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\$20,000,000. But if it is \$12,000,000, the most conservative estimate now offered, it will be wonderful, and will mean that with all the willing hands now there and the hundred thousand or more who get through in 1898 the yield for 1899 will approximate \$50,000,000.

After that it depends on transportation facilities to get people and machinery into the country to multiply the placer yields, and a few years more will probably see on the Yukon ranges the steady crunching of ore by stamp mills to add to the world's gold supply.

#### IS THERE STILL ROOM FOR PROSPECTORS?

The report from Captain Ray, United States army, from the interior, stating that no new placers have been discovered for eight months, is doubtless true, but it is misleading. An explanation should go with it, and if entirely fair it would say that all those on the Yukon last summer were occupied, not with prospecting for new discoveries, but to take



PROSPECTORS MOVING BOAT TIMBERS OVER CHILKOOT TRAIL.

up claims on the creeks known to be rich or prospecting creeks in the same locality, which no doubt Captain Ray classes as the old discovery.

Those who got to the Upper Yukon in the fall did so too late for prospecting, as elsewhere explained. If Captain Ray felt that the food situation demanded a warning to check the senseless ones going in unprepared, he was probably justified.



SKAGUAY TOWN, FROM THE HEAD OF THE LYNN CANAL, SHOWING THE WHITE PASS IN OCTOBER, 1897.

The impatient intending prospector, however, who fears that the lands of gold will all be occupied unless he hastens, at the sacrifice of reason, to the gold creeks, should take a glance at a map of North America. Alaska embraces more square miles than twenty-one States of the Union, including the area from North Carolina north-west, taking in Illinois, and thence with the lakes to the North Atlantic coast of Maine. Think of all the rivers in these twenty-one States and of all the creeks that flow into all these rivers, of the branches that feed the creeks, and you have a placer area for prospecting to hide a half million men from one another by a distance to make each feel lonesome. And in the Klondike district there is the land, mainly mountains, feeding the streams, where years hence will be found rich quartz ledges that will again awaken the world to the sight of a new Hivilah.

To digress here in order to make this point clear. I met a miner last summer on a steamer who was returning from the Klondike, and studying the map we had laid before us, I asked what there was of water in that half inch of space between the mouth of the Klondike and Stewart rivers, as gold was plenty on both. He said: "Oh, eight or ten pretty big streams; you might call 'em rivers." Now, here was prospecting ground to employ and lose all the people who got through in 1897. They will not crowd, and the exodus

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