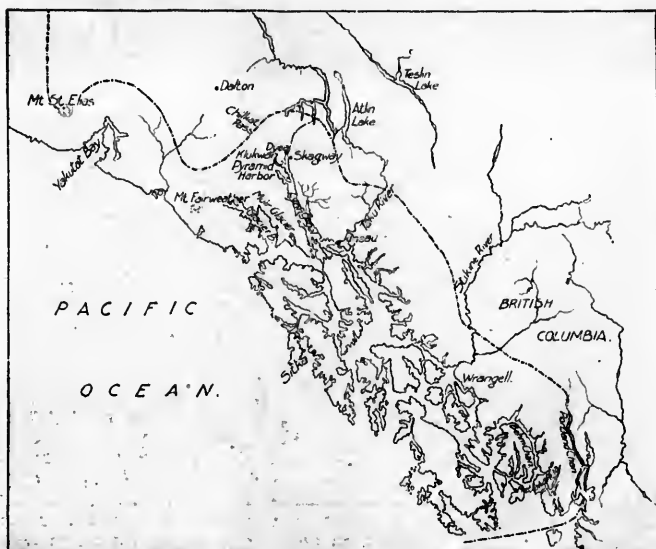


Wrangell was also urged as a good one, and this is likewise practically an all Canadian route. But it has proved a tragic failure. Then the Taku River route from Juneau had its claims, but no one is reported as having reached Dawson by taking it. Over on the American side, the Dalton trail, beginning at Pyramid Harbor and running through the Chilkat Pass—which must not be confused with the better known Chilkoot Pass—requires the fording of almost innumerable streams, besides traversing a rough and hilly country. As for reaching the gold fields by way of St. Michaels and breasting the current of

—in this way, but they had little baggage. Had they attempted to carry the outfit of the average gold seeker, it would have turned them back almost at the outset.

Even by way of Skagway or Dyea, the route to the interior is not easy except under favorable weather conditions. The lives that have been lost on these trails foot up considerably more than a hundred, while the poor dumb beasts of burden that have been sacrificed to man's ignorance and greed number thousands. But this was before the railway had been built from Skagway to Lake Bennett.



SKETCH MAP OF SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA, THROUGH WHICH THE VARIOUS TRAILS TO THE KLONDIKE PASS, WITH THE FRONTIER AS GIVEN IN THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT CHARTS.

the shallow Yukon, with its continually shifting channel, it can be done only in midsummer and at great expense of time and money, although coming out of the country by this route, traveling with the current, is far easier.

There has also been some talk of getting into the interior by way of Copper River, and this seems easy enough, on the map, but the experience is as withering as Dead Sea fruit. True, two out of a party of twelve government officials are reported to have reached the Tanana River—which flows down to the Yukon

Hereafter probably four fifths of the gold seekers will begin their long journey inland at this point.

With the uncertainty as to the best route to reach the Klondike, it is little wonder that, previous to 1898, the Canadian government established its military post of mounted police and its custom house near the head of Lake Bennett, some forty miles from the coast, but early in the season of that year their headquarters were moved shoreward to the summit of White Pass and the top of Chilkoot Pass. There may have been