

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—The hon. gentleman can tell that; I cannot.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I do not think it was received for nearly a year afterwards.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—It was certainly not received in the course of the week or the month in which it was written.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—It would take six months

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—Making all reasonable allowance for the time that it would take that report to reach Ottawa, I think the hon. gentleman will have to acknowledge that there was full and ample information in the hands of the government early enough for action to be taken, and not this precipitate action as late as about the beginning of this year. Mr. Ogilvie reports :

I am very much pleased to be able to inform you that a most important discovery of gold has been made on a creek called Bonanza Creek an affluent of the river known here as the Klondike. It is marked on the maps extant as Deer River and joins the Yukon a few miles above the site of Fort Reliance.

The discovery was made by G. W. Cormack, who worked with me in 1887 on the coast range. The indications are that it is very rich, indeed the richest yet found, and as far as work has been carried on it realizes expectations. It is only two weeks since it was known, and already about 200 claims have been staked on it and the creek is not yet exhausted; it and its branches are considered good for 300 or 400 claims. Besides there are two other creeks above it which it is confidently expected will yield good pay, and if they do so we have from 800 to 1,000 claims on this river which will require over 2,000 men for their proper working. Between Thron-Diuck River and Stewart River a large creek called Indian Creek flows into the Yukon and rich prospects have been found on it, and no doubt it is in the gold-bearing country between Thron-Diuck and Stewart Rivers, which is considered by all the old miners the best and most extensive gold country yet found. Scores of them would prospect it but for the fact that they cannot get provisions up there and it is too far to boat them up from here in small boats.

This new find will necessitate an upward step on the Yukon, and help the Stewart River region.

News has just arrived from Bonanza Creek that three men worked out \$75 in four hours the other day, and a \$12 nugget has been found, which assures the character of the ground, namely, coarse gold and plenty of it, as three times this can be done with sluice boxes. You can fancy the excitement here. It is claimed that from \$100 to \$500 per day can be made off the ground that has been prospected so far. As we have about 100 claims on Glacier and Miller Creeks, with three or four hundred in this vicinity, next year it is imperative that a man be sent in here to look after these claims and all land matters, and it is almost imperative that the agent be a surveyor. Already on Bonanza Creek they are disputing about the size of claims.

I would have gone up and laid out the claims properly, but it would take me ten or twelve days to do

so, and meantime my presence might be more urgently required elsewhere.

From the indications I have mentioned, it will be seen that this corner of the North-west is not going to be the least important part of it, more especially when we consider the fact that gold-bearing quartz has been found in it at numerous places, and much will no doubt be worked. It is apparent that the revenue and business of the country will more than offset the expense of administration.

That letter was written on the 6th September. On the 6th of November it was supplemented by another letter from Mr. Ogilvie. This was in 1896, and after giving very full description he says :

From all this we may, I think, infer that we have here a district which will give 1,000 claims of 500 feet in length each. Now, 1,000 such claims will require at least 3,000 men to work them properly, and as wages for working in the mines are from eight to ten dollars per day without board, we have every reason to assume that this part of our territory will in a year or two contain 10,000 souls at least.

They were without information were they

For the news has gone out to the coast and an unprecedented influx is expected next spring. And this is not all, for a large creek, called Indian Creek, joins the Yukon about midway between Thron-Diuck and Stewart Rivers, and all along this creek good pay has been found. All that has stood in the way of working it heretofore has been the scarcity of provisions and the difficulty of getting them up there even when here. Indian Creek is quite a large stream and it is probable it will yield five or six hundred claims. Further south yet lies the head of several branches of Stewart River on which some prospecting has been done this summer and good indications found, but the want of provisions prevented development. Now gold has been found in several of the streams joining Pelly River, and also all along the Hootalinqua. In the line of these finds farther south is the Cassiar gold field in British Columbia; so the presumption is that we have in our territory along the easterly water-shed of the Yukon a gold-bearing belt of indefinite width, and upwards of 300 miles long, exclusive of the British Columbia part of it. On the westerly side of the Yukon prospecting has been done on a creek a short distance above Selkirk with a fair amount of success, and on a large creek some 30 or 40 miles below Selkirk fair prospects have been found; but, as before remarked, the difficulty of getting supplies here prevents any extensive or extended prospecting.

That letter was written on the 6th November, 1896. It closes by saying :

Before closing I may say that every report that comes in from Bonanza Creek is more encouraging than the last. Prospecting has only begun, and up to date of mailing, November 22nd, very rich prospects have been found on the few claims prospected on: from one dollar to the pan of dirt up to twelve dollars are reported and no bed rock found yet. This means from \$1,000 to \$12,000 per day per man sluicing.

The excitement is intense, but at this season of the year it is very naturally very local.

Then on the 9th December, he wrote again :

Since my last the prospects on Bonanza Creek and tributaries are increasing in richness and extent, un-