

fork of Quesnelle River, thus intersecting the whole of the south divide and proving it to be auriferous all through. Some day this fact will force itself upon the attention of prospecting parties and have a beneficial result. Again, below Cedar, some two miles, but running into the south lake, is Coquette Creek, until lately occupied only by a solitary company of Chinamen, who are known to have done well by their purchase from the Cornishmen who originally opened the creek. The latter lost their lead, and as usual, got discouraged and sold out. The pertinacity with which the Chinese have kept on working has again attracted white men to the creek, and good results are expected from the work they have now in hand. Up to this period these are the only new mining operations in this section. They may, so far, be limited in character and limited in productiveness, but they assure me that the country, deserted for Cariboo, will ere long be its rival, as the population increases, because, although it may not be so rich, it is superior in four essentials of successful placer mining; it is easier of access, better in climate, longer in season, and less expensive to work. With those advantages its thorough development is only a question of time. Nothing more has been done to-day, simply for the reason there were not people in the Colony to do it.* I have only one more district to notice in the northern gold fields, and to omit it would be an act of injustice. I mean the Horse Fly country. It commences with the river bearing that name, some twenty miles above Cedar Creek, on the south side of the lake, stretching east I suppose up to the head of the lake, and west between the boundaries of Quesnelle and Thompson Rivers to the dividing watershed of the whole country, an immense region of which nothing is known except that it contains gold largely from one end to the other, though, I confess, I see no chance of its being brought into operation for years. I shall simply speak of the district in the neighborhood of the Horse Fly River. In the first place, it is remarkable for containing a gravel formation very similar to the celebrated "blue-lead" of California, and containing the fertility of the valley, as shown in the endless profusion of natural pasturage and indigenous fruits of every variety, proves the alluvial deposits of a great primeval river. Whatever prospecting has so far been done on the present river to discover the bed of the old one has been rendered useless by a false bed-rock which the miners did not understand. In the entire basin of the river I find an immense formation of a bastard talc, which of course could not hold gold to any extent, though in spots quite large amounts have been obtained; but on further examination I find the hill-rock to be metamorphic. This fact satisfies me that the talcose formation is only accidental, and

* The country of the main Quesnelle running 40 miles 'nse to the Fraser, including Lightning Creek and Cottonwood, will be included under the head of hydraulic mining.