

is particularly known that the Dipper Dredge has been a success the world over.

The Fader Dredge on Quesnelle river has been tied up all summer, caused by the litigation of the company. This machine would have paid had it been carried on, but owing to the litigation the summer was lost. As everything is settled now, the work will go on at once, and by the middle of next summer several dredges will be at work in that vicinity.

From the tests I made myself on the Quesnelle river I am of the firm opinion that dredging will continue there for the next fifty years to come, as the deposits are, without any doubt, very rich in the river beds of the Cariboo district. As to the developments on the lower Fraser, I am not posted whatever, although I may say that there is a vast field for dredging along the lower Fraser, which, it is to be hoped, will prove a success in the near future. G. J. FADER.

### *Transportation to Cariboo.*

THE completion of the steamer to ply between Soda Creek and Quesnelle on the Fraser River marks a new era in transportation in the upper country, and gives almost sixty miles of steamer service over the hardest parts of the Cariboo road. The steamer is to ply in connection with the B.C.X. stages, and this arrangement is of even more benefit to the travelling public than in the matter of freights, as such connection can be made for almost eight months in the year so that Barkerville can be reached in three days' time from Ashcroft on the C.P.R., which is a saving of one day in making the trip. The time card on the balance of the road remains the same.

### *Cariboo Notes.*

DEVELOPING and equipping of mines in Cariboo has proceeded up till cold weather has precluded further operations this season. Notable exploitation has taken place this year throughout the district and while the output of gold has not, probably, exceeded greatly that of recent years, it is a fact that the mining interests have been put on a firmer basis and promoters are more confident than they have heretofore been. In some parts of the Cariboo, the Quesnelle, for instance, development has not been prosecuted as projectors and friends of the district could have wished, but it has been attributed to the unsettled condition of affairs across the border in the United States, and rightly so, for a great many of the projects are in the hands of Yankee people, and until the Presidential election occurred many of them did not know, so to speak, "where they were at." However, the election of McKinley has the effect of starting enterprise in the States, and a modicum of "confidence" has been revived, and money for "Yankee" enterprises in all parts of the world is now forthcoming.

In addition to the regular Cariboo output of gold, the big "Cariboo" mine on South Fork of the Quesnelle has turned out its addition of about \$130,000, and a promise of double next year, has caused a great deal of attention to be attracted to the Quesnelle River. To be sure, J. B. Hob-

son, the gritty manager, really took "Hobson's" choice when he selected for his operations the great gravel banks now known as the "Cariboo" mine, and it is not saying too much to state that probably the equal of that great deposit has not yet been discovered on earth; but other benches on the Quesnelle have on development shown great merit.

Of other big concerns now being equipped, the Seymore-Baker, at the mouth of the Cottonwood, promises well. A ditch to carry 5,000 miner's inches has been constructed and two tunnels, of 1,300 and 200 feet respectively, through steep spurs are being cut this winter, through which to carry the water flumes to the pits. It is expected the mine will be in operation about the middle of next summer.

The work of building the plant on the Cariboo Gold Fields Concessions at Barkerville has been vigorously pushed all summer and as cold weather comes on the huge pipes are being forwarded under contract from Ashcroft by S. Tingley. It will cost at least \$40,000 to lay the pipe down at Barkerville from Ashcroft, and a good part of the summer next year will be encroached upon before the pipe is in line.

On Cunningham Creek a new hydraulic mine has been exploited by Chicago people and a test run this fall caused the mine to change hands. Fry & Johnson, of Quesnelle, handled the deal. The agent from Chicago was well pleased with the operations at the mine this fall.

A good deal of prospecting throughout Cariboo has been done the past season, and some attention has been turned to quartz. The Government concentrator has been stamping for some months, and the Island Mountain mill has been renovated and set to work this fall. Some very rich quartz has been discovered in the Little Snow Shoe region, but as a rule, prospectors are not looking for quartz in the Cariboo. The ledges now being exploited are of decided merit, as samples show.

Several minor discoveries of placer in the Barkerville region of exceedingly rich deposits have proved that rich rewards are still to be gathered by the patient seekers, who, apparently, never tire in the search for gold. S.

### *Texada Island Gold Mines.*

TAKEN from reports of Mr. F. W. McCrady, the well-known engineer, who has been examining and reporting on mining propositions there for both eastern and western capitalists: "I find many remarkably fine surface showings and some systematic development work being done on a number of what would appear to be very valuable properties, noticeably the Kirk Lake gold mines. On the Victoria and Texada claims work is being carried on extensively; on one vein a 100-foot shaft is being sunk, and at present is down to the 50-foot level in ore that when shown in Rossland was pronounced by experts to be superior to anything in that camp in the shape of high grade ore. This ore is remarkable for its uniform appearance and in almost every piece of it free gold is visible to the naked eye. Assays from this vein give returns all the way from \$30 to \$2,000 per ton, and the average, as near as can be estimated, would be about \$100 per ton. On these properties there