

of interest and may eventually become of great value. Platinum, found in association with gold, particularly on the Similkameen River, is one of these, and cinnabar, discovered in the vicinity of Kamloops Lake is another. The ores and minerals already known to occur in British Columbia are so numerous and varied that no attempt is made to enumerate them here. Reference has been made only to those which already, in the course of discovery and development, have achieved greater or less prominence.

YUKON DISTRICT.

To the north of the province of British Columbia, in the extreme north-west of Canada, lying between the Mackenzie River and the United States territory known as Alaska, is the Yukon district. It is for the most part drained by streams tributary to the great river from which its name is taken. Until very lately, it has been one of the most remote and least frequented regions of the world, inhabited by a sparse native population and yielding only some small product in skins and furs. Posts of the Hudson's Bay Company had been established in the district many years ago, but for the most part soon abandoned. It was generally regarded as an arctic solitude, although even the facts long ago recorded might have contradicted any such belief, for the summer is sufficiently long for the growth of crops almost to the Arctic circle and the winter is not more severe than that of Manitoba.

About 1878, miners began to enter this region, and gold mining may be said to have begun on a small scale on the river-bars of the Lewes and Salmon in 1881 and 1882, on the Stewart in 1882 or 1883. In 1886, late in the autumn, "coarse" gold was found for the first time on Forty-mile River, a tributary joining the Yukon from the west near the Alaskan boundary. The few hundred miners then in the district concentrated at Forty-mile in 1887, and, following up its tributaries, found rich ground. Thence, the productive field was gradually extended southward across the local watershed to the tributaries of