

INTRODUCTION.

That a modern metropolitan city, whose inhabitants enjoy every element of the refinements of civilization—whose commerce and industries exceed in volume that of many cities founded a half century ago, whose site lies in the centre of a district covering countless millions in wealth and whose variation in temperature exceeds 160 degrees,—should spring into existence as if by magic above the 64th parallel of north latitude on the Western Hemisphere, is the astounding fact that we would emphasize through the medium of this volume. Dawson City, the peerless metropolis of the great Yukon, though far removed from other centres of industry and enterprise and yet in its infancy, promises a magnificent future and is destined to occupy a foremost position in the vanguard of the onward march of progress now dawning upon the Empire's great cities of North America.

As the continued and increased development of the mining industry in the Klondike progresses and tons upon tons of the precious metal are wrested from the hidden depths of nature's frozen storehouse, so will the magnitude and commercial importance of the city of Dawson continue to expand. The following pages, compiled from authentic sources, will tell the true unvarnished story of the country's greatness, which the accompanying illustrations will illumine in the silent but unerring language of the camera. A perusal of the exhaustive review of Dawson's representative business houses is invited, from which it is believed the reader will obtain a comprehensive understanding of the city's commerce, enterprises and industries and of their aggregate colossal magnitude. The golden city has been blighted by devastating fires, but her citizens—inspired with energy

born of enterprise and that indomitable spirit which spurred them to blaze their early trails across the trackless wastes of ice and snow—erected a newer city over the still glowing embers of the desolated waste. With the ceaseless movement of the infinite sands of time, great cities shall be builded in the fertile valleys of the mighty Yukon and the priceless heritage of this vast domain shall revert to the coming generations as an enduring, imperishable monument to the valiant architects of the Yukon's superstructure; those brave argonauts of pioneer days, those intrepid knights of iron will and nerves of steel, who with undaunted courage and resistless energy, scaled the frozen mountain heights and guided by the radiant star of hope, stemmed the tide of swirling cataracts to the golden bordered city, where they founded this matchless commonwealth.

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