

markets. Roads were being opened up in all directions, and towns were arising. Well edited newspapers were published at Victoria and New Westminster, a system of education existed in the more thickly populated districts, and throughout the entire colony the power of the law was supreme. In the two leading cities the value of land was rapidly increasing, commodious hotels had been built for the accommodation of the travelling public, banking houses were doing large businesses, and everywhere signs of prosperity were visible. Between the years 1861 and 1865 the excitement over discoveries of immense deposits of gold in Cariboo continued without cessation. During the latter part of 1859 prospectors had pushed their way along the Quesnelle and Swift Rivers and reported the existence, in abundance, of coarser gold than previously found. In 1860 the riches of the number of creeks now famous in the mining history of the country were demonstrated, and when, early in 1861, reports were confirmed of the great wealth of Antler Creek, a rush for that region at once took place. Before the close of the summer all the streams tributary to the rivers of Cariboo had been explored and in the beds of nearly all wonderful deposits were found to exist. The effect of these discoveries was beneficial to the whole colony, and gave a fresh impetus to business on the coast. During 1861 over three million dollars were taken out of Keithley, Harvey, Antler, Lowhee and Cunningham Creeks, and in 1862, with the fresh influx of miners and the further development of the country, this amount was greatly increased. By the end of 1862 as many as five thousand miners were distributed over about sixty miles of country. In 1862 Williams and Lightning Creeks, the former the richest of all the streams of Cariboo, were discovered, and the excitement among the miners was intensified by the amount of gold which they yielded. The system of mining pursued in the Cariboo region was different to that on the Fraser, owing to the fact that whereas on the Fraser the dust lay practically on the surface, in the streams of Cariboo it was many feet below the river bed. Shafts, pumps, and hoisting machinery, had therefore to be employed here, and large sums had often to be expended in the development of a claim. In the great majority of instances, however, the returns warranted any reasonable outlay. It was not an uncommon thing for men to make four or five hundred dollars per day, and many made a great deal more. At various times as much as \$600, and