

a right note in your concluding sentence when you say:—

“ ‘ It is possible that in Alaska some of the worst symptoms of the gold malady will be prevented by judicious arrangements ; but, at its best, the discovery of a new El-Dorado is not quite an unmixed blessing for the world.’

“ It is only by immediate and energetic action that possible disaster can be averted.

“ As was reported in your columns, a deputation from this company waited upon the Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, G.C.M.G., chiefly to urge upon him the absolute necessity of opening up a direct route into the Yukon district, by which provisions and stores could be taken in during the whole year. The present long sea route by the mouth of the Yukon—3,976 miles from Vancouver—is only open for, at the outside, three months in the year. The direct route, *viâ* the White Pass—a distance of 1,479 miles—would be open, practically, during the whole year. Sir Wilfrid Laurier stated that he and his Government were fully alive to the great importance of the question, and I am glad to be able to inform you that since the date of this interview we have received from our representative at Ottawa a cable stating that the Dominion Cabinet has appointed a committee to deal with the question of constructing a waggon road over the White Pass. Your New York correspondent very truly observes ‘ that traders from the States are realising that the route from Juneau to Klondike, *viâ* White Pass, can be made in two weeks, as against three or four weeks by the American route, *viâ* Yukon.’

“ His only slight mistake is under-rating the difference of time, which is in reality very much