



[From a]

YUKON STEAMER TAKING SUPPLIES TO MINERS.

[Photograph.]

leaving all things and dashing for the formidable Chilcoot, with hundreds of tons of stores, you may be sure that many will perish on the way. The ignorance of some of the gold pilgrims is manifested in a private letter Mr. De Windt showed me. "You'd think they were off to a land flowing with milk and honey. Among their impedimenta are horses, ploughs, coops of chickens, and *mowing-machines*."

The Alaska Commercial Company's steamer *Alice* is seen bringing her first cargo of the season to Forty Mile City, in the next illustration.

"During the summer season," Mr. De Windt told me, "one of the A. C. Co.'s steamers visits Forty Mile two or three times, on her way from St. Michael's. This is the sole fixed communication that exists between Forty Mile City and the outer world. From October till June the Yukon settlements are completely isolated by climatic conditions. The first up-river steamer, which arrives in July, after the break-up of the ice, generally finds them in a state of semi-starvation. 'For months we had a slim diet of salmon and cranberries,' wrote one American miner."

The break-up of the ice on the Yukon River is shown in the photo. here reproduced. The great sheet of ice is in places more than *thirteen feet* thick.

"Nothing will

deter the gold-seekers," said Mr. De Windt. "The regular steamers can't hold all that want to go, so special ships are being chartered, and the building-yards are overwhelmed with orders. The *Humboldt* was chartered by an astute individual, at Frisco, for 25,000 dollars, plus another 10,000 dollars for general expenses; but the speculator who hired the ship will receive at least 100,000 dollars from his passengers, his net profit on the transaction being 65,000 dollars. So, you see, the gold 'rush' brings money to adventurers other than miners."

Mr. De Windt, it is interesting to note, has been approached whilst in London by all classes seeking information about the Yukon diggings. "A titled lady wanted to set up a store at Forty Mile; and an aged clergyman said he'd like to send his sons out if there was a railway and a post-office nice and handy in the district. Letters poured in upon me at the rate of seventy a day, and when at length I protested, and said I would



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BREAK-UP OF ICE ON THE YUKON.

[Photograph.]