

A TRIP THROUGH HARRISON LAKE AND PEMBERTON MEADOWS MINING CAMPS.

By Wm. M. Brewer, M.E., Mem. North of England Inst., M & M. E.,
and A. I. M. E.

THE discovery of the Golden Cache mine on Cayuse Creek, a tributary of Bridge river, was apparently the cause of attracting the prospector toward that section of British Columbia lying north of the Canadian Pacific Railroad and west of the Gold range.

In the early days, during the Cariboo excitement, Bridge River was known for its pockety placer diggings, where sometimes the miner would work for weeks without obtaining any desirable results, and then, in the next few days clean up a sufficient amount in coarse gold to repay him well for his entire season's work.

The streams of the west of Bridge River, however, received very little attention during these days because none of them yielded sufficient pay to warrant the working, for owing to the difficulty of getting supplies into the country at that time; placer ground which would not pay over \$10 per day to the man, could not be worked profitably.

It is not generally known by the present residents of British Columbia, except amongst the very earliest settlers, that the first route opened to the Cariboo mines

in 1858, was via the Fraser River to the mouth of the Harrison River, thence up the latter into Harrison Lake; from the lake to its head and across a smaller lake known as Douglas, to the port of that name was established. Here also a wharf was constructed by the government where light draft steamers could unload their cargoes.

PORT DOUGLAS IN THE "EARLY DAYS."

The desirable land around Port Douglas was surveyed off into town lots, and in a short time one of the most prosperous camps British Columbia has ever known, was in full swing. Court was established and a court house built, the ruins of which are pointed out to-day with pride by the only white resident of the place, as being one of the first court houses to be built in the Province, and the scene where Judge Begbie dispensed justice and taught the California miners of those days to respect Canadian law. The

impartiality with which justice was meted out to all offenders regardless of their nationality, their reputation as "bad men," or of any other consideration, did much to prevent a repetition of the scenes of lawlessness which characterized the "days of '49." So important was this place at that time that the Dominion Government expended a large sum of money in building a waggon road from Port Douglas up the Lillooet River to the foot of Tenass Lake, a distance of about 30 miles; in order to facilitate the transportation of supplies to the new Cariboo mines. From that point small steamers plied to the head of Lillooet Lake, where is now located the Indian village known as Pemberton Meadows. From there another waggon road was built towards the Northeast, to the foot of Anderson Lake, where the freight was transferred to the boats and canoes, carried up that lake, thence across a short portage to Seton Lake, and from the head of

Seton Lake packed across the Fraser river. Thence the regular pack trail was built North-erly into the Cariboo. This route was used entirely for some years but the many transfers from boats to pack animals proved so expensive that the route from Yale via Lytton superceded the older one, which was gradually abandoned, until in 1875 all the white men except one left the town of Port Douglas, abandoning

the road ranches they had established along the route, and thus the "Noble Red Man" was again left to the peaceful enjoyment of his hunting grounds. As a majority of the old-timers who went to the Cariboo mines came direct from California, of course the camp-followers, including the gamblers, desperadoes and tough element generally, who had been reaping a rich harvest during the early days of the gold mining excitement in that state, accompanied the miners to the new diggings. In consequence, Port Douglas was a thoroughly typical mining camp from 1858 to 1875.

THE BRIDGE RIVER EXCITEMENT.

From that date until the Bridge River excitement in 1896 and 1897, no attention whatever was given to the Harrison Lake and river districts, either with regard to their prospects for quartz mining or placer. But during the early spring of 1897 a location known as the Providence, was recorded by some loggers on



PLATFORM ALONG VEIN IN FACE OF CLIFF—GOLDEN CACHE MINING CO.