

GOLD AND OTHER MINERALS.

It has long been known that placer gold exists along the Parsnip River, and in early days several attempts were made to mine there, but the cost of transportation was so great that it was impossible to work at a profit.

The gravels and sands along the Peace River are gold bearing through almost its entire course, and with railway transportation extensive developments will surely take place. A great stretch of the river is now covered with hydraulic leases.

FINLAY RIVER.

The country drained by the Finlay and its tributaries are very rich in placer gold and other minerals. The Omineca River and its tributaries have also placer gold, which has been profitably mined since its discovery in 1868.

Gold was discovered in paying quantities on the Parsnip River in 1861, and in 1862 on Finlay Bar, which gave wonderful results for several years. This district is acknowledged to be among the most promising in British Columbia.

COPPER.

Copper, silver and other valuable minerals have been located in this district. An enormous body of gold-bearing quartz has been found and staked on the northwestern slopes of Mount Selwyn a few miles below Finlay Forks. Finlay Forks district will, no doubt, with railway transportation, become a district of considerable importance in the mining world.

FISHERIES.

The fisheries of British Columbia are capable of great development, the only fisheries fully developed being salmon canning. The greatest fishing grounds for halibut, cod and other fish are in the vicinity of Queen Charlotte's Island. A glance at the map will show that Bella Coola is remarkably well situated to capture a large share of the trade that will develop from these and other fisheries.

POPULATION.

There are very few people living along the proposed line of railway at present, excepting in the Bella Coola Valley, where there is a population of about 500 Whites and 100 Indians.

From the valley to Mile 280 in the Lower Nechaceo River Valley there is