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## THE ECONOMIC POSSIBILITIES OF YUKON<sup>1</sup>

By D. D. CAIRNES, Ottawa, Ont.

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Yukon Territory contains an area of 196,976 square miles. Thus it is considerably more extensive than the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and is almost as large as the entire German Empire. The greater part of this great region is still practically unknown, even to the prospector, trapper or hunter: in fact almost all exploration within the territory has been restricted to areas readily accessible from the main waterways. A glance at the accompanying sketch map makes this apparent. The map shows the approximate positions of the various localities in which the more important deposits of economically valuable minerals have been found, and these are seen to be almost without exception readily accessible from the larger lakes or streams, and are in most cases in their immediate vicinity.

The writer has estimated that only about 32 per cent, or less than one-third of Yukon has been at all explored; concerning the remaining 68 per cent, or about 134,000 square miles of territory, almost nothing is known even of a general topographical or geographical nature. Also, of the 32 per cent of partly explored territory only about one half, or approximately 17 per cent of the entire Yukon, has been prospected, and of this 17 per cent, only a relatively small part has been at all closely investigated.

Up to the present, Yukon has been generally known mainly on account of its mineral resources, and particularly on account of its placer gold deposits. In addition, however, this territory has proved to be one of the most important of the fur producing sections of Canada; also agriculture is bound some day to develop into a prosperous industry. To the close of last year (1914), the placer gold production, alone, of Yukon is known to have amounted to \$157,475,908 and probably considerably exceeded

<sup>1</sup>By permission of the Director of the Canadian Geological Survey.