The New Gold Fields On the Liard River

Brief History of Mining in the Cassiar District in Northern British Columbia and Some Particulars of the Late Rich Find on the Branch of the MacKenzie.

In the year 1872 a big rush of miners took place into the Cassiar country which at that time comprised all that portion of British Columbia lying between the coast and the west boundaries and from the latitude 51 degrees north to 60 degrees north. This immense tract of country has an area of 105,000,000 acres and has since been subdivided into the mining divisions of Bennett, Atlin, Teslin, Stikine and Liard.

The whole country is extensively mineralized and Dr. T. M. Dawson, of the Geological Survey, who visited it in the seventies says at pp. 137 R in his "Mineral Wealth of British Columbia":

"Heavy gold and pellets of silver were found on Tahtlan in 1873; in the same year Dease creek yielded from $8 to $50 a day to the hand in coarse gold; Defal creek yielded coarse gold, rough and often full of quartz, large nuggets, including one fourteen ounces." Further on he says, "This gold is evidently derived from massive deposits of quartz, which occur at the head of the creek. McDame creek in 1874 yielded from $6 to $100 a day of coarse gold worth $17.-75 to $18 an ounce. The high and varying value of her gold is characteristic of Cassiar, the highest in value, I think, being worth about $18.25 an ounce. On Snow creek—the richest single claim in Cassiar—paid for a week 300 ounces for six or eight men. Seventy-two ounces were washed from one pan of dirt in 1876 and decomposed rusty quartz containing gold was found on this creek."

At pp. 502 R of the same work the gifted author says:

"Save in a few exceptional cases the occurrence of coarse gold in the channels may safely be accepted as proving that the original source of the gold is not far off. The distance to which coarse gold travels is, as a rule, very inconsiderable, even in the beds of rapid streams. Additional evidence to the same effect is generally offered by the varying assay value of the gold found on different creeks, or even on different parts of the same creek, and this is often emphasized by the rough and uneven character of the gold and the circumstance that it not infrequently still holds imbedded, fragments of quartz."

On Dease river the gold taken assays about $15.50, on Rosella creek it assays $18.25, which indicates from Mr. Dawson's deductions that the main quartz lead cannot be far off and it seems fair to say that it would pay good lode prospectors just as handsomely to give some attention to this remarkable rich country as it has paid placer and hydraulic miners in the past and is paying at the present.

Last year the only hydraulic property being extensively worked in the Dease river portion of the country was Mr. Warburton Pike's on Thibert creek. This year another will be in operation as the Rosella Hydraulic and Mining Company, a purely local concern, operating on Rosella creek, a branch of French river, has, all ready for shipment a large plant to go in by the first steamer. It is not yet known whether it will be possible to get this plant installed in time to make a run before winter sets in, but the company will make every endeavor to get the plant fitted in time to get in one month's run. The gold on this company's property is very coarse and is worth $18.25 an ounce, and they appear to have a most valuable property.

Another company, managed by Wellington J. Anderson, mining engineer of Atlin and San Francisco, had fully intended operating a large plant on Dease river this year. The plant is costing $100,000 and is five times as large as the plant the Rosella Company are sending in. The company finds that with the horses available it would take two years to pack the plant in from Telegraph creek. The provincial government has been approached with a view of inducing the province to build a wagon road to Dease lake, and a most favorable reply has been received by Mr. Anderson and his associates to the effect that if the railway is not started this year it will be taken into very serious consideration. If found impossible to get either road or railway it is very probable that the plant will be taken in on sleighs next winter from Telegraph creek or Wrangel.

On McDame creek various ledges have been found and assays have been made which give the following values: Silver, 84 ounces; copper, 11.90 per cent, and lead 35 per cent. Another 132.16 ounces of silver and 19.90 per cent copper; another 158.2 ounces silver and 26.65 per cent copper; and another 168 ounces silver and 33.02 per cent copper. In the mining report for 1900 from which these figures have been procured, it is stated that these assays were taken very carefully across the whole body of the veins, in order to ascertain the average value of the ledge. These assays were taken for the Cassiar Central Railway Company and were only published in the government report.

If ever the British Columbia Northern and McKenzie Valley Railway is built, or some other means of railway communication is supplied, there will be such a mining boom in Cassiar as the world has never seen. Claims which, if situated in Kootenay, would make millions, are not rich enough to work in Cassiar on account of the tremendous expense to be met in either taking in or purchasing supplies.

The map of Cassiar country, which is published herewith, gives the projected route of the British Columbia Northern and McKenzie Valley Railway and from it can be judged the enormous difference such a road would make to the outlook of the country from a mining and general business standpoint. The provincial government view with a great deal of favor the plans of the company and have practically promised that it will be one of the roads which will be bonused during the next sitting of the legislature. This railway, when if completed, give an all Canadian route to Dawson, Atlin, Liard, Omeinca and the Peace river country. Not only this, but it gives the coast merchant a chance to compete with their more eastern brethren. It is anticipated that no difficulty will be experienced in getting connection at the pass, through which the Grand Trunk Pacific will have to come through to get to the coast, with this transcontinental line.

The parties financing the line have intimated to the government their willingness to put up a substantial deposit just as soon as the subsidy has been passed, to guarantee that they will start building within sixty days. The letter containing this offer is now in the hands of the government, and their acceptance is a foregone conclusion.

If this company do secure their charter and subsidy it is simply impossible to calculate what it means for British Columbia. It will at once open up the enormously rich Dease river country and make it possible to work properties which at present are, though immensely rich, not rich enough to pay to work under existing conditions. Prospecting will be made possible, persons owning claims now which they are unable to get to will be enabled to get to work and it seems reasonable to think that the government can very well afford to act liberally with the company and offer acceptable terms.

The increased revenue would pay interest on a very fair subsidy and it would do away with the present unsatisfactory state of affairs which exist, viz.: Canadians having to ship, in bond, all freight to Dawson and freight to Atlin and the adjacent territory.

Sir Wilfred Laurier is pledged to grant aid to an all Canadian route into the Yukon, and while the White Pass Company are endeavoring to secure a charter to build from White Horse to Dawson, it is generally conceded that the Dominion government will much sooner grant a charter to the British Columbia Northern. The provincial government have taken the matter up at Ottawa and it is hoped that Dominion aid will be granted this session.

The following particulars concerning are taken from the Colonist of March 31st last:

It seem that last autumn a Mr. W. A. McLeod got considerable coarse gold from some Indians who had been away in a far distant hunting ground. Mr. McLeod was at one time in charge of the Hudson Bay Company's trading post at Fort Nelson, on the Nelson river, but had lately been transferred to Fort Liard, at the junction of the McKenzie and Liard rivers. The Indians who had the gold were some of his old Nelson country Indians. They happened to have received some favors at his hands in former times, which, by the way, the Indian seldom forgets. In this way he got one of them to tell him where the gold came from.

So it happened that last fall McLeod left the company's service and he and his brother, with one of the Indians, started out on their quest for the gold.

They were absent for only a short time, because the snow was already on the mountains, but brought out some very fine samples of coarse gold.

A few weeks ago Mr. McLeod went up the Stickeen river from Wrangel and engaged an outfit and two or three men. They expect to start for the diggings as soon as the ice gets out of the rivers.

The student at the Washington university to whom Mr. Matheson wrote is Dr. D. F. MacDonald, a junior in the school of mines. When interviewed Mr. MacDonald said:

"Yes, the strike seems to be genuine enough. I know the country well, as I was in the service of the Hudson Bay Company throughout that part of British Columbia for three years. I made several trips down the Dease and Liard rivers in the interest of the company. There are very few white men in the country. As hunters, boatsmen, guides, etc., we found Indians much more satisfactory, and for that reason always employed them rather than white men.

"There are thousands of miles of territory drained by the Liard river and its tributaries that have never even been seen by a white man. The river on which the strike is reported is the Nahani, a tributary of the Liard and about 200 miles northeast of Liard Post, which is at the junction of the Dease and Liard rivers."

When questioned as to the most practicable way to get into the Nahani country Mr. MacDonald said the Wrangel route was much the best. "From Wrangel a river steamer goes to Telegraph creek. From there a good pack trail leads to Dease lake which was put in last season by the Thibert Creek Mining Company. Lumber can be purchased here and boats built.

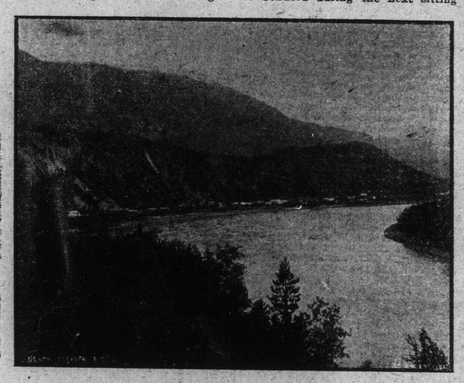
When the boat is built and the outfit loaded in, the exciting part of the voyage begins. The waters of Dease river, down which the voyager goes, are very swift and there are three bad rapids. The Liard river is extremely swift and it is necessary to portage the whole outfit in some places. During the period of high water, in July, it is practically impossible to navigate the river. I shall never forget my first trip down these rivers in the summer of 1898. The scenery is indiscribably grand, and the thunder of the foaming waters mingled with the excited shouts of my Indian crew as we shot between the grim and towering walls of some mountain canyon filled with rocks and a seething caldron of white water gave one a taste of the wild enthusiasm of the cavalry charge or the stampede of a bunch of cattle in a midnight storm.

"Of course it will be necessary to have miners' licenses from the government of the Northwest Territory. These cost $10. An outfit can usually be purchased in Telegraph Creek, where there are two large general stores belonging to the Hudson Bay Company. Charges over the pack trail to Dease lake are 8 cents per pound. A few good river boats, owned by a mining company, were for sale on Dease lake a year ago at $250 each. They would carry about four tons of stuff. Since the sawmill was brought in I should think that a boat with a capacity of 1,500 pounds could be built for $75 to $90. None but good river men should attempt these rivers without a guide.

"The ice on Dease river breaks up the first week in June. The rivers can then be navigated by boats until high water in July, when the canyons on the Liard become impassible until the water goes down again, about the m. of August.

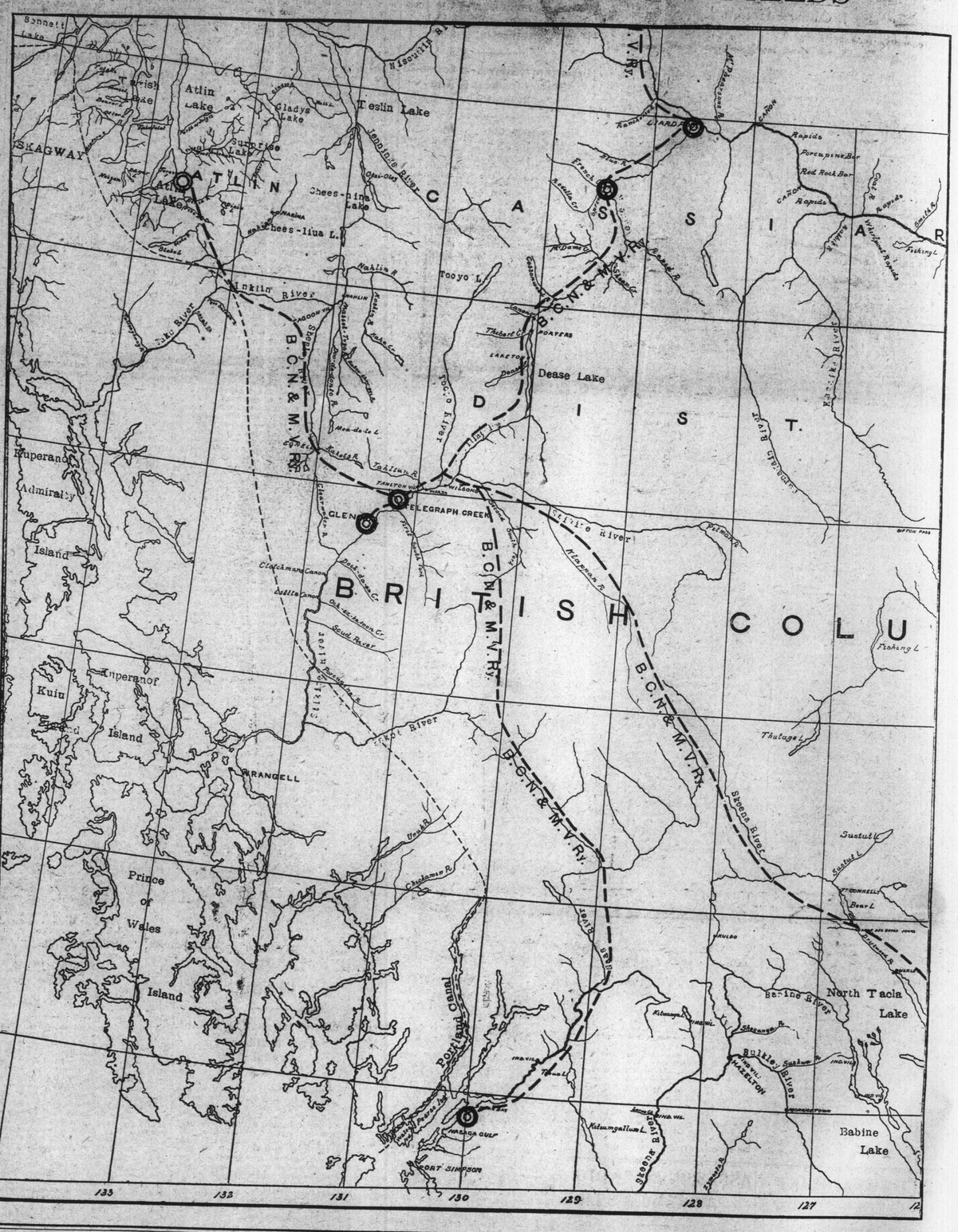
"As in all other gold strikes there will probably be thousands of dollars thrown away in the purchase of needless articles of outfit by the uninitiated and no doubt many will lose their supplies and possibly their lives in attempting to reach the land of gold without proper guides. Still if that vast extent of unknown land is opened up and made to give up its gold humanity will be the gainer in spite of the cost."

In conclusion Mr. MacDonald dwelt on the wild beauty of the country. He said in part that the happy hours spent with nature and nature's children in that glorious mountain home would never be forgotten by him; "that the gilded chandelier of the city never shone on sights half so fair as the visions of the mountains sending up their glittering pinnacles into the blue sunny skies of summer and has fed the crystal fountains which refresh the green valleys, and fill up the silvery lakes and streams so that they may float away in the lazy stillness to join the rushing river as it swiftly speeds to meet the horizon and greet the crimson and gold of the setting sun."



Glenora Landing, B.C., on Stickine River.

THE ROUTE TO NEW LIARD GOLD FIELDS



The Cough Is Your Warning

That the Lungs are in Danger—Guard Them by Using Dr. Chase's Syrup of Linseed and Turpentine.

The usual course of a cold is from head to throat and thence along the bronchial tubes to the lungs.

The cough is a warning that bids you guard the lungs.

Once the cough gets dry and tight, once it hurts to cough, once there is soreness in the chest and lungs, danger is near and the ailment serious.

Remember that pneumonia, consumption and other lung troubles are always the result of neglected colds.

Dr. Chase's Syrup of Linseed and Turpentine has won its place as leader in the front rank of throat and lung treatments because it can be relied on to prevent and cure serious disease.

Its far-reaching action on the whole system, its healing, soothing influence on the bronchial tubes and lungs have made it the most popular because the most effective remedy obtainable.

Croup, bronchitis, whooping cough, asthma, pneumonia, coughs, colds and throat troubles are promptly cured by Dr. Chase's Syrup of Linseed and Turpentine, as is evidenced by many of the best people in the land.

Dr. Chase's Syrup of Linseed and Turpentine, 25 cents a bottle, family size (three times as much) 60 cents at all dealers, or Edmanson, Bates & Co., Toronto.

To protect you against imitations the portrait and signature of Dr. A. W. Chase, the famous receipt book author, are on every bottle.

PETROLEUM IN NORTHWEST GERMANY.

In a report on the petroleum fields of northwest Germany, the French consul at Bremen remarks that at the present time twelve companies are operating at Wietze about sixty borings, yielding from 15 to 18 trucks of oil daily. Besides these, other companies are busy on preparatory work. There are 23 wells, varying in depth from 130 to 400 metres. The oil obtained up to 300 metres is dark in color and thick; its particular use is as a lubricant on the railways. From drillings below 300 metres a lighter oil is obtained, furnishing benzine, lighting oil, gas oil, etc. It is anticipated that, at greater depths, still lighter oils, hitherto unexploited, may be found. Wietze, which is now connected by rail with Steinforde, is only one point of the petroleum district, which includes Horst, Oelheim, Hanigsen and Verden, where other companies are engaged in preliminary work. The large number of these undertakings and the small amount of capital at their disposal is considered inimical to the ultimate success of the fields, and the recent intervention of the company known as the Internationale Bohrgesellschaft, at Erkelenz (near Aix-la-Chapelle), which proposes to develop the mines on a large scale, is looked upon favorably. On the occasion of his journey to Wietze, the German Minister of Commerce obtained a report as to the extent of the concessions obtained by the Internationale Bohrgesellschaft, and the steps they proposed for developing the fields and disposing of the yield. It is confidently hoped that these operations may break up the monopoly enjoyed by the Standard Oil Company.

Rub with Griffiths' Menthol Liniment.

KNEW DR. CHASE IN 1867.

One of Dr. Chase's oldest patients in Canada is Mr. G. W. Parish, of Sturgeon Bay, Simcoe County, Ont., whom he cured of kidney disease in 1867 by means of his now celebrated Kidney-Liver Pills. Mr. Parish writes that he does not think there is any medicine half so good, and that he always keeps Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills in the house as a family medicine.

HE WASN'T PRESENT.

Genial American Tells London Society Party of the Family Lynching.

At a recent dinner in town, says Modern Society (London), the conversation turned on the subject of lynchings in the United States. It was the general opinion that a rope was the chief end of a man in America. Finally the hostess turned to an American, who had taken no part in the conversation, and said:

"You, sir, must have often seen these affairs."

"Yes," he replied, "we take a kind of municipal pride in seeing which city can show the greatest number of lynchings yearly."

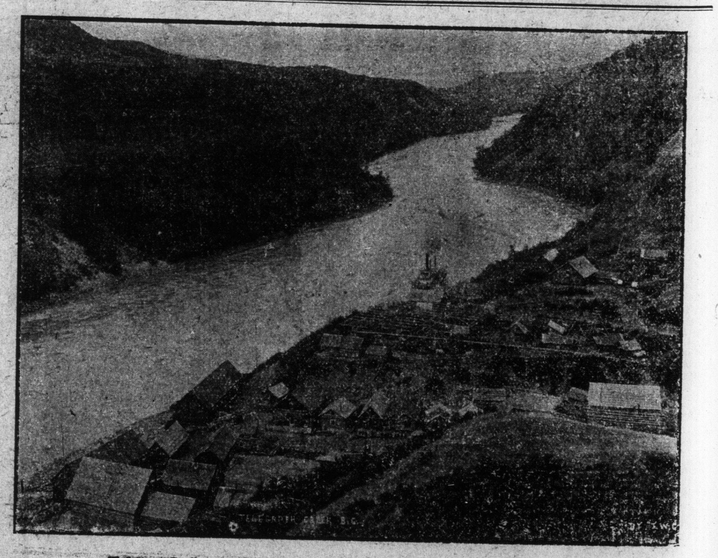
"Oh, do tell us about a lynching you have seen yourself," broke in a half dozen voices at once.

"The night before I sailed for England," said the American, "I was giving a dinner to a party of intimate friends when a colored waiter spilled a plate of soup over the gown of a lady at an adjoining table. The gown was utterly ruined and the gentlemen of her party at once seized the waiter, tied a rope around his neck and at a signal from the injured lady swung him into the air."

"Horrible," said the hostess, with a shudder.

"And did you actually see this yourself?"

"Well, no," said the American, apologetically. "Just at that time I was downstairs killing the chef for putting mustard in the blanc mange."—Wex J., Portland Oregonian.



Telegraph Creek, the Head of Navigation on the Stickine River.