

over the country and make new finds. How many will succeed in doing this? Compared to the thousands who packed their bacon and blankets up the mountain trails of Cariboo how many came out "flush" in the end? Supposing that twenty thousand men go to the Klondyke digging this fall (and this is considered a low estimate) and the cost of each man's outfit and transportation is a thousand dollars, it will take twenty millions the first year to pay actual expenses, and forty millions to give each the moderate wage of \$1,000 for his time and labour. It is inevitable that a great number will fail; and it is a serious matter to "go broke" in a country where the snow falls in August and the mercury reaches seventy below zero.

The newspapers, with commendable persistence, keep on warning the public of the necessity for an ample outfit before attempting to prospect this northern field, but there are many reckless of consequences, and others who have a superstitious idea that a broken man is lucky. These will join in the procession, and take chances—it is useless to caution them.

The road to success in any art, industry or profession is strewn on both sides with the bodies of the unsuccessful, and this is particularly true of placer mining. Even men who strike it rich at the start, generally fail in the end, because they do not know when to quit—they sink their first winnings hunting for more. Those who survive the wild stormy days of a gold rush, and come out sleek and fat, are the traders and whisky sellers—they sit down among their wares and take in the dust, leaving others more excitable and less cautious to do the scratching and digging; cheerfully supplying them with new picks as they wear out their old ones, and liquid enthusiasm if they get discouraged. It would be well if the newspapers east and west, would make a united effort to hold back the rush, so that the creeks and gulches of the Yukon might be prospected gradually, and the suffering and hardship consequent on sudden overcrowding, prevented; but it is useless to think of this now—the fever is abroad and nothing can stay its progress.

There is this hopeful feature: The region has been little explored and no doubt new discoveries will be made in rapid succession when the army of prospectors spreads itself over the country. Mr. Ogilvie states in his report that gold has already been found on Big Salmon River, Stewart River, Forty Mile Creek, Sixty Mile Creek, Miller Creek, Glacier Creek, and Birch Creek, besides those tributary to the Klondyke.

It is satisfactory to learn that an understanding has been arrived at between Canada and the United States so that Canadian goods may be landed at Dyea, situated on Lynn Canal, at the head of navigation, and transported in bond over the short intervening distance to Canadian territory. The Department of the Interior at Ottawa is issuing pamphlets containing Mr. Ogilvie's report, together with sketch maps of the Klondyke district. In this pamphlet would-be prospectors are earnestly advised not to go to the new diggings until better means of transportation have been arranged, and the fear is expressed that if a large number go in this fall there will be a food famine before the winter is over.

As the routes via Dyea are the shortest there is no doubt that all goods for Klondyke will go in by that port, and thence by the White Pass or Chilcat Pass—probably the former, and when it becomes generally known that Canadian goods pay no duty, Victoria and Vancouver should, and no doubt will get the bulk of the outfitting trade.

At this stage all is excitement, and sufficient time has not elapsed to make trails, bring pack animals to the passes, and suitable steamers to navigate lakes and rivers; but no time is being lost, and by next spring the facilities for handling freight and passengers will be complete, or very nearly so; meantime we can look forward to a season of great activity in business, a world wide advertisement of the province which lies so close to the new gold fields, and of the Dominion of Canada generally. It is well within the mark to say that British Columbia is the richest mineral region on the continent, and this new discovery, though not within the limits of the province, will add tremendously to its reputation abroad and bring about a speedy exploration and development of its northern mineral regions.

British Columbians may well rejoice over this wonderfully rich discovery at their very doors, for the benefits arising from it will be great and permanent; but, though the Kootenays, East and West, may be eclipsed, for the time being, they will be producing their scores of millions after the placers of Klondyke have yielded their last nugget and Dawson is a city of empty houses.

To the fever-stricken, who are bent on going north this fall, we would commend the wise resolution of Artemus Ward. He said: "When the war broke out I was among the first to stay at home." They should do likewise—at least until next spring.

#### *Route to the Yukon.*

ARTICLE twenty-six of the Treaty of Washington provides, *inter alia*, "that the navigation of the rivers Yukon, Porcupine and Stickeen, ascending and descending from, to and into the sea shall forever remain free and open for the purposes of commerce to the subjects of Her Britannic Majesty, and to the citizens of the United States, subject to any laws and regulations of either country within its own territory not inconsistent with such privilege of free navigation."

The above extract is pregnant with great possibilities for the commerce of the Canadian coast cities in the North Pacific, viz.: Victoria and Vancouver.

The discovery of immensely rich deposits of placer gold last year in the territory of Canada to the north of British Columbia was well known in this city last winter, and caused several people to journey in that direction last spring. The ground can be reached from the ocean by many routes, but the most available for the commerce of Victoria and Vancouver is the Yukon and the Stickeen, which are both made free to our commerce by the treaty of Washington. The route by the Yukon to the mouth of the Klondyke takes at least six weeks, while that by the Stickeen need not occupy over twenty-one days if a road of about 150 or 200 miles was constructed from Telegraph Creek on the Stickeen to Teslin Lake. From that point it is all water travel down stream by boat to the Klondyke.

The most valuable appropriation the Provincial Government made last session was the small sum of \$2,000 to open a trail from the Stickeen to Teslin Lake. The Chief Commissioner was wise in his choice of a trail builder when he put the money in the hands of Mr. John Calibreath, but the members of the executive unfortunately did not realize the importance of the province of energetic action when they