

various Government returns of Customs' duties and of interior tolls on roads charged on the passage of merchandise collected, justify this assumption, while the miners' licences issued tend to corroborate it. The mining population in the Cariboo country, including within this division the Forks of Quesnelle River (50 miles below) is put down on general testimony (of miners, travellers, other residents, and Government returns) at 1500 men. To work out the earnings of this aggregate of 5000 miners, I adopt a statement of names and amounts, made up from miners' information, of 79 men who together took out in Cariboo 926,680 dollars. The general opinion of the miners is, that (in addition to the 'lucky ones' who made 'big strikes,' and which I limit to the above number of 79) every man who had a claim or a share in a claim made from 1000 to 2000 dollars. Of these there were at the least 400, and taking their earnings at a medium or average between the two sums mentioned—say at 1500 dollars to each—they would produce 600,000 dollars. There remain 1021 men to be accounted for. Putting their earnings at 7 dollars a day each, which is the lowest rate of wages paid for hired labour in the Cariboo mines, and assigning only 107 working days as the period of their mining operations during the season, to make allowance for its shortness by reason of the distance from the different points of departure and of bad weather, they would have taken out 764,729 dollars. These several sums added would make the yield of Cariboo and Quesnelle 2,291,409 dollars to 1500 men for the season, by far the greater portion, or nearly all, in fact, being from Cariboo; although the north fork of Quesnelle is also very productive and so rich as to induce its being worked by fluming this winter by about 100 miners, who have remained for the purpose.

"The remaining 3500 of the mining population who worked on Thompson's River, the Fraser, from Fort George downwards; Bridge River, Semilkameen, and Okanagan (very few),