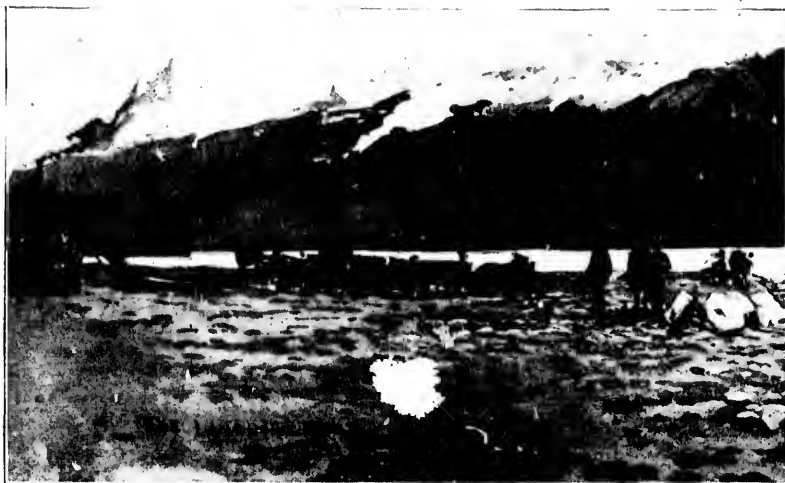


that faces the unfortunate traveller when he has at last scaled the mountain barrier, and has got his provisions "packed" over by Indians or by the white packers. As not a single craft returns when once it has entered the Yukon fly-trap, each party of miners must provide for themselves a craft of some kind or other. What odd-shaped tubs hands unaccustomed to boat-building knock together out of green planks whip-sawed out of such gnarled and knotty spruce or pine as are to be found amid those Arctic surroundings, needs no further

boys and dogs. The rate they used to demand up to Lake Lindeman was from ten to twelve cents (sixpence) per pound. The immense increase in travel over these passes which has occurred this summer is, of course, far beyond what the Indians of the whole coast could tackle, and as the first few steamers in June and July unloaded hundreds of miners totally unprovided with horses and mules, the Indians not only increased their price to double, but could only handle a small portion of the thousands of tons of goods,



THE LANDING PLACE, SKAGWAY BAY.

*From a Photograph by Mr. E. A. Green, Victoria, British Columbia.*

description. Likewise, what great risks the navigation of "white water" by inexperienced hands in craft of that sort carries with it.

Up to this year, all the packing—across the passes—for the few score of miners who invaded the Yukon country by either of these routes was done by the Chilcat and Chilcoat Indians, who are coast tribes, as well as by the "Sticks" who live in the interior, men, women, children, and dogs pluckily shouldering packs that no white man would tackle. As much as 150 lb. is carried by the males, from 60 lb. to 75 lb. by the squaws, and from 30 lb. to 40 lb. by

provisions, tools, and equipments with which the whole shore was strewn.

The next trouble was the want of feed for the pack animals brought by the later arrivals, who had been warned by their predecessors' straits. For the supply of sour swamp grass on that inhospitable shore was soon exhausted, and oats or hay were for some time unobtainable. As a consequence, hundreds of horses starved to death at Skagway and Dyea, ere ten miles of the trail across the pass had been covered. That the ultimate fate of most of the horses taken by individual parties up to the lakes will add variety