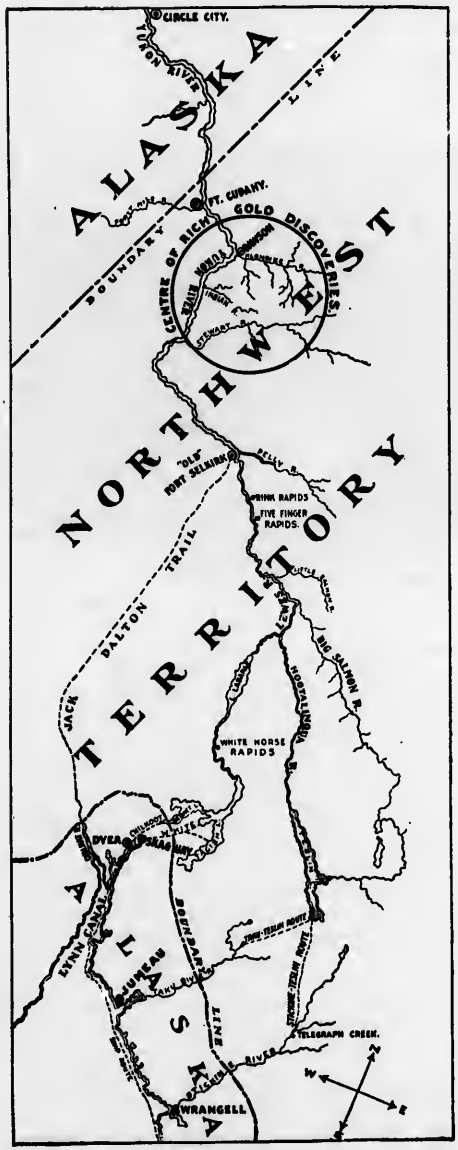

THE KLONDIKE REGION AND THE ROUTES TO DAWSON CITY.

of 1898 will only go before to point the way to creeks that are liable to pay, even if they do not call for that joke of the miner's—"where the gold is so thick that you have to mix sand in to sluice it."

A COAST-LINE GREATER THAN THE CIRCUMFERENCE OF THE EARTH.

There are 11,000 islands along the coast included in this Alaskan area, and with the numerous inlets they give a coast-line 11,000 miles longer than the coast-line—Atlantic, Pacific, and Gulf—of the United States, or greater than the circumference of the earth. And consider the western limit of these possessions—there is the island of Attou, the farthest of the Aleutian group; its longitude is as far west of Seattle as Portland, Maine, is east of Seattle. No matter what reports may be spread on this subject, those who are contemplating a hazard of new fortunes along the mighty Yukon need not be deterred by a fear of crowding or richness of prospecting ground, as those who have a right to know express unbounded confidence in the richness of the placers, and with the exodus of 1897 lending willing hands with the pick, it may be that the results of 1898 will turn the world Klondike-mad and pale the memory of "Kaffirs" in Europe. Indeed, just as this is going to press there are reports from experts who have been over the ground thoroughly which make it quite within the things to be expected that there will soon be even richer "finds" than those already made—and it is not unlikely that these may be in Alaska proper. There can be no doubt that this northwestern portion of our continent is destined to undergo a remarkable development in the next few years.

There is serious work to be done in Alaska and the Northwest Territory—the making of a new world. There are many dissenters from this opinion, but their dissent will only serve the purpose of making all effort more effective, with more forethought and more care. It was much the same when the East first heard of the finding of gold on Captain Sutter's farm in California in 1849. Evidence was produced of the "finds," and the plains and Rockies were cut into wagon roads, while the Indian lurked along the way and took a scalp now and then. This color of danger gave the Eastern press a chance to write lurid pictures of massacres and bloodshed and to place the price of a placer at death, but the "movers'" wagons continued to turn their wheels toward the setting sun, and to-day the fruit of that movement makes the writer of a recent article point with much reason to our Pacific coast as the changing front of the world. In point of fact, many of the men who have made the longest stays in that region are the hardiest-looking and finest physical specimens one could well find.