

and cut about 6,500 cords. Eighteen men from Fort Yukon spent two or three months in prospecting on the Upper Porcupine and Salmon rivers, returning in April or May, and reporting that nothing had been found. A party of twelve went to the southward on a prospecting trip in the Beaver River country, and had not returned up to June 27. It is therefore impossible to verify the current rumors relative to rich strikes on that stream and its tributaries. Twenty-one went to the headwaters of the Gens de Large River, a stream emptying into the Yukon from the north about 30 miles below Fort Yukon, and from there crossed over to the headwaters of the Koyukuk. They reported that good prospects were found on numerous tributaries of the Koyukuk, but no ground of unusual richness was found. The diggings are about 400 miles from the mouth of the stream, and can be reached by small steamers. During the latter part of the winter a few men left Fort Yukon for Minook, and a large number went to Circle City and Dawson, so that by June 6 there were but ninety people, exclusive of Indians, in the town, and all but ten or twelve of these left for upriver points during June.

There was considerable sickness at Fort Yukon, and the small hospital was full nearly all winter, three deaths occurring. There were fifteen men who were too old or feeble to work, their ages ranging from 55 to 70 years. Much sickness prevailed among the Indians, principally of a pulmonary character, and there were nineteen deaths between August 1, 1897, and June 1, 1898.

A record of the temperature last winter and spring at Fort Yukon, which is just within the Arctic Circle, shows that the average temperature for December was 8 degrees below zero; January, 24 degrees below; February, 29 degrees below; March, 6 degrees above; April, 36 degrees above; May, 49 degrees above. The coldest day was January 16, when the thermometer registered 62 degrees below zero. The longest period of continuous low temperature was from February 14 to 23, inclusive, the thermometer showing for the ten days the following readings below zero: 40, 48, 52, 52½, 42, 52½, 54, 42, 56, 38. While dwellers in more salubrious climates will no doubt read these figures with a shiver, the old-timers are unanimous in saying that the winter of 1897-98 was the mildest ever known in Northern Alaska. Be this as it may, the weather on the Yukon last winter, on account of the dryness of the atmosphere and the absence of winds, was almost uniformly pleasant. A temperature of 50 degrees below zero there brings no more discomfort than 30 degrees below in the Dakotas. The writer has experienced far more disagreeable weather in Minnesota and Montana than that which prevailed last winter at Circle City.

The principal interest in mining on the Yukon still centers in the Klondike district, but there was considerable activity during the winter on the American side. A number of stampedes from Dawson to the Forty Mile, American Creek, and Seventy Mile districts occurred, and all of the old creeks in those districts were restaked, while many