

## PALÆONTOLOGY.

## CRANIA OF EXTINCT BISONS FROM THE KLONDIKE CREEK GRAVELS.

During the last five years, four skulls, or portions of skulls, of extinct bisons from the auriferous gravels of the Klondike district, have been received at the Museum of the Geological Survey. It will be convenient to distinguish these specimens as Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Nos. 1 and 2 are skulls that are larger and much longer horned than those of the woodland or prairie race of the recent American Bison. Both of them are apparently referable to the form which Mr. Rhoads describes and figures as the "Great Alaskan Bison," *Bison Alaskensis*, Rhoads, in the Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia for 1897. But, in a paper on "The Fossil Bison of North America," published in 1899, in volume XXI of the Proceedings of the U. S. National Museum, Mr. F. A. Lucas places *B. Alaskensis* among the synonyms of *B. crassicornis*, Richardson.

No. 1, like the type of *B. Alaskensis*, is a "large cranium of a long horned bison" ... "in which the frontal and occipital portions, with their horn cores, are intact." The margins of the orbits and the "basal suture of the nasals are also preserved." This specimen was collected by Mr. R. G. McConnell in 1900, fifteen feet below the surface, at Gold Run Creek, Claim 17.

No. 2 is a still finer skull than No. 1, with the whole of both horns remarkably well preserved, and the nasals, as well as the frontal and occipital portions. It was collected by Mr. W. G. Luker in 1902, thirty feet below the surface, at Dominion Creek, Claim No. 83, below Lower Discovery.

No. 3 is the basal portion of a skull, with most of the right horn core and half of the left preserved, collected by Mr. Luker in 1902, forty-five feet below the surface, at Bear Creek. This skull is much smaller than that of either race of the now nearly extinct American Bison, and has comparatively short and not very much curved horn cores. Still, it seems to correspond better with Lucas' recent descriptions and figures of the young or "spike-