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1506/26 G.O.

March 29th, 1926.

A. McKillop, Esq.,  
308 Province Bldg.,  
Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Sir:

Re Kanaka bar.

Your letter of March 17th has been referred to me for reply.

Search has been made both in our records to 1874 and in the archives to 1858 and there is little reference to the Kanaka bar itself, 1895 page 570, Kanaka bar is referred to as "a locality mined principally by Indian with rockers." Mr. Bancroft merely gives a figure for the section of Fraser river down from Lytton.

It is impossible to give any figures for any of the individual bars as the miners extracted the gold and carried it away in their pockets in the early days and by the time the Minister of Mines began issuing reports the mining on the lower Fraser was practically over.

Dredging was begun about 1892 but did not prove very successful owing to the strong current.

The Fraser River Mining & Dredging Co. is referred to in the 1895 Report, page 570, as follows:

"Dredging on the Fraser River has so far been attended with no favourable results. The large dredge belonging to the B. C. Gold Mining & Dredging Co. lay idle last summer at Ruby Creek, and the one at Lytton, owned by the Fraser River Mining & Dredging Co., worked above that point for a few days and then suspended operations.

The Beatty Co. are constructing at Boston Bar a scoop dredge, provided with powerful machinery. This is a kind of dredge much used for harbour excavations. The shovel, which is under perfect control of the machinery, can be swung around and submerged anywhere within a certain

radius, and is capable of bringing up at each hoist ten tons of gravel. This is deposited in sluice boxes and washed. The large boulders are to be hoisted on scows and dumped at a distance down stream. By this means the scoop will be able to perform its work in a much more efficient manner. This scheme seems to possess more features capable of attaining success than any of the others, where the strong current can be avoided.

After a two years' test of the dredges at present in use for obtaining gold from the bottom of the Fraser River, provided with centrifugal pumps (which are utter failures) and buckets, and equipped with the best machinery and appliances that experience and ingenuity could suggest, the only reasonable conclusion that can be arrived at is, they are unable to surmount the obstacles presented by a powerful current and an accumulation of large boulders".

1895 - page 698.

"The Fraser River Mining and Dredging Co., which has a lease of several miles of the bed of the river, has expended, it is stated, over \$25,000 in constructing a dredger at Lytton, provided with all the appliances that experience could suggest to overcome the difficulties produced by a strong current and an accumulation of large boulders at the bottom. The first test took place a few weeks ago, and after working for a few hours further operations were suspended by the breaking of some portion of the machinery. The lateness of the season, when the river was apt to be encumbered with floating ice, precluded further operations until after the expiration of the winter months, when the problem as to whether this branch of mining can be profitably prosecuted, in the face of the obstacles encountered, will, it is hoped, be successfully solved."

1895 - page 697.

"The Fraser River, since the first discovery of gold on its bars, has always attracted a considerable mining population, which now consists principally of Indians and Chinese, who pursue this industry in spring and fall when a favourable stage of water permits them to work to advantage with sluice or rocker, as the case may be. But few white men participate in mining along its banks as more remunerative employment is obtained by them elsewhere in the Similkameen and Cariboo placers, and in some of the hydraulic claims which are being prepared for work on the benches of the river.

The golden harvest is perennial. The same localities which are favourably situated for the retention of the float gold deposited by the action of the current is mined every

year with varying results. This is explained by the fact that the high auriferous gravel banks skirting the upper reaches of the Fraser and its tributaries, are undermined at a high stage of water by the powerful tide, and the gold contained carried away and lodged on some bar many miles lower down, eventually reaching the places where it is afterwards reclaimed by means of a rocker.

About two hundred and fifty Indians and Chinese are engaged in this industry, which is necessarily of a desultory character, and subject to interruptions by a sudden rise of the river. The yield averages from 75 cents to \$1.50 per day to the hand, and sometimes much larger returns are obtained."

There is no further reference to this Company.

Gold produced in vicinity of Lytton by hand.

1895	-	\$18,818.
1896	-	14,939.
1897	-	16,369.

Trusting this will be of interest to you.

I am

Yours truly,

HTN/D

1506/26

308 Province Building,  
Vancouver, B.C.,  
17 March, 1926.

Department of Mines,  
Parliament Bldgs.,  
VICTORIA, B.C.

Dear Sir:

Would you be kind enough to let me know the amount of gold which has been recovered from the Fraser River at Kanaka Bar, which is a few miles down stream from the town of Lytton.

I am informed by the Dominion Government office here that they have no reports, but that Mr. J. D. Galloway, the Provincial Mineralogist might be able to furnish the above information, as they understood there was a full account in the works of H. H. Bancroft, but

I wrote to Mr. Galloway on Feb. 26th but have not received any reply, and it is just possible that my letter may have gone astray.

I would be very much obliged for the above information and also for a report on the amount of gold recovered by the Fraser River Gold Dredging Co., which operated a dredge on the Fraser River at Lytton about 20 years ago.

Thanking you for an early reply, I remain, dear Sirs,

Very truly yours,

"A. MCKILLOP"

*worked a few days  
in 1896 & sifted  
1895- description of  
the property of  
the dredge*

*no refs after 1874  
to gold recovered*