

open sleigh. In the course of the week's drive down river only the driver is said to be occasionally frozen, and at the next road-house speedily unfrozen and regaled, which seems to be the more essential.

Dawson City.

A few years ago a traveller to the interior of Central Africa told of his surprise at coming suddenly upon the neat gardens of the natives. Dawson, at the junction of the Klondike and Yukon Rivers, in $64\frac{1}{2}$ deg. north latitude, spreading out with an impressive front of piers and large warehouses and the bustling life of a distributing centre, arouses like feelings. According to the Dominion census the city had a population of 9,142, and the Yukon Territory one of 27,219, including 2,600 Indians. The city, however, has a very shifting population, which declines in the fall and swells in the spring.

The town is laid out in regular streets at right angles to each other, the through streets being called avenues, 1st to 6th, and the cross streets, King, Queen, Church, etc. Its large warehouses, immense departmental stores, where everything can be procured from a pin to a haystack, its extensive Government buildings, its wooden pavements and good roads, its telegraph, telephone and electric lighting apparatus, and its many fine shops, hotels, and houses give it an unexpected aspect of stability. There are two theatres, three daily newspapers, six sawmills, two banks, two well-equipped clubs (the "Zero," and the "Arctic Brotherhood"), and four churches, the Presbyterian costing \$50,000. Mr. Carnegie has promised \$25,000 for a public library building.

Mining Operations.

Several methods of mining are in

vogue: (1) Rocking out gold, the "heroic" method of the early days, is still met with here and there. (2) Sluicing, i.e., shovelling the gravels into sluices of running water from which it is washed away, the gold being deposited in "riffles" placed at the bottom of the boxes, is also done. (3) There is, to my knowledge, in the Klondike one large steam shovel at the mouth of Eldorado Creek. This machine works by "open cuts." (4) Dredging the river bottoms is now being seriously practically tested. I refer to Mr. Ogilvie's work on the Stewart river. If this work results profitably many dredges will doubtless set to work in the very near future. (5) Hydraulicing, is, in the opinion of one expert, the most suitable method for the Klondike. By this is meant washing the hillsides by the aid of powerful streams of water shot through "giants" with nozzles varying in diameter from two to five and even seven inches. It is an interesting sight to note the effect of water when hurled in large streams against a hillside; the hill melts away as if of sand, the gravel washing down the slope into sluice boxes. Provided sufficient head of water can be secured hydraulicing is extremely effective and economical. (6) Letting a claim out on "lay" is a further method of mining. A "lay" is the lease of a claim against a percentage of the gross output. For an average lay a miner will pay from 50 per cent. to 65 per cent.

On the whole, steam power is being used more and more; hand labor is disappearing, and steam boilers and engines are finding a growing market. Along with the use of steam comes the tendency to consolidate individual claims (250 feet long) into large holdings. Many claims have already been united. We may confidently anticipate the continuance of this policy and