

the cracks being chinked with moss. The roof is made of poles or slabs and covered with moss, and on top of many cabins wild flowers can be seen growing during the Summer. They are easily heated, however, with the small sheet-iron stoves universally used by the miners—an important consideration in a climate where the thermometer sometimes indicates eighty degrees below zero.

The only amusements during the dark season are drinking and gambling, and there are numerous saloons, where bad whiskey is sold for fifty cents a drink and cards for one dollar a pack. There is also a bakery, where a loaf of bread costs twenty-five cents and a pie fifty cents. The price for a shave is the same as for a pie.

The Mission of the Established Church of England, built near here some years since, has lost much of its influence since the arrival of "white men and whiskey."

The dogs, which are such expert thieves and fighters, become valuable as winter arrives, and with their sleds fill the place that the boats supply during the summer. All goods are freighted with them, and when not too heavily loaded they can make considerable distance during a day. After a day of hard work they are fed a piece of dried dog salmon, and lie down in the snow to sleep during the coldest weather; they are always hungry and will eat their leather harness if given an opportunity.

Fort Cudahy takes its name from the well-known Chicago speculator, who is a member of the North American Transportation and Trading Company; it is located on higher ground than the rival post, and its warehouses and surrounding cabins are made from logs that are slabbed, which gives it a more attractive appearance. Here also is a sawmill, for which many logs are rafted down the river. Logs suitable for building cabins are worth from one to two dollars each, and lumber sells for twenty-five dollars a thousand feet.

In the latter part of August I made the journey to Circle City, accompanied by a hunch-backed Indian boy, who steered my light boat. Already the nights were growing long, and as we camped with no covering but our blankets, I was sometimes awakened by the brilliancy of the aurora borealis, though it did not

display the splendor that it attains during the winter.

Favorably located on the left bank of the Yukon, near the point where it enters the arctic circle, is Circle City. This center of population already contains three trading stores, a stove-maker's shop a restaurant, eight saloons and two hundred and twenty cabins. A Recorder has been elected, and lots fronting on the river have a value of several hundred dollars.

It is difficult to write accurately of the value of the gold production of interior Alaska; the miners are generally disposed to be secretive concerning the number of ounces that they possess. The largest "sack" that I saw taken out of the country weighed about forty pounds avoirdupois and was worth about ten thousand dollars. I heard of others worth more than thrice this amount. From men well qualified to speak on the matter, both from their position and information, I have obtained the statement that the value of last year's production was nearly one million dollars, or one-seventh of the purchase price paid by the United States to Russia for this territory; this does not include the production of the famous Douglas Island, near Juneau, or the placer mines of Cook's Inlet, and other points along the coast.

The latest newspaper reports give authentic accounts of wonderfully rich discoveries of coarse gold along the Klondike River and its tributary creeks during the past season. Many miners have returned to the States with large quantities of gold dust and nuggets which they have washed out within the last four months. A large number of the fortunes thus made amount to fifty thousand dollars or more, while several miners have brought back more than twice that sum in gold. The best informed state that between two and three million dollars in gold has been taken out of the Klondike region alone this season. In consequence there is at present a great rush of gold-seekers to the upper waters of the Yukon by both the Chilkoot pass and the river route. It is estimated that since the announcement of the rich finds was made in July, at least five thousand prospectors have entered Alaska. Thousands more are preparing to go there next spring.