

is reached. It may be 20 feet or so below the surface, in which case it is usually reached in about 20 days. Through this trees have been found in every position, as they have fallen and been preserved as sound as ever in the everlasting ice. Having burned down to bedrock and found the paystreak, you start drifting.

If you have a depth of 20 feet you may be able to go down two feet and no further, and must put down another drift. Very few people have the good fortune to succeed with one shaft; prospecting holes as many as 20 or 30 must be dug until you cut the whole valley across before you find pay. The next man may strike it at the first hole.

To give you an instance: One man put down 11 holes and didn't find anything, and yet other men had confidence enough in the claim to pay \$2,500 for a half interest in it, knowing that the owner had put in 11 holes and found nothing, a fact which will go to prove the character of the country.

After you have worked until April or May the water begins to run, and the trouble is that the water accumulates and you cannot work, as it puts out the fires which have been used to thaw out and soften the ground. Then the timber is prepared and the sluice boxes put in.

NOT ALL MILLIONAIRES.

In one clean-up 80 pounds avoirdupois of gold was taken out, or a total value of about \$16,000. When you consider that the securing of this amount took the united labors of six men for three months, you can understand that there is considerable cost connected with the operations.

One man, who owns a claim on El Dorado and one on Bonanza, has sold out, so it is said, for a million dollars; he went into the country a poor man with the intention of raising sufficient money to pay off the mortgage on his place. He has, I believe, not only done so, but paid off those of all his neighbors.

Although these creeks are rich, and, as I have told you, more men have made homestakes there than anywhere else in the world, I do not wish you to look only on the bright side of the picture. An American from Seattle came in in June, 1896, to the Forty Mile with his wife, with