

January 21st, 1897.—There are applications in for about 380 acres of land on the flat north of the Klondak, on the east side of the Yukon, while all the extent of land available for use on it is about 200 acres. Joseph Leduc, who applied for 160, has only about 110 available for use in building on, the rest being steep hill-side, and the most of the flat is a moss-covered swamp. He had laid out and disposed of a few lots for building on in it, making his streets only 50 feet wide, and the main streets along the river even less, the builders going often close to the bank for convenience in getting water; but I stopped all that, and have the river front at least 66 feet wide, in most places much more. All streets parallel to the river are 66 feet, and all at right angles to those I have left at 50, as Laduc had them. It seems to me that 50 feet is wide enough in this country, as it is hardly likely there will be much heavy traffic on them. Had I made the streets running from the river 66 feet wide it would have put a good many people much inconvenience. I will send out by the next mail a sketch showing the position of all the applications so far. The American Government has given a contract for four mails this winter to Circle City, at \$1,700 each mail, in and out. The mail carriers will take out letters at \$1 each.

January 22nd, 1897.—A quartz lode showing free gold in paying quantities has been located on one of the creeks, but I cannot yet send particulars. I am confident from the nature of the gold found in the creeks that many more of them, and rich too, will be found.

January 23rd.—I have just heard from a reliable source that the quartz mentioned above is rich, as it tested over \$100 to the ton. The lode appears to run from three to eight feet in thickness, and is about 19 miles from the Yukon River. I will likely be called on to survey it, and will be able to report fully.

Placer prospects continue more and more encouraging and extraordinary; it is beyond doubt that three pans of different claims on Eldorado turned out \$204, \$212 and \$216, but it must be borne in mind that there were only three such pans, though there are many running from \$10 to \$50.

I have just received a petition from the miners to attend to the survey of their claims, they doing all the work and boarding and lodging me. I will begin at it in about ten days, and it will likely take me upwards of two months. I am glad to have the opportunity of doing it, for I think I can considerably, if not altogether, straighten out the tangle there is there.