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**THE ALASKAN GOLD FIELDS AND THE OPPORTUNITIES THEY
OFFER FOR CAPITAL AND LABOR.**

BY SAM. C. DUNHAM.

[Bulletin No. 16, the issue for May, 1898, contained an article under the above title by Mr. Samuel C. Dunham, an agent of this Department, giving the results of a personal investigation in the mining districts of the Yukon Valley and adjoining territory. Mr. Dunham has since returned to Washington, and supplements his former statement with the following report of his later investigations from January 8 to August 1, 1898. He acknowledges his indebtedness to Mr. John D. McGillivray for valuable information.—C. D. W.]

The ice in the Yukon broke at Ch. le City on May 12, but the river at that point was not free of running ice until the 19th, when small boats began to arrive from upriver points. This date found the community with food supplies sufficient to last until the arrival of the first steamboats, although there was a scarcity of some articles, such as canned fruits and condensed milk. Moose meat was scarce during the early part of the winter, and sold as high as \$2 per pound, but later it became plentiful, selling as low as 50 cents per pound. On January 10 there were about 200 people in the town, but a month later the population had increased to 350 through arrivals from Fort Yukon and Dawson, while at the break-up of the river there were less than 150 people there, large numbers having departed in March for Dawson and many having gone to the Birch Creek mines to prepare for summer work.

About 350 men passed the greater part of the winter at Fort Yukon, and many of these were engaged a large portion of the time in cutting wood for the two commercial companies. They received \$5 per cord,