

Scrapbook of Articles Relating to Granite Creek
From the 1885 Daily Colonist Newspaper
Compiled by Diane Sterne

July 25, 1885:

ANOTHER GOLD STRIKE. —The new surface diggings recently discovered in the Semilkameen country are creating much excitement in that locality, and about twenty new claims have been located, and most of the miners are reported to be taking out from eight to ten dollars a day. The creek on which the new discoveries are made is a tributary of the Tulameen and has been named Granite creek.

August 14, 1885:

GRANITE CREEK. —Mr. T. Shotbolt, J. P., yesterday received a letter from Mr. Barrington Price, dated Keremees, July 29th, in which he says; "Very rich creek struck running into the north fork of Semilkameen. Two men rocked out \$400 in one day,"

August 26, 1885:

FAVORABLE REPORTS. —Mr. Jas. Orr, M. P. P., who arrived yesterday from Granite creek in the Semilkameen country, brings the news of the strike of another creek in that section out of which two men took \$500 in one day. Granite creek still pans out from \$10 to \$100 per day to the man.

August 27, 1885:

CORRECTION.—In a paragraph published yesterday in this journal Mr. Orr, M. P. P., is made to say that he had just returned from Granite creek, bringing news of a rich gold strike in that locality. This is a reportorial mistake. Mr. Orr has not been to Granite creek, neither did he report that he had. What he said was that he had heard that rich gold diggings had been found on that creek, not that he knew from his personal knowledge that such was the fact.

September 18, 1885:

A PROMISING GOLD FIELD.

The New Diggings at Semilkameen.

Instances of Extraordinary Success.

Provisions Cheap --- Crowds Flocking to the Mines.

Mr. F. Richter left Semilkameen river on Sunday, and is the last man out from that section. He met a great many men on the trail going into the diggings with the intention of mining. Also, numerous pack animals loaded with provisions and other goods for traders.

GRANITE CREEK

is situated fifteen miles above the forks of the Semilkameen river. The creek empties into the north fork of the Semilkameen, and some 500 white men and 500 Chinamen are already mining there. The diggings on Granite creek were discovered by Bill Jenkins and Tom Curry about June last. They got prospects of from

FOUR BITS UPWARDS

and put in sluices in August. The company have since made as high as \$200 a day, the gold being coarse and of a fine quality. It is taken in trade at \$17 to the ounce. Mr. Richter saw many fine specimens, weighing from

EIGHT TO TEN DOLLARS EACH.

An old man named Fay, working all alone, is making \$40 a day crevicing. Charley Reinhart & Co. are doing equally well. Briggs & Bromley are said to have the best claims on the creek. They have several locations, and the stories told of their success are so exciting that Mr. Richter hesitates to repeat them here. H. Nicholson & Co. have a fine claim on Granite creek, and report says they are taking out \$100 a day. There are many other claims in which large wages are being made. The creek is staked off for two and a-half miles from the mouth; but good prospects have been obtained further up-stream on benches and claims are being taken up there. At present Granite creek is the only one that has been proved to be rich; but

ANOTHER CREEK,

also a tributary of the north fork of the Semilkameen river, has been prospected with satisfactory results and miners have gone there. Mr. Richter says Mr. Allison told him a great many miners were coming in to trade with bags of gold dust. All transactions are in dust, and the "days of '58" are brought vividly back to the pioneer mind, when every storekeeper maintained a pair of scales on his counter with which to weigh out the precious dust in payment for goods.

PROVISIONS

are very cheap. Beef is 7 to 10 cents; sugar, 20 cents; tea, \$1; tobacco, \$1; potatoes, 2c; flour, \$5 per 100; and all other things in proportion.

PROSPECTORS.

The mountains are being overrun by prospectors from the British and American sides. The mines so far discovered are in British territory, and better results are looked for soon. No snow had fallen, and there had been no rain all summer. The day Mr. Richter left to come out heavy rains fell and it was reported that some of the claims were drowned out by the sudden rush of waters.

Mr. Richter goes back to-day.

September 19, 1885:

THE FIRST MURDER AT GRANITE CREEK.

Big Rush to a New Gold Creek.

(Special to The Colonist.)

Hopk, B. C., Sept. 18.—From a man just in from Granite Creek, we learn that James Nolan was murdered on Wednesday afternoon by a cowboy. Four well armed men are after him. There is great excitement on the creek over the affair. Particulars are not exactly known.

A new creek is struck, called Bear Creek, 19 miles from Allison's, on the North Fork. There is considerable rush to that locality.

September 20, 1885:

Granite Creek.

"One who did not find a nugget," writes to the Mainland Guardian concerning the new mines as follows: "There is, no doubt, some gold in Granite creek, but not enough to warrant a man who has employment, to leave it for the mines. With the exception of a half dozen claims there are no paying claims. The creek is about six miles long, and on either side are almost perpendicular banks, several feet high, which render the approach inaccessible, except from 'the mouth.' Mining is only practicable in a few places at very low water, and should a freshet come all work must cease. It may happen that ere long gold will have been found in other creeks in the Similkameen valley; but we advise your readers to wait until spring before they think of starting to the gold-fields. At present the rainy season makes travel through the mountain trail almost impossible."

September 24, 1885:

From a gentleman recently down from Savona a reporter of *The Colonist* learns that Mr. Newlands (Ferguson & Newlands, Savona) reported as shot at Granite Creek mines by a cow-boy, was on Friday last at Savona, awaiting the arrival of a doctor telegraphed for from Yale. The shooting was accidental, the cow-boy practicing with his revolver at a mark at the time, and in some unaccountable way Mr. Newlands received a ball in the forehead. This he immediately bandaged up and has not since taken the bandage off. Whether the ball glanced off or was imbedded in the skull is not known. The injured man was able to walk around the house, and was anxiously awaiting the arrival of the doctor.

September 29, 1885:

Ho! For Granite Creek.

(Special to The Colonist.)

SAVONAS, Sept. 28th.

A large pack train left here to-day for Semalkameen mines loaded with steel, powder, bacon, etc., also quite a few miners on the way in. Weather fine and warm.

Granite Creek.

The Chinese are acquiring most of the mining ground on Granite Creek, purchasing it from white men, who were the original locators. Some reports state that the diggings are shallow and that best results are obtained by crevicing. Others assert that the benches will pay largely. The following letter has been placed at our disposal by a friend:

FRIEND:—Of course you are awfully anxious to hear from Granite creek. James has just got back from that side of the mountains. He has a good opinion of the creek. He has been as far as Al. Thorpe's place, and only stopped a few days on Granite creek on his way back. The Chinese are buying up every claim offered for sale. Two men from Hope, acquaintances of mine, have sold for \$1,100—\$800 down and balance in a month. They had just got a wingdam in, and had got a good prospect. Hope is a booming. Wardle is doing a big business. I have not seen the place so lively since 1860. Of course it is very small now, and twenty or thirty miners and a few pack trains make a big show. Parties lately in report new strikes on Bear creek, twelve or fifteen miles from Granite. I saw a letter from a trader out there. He says there is an immense excitement about Bear creek.

Roycraft has been very ill in Hope. He was on his way to the Semilkameen, but did not get further than Hope. He is improving, and will return to Victoria.

C.

October 1, 1885:

FROM GRANITE CREEK.

**Glowing Accounts of the New
Strikes.**

(Special to The Colonist.

NEW WESTMINSTER, Sept. 30.—Robt. Stevenson, just out from Granite creek, reports new diggings at Bear creek, the latest discovery in the Semilkameen country. He speaks glowingly of Granite creek where large pay is taken out of nearly all claims. He goes back to-morrow.

October 2, 1885:

FROM GRANITE CREEK.

**The Best Reports Received are
Fully Verified.**

**The Strike on Bear Creek Pro-
mising Well.**

Mr. R. Stevenson, of Chilliwack, a miner well-known to every old Caribooite, and one of the 8000 miners who were at Rock creek, Semilkameen, in 1860, arrived yesterday on the Yosemite, five days direct from Granite creek. Of the 8000 Mr. Stevenson is the only one who has yet returned to Semilkameen. He

VERIFIES THE GOOD REPORTS

that have been constantly received from the new gold fields. The wing-dams washed out by the freshet have all been repaired, and when Mr. Stevenson left, gold was again being taken out. The creek claims have paid wonderfully and are very easy to work, the bedrock being only from two to six feet below the surface.

There is every prospect that the bench claims will also pan out well, though these will not be worked until the creek claims are played out, as it would fill them up.

THE STRIKE ON BEAR CREEK

is being thoroughly tested by two companies who are now sinking shafts, the Webster Co. being down ten feet. The earth is clay and gravel; the Discovery Co. have taken out small pay over the clay. This company are now wing-damming and sluicing, but are building a wheel and preparing to sink a shaft. The nature of the creek bed is similar to that of the famous Williams creek, Caribbo. Mr. S. is confident when bedrock is reached.

THAT BIG PAY

will be taken out. The indications are that the claims will be drift claims, probably 40 or 50 feet in depth. Bear creek is taken up for four miles. A piece \$7 in weight was found on this creek.

About 300 whites and fully as many Chinese are working at Granite Creek and on the Semilkameen, while the latter are pouring in from all quarters. This is to be regretted as undoubtedly a

LARGE NUMBER OF WHITES

will go in in the spring. The Chinese have also bought into some of the best claims on Granite Creek.

Unless intending miners have money it is rather late to go in this year as most of the ground is taken up and the claims can only be worked about five weeks more. Mr. Stevenson will return immediately, having a claim on Granite Creek and is interested in one on Bear.

John Chance, the discoverer of Granite Creek, who had been out prospecting, returned two weeks ago and stated that he had struck a rich promising creek, about 35 miles from Allison's. He has since returned with five men and four pack-horses to cut a trail. Chance is confident that the new creek will show up.

MUCH BETTER THAN GRANITE.

As it is his own money that he is using, this assertion is probably correct.

"Shorty," the cowboy who shot Newlands has the sympathy of the camp, as it is generally acknowledged that the shooting was accidental. Shorty is now at New Westminster awaiting his trial, and Mrs. Allison is raising money to defend him, a large number of the miners subscribing, who would be glad to see him out of the scrape, as he was a harmless fellow and had no intent to hit Newlands.

October 7, 1885:

GRANITE CREEK.

The news from this new gold mining locality continues uniformly good. While there is nothing so far to unduly excite there is much to interest. Granite creek is situated sufficiently near to civilization to insure the miners a cheap and plentiful supply of food, raiment and tools. At Cariboo in 1861 and 1862 provisions could scarcely be had at any price—freight being \$2,000 a ton, and the means of transportation so limited that the population was frequently on the verge of starvation. It is not strange that with labor at \$16 for an eight-hour shift and flour at \$150 a barrel few of the many who went to those diggings brought out with them as much as they took in. It is not an unreasonable estimate when we say that relatively speaking \$2.50 a day is better pay on Granite creek than \$16 a day in Cariboo in 1862. Besides, there is reason to hope that the new diggings, if not so rich as the northern gold field, are more extensive and lasting. There are some who indulge the hope that in Granite creek a worthy successor of William creek has been discovered. William creek was one of the richest gold-bearing streams in the world. From first to last \$45,000,000 in gold was taken from its bed and banks, and some persons who now roll in wealth in other lands date their prosperity from the discovery of gold at Cariboo. It is even said that Flood & O'Brien of San Francisco borrowed from one Wade, a miner, \$65,000 in gold, his savings at Cariboo, and with it made their first investment in Washoe stocks, which afterwards yielded them millions. We do not share the belief that the new gold field will equal in richness the old; but it might easily be more extensive and diffuse its wealth more widely. Cariboo enriched a few. Let us hope that the Granite creek district will enrich the many.

GRANITE CREEK MINES.

Solid Pay and Sanguine Workers.

Fifty Dollars a Day for Some of Them.

Prospectors and Purchasers Busy.

A Lively Scene Along the Creek.

To Mr. J. F. Allison, J. P., a large stock-raiser of the Semilkameen district, we are indebted for the following latest news from the Granite Creek mines:

Entrusted to his care, he brings about \$5000 worth of gold dust, among which is a nugget of smooth worn gold valued at \$83; it is the property of a Chinaman. The men, of whom there are about three hundred, are stretched along the creek for about five miles from the scene of the first discovery, and are confining their attention to creek claims, the only ones at present being worked. Chinamen are purchasing from the whites with considerable speculative spirit, paying for claims from \$100 to as high as \$1600, the latter price being paid for a claim from which that amount had been already taken out. It is perfectly reliable to state that all are making wages, while some (working with sluices) are taking out

FROM \$30 TO \$50 PER DAY

to the hand. One old miner, George Sutherland, is making nearly as much with a rocker, or, rather, sees that it is made for him. It is in this way: George, who knows a thing or two, is aware there is nothing in hard work. Accordingly, he has hired a Chinaman to work the rocker while he himself sits by and watches him—and watches him very sharply, too. It is literally a case of "Rock the Cradle, John."

Several creeks in the vicinity are being prospected, but not yet heard from. The Tulameen river, embracing an area of about fifty square miles, is thought by practical miners to hold forth very good indications and in view of the late lucky strike; prospecting will be conducted with increased energy. That part of Granite Creek where the claims are being worked is about 66 miles from Hope, and a good trail all the way. The cost of packing, which is done by Indians, is moderate—2½ cents to 3½ cents per pound. On the creek itself flour is selling for \$3 50 per sack; bacon 25 to 30 cents per pound; sugar, five pounds for \$1; beef, 10 to 12 cents per pound, and other provisions in proportion. The most expensive article is lumber—12 to 14 cents being charged for cutting alone.

The closing remark of Mr. Allison struck us as being so full of hard sense that we repeat it. "I would not advise," said he, "any men to go to these mines this year. There is already a large number of men waiting around to take up any extra land that may be left vacant when the claims are adjusted, and it is too late to start out to prospect at random and winter it out. Those who are disposed to purchase can go there now to advantage, and even practical miners may make enough use of what time is left this year to know better where to go in the spring; but to the general run of gold-seekers, I should say, 'Don't go there this year.'"

October 9, 1885:

GRANITE CREEK MINES. —It is desirable that any publicans who have been duly licensed should be allowed to dispense liquor in the new mines. Two or three licenses have been issued to responsible persons; but a number of irresponsible men have embarked in the illicit liquor traffic. They sell the vilest stuff and should be suppressed by the constable in charge of the district.

October 13, 1885:

From Granite Creek.

The latest arrival from Granite Creek, J. Noble, further confirms the good reports that have been received of the richness of the mines. Mr. Noble and his partner had one of the best paying claims on the creek and employed eight men, who averaged from \$27 to \$50 per day to the man. He brings down about \$1,500 in dust, the largest piece weighing \$18 50. There can be no doubt about the richness of the creek, and men are prospecting in every direction, while a mining expert has arrived to examine the worth of the quartz ledges that have been located.

Granite Creek.

Mr. W. J. Noble, who arrived from Granite Creek on Saturday last, was interviewed last evening and the following information elicited:

The output on the creek is very fair, an average of \$40 to the claim being taken out daily. Messrs. McIntyre and Palmer who are located about four miles from the mouth of the creek, have taken out from \$40 to \$80 daily for some time past with a rocker. There is not much attention paid to

BEAR CREEK,

the miners confining themselves almost entirely to Granite Creek. Claims on the latter stream which were worth only \$250 two weeks ago, cannot be bought for \$800 at the present time. The population is rapidly growing, there being about three hundred whites and two hundred Chinese in the diggings. The police officers are having a busy time with Onderdonk's lambs. There is no jail and the rowdies are taken to the woods; but the officer no sooner returns to town when the men sneak back and become as great a nuisance as ever. The report that the

ILLEGAL SELLING OF LIQUOR

was going on is untrue, as Mr. Swan, the officer, has his eyes ever open to catch transgressors of the law. Several men went to the diggings with that intention; but found that such an attempt would be useless. The weather has been perfect lately, although two inches of snow covered Hope mountain on the 9th inst. The usual number of

GAMBLERS

who generally follow a mining excitement, has arrived and they expect to reap a rich harvest. Hotel accommodation is very poor. Mr. Noble thinks if the government would issue a number of licences any trouble similar to that which occurred at Eagle Pass would be avoided at the creek. The appointment of

MR. NICHOLSON

as recorder gives general satisfaction, as it was very inconvenient for the miners to travel twelve miles to record, and it is hoped that before long the gold commissioner will be on the creek at least three times a week, so that all disputes arising about claims may be settled promptly.

Semilkameen Mines.

Sam Evans, writing from Granite Creek, says he has taken out as high as \$83 in one day and having also prospected the Semilkameen river in several places has in each case found good indications. At present, he adds, the water is low and feed for pack animals plentiful, and with the advantage of probably fine weather for at least three weeks, thinks a good chance is offered for prospecting over the rolling mountains. He saw a good specimen of gold quartz found by a cowboy, while on his part he found a mountain of iron ore a few miles off the Hope trail. In the camp at Granite Creek he says some of the miners affect the revolver which they openly carry upon their persons, the principal portion of the class being formed off ranchmen, cowboys and halfbreeds who gallop all over and if gold is on the surface they find it; but they would not sink three feet for anything.

GRANITE CREEK.

New and Exciting Reports

Probability that a Great Gold Field has been Discovered.

Mr. H. E. Ward left Granite Creek on Thursday last and arrived in this city on Sunday morning. He reports that about four miles from its mouth Granite Creek forks, the branches being known as the North and South Forks. There is no mining on the North Fork, operations being confined at present to the main creek and the South Fork. A few companies are at work on

SEMILKAMEEN RIVER, and are getting good pay on the bars. Mr. Ward saw some of the rocker "clean ups" from these bars, the result being from \$2.50 to \$3.50 a day to the hand. The Chinese companies have all got in sluices, and are making from \$3 to \$5 a day to the man. All the claims on

GRANITE CREEK AND THE SOUTH FORK are doing exceedingly well. Mr. Ward saw a set of sluices within 1200 feet of the mouth which only one man shoveled, and the clean-up was \$197 for ten hours. Another company of white men rocked out \$9 in one day, and the very next day took out

TWO HUNDRED AND SEVEN DOLLARS.

Further up the miners are all doing well. Times are flush and gold dust is bought or taken in trade at \$17 an ounce. Mr. Ward has mined or been interested in mines in California for thirty years, and never saw more promising diggings in that land of gold. In the wash-ups large quantities of arquerite (an amalgum of silver) are found. The appearance of the country is highly auriferous, and our informant's opinion is that many other creeks in the same district will be found gold-bearing. He saw no gold-bearing quartz, although he believes that such will be found there.

PROVISIONS

are very cheap; board at the hotel is \$7 per week. About 1200 or 1500 feet from the mouth of Granite creek a shaft has been sunk in the bench 27 feet, and good prospects were obtained all the way down, and no bedrock at that depth. Mr. Ward prospected an 8-foot shaft in the bed of Granite creek and got 75 cents to four pans. Another man took out over \$2.80 to a single pan. At the creek there is a tract of 100 hundred acres, formed by the wash of the creek for centuries which is believed to be rich. A bedrock flume will be run in from the Semilkameen and the ground thoroughly worked. Whip-sawed lumber is \$120 M feet. Six or eight houses are under way at Granite city; these with a dozen others constitute the town. The biggest result yet obtained on the creek in one day was on a claim from which four men took \$900 in one day.

Mr. Barrington Price, who left the diggings one day later than Mr. Ward, reports that Capt. Sherburne is taking out \$400 daily in his claim. Jan Fay has sold 100 feet of his claim for \$700. All the claims on the creek that are being worked are paying well.

News from Bear creek is not encouraging and it is thought that the discovery will not be productive of much good results.

Chance, the discoverer of Granite creek diggings, has found another paying creek, distant 35 miles from Allison's store. It prospects from \$7 to \$8 a day.

The health of the miners is good: weather fine, no snow and miners all at work.

The bench diggings prospect from five to 7 cents to the pan from the surface down.

The trail from Hope is filled with miners on their way in. A drove of 470 hogs from Chilliwhack was met on Hope mountains.

Contradiction from Granite Creek.

GRANITE CREEK, B. C., Oct. 16th.

TO THE EDITOR:—In your edition of the 9th appears a paragraph stating that illicit whiskey selling is being carried on at Granite Creek. As such a statement is without the slightest foundation in truth, in justice to our very efficient and courteous constable, Mr. Swan, it is to be hoped you will give equal publicity to this denial.

In an interview with Mr. R. Stevenson, published in a former edition of your paper, it would appear that the miners of Granite Creek were in sympathy with the cowboy "Shorty," committed for the shooting of Mr. Ngwlanda. As this is entirely contrary to facts, I am at a loss to understand why Mr. Stevenson should have made such a statement. Our little community in Granite Creek is a peaceable one, and, being busily engaged in extracting the precious metal, has little in common with those gentlemen whose greatest delight appears to be in "painting the town red."

A GRANITE CREEK MINER.

October 22, 1885:

GRANITE CREEK GOLD.—An assay has been made by Mr. McCulloch of several samples of gold from Granite creek. One showed \$18.19, and another \$18 25, standard gold value.

October 25, 1885:

The Granite Creek Mines.

The claims of Capt. Sherburne and Jenkins continue to yield at the rate of from \$250 to \$400 a day. The sluices are run day and night. Chance, discoverer of Granite creek, has brought in to Allison's \$800 in coarse gold from a new creek which he says is richer than Granite. Supplies are plentiful and prices low. The Chinese are getting the cream of the claims by purchase, and are amassing tidy little fortunes.

October 29, 1885:

From Granite Creek.

Mr. H. Booth, who arrived down on Tuesday from Granite creek, brings very favorable news from the mines. About 500 miners are now at the mines, and others constantly coming in, many of them old Cariboo miners. These latter state that Granite creek is A 1, and the only strike of any importance since the famous Cariboo golden days. Six miles of the creek and the benches are all taken up and big things are expected from them next year, though now men are making from \$10 to \$30 per day with rather crude methods.

Bear creek has not yet been thoroughly tested, though the companies are still working. Cariboo miners say that this also will be found to pay rich. Every one is in high spirits, and the country is being thoroughly prospected, confident that there are other creeks as rich as that of Granite. The latter will take several years to work out, and is one of the easiest worked creeks ever found in British Columbia.

Granite Creek.

Mr. Jno. F. Allison, merchant of Princeton, and gold commissioner for Semilkameen, arrived from Granite Creek on Thursday. A reporter of *The Colonist* had an interview with him yesterday and gained the following information, which will be of interest to those intending to go to the mines.

A TOWN

is rapidly springing up, and great preparations are being made for the coming winter. Cabins are being built by the miners who intend to pass the cold season as comfortably as possible. Substantial hotels are rapidly taking the place of the temporary ones, and Mrs. Austin, formerly of the Occidental at New Westminster, will start a boardinghouse on an extensive scale. All the companies are doing well, especially the South Fork Company, and Capt. Sherburn's. The latter company takes out from \$350 to \$600 daily. Mr. Allison went up the creek about five miles distant and reports that the

MINERS ARE SANGUINE AND HAPPY.

The population, it is estimated, will be about 5,000 in the spring, as most of those who have gone back to their homes in the adjoining American territories will return. An immense stock of provisions has been stored, the Chinese being the largest consumers. The weather has been very favorable. Mr. Allison thinks that it would be folly for men who have no means to go to the mines now, as the winter is very severe and such a person would have a very poor show of living, unless he happened "to strike it lucky." It is almost impossible to get pack trains, as the Indians have grown independent and will not exert themselves during the cold season. The inhabitants generally are very peaceable, although there are a number of blacklegs on the creek. A jail would be a great acquisition, as there is at present no place in which to lock up unruly persons. Mr. Allison will return to his home on Monday.

November 3, 1885:

GRANITE CREEK ROAD.

It is to be hoped that every possible encouragement will be given to the project

for constructing a winter road from Spence's Bridge to Granite creek. Unless the road is made and maintained there is danger of the trade of the new mines being captured by Portland, Oregon. This ought not to be. The cost of the road (estimated) is \$3000, \$1000 of which has been raised by private subscription. The government, no doubt, if applied to, will assist materially and the business communities that will reap the benefit of the mining trade should furnish a share.

November 8, 1885:

Iako.

AT VAN HORNE

the steamer Peerless, which had waited over for the mails, was boarded. This is under command of Capt. Tackeberry, the right man in the right place, with Mr. E. La Forrest, his energetic and obliging purser. Mr. J. B. Leighton also took the steamer here, having been absent from

GRANITE CREEK

for two weeks when the big pay was being taken out. On his departure Sherbourne & Rosdall's claim probably paid the highest, averaging \$400 per day, 24 hours, six men each, being one night and day shift. Jenkins & Curry were taking out nearly the same amount, while all others on the creek were taking out as big pay in proportion to number of men at work. Later news received states that the creek again rose, and though not washing wingdams away, the water was so deep that it caused a temporary suspension of work. Mr. Leighton will return on Friday next going in from Van Horne. There are now over 600 men in and a large proportion of them will winter on the creek, while a great deal of prospecting will be done.

Later—J. T. Edwards, proprietor of the Cosmopolitan hotel here, who just arrived at Kamloops from Similkameen reports that the miners again commenced to wash on Monday morning, the freshet having abated. There is no snow or ice at the creek though there is a slight fall on the mountain; but not sufficient to interfere with the trails.

FROM GRANITE CREEK.

Operations Suspended for the Winter.

Snow has Rendered Hope Trail Impassable.

Prospects of the Creek Good as Ever.

Mr. H. O. Frank, of Tacoma, who has been in Granite Creek for the past month, returned to Victoria yesterday by the Yosemite, and is at the Oriental. Mr. Frank held a lucrative position in Tacoma, but getting the gold fever from reading *Colonist* reports, with four other gentlemen from Seattle, among whom were two experienced miners, they

DEPARTED FOR GRANITE CREEK, and succeeded in securing a claim at the mouth of the creek. They immediately tunneled and sluiced it, and have lately been taking out \$12 per day to the man. The dirt at this point is deep, bedrock being thirty feet from the surface, and the Tacomaites have evidently a bonanza which will take some time to work out.

Mr. Frank left the mines on Thursday morning last with an Indian guide. The first snow fell that day, one inch on the level. It continued snowing during the night, all next day and on the following night, falling to the depth of over

TWO FEET ON THE LEVEL

and three and a half feet on the summit on the Hope trail. The guide wanted to go back, as he was afraid they would be lost, but was induced to proceed, the snow being up to the horse's belly. Quite a number of dead pack horses were lying at the side of the trail, having given out about the summit. Snow was met fourteen miles from Hope, and during Sunday night another foot and a half fell. The venturesome miner and his guide reached Hope Monday morning, and the former came down on the afternoon train.

Captain Sherbourne's claim was the only one working when Mr. Frank left, and the snow will probably cause a suspension of operations for the winter. A most

UNFORTUNATE CIRCUMSTANCE

is the fact that the Chinese are securing the greater part of the best claims on the creek, one firm paying \$3000 for 100 feet. The Mongolians are flocking in by the hundreds and are lining the Semilkameen river for twenty miles, procuring coarse gold all along that distance, one nugget found the other day being worth \$153. The Chinese pay packers in coarse gold, but where the favored spots are is not known.

BEAR CREEK

had fizzled out, but the night before our informant left there was great excitement at its mouth as though something rich had been struck.

Chance still avers that he has discovered a new and rich creek which he has named "Kentucky creek," the state of that name being his birth place. He will not give its location and is at present camped in Otter valley.

A large number will winter on the creek, provisions and board being as cheap as in Victoria.

A GOOD SQUARE MEAL

can be had for fifty cents, while the best of beef is but ten cents a pound, and venison five cents a pounds. Vegetables are plentiful, coming in from Nicola. A lady from New Westminster has gone in and will in a few days open a two-story hotel. Sleeping accommodation is at present poor, the miners sleeping in tents, on floors of restaurants, or wherever a soft plank can be secured.

There has lately been plenty of shooting heard at night, but it has been altogether at air, some drunken fellows attempting to shoot as many times as possible for the purpose of startling the camp.

HORSES ARE LOST

in a very suspicious manner, and a ten dollar reward generally brings them into camp, led by a siwash, who pockets the fee and steals them again in a week.

From other sources a *Colonist* reporter learned that Capt. Sherbourne, who has been taking out on an average four hundred dollars per day, generally manages to lose that amount at draw poker during the night, so it is just possible he may return from the mines as he went in — broke! He is quite a character in camp, never wearing a hat.

November 18, 1885:

to do. Look at Granite creek to-day. How is it that Chinamen are there in hundreds, some of them taking up the best claims? Cannot white men do this as well as Chinamen? Perhaps some may say they have not the money. If so ask my fellow workman whose fault is that? Have you not earned good wages in your time? What have you done with them? Give an honest answer even if you condemn yourself. Every year whilst the C. P. railway has been building the customs returns show over three hundred thousand dollars worse than wasted in intoxicating drinks. A worse enemy to the workingmen than John Chinaman, is whisky. If the Knights of Labor are in earnest and in truth desire the elevation and advancement of workingmen, let them place on their banner, TEMPERANCE, insist upon every member taking the pledge and unite with those who, in the eastern provinces and here, are laboring in the holy cause of prohibition.

A TOTAL ABSTAINER.

FROM THE SIMILKAMEEN.

Continued Good News From the
Mines.

Late Arrivals---Postal Facilities
---Price of Provisions.

Mr. S. W. Lehman, who has been on Granite Creek for the past ten weeks, arrived yesterday afternoon on the Princess Louise. Mr. Lehman and party left the mines one week ago yesterday, coming in by the Hope trail on foot, having lost their horses, a common occurrence now with so many people running around the district. Three days were occupied in getting to Hope, about two feet and a half of snow being on the summit.

AT GRANITE CREEK

there was but six inches of snow on the level, and this has disappeared since Mr. Lehman's departure. A number of miners were still working their claims, though for the most part operations were closed for the season. Capt. Sherbourne's claim continues to pan out \$500 per day to its lucky owner. A large number of men are engaged in whip-sawing lumber for the coming season's operations, and sell the article for \$100 per thousand feet. It was rumored that a portable sawmill was being taken in.

THE SIMILKAMEEN RIVER

has paid very well and a great deal of it has been staked off, and the probabilities are that its entire length will be worked next season, old miners thinking there is good pay. Since Mr. Lehman's departure he was informed by a gentlemen who came out later that the creek that Chance stated he had discovered, had become known, and there was a great rush for it, many leaving during the night from the Granite Creek camp. A small creek entering into Granite was prospected by Mr. Lehman and others, who sank a shaft. A fine prospect was found, but the water interfered and further operations suspended until spring.

BEAR CREEK

has not shown pay. Messrs. Murray, Lehman, Austin and Webster sunk a shaft and put in a tail race, but did not make a strike. However, the creek has been staked off and it will be further tested.

There are as many miners going in to the mines as there are coming out, and it is likely that the number there now will be kept during the winter. The sleeping accommodation has been somewhat increased, though still scarce. John Austin and wife, who formerly kept the Occident hotel at New Westminster, have opened one at the mines and are doing a rushing trade, being welcomed by many old Caribooites. Everything has been quiet and orderly in the camp of late.

THERE IS GREAT DISSATISFACTION about mail facilities and charges. The miners subscribed to the securing of a weekly mail, and when it did arrive they were taxed 50 cents per letter, which they think outrageous. There are such a number now in camp and likely to be thousands in the spring that it is thought the postal department should establish a weekly mail, as it would certainly pay and be a great convenience. Many of the miners are still willing to subscribe towards the cost of carrying the mail.

THE HOPE TRAIL

should receive the attention of the government early in the spring, as it can be easily shortened several miles. The number who will probably pass over it should demand that it be placed in first-class condition.

Game is very plentiful, the choicest of deer abounding in large numbers. Provisions were reasonable until a week ago, when flour went up to \$22 per barrel, and other necessities will likely advance. The pack animals are becoming played out, and traders are gauging their prices accordingly.

November 27, 1885:

steal or starve.

There are two excellent hotels now between Hope and Granite Creek, and a third will be opened very shortly. These way places furnish miners and others with meals and accommodation en route to and from the mines, and do away with the necessity of carrying a heavy pack.

During the past summer Knight Bros.

GRANITE CREEK MINES.

Report of Deputy Provincial Secretary Elwyn.

Mr. T. Elwyn, deputy provincial secretary, has forwarded to Hon. J. Robson, minister of mines, the result of a visit of inspection to the Granite creek gold fields. As Mr. Elwyn was for many years gold commissioner of Cariboo and is thoroughly acquainted with the nature of auriferous deposits, his opinions on the recent discovery in the Similkameen district are of a reliable and trustworthy character, and intending visitors to the mines can place confidence in his statements of the worth of the new field.

Mr. Elwyn made his examination the first part of the present month, going into the mines via Nicola.

GRANITE CREEK,

he states, is a tributary to the Tulameen or north fork of the Similkameen and falls into that river about 12 miles above the South Similkameen at Princeton. About five miles from its mouth Granite creek is joined by a small tributary from the south-west, called by the miners at its junction "The Forks." With the exception of a few-hundred yards at its mouth Granite creek runs from the Forks downward in a deep V shaped gorge, through which the freshet has washed everything except the gold and some gravel—in fact this portion of the creek has been

GROUND-SLUICED BY NATURE.

From near the mouth of the creek to a point something over half a mile below the forks, a distance of about four miles, no claim which has been tested on both sides of the stream has failed to yield good returns, and it may safely be said that the ground for that distance will average over an ounce a day to the hand. From the point indicated upwards continuous pay has not been discovered, but there is every indication that this wonderfully persistent load of heavy gold will there be found in the hill on the proper left bank of the creek. It afterwards appears to

CROSS THE CREEK

to the right bank, and possibly continues in that bank to beyond the short cañon through which Granite creek runs, just before its junction with the tributary from the south-west at the forks. Time has been too short for a proper test to have been made of this portion of the creek, but for a distance of five miles men are at work, at intervals, and Mr. Elwyn heard of a prospect being obtained by some Frenchmen, over which they were much excited. Some experienced miners have a very high opinion of the upper creek—called erroneously, perhaps for recording purposes, the South Fork,—but it is right to point out that, although there is every probability of the run of gold extending above the forks, it has not yet been proved to do so. The creek is from 25 to 35 miles in length, and besides the annual freshet is subject to floods during the autumn months. On this account many miners contend

THAT THE EARLY SPRING,

before the snow melts, will be the time for work. Granite creek has only about half the altitude of Barkerville, and three and a half degrees advantage in latitude.

On the 31st October, on lower Granite creek, there were 62 companies owning creek claims, averaging probably 300 feet to the company, who were working. Of these 34 were taking out gold and 28 were preparing to do so or prospecting. The gold admitted to have been taken out by the several white and Chinese companies, from 5th July to 31st October, amounts to the

LARGE SUM OF \$90,000,

which, considering the great loss of time caused by the freshet, and also the difficulty of obtaining lumber for sluice-boxes, is a creditable showing. It is almost certain that the actual total is more, but that yield can be given without any possible fear of exaggeration.

Chinamen have been mining for many years on the Tulameen, above the mouth of Granite creek, and it is probable that other gold-bearing tributaries will be found. Chinese have been passing the mouth of Granite creek for years, and their failure to find out its value goes far to prove, Mr. Elwyn states, the oft-made assertion that they never prospect in any true sense of that word. This has been most fortunate, for if the Chinese had discovered the richness of Granite creek it would

HAVE BEEN QUIETLY GUTTED

without any appreciable benefit accruing to a single white person.

Mr. Elwyn was particularly impressed with the fact that those who were warmest in praise of these new diggings were among the most experienced miners there; and no report in the newspapers has gone beyond the truth. The statements made as to the yield of the claim owned by Messrs. Sherbourne & Rashdell, near the mouth of the creek, are quite correct, and it may be added that as they are not working on bed-rock the possibilities for this claim are very great. Other reports—such for example as Messrs. Briggs & Bromley taking out \$400 in an afternoon with a rocker, might also be verified. On Sunday morning, the 1st inst., the Point Company, situated about two miles above Capt. Sherbourne's ground,

WASHED UP FORTY-FIVE OUNCES,

or over \$750, as the result of the labor of eight men for thirty hours. This claim is owned by Messrs. Pearce & Harvey, the former of whom is one of the pioneers of Cariboo, and well known throughout that district.

There is associated with the gold on Granite creek a very hard, heavy and whitish metal, which is probably platinum or iridium, perhaps a mixture of both. There are no means of thoroughly testing it here, but Dr. G. M. Dawson, assistant director of the Geological Survey of Canada, has kindly offered to take it to Ottawa for examination in the laboratory there, after which it will be forwarded to London for exhibition at the Colonial and Indian Exposition to be held next year.

The discoveries on Granite creek, Mr. Elwyn thinks, will lead to the opening of an extensive gold field which, from its proximity to supplies, will be more benefit to the country than any other former discovery, with the exception of Cariboo.

A level bench on the left bank at the mouth of the creek offers

A GOOD SITE FOR A TOWN, and is being rapidly covered with log houses. At the time of Mr. Elwyn's visit there were seven general stores (three Chinese), two restaurants, two licensed houses, and a butcher's shop. Thirteen houses were in course of construction and more or less building will be carried on during the winter. There were 400 or 500 white men and about 200 Chinese on the creek.

It is probable that a very short summer route to Granite Creek can be had by taking, at the end of the wagon road from Hope, the left or Canyon trail, instead of the right or Grant trail, which is usually followed. The head waters of Granite Creek cannot be many miles from the canyon trail; it is possible that some of

them cross it; and if a practicable route could be found in this direction it would save a long detour to Allison's, and twelve miles of very bad trail from there up the Tulameen to the mouth of Granite Creek. In the event of the upper portion of the creek turning out well, the saving in distance would be still greater.

FOR A WAGON ROAD

the valley of the Coldwater, which falls into the Nicola at Coutlee's, will probably eventually be found to be the easiest line. It is a matter, however, which must be determined by explorations.

I intended to have appended a list of prices to this report, but there has already been a sharp rise in flour, and as the same thing is likely, in my opinion, to occur in other articles, such a list would only be misleading, and is, perhaps, better omitted. I may say, however, as giving a general indication of prices, that fairly good meals are obtainable at the low rate, for a mining camp, of fifty cents.

November 29, 1885:

GRANITE CREEK MAIL.—It is understood that a weekly mail service will be established to Granite creek mines as soon as operations recommence in the spring, probably about the 1st of March.

December 4, 1885:

FROM THE MINES.

Good Reports from Granite Creek.

Another Rich Paying Creek Discovered.

Mr. A. B. Ferguson was a passenger yesterday by the Louise direct from Granite creek and lately from Farwell. Mr. Ferguson left Granite creek last Thursday, coming out by way of Nicola and Savona. The weather continues very fine, no snow on the trail and traveling as easy as in September. Nearly all the claims are shut down for the season, though several are still working. A new company called the Mainland had just commenced to wash up.

On his way out Mr. Ferguson met Chance, the discoverer of Granite creek, who stated that he had discovered

A RICH-PAYING CREEK,

which he called Eagle, west from Granite creek. This, Chance stated, would prove a much better creek even than Granite. On Eagle creek Chance said some very rich quartz ledges existed. Samples of this quartz will be sent down in a few days for assay. One man only went in with Chance to the creek.

Mr. Ferguson has the only pack-train now to Granite creek from Coutlee's, considerable goods still going in.

S. Adler had just arrived at the creek with his goods the day Mr. Ferguson left. There are still 500 or 600 miners at the creek with somewhat improved accommodations. Provisions are quickly rising in price,

THERE BEING A SCARCITY

of a large number of necessities. Coutlee shipped the other day from Spence's Bridge about 30,000 pounds of general merchandise, which cannot have arrived yet at the mines.

There is no snow as yet on Granite creek and very little frost. The water is very low, and it is easy to mine. Many would still be mining on the creek, but thought that a cold snap would set in. The weather, however, has been exceptionally favorable. There is not a vestige of ice in the Otter valley lakes.

Messrs. Ferguson & Brown have

THE LEADING HOTEL

at Farwell, the Columbia House. When Mr. F. left Farwell a couple of weeks ago, business was lively, though many parties were preparing to leave for the winter. Everyone who has been in there will return, and it is expected that there will be a regular mining boom in the spring.

SIMILKAMEEN.

That this now attractive goldfield gives substantial promise of yielding a rich harvest seems no longer doubtful. The news reaching us through different channels all points in that direction. We understand that, in his official report the provisional gold commissioner (Mr. Allison) states that the gold taken out within his personal knowledge during the past season, amounts to \$112,500, which figure he believes falls far below the actual yield, as much of the mining has been done by Chinese, from whom it is impossible to obtain anything like full returns. When it is considered that, in so far, at least, as Granite creek and Tulameen river are concerned, the work has been more one of exploration and prospecting than mining, it must be admitted that the yield is far from insignificant, and that there is good reason to look hopefully to the approaching season. Discovery claims have been secured on Collins' gulch, State creek, Hines' creek, Eagle creek. These are tributaries of Tulameen river, the last named being about 35 miles above the Similkameen Forks. The discoveries were made too late in the season, however, to admit of the ground being tested. At latest accounts much attention was being directed to the upper waters of the Tulameen, where a number of claims had already been re-

ceived. The number of white miners on the 21st ult. was estimated at 450. Of Chinese no estimate could well be made, owing to their being so much scattered. Free miners' licenses had, however, only been issued to 100 Chinese, and as there must be many times that number engaged in mining in that district, some effort should be made to compel these people either to pay their taxes or leave the mines. It is extremely unfair that while the white miner must pay for the right to mine for gold, these alien hordes are allowed to take out large quantities of the precious metal without obtaining licenses or in any other way contributing their fair quota to the revenues of the country. We are aware of the difficulties to be overcome, but we cannot help thinking that a vigorous effort should be made in that direction.

IMPORTANT DISCOVERY.

A Rare Metal from Granite Creek.

The miners from Granite creek have brought down a quantity of heavy metallic looking mineral in pebbles, which they found along with the gold. Mr. Sutton has made an examination of it and pronounces it to be an ore of platinum, containing iridium, iron, and possibly some other rare metals. Platinum is found in small quantities in different parts of the world, notably in Brazil. It occurs as a kind of sand associated with the gold. Crude platinum, as it is found in its native state, generally contains more or less of the precious metals—iridium, osmium, palladium, etc. Pure platinum is about half the value of gold, and is very valuable for chemical purposes on account of its being insoluble at any ordinary heat. It has a silvery white appearance and is one of the heaviest metals known. Miners bringing down any of the ore are requested to leave samples at Langley & Co.'s for further examination, as it is supposed to contain another rare metal in small quantities.

—Personal—

FROM THE MINES.

The Opinion of a Pioneer Prospector and Miner.

Mr. Sam Pearce, a pioneer of '58, and a miner and prospector in this province since that year, arrived from Granite creek yesterday via the Nicola, having left the mines on Wednesday last. Mr. Pearce has mined extensively in Cariboo and for the past year or two has been prospecting in the Similkameen district, being one of the first on Granite creek after its discovery. The creek he states one of the

BEST POOR MAN'S DIGGINGS

he ever met, and though shallow and a large amount of gold already taken out, will probably continue to pan out well, especially at its head, where the diggings are deeper. The Tulameen branch of the Similkameen, Mr. Pearce thinks, will also prove to be rich in gold. The Similkameen proper paid in many places, and will continue to do so, but only in favored spots. The prospects for the district are bright, though it would be a fact much to be deplored should a great number of men go in next season, become broke and disgusted with the country on account of high priced provisions and lack of work, and leave the district with the conviction that its reported wealth in gold was a delusion. If the country was allowed to be properly tested many thousands might be accommodated in time, but a rush in of thousands and a return stampede would be much to be regretted.

THE NEW CREEKS,

outside of Granito, have not as yet been tested and it is not known whether they will pay, though colors have been found. Bear creek is not worth the trouble of labor in Mr. Pearce's opinion.

The facility and inexpensive way in which the mines are reached is a fact greatly in their favor, and will mitigate any poor results should such occur next year. Mr. Pearce is interested in the Point claim on Granite creek, which took out \$700 for thirty hours' work, and is also interested in other claims. There was no snow at the mines when he left and about twenty claims were still being worked with continued good results. There was a freshet the day he left, but whether it caused any damage is not known.

Mr. Pearce has been absent for thirty years from his native place in Hampshire, Eng., mining in California and British Columbia, and he now contemplates a visit to his old home and friends, returning again in the spring to Granite creek.

MINING GRANITE CREEK.

The Winters Budget of News.

Interesting Items From a Special Correspondent.

GRANITE CREEK, Dec. 17th, 1885.

Being the last man out from Granite Creek, a few words about the mines may interest your readers. From Coutlees the journey is some five miles longer than from Quilshannon, being 35 miles to Pike's and from there in 30, or 65 miles in all. The trail is fairly good, the snow on Summit about 18 inches, and all small streams frozen over. The trees are "blazed" most of the way and guide the traveler where the trail is doubtful. There is accommodation at Manning's, 28 miles, and Pike's, 35 miles from Nicola, for man and beast.

GRANITETOWN.

At Granite there are eight general stores, six saloons, and two hotels, baker's and butcher's shops, drug store, three Chinese stores, wash-house, etc. There are two streets, Miners and Government, the former being at present the principal, but the latter is the coming street, being wider and more regular. There are 52 log cabins in the town proper, besides many more scattered around.

NEXT SEASON'S PROSPECTS.

At present but little is doing towards developing the mines, but extensive preparations are going on for spring work. In February, it is expected work will commence and continue until the June or July freshets set in. When the water again subsides there should be no interruption the whole year. All are hopeful, and there is not a sorehead or growler in camp. The town is most orderly, Mr. Swan, the efficient constable, keeping the motley assembly in awe of the calaboose. Mr. Tunstall (and staff) has gone in to assume the duties of gold commissioner, etc. There will be considerable squabbling over claims in the spring if they become valuable, as no doubt many are held illegally. Whatever may be said of Mr. Allison, all agree that his decisions were always unbiased, were given in good faith, and that he ever acted in an upright, honorable way. New discoveries are constantly reported, and it seems almost certain there will be a population there in the spring of many thousands.

VALUE AND EXTENT OF FIELD.

The whole surrounding country is auriferous, and he would be a sad man who would define the limits of this discovery. There have been fully accounted for up to date \$100,000 taken from this creek, and there are several thousand dollars yet held by miners, or which have been sent to Kamloops and the east, of which there is no public record. There are now wintered there at least 800 white men and 300 to 400 Chinamen. There is no poverty or want there. The stores are well supplied with all the necessities of life and many of the luxuries. The difficulty has been to get goods in. The whisky men could afford to offer pack-trains higher rates than the storekeepers, so general merchants had to take a back seat until the liquor was all shipped in. Then the Indian's horse gave out and the packing fell entirely on white men. The rate is 50c. per pound or \$10 per horse. There is no food in the mines for horses, and this is the only serious drawback to be found there.

A GOOD APPETITE.

I gave my horse a feed of oats in a box, putting some paper at the bottom to prevent loss. He ate the oats greedily, then the paper and then the box. He then started in on some shavings, and when he had finished all within reach, he ate his rope halter.

THE MINERS.

The men are all a fine, orderly set, many of them old Cariboo and Cassiar miners—men of all climes and nationalities; men who have moved the goddess fortune in nearly every part of the globe, and I have wondered at the magic power of gold to tempt these pilgrims from home, friends and native land, and doubted if

"When all is won that all desire to woo,
The pa'try prize is worth the cost."

PERSONAL.

Sam Adler has a fine two-story hotel, "The Cariboo," and is as genial a host as one may wish to meet, ever willing to risk a game of "freeze out," or taking the hazard of the die for the drinks. Mr. and Mrs. Austin are comfortably housed and are gracious to both old friends and new-comers; and the writer is grateful to that lady for her hospitality. The weather was bright, clear and cold, the thermometer registering 30 to 35 above at noon for four consecutive days, from the 8th to 12th inst.

OFF AGAIN.

On the 13th it fell to zero at 6 a m., and fearing a cold snap I saddled up and beat a hasty retreat, "outward bound," making the trip to Quilshannon easily in two days, and from there to Kamloops, 45 miles, in one.

GOOD ROADS AND MAIL WANTED.

The discovery of these mines is of immense importance to British Columbia, occurring just in the nick of time to save the mainland from a serious business depression, consequent on the withdrawal of such vast expenditures as the building of the C. P. R. necessitated. The Canadian government has and will receive a large revenue from customs, etc., and the provincial government from miner's licenses, fees, etc., and the people expect and should receive some consideration in return. At present the position is, that there is a town with a population of at least 1,000, and a prospective one within three months of 5,000, without any mail communication whatever, and that this population has enriched the resources of the country within the present year in precious metal over \$100,000. There certainly should have been a sleigh road built this season to enable transport of hay, sawmill, and bulky supplies impossible to pack. Had this been done Victoria would have had an increase of business amounting to several thousands of dollars, apart from what benefit it would have been to Nicola valley, from which Victoria would have derived the ultimate advantage. This sleigh road would not have exceeded a cost of \$2500, and yet it remains unbuilt. An easier road from Kamloops to Nicola than the present one is an absolute necessity. This can be constructed via Bartlett Newman's ranch at a cost of about \$1000. Let the government be prompt and generous in affording facilities to develop this new Eldorado and the result may astonish the world. B.

GRANITE CREEK DISTRICT.

Official Report of New Discoveries Made.

Champion Creek the Latest Find.

GRANITE CREEK, Dec. 8th, 1885.
*To the Honorable, the Provincial Secretary,
Victoria, B. C.,*

SIR,—I have the honor to inform you that I left Granite Creek in the early part of November, in order to complete the assessment roll of the district. During my absence some

FRESH DISCOVERIES

were made, more particularly in what is known as the South Fork of Granite Creek, besides some small creeks. I have now to report the discovery of another large creek, called

CHAMPION CREEK.

This creek empties itself into the Tulameen river, some twenty miles above the mouth of Granite Creek. Though twelve miles up, it is within two or three miles of the North Fork of Granite Creek. I am informed that it is a wider creek than Granite Creek, though not so much water, and the discoverers, as well as others who have located claims, appear well satisfied with their prospects; the advanced stage of the season precluding, however, any very thorough work being done. Some

VERY PRETTY GOLD

was brought into Granite Creek yesterday from a small creek about ten miles above here, and these prospects are considered so good that in the face of a heavy snow storm a large number of men started the same night for the scene of the new discovery. The mildness of the winter is permitting of considerable work being done on some of the bars of

THE TULAMEEN RIVER,

and the results so far are so satisfactory that many of the old miners consider that the river may be worked with profit for miles and consequently cause to be developed one of the most extensive mining camps in British Columbia.

GRANITE CITY

is rapidly increasing; buildings of one kind or another now number probably two hundred. Provisions are fairly plentiful, pack trains coming in continually from the Nicola valley. Potatoes are possibly scarcer and dearer than anything else, being 7 cents per pound. Flour varies from \$9 to \$10 per 100 pounds; beef, 10 cents per pound, and groceries at fall prices; board \$8 per week. There are at the present time between 500 and 600 white men, besides some 300 Chinese in the camp, and with few exceptions this number will winter here.

HENRY NICHOLSON,
Recorder.

December 27, 1885:

Hope-Granite Road.

(Correspondence of The Colonist).

HOPE, Dec. 24th, 1885.

I start for Granite Creek to-morrow with a train of 17 animals. My partner took in a train of 15 animals, leaving here on the 20th inst. There are three trains on the trail now between here and the mines. One train arrived here yesterday evening, making the return trip from Granite City to Hope in two days. Supt. Starret met this train bound for the mines four miles on the Hope side of Allison's, on Monday morning, 21st inst. Supt. Starret says, should the travel continue, he will explore a new route that will cut off about 25 miles, so that instead of travelling away around to Princeton then back 12 miles to get to the mines, making the distance between Hope and Granite City 78 miles, he will get a trail that will only be about 53 miles between the two places named.

K. SILVERMAN.

December 29, 1885:

NOTICE.

I HEREBY GIVE NOTICE THAT I INTEND TO apply to the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, Victoria, to purchase 320 acres of pasture land, situated on Granite creek, Similkameen. Commencing about $\frac{1}{2}$ of a mile from the north of Granite Creek and running up the right bench 80 chains; thence across the flat and up the mountain a short distance, 40 chains; thence down with the bearings of the creek, 80 chains; thence back to starting point 40 chains; the same as staked by me on November 4th, 1885.

R. STEVENSON.

Victoria, Dec. 10th, 1885.

de25w