

Dawson has three hospitals, and they are taxed to their utmost limit to care for the sick properly. Yet the death rate is not high, and now that steps have been taken to secure proper drainage, and transportation facilities are adequate for suitable food requirements, there is no reason why it should not be a healthy city.

THE GOLD SEEKER'S CHANCE OF SUCCESS.

Finally, whether the visitor to Alaska is successful in a mercenary sense, depends very much upon his brain, and how he uses it; his hands, and how he employs them; and his courage and patience, and how long they are true to him. There is more gold in that country than anywhere else under the sun, but nowhere else is it locked so stubbornly and inflexibly in the earth's bosom. Although each has been tried, neither dynamite nor giant powder answers the purpose of unlocking it. Nothing seems to meet the desired requirements but thawing the ground by heat. Where fuel is plentiful, the frozen ground is not a serious bar to mining. Indeed, old miners claim that it makes mining possible, for otherwise water would run into the drift holes and necessitate other and more expensive methods. But it requires a good deal of heat to thaw the soil, which is as hard as flint in summer as well as winter. Scarcity of wood for this purpose, as well as for building and for domestic fuel, is already a serious problem. In some cases firewood must already be carried for many miles. But each of the great transportation companies is mining coal on the American side, and two thawing machines have been invented which work admirably, it is claimed.

Just one word concerning the American side. Although no mines have as yet been discovered there of as mar-

velous richness as those of Bonanza and Eldorado, the more liberal mining laws, the greater accessibility of placer claims, and the practically unlimited amount of unoccupied rich territory, are advantages worth considering. And when he leaves the Klondike, the tourist should go out by the way of St. Michael, by all means, rather than retrace his steps over the mountain. If he can stand the mosquitoes, he may secure a boat in Dawson at a much less figure than anywhere near the coast, set up his Yukon stove in it, provide himself with provisions, and float down stream to Norton Sound according to his own time schedule, stopping off at various mining camps on the American side.

That many gold seekers who visited the country last year were unsuccessful is what might have been expected. Most of them were quite unlike those who went to the country long before the days of Dawson and Circle City. These early argonauts were natural pioneers and adventurers, and were actuated as much by love of discovery as by the prospect of finding the glittering treasure. In other words, it is no place for the man who has been attracted to it by the dazzling reports of easily acquired fortunes. It needs only those hardy spirits who would go there even though the local conditions were unknown and the prospects forbidding.

But the trip is worth the while of those who are not animated by the love of gold. The adventurous spirit, the searching mind, the willing ear, the heart that loves the extraordinary and craves new discoveries, new scenes, and places where man never trod before, will be satisfied even though the hardships were far greater. He will come back with a clearer brain, a brighter eye, a more buoyant step—and possibly with a greater love for his own immediate locality.

