

ECONOMIC POSSIBILITIES OF YUKON—CAIRNES

TRANSPORTATION

Yukon reaches the coast only at the north where it is bounded by the Arctic ocean. The extreme southwestern corner of the territory, however, extends very close to the Pacific, being separated from this ocean by only a narrow fringe of land including portions of British Columbia and the "pan-handle" portion of Alaska. The most frequented route to Yukon is that via Skagway which is situated at the head of Lynn canal on the Pacific, 870 and 1,000 miles distant respectively from Vancouver and Seattle. From Skagway, the White Pass and Yukon railway passes over the Coast range of mountains, via the White pass, to the town of Whitehorse which is 110 miles distant from Skagway, and is situated at the head of navigation on Lewes river. Another easy, though longer route to Yukon, is that via Bering sea and Yukon river, navigation being open during summer months from Whitehorse to St. Michael and Nome, two points situated on Norton sound near the mouth of Yukon river, 2,310 and 2,360 miles respectively from Seattle and 1,600 and 1,700 miles respectively from Dawson, as measured along Yukon river. A number of other routes are also occasionally followed, the greater number of which head from Haines, Cordova, or Valdez,¹ points on the Pacific coast.

Within Yukon, all points in the vicinity of the White Pass and Yukon railway, as well as along Yukon river and its main tributaries and headwaters are thus readily accessible. Quite a number of roads and trails have also been constructed throughout the southern portion of the territory, which greatly facilitate access to certain localities. In addition, throughout Yukon, there are a number of long, prominent valleys which are more or less connected, and traverse the territory in different directions. These will afford excellent routes for railway lines when it is found advantageous to build such. A company has been organized for some years for the purpose of constructing a railroad from Haines on the Pacific coast, to Fairbanks on the Yukon via Chilkat river, Dalton post, Lake Dezadeash, Lake Kluane, Kluane river, Koidern river, Beaver creek, Snag creek, Mirror

¹ Cairnes, D. D., "Upper White River district, Yukon": Geol. Surv., Can., Memoir 50, 1915, pp. 7-22; also see accompanying map 113A.