

The late Mr. Sullivan, Gold Commissioner, under date 25th August, 1875, gives the following details respecting the Cassiar District:

"The mines on Dease Creek are at length yielding fair harvests to the miners who have experienced much trouble and delays in combating a continued high stage of water in the creek during the summer months.

"Some of the claims on Dease Creek are paying handsomely, while nearly all are yielding fair average results. I have been informed that the "Andrew" Co., situated about five miles above Laketon, washed out on the week before last, 500 oz. The "Godfrey" Co., "Harris" & Co., "Hosford" & Co., average about 2 oz. per day to the hand. The "Carrigan" and "Williscroft" Co.'s, about 3 oz. The "Scott," "Forest Rose" and "Discovery's" Co.'s average about 1½ oz. per day to the hand. The "Caledonia," "Rath," "Lyons," "Three to One," "Fontaine" & Co., and "Wyoming" Co., from ½ oz. to 3 oz. per day to the hand employed.

"I mention these companies merely to exemplify and give a fair idea of the average pay taken out of Dease Creek at present.

"On Thibert's Creek the claim holders are doing well, taking out, say, from 1 oz. to 3 ozs. per day to the hand employed.

"There are about three hundred miners on McDame's Creek. The mines there do not yield equally, some pay very well while others have been very unprofitable, the latter so on account of the difficulty in damming the creek, miners, in several instances, being obliged to throw up their summer's work, consisting of partly erected wing-dams which could not be completed owing to the high stage of water, and at other times to the slides from the hill-sides, which break up their works and fill their diggings.

"However, McDame's Creek is proved to be rich, and the miners who have succeeded in wing-damming their ground have been well rewarded for their labor. The Discovery Co., on that creek, washed out last week 170 oz., while the McCrom & Stuart, Caledonia, Walker, Mitchell, Black Jack and others, are paying largely.

"There are about 25 men on Quartz Creek, who are, I learn, doing well, and on Snow Creek (both tributaries of McDame's Creek) two companies are making over wages.

"I am under the impression that the yield of gold from Cassiar District this season will exceed its last year's returns."

Mr. G. B. Wright reports as follows, under date 2nd November, 1875:

"I am firmly of the opinion that the Cassiar Mines are in their infancy. It is now well established that Dease, Thibert's and McDame's Creeks have yielded in two seasons nearly two millions of dollars, and the two latter streams will, undoubtedly, produce far more in the future than they have yet done. Three other streams have been prospected, tributaries of Dease River and DeLard, and gold in paying quantities has been found upon each. The last discovery (Sageen's Creek) offers such inducements that hundreds of miners will visit it during the present season. Its discoverers report that there are deep deposits of auriferous gravel which will, probably, enable the miners to prosecute

their work in tunnels and shafts during the winter season, thus removing one principal objection to the claims in this extreme northern region, viz., the shortness of the mining season.

"I believe that the number of miners in the District will be greater during the ensuing season than it has yet been.

"I also believe that rich and profitable silver-bearing leads of quartz and galena exist, and will be worked extensively during the next two seasons."

The area of the Cassiar gold field so far developed, is, at least, 300 miles square.

CARIBOO.

Writing from Barkerville on the 23rd October, 1875, Mr. Bowring says:

"From the returns submitted the amount of gold taken out for nine months would appear to be \$ 688,152

"To this, however, I consider, should be added at least one-fourth for amounts not accounted for, say 172,088

Products for nine months . . . \$ 860,180
"To which for the product of the remaining three months, allowing for the fact of the hydraulic claims doing little work, add, say 15,047

"Being an approximate yield for 1875 (which I believe to be a fair estimate) \$1,075,287

"During the nine months, from 1st January, 1875, the Bank of British Columbia, at Barkerville, has purchased 445,000

"And the Bank of British North America, at Stanley 334,906

"Leaving a probable amount in private hands 295,979

\$1,075,287

As the alluvial diggings on the various creeks, now being worked, have become gradually exhausted, attention is being drawn to quartz mining. Quartz ledges are found in abundance throughout the District, on some of which prospecting has been done at various times, but, so far, unsuccessfully, though in some instances good paying prospects were obtained. Failure, no doubt, was occasioned by not possessing proper appliances for working the same. The chief drawbacks towards developing this most important branch of mining, which, it is believed, must eventually become the great source of wealth of Cariboo, are the difficulties of access, owing to its remoteness from navigation or railways, and the absence of mills for crushing purposes.