orographic relationships are shown upon the accompanying outline map.

Map.

The pre-eminence of Cariboo among the gold-producing regions of British Columbia is shown by the diagram, in which the broken line represents the annual gold product of Cariboo, and the firm line that of all the other districts, including Cariboo, in the corresponding years, from 1858 to 1885.

Importance of the Cariboo development.

Cariboo, indeed, was the first rich gold field found in the entire region of the Central North American cordillera, but ten years after the great discovery in the Sierra Nevada of California. As the coast was first taken

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