

from 2 inches to 30 inches in width ; the average width may be taken to be from 6 to 12 inches. The richness of these lodes varies, running from \$3 to \$16 a ton. The general average for twenty-nine years is about \$14.50 a ton. There are 35 localities in the province in which workable deposits of gold have been found, and from three thousand to four thousand persons are dependent to a great extent or entirely upon the industry. The area of the gold measures in Nova Scotia has been estimated variously from five thousand to seven thousand square miles, or from one-fifth to one-third of the area of the province ; yet the actual area, from which the gold thus far obtained has been won, is less than 40 square miles. Taking the total value of the gold as \$10,000,000, in round numbers, each square mile of surface upon which paying gold lodes have been found has yielded over \$8,000 a year for each year since the discovery of gold in the province.

649. In British Columbia, the value of the estimated yield of gold for 1893 is \$353,355. While the amount produced by placer mining is somewhat less than that obtained in 1892, the total yield is greater, owing to the returns of some of the quartz claims in the Yale and West Kootenay districts having been taken into account. The anticipations formed in 1892 of an increased output from hydraulic workings have not been realized, owing to the development work on the majority of the claims not having reached the stage where results could be expected, whilst in other cases operations have been hindered by an insufficient supply of water. This branch of placer mining is yearly attracting greater attention throughout the province, and the amount of capital already invested and to be laid out during the coming season, more particularly in working the bench lands in the vicinity of the Fraser River and its tributaries, is very considerable.*

650. Gold was first discovered in British Columbia in 1851, but was little sought till 1857, when four or five Canadians and half-breeds crossed over the Thompson River and succeeded in finding workable placers at Nicomen, on that river. British Columbia, since 1858, has produced \$54,014,854, as nearly as can be ascertained, but as only an estimate can be made of the quantity carried away by private individuals, the actual amount is larger.

* Report of Minister of Mines, B.C., February, 1894.