

THE AURIFEROUS ALLUVIUM OF THE FRASER RIVER AND ITS TRIBUTARIES.

Specially contributed to the MINING RECORD.

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I.—OUTLINE OF ECONOMIC HISTORY.

GOLD, in paying quantities, appears to have been first found within the watershed of the Fraser in the year 1857, on the Thompson River, near where it is

part of what is known in history as the "Fraser River Excitement," and which, in many respects, greatly resembled the recent mad rush to the Klondike. The difficulties and danger were perhaps equally great on the Fraser and the Yukon, while the reprehensible booming of interested parties was apparently quite as extravagant in the early days as that witnessed a year ago, when so many poor wretches were lured to their ruin by misrepresentations and exaggerations.

The first shipload of 450 adventurers left San



Growth of Spruce and Fir Trees—Quatsino Sound.

joined by the Nicomen River. The first discovery of gold on the Fraser proper was at Hill Bar, near Yale, early in 1858. In the following year commenced that great rush of fortune-hunters towards British Columbia which formed such a conspicuous

Francisco on the 20th of April, 1858. To the 20th of June, Cornwallis estimated that 14,800 persons had embarked from San Francisco by steam and sail. At a later date it is said that over 20,000 persons had left San Francisco for the Fraser.