

of the Yukon river. Naturally, everyone has been making for that one spot, and with undoubted success, so far as finding gold is concerned; but it must not be inferred from this that all likely claims will soon have been taken up. Hundreds of times more remain to be taken than have already been staked.

Where the Klondike runs into the Yukon—about forty miles, in a bee-line, within the British boundary—the town of Dawson City, of about 5,000 inhabitants, has arisen, chiefly during the last few months, and is the centre of the district. Some eighty miles further south, the Stewart river runs into the Yukon, and there again, even more recently than in the case of Klondike, very rich finds have been made; as also on another tributary of the Yukon—called the Hotalinqua.

Until quite recently the only inhabitants of the district were a few Esquimaux and half-breeds, with wandering bands of Indians of the Flat-Head type; and some few hundreds of white prospectors and trappers, scattered, here and there, through this vast region.

The climate is not by any means unhealthy, though the goldfields are situated in a most rigorous zone, where the country for eight months in the year is frozen up. But, though the thermometer often falls to 60 deg. below zero, the cold is not acutely trying to a sound, healthy person—properly and sufficiently clothed—except when there is a strong wind blowing. Those who have been to the colder parts of Canada, for instance, will know how much worse the degrees of frost look in print than is the real experience of them. On the other hand, the heat in summer is often very great, and then the chief discomfort of residence there is caused by the swarms of mosquitoes which abound, and bite, to an extent impossible to realise, except from actual experience.

Potatoes and oats may be grown in some places, and grass food, to some extent, for animals. The value of fresh provisions in such a spot cannot be over-estimated, and there is little doubt that such things will be grown to a much larger extent when this is realised, and the first rush to any particular spot is over. The rivers and