

MINING DISTRICTS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

In order to give a general idea of the mineral deposits, mines, and reduction-works of British Columbia, a summary of these, together with an outline of the chief features of the operations during 1915, will now be presented. As the mining districts are numerous and cover a large area of territory, the information that follows is, necessarily, incomplete, for it is not practicable, in a general review, to give particulars of all that should have notice. The various districts and their respective subdivisions will here be briefly dealt with and in the order in which they usually appear in the Annual Reports of this Department.

CARIBOO DISTRICT.

Three Mining Divisions are usually included under the general head of Cariboo District—namely, the Cariboo, Quesnel, and Omineca Divisions. In the first two Divisions mining operations are restricted almost entirely to placer-mining, there being little, if any, other productive mining, but in the Omineca Division lode-mining is now more important, due to the advent of railway facilities in the southern portion of the Division.

The conditions affecting placer-gold mining in this district have already been referred to under the subhead of "Placer Gold," and, while the conditions were not particularly favorable this past season, it would appear that the gold-output is materially larger than it has been for some years past.

Cariboo Mining Division.

The hydraulic properties operated by John Hopp, which include *Stout's Gulch*, *Louchie*, and *Mosquito Creek*, are reported to have done exceedingly well this past year, better than ever before.

Loo Gee Wing's *Point claim*, on Slough creek, was operated under the management of Joseph Wendle, and is reported to have taken out more gold this year than any previous year, thus justifying the more up-to-date equipment installed in 1914.

The company's water-storage facilities are not as good as might be desired, so that the melting of the snow gradually, as it did last season, was a very material assistance.

No information has been received regarding the Lightning Creek Hydraulic, and it is believed the property made no serious output; the manager, Mr. Bonner, has been out of the country all the season.

Quesnel Mining Division.

In the Quesnel Division none of the larger companies that formerly made large outputs worked last season.

The old Hobson property at Bullion, which has been the subject of dispute of ownership for a couple of years, was prospected last season by one of the claimants—Mr. Ward. Since then the stakings of John Hopp *et al.* have been recognized by the Government, and the chances are that next season will see the property working again.

In the vicinity of Quesnel and around Quesnel Forks an unusually large number of individual miners have been working in a small way, and the bank at Quesnel reports having bought nearly \$80,000 worth of gold in small lots.

About the usual amount of work was carried on around Kelthley creek, but no large amount of gold was taken out.

During the season there was a stampede into Swamp river, which flows southward into Cariboo lake; subsequent investigation, however, did not confirm reports brought out by the first prospectors and the excitement died away.