

had been informed by the figures emanating from the Canadian Government that Klondyke would produce 40,000,000 dols. of the precious metal this year, and that very day a London newspaper pointed out that the gold yield from Klondyke would amount to fully £8,000,000 and in his (Sir James's) opinion this would be small compared to the results they anticipated during the next five or six years.

Gold was thought very little of there, because it was in the hands of thousands. In the bar-rooms of Klondyke jars were filled with gold because when a man wanted a whiskey he handed over his bag, from which was taken a pinch of gold dust, which was put into the jar. He contended that this portion of the Empire was as important for Great Britain as were the affairs of Central Africa or Central Egypt.

Sir Thomas Tancred, in proposing "The Health of the Chairman," denied many of the rumours with regard to the climate and conditions of Klondyke, which he himself had visited.

The Chairman, in reply to the toast, said that three claims and a half in the Dominion Creek at Klondyke had been valued at no less than 3,500,000 dols."

It is with considerable reluctance that we venture to destroy this illusory picture by an eminent Canadian of the riches of the Klondyke; but we cannot refrain from expressing regret at the unreality of the image presented to the mental vision of the Londoners present at the dinner in question.

We fear good Sir James Grant and the London newspaper referred to in his speech, during which he referred to Dawson City as a great financial centre, destined to become the Johannesburg of the North American region, have been sadly misinformed as to the estimate of value placed upon the output of gold from the Klondyke for the present season. The "figures emanating from the Canadian Government" do not exceed one-half of the amount stated by Sir James Grant. From the testimony of those in a position to obtain reasonably accurate information regarding the receipts of the banks at Dawson City, and the amounts already "brought out" by miners, the Canadian Government officials have not estimated the returns from Klondyke above fifteen to twenty millions, and we fail to find any warranty for the figures given by Sir James Grant and a London newspaper. Of course, the subsequent reference in his speech to gold being "in the hands of thousands," will be very properly received as a mere flight of feverish fancy. Dawson City is now over-crowded, and we earnestly hope that even the eloquence of Sir James Grant, Sir Thos Tancred, and the chairman of this London dinner will not add to the population of the place at present.

From a reliable correspondent in the Klondyke region, we have obtained information upon many matters about which the most confused and distorted ideas have been disseminated. The outfits displayed in shop-windows, and the reports of travellers given to enlarging upon their privations and hardships and thereby enhancing their reputations as hardy adventurers, have greatly traduced the climate—the severity of cold being much exaggerated. The surround-

ings of Fort Selkirk are even pronounced very pleasant by those who are stationed in that neighbourhood, and it is quite likely the headquarters of the military will be established there. The stories of suffering and possible famine are in some few instances, in all probability, true. A rush to newly discovered gold-fields of men ignorant of everything in connection with the country and climate, save that gold has been found by the favoured few and ought to be awaiting the many, is apt to be followed by tales of suffering, loss, and bitter disappointments. But, under existing regulations, and with the governmental departments being rapidly organized to deal with any and every difficulty, much distress cannot long exist, and famine is hardly possible. In the early part of the season, the river boats from St. Michaels to Dawson were greatly delayed; but these and other craft have since landed freight and passengers at their destination without any great difficulty. Government supplies have also been delivered by the same route, and, added to the stores of provisions, clothing and merchandize belonging to private companies, ought to remove all fears of famine and discomfort. In the early days of the stampede of excited miners and others to the diggings, we heard many allusions made to the barrenness of the country and the utter absence of any timber. There are already saw-mills at or near Dawson City and Fort Selkirk, and the erection of these is said to be warranted by a fair supply of small timber.

If anything were needed to disprove the stories of frightful suffering and hardship incidental to life in the Klondyke, a Government blue book, reviewed in this paper in April last, furnishes the necessary evidence. We then said:—

"The Report of the Commissioner of the North West Mounted Police, for 1897, is not an ordinary volume, and it contains much that will please and instruct any one who is contemplating a journey to the Yukon, or who, having friends in that far away country, is eager to obtain reliable information.

This diary of Inspector Scarth, as published in the Government blue book, being the story of his trip from Regina to the Yukon, covers a period extending from the 8th April to the 12th June last; and yet the Inspector contrives in eleven pages of the Report to give an extremely graphic account of the journey of his party of mounted police to Fort Constantine. The Inspector's diary deserves reproduction in a newspaper, so that all might judge of the interest attaching to his official report of this almost unknown land. We have only space for the closing paragraph of this official report to the Government:—

"The whole trip has been a delightful one, and the scenery along this route is unsurpassed by anything I ever saw before. We were almost sorry when the trip was over."

The conditions in the Klondyke have not changed except to improve, since this mounted policeman and his companions journeyed thereto. Two financial