

vey, Snowden and other creeks in the vicinity were discovered and a good pay rewarded the miner, but it was not until 1861 that the most notable discoveries across Ball Mountain of Williams, Antler, Lightning, and Lonhee Grace creeks took place. The news of these rich finds created a second and a greater "rush" to British Columbia. Of these creeks Williams proved the richest, and too, the gold was coarse, deposited in enormous quantities easy of access both in the creek itself and some of its tributaries. From some claims as much as 200 pounds weight of gold was taken out in twenty-four hours, while a daily clean-up of 100 ounces was

quite common. Needless to say, fabulous fortunes were won in a brief period extending over a few months by several among the more fortunate claim holders. How Williams Creek proved may be gathered from the Report of the Minister of Mines for 1875, where it is stated that the average value of gold obtained per lineal foot of channel of certain claims was \$1.075; while from Lightning Creek alone \$2,179,272 worth of gold was recovered. When in natural order these rich creeks were exhausted, Cariboo as a field for the individual miner lost its attractions, and at the close of the "sixties" the population had greatly diminished. With the exception of a short-lived and merely stock-jobbing quartz excitement, little mining was done in the district until within the last six or seven years, since when

capital has been introduced to operate the alluvial deposits and deep placers upon an extensive scale. In many ways the conditions are much more favourable to mining than in the early days and for the sake of illustration it is only necessary to mention one circumstance, that while, in the "sixties" we were obliged to pay weight charges of one dollar per pound on all supplies and machinery brought in, to-day this cost has been reduced to five cents.

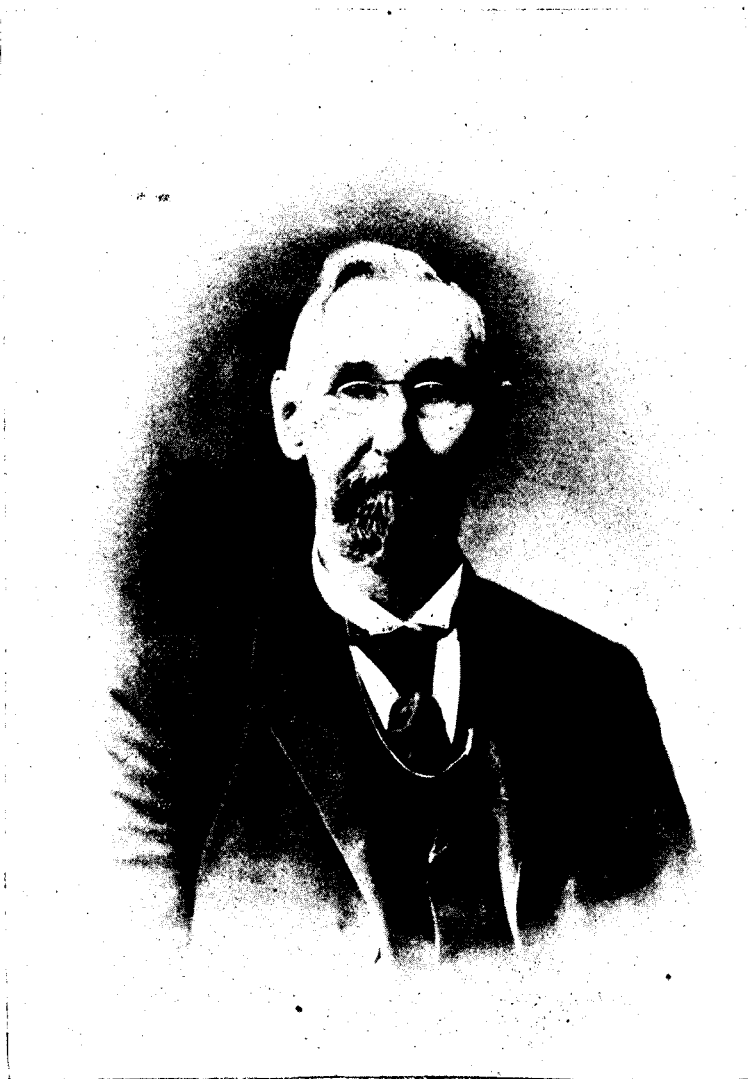
About seven years ago a syndicate composed largely of C. P. R. officials secured the services of Mr. J. B. Hobson, a mining engineer of experience in methods of deep gravel mining in California, to

operate an extensive area of auriferous gravels on the south fork of the Quesnelle at Dancing Bill Gulch. Under Mr. Hobson's direction something like \$1,000,000 has been spent in the development and equipment of this mine, the operation of which has been continued on a very large scale. Another great enterprise on Horsefly is the Miocene Gravel Mining Company, of which Mr. R. H. Campbell is manager. This company last year sunk a shaft to a depth of 490 feet. At that depth it was found necessary to cease operations, as before proceeding additional machinery was required. Meanwhile this

shaft had been sunk through the finest quartz I have ever seen.

There are several very deep channels known to exist in Cariboo but the Miocene Company's is the first in this vicinity to make the practical test of very deep ground and the work is watched with much interest. On this creek the Horsefly Hydraulic Company is also under the management of Mr. J. B. Hobson. This company controls 2,000 miner's inches of water brought through a ditch 12 miles long by six feet wide on the bottom and eleven feet on top and two and a-half feet deep and two and a-quarter miles of thirty-inch steel pipe. The pipe line is laid on the plan of an inverted siphon and carries this body of water over three deep depressions. A ten-stamp mill was erected at the mine to crush the hard cemented gravel found in the face. On the north fork of the Quesnelle an

English syndicate represented by Mr. Jos. Hunter is driving a bedrock tunnel to tap an ancient channel which lies back at a distance from the river. The channel is covered by a large body of gravel, but sufficient work is not yet done to prove its extent. On Spanish Creek, a tributary of the North Fork, the Moore Company has been working for several years and during the last twelve months they are getting very good pay, amounting to approximately eight ounces per set of timbers in gravel. The operations are not on bedrock. On Black Bear Creek a tributary of Spanish Creek the Pioneer Company, for which I myself act as manager, is sinking a shaft in



Mr. James Moore, the only Survivor of the First Band of the Province's Pioneers.