

I got near. I delayed operations and went to 36, finding there would be no fraction, or, at least, an insignificant one of inches.

I took time, and in the meantime the owner of 36 became uneasy, and White also. I set in a stake down in the hollow until I saw how much fraction there was. I found only a few inches. I was very tedious with this portion of the work, and the man who was with me seemed to have quite a difficulty in fixing the stake. Then I went down with the remark that I would do that myself. I had made it a rule never to let anyone know where there was a fraction until it was marked on the post.

While I was standing by the post, Jim White came up to me. He had a long way to go down the creek, he said—and did not want to wait longer than necessary. Well, I said, I can't tell you just yet exactly how much of a fraction it will be—but something about three inches. That is how Jim comes to be known now as "Three Inch White."

PROBABLE YIELD.

Bonanza and El Dorado creeks afford between them 278 claims; the several affluences will yield as many more, and all these claims are good. I have no hesitation in saying that about a hundred of those on Bonanza will yield upwards of \$30,000,000. Claim 30 below, on El Dorado, will yield a million in itself, and ten others will yield from a hundred thousand dollars up. These two creeks will, I am quite confident, turn out from \$60,000,000 to \$75,000,000, and I can safely say that there is no other region of the same extent that has afforded in the same length of time so many homestakes—fortunes enabling the owners to go home and enjoy the remainder of their days—considering the work that has to be done with very limited facilities, the scarcity of provisions and of labor, and that the crudest appliances only are as yet available. When I tell you that properly to work each claim ten or twelve men are required, and only 200 were available that season, it will give you an idea of the difficulties which had to be contended with.

On Bear Creek, about seven or eight miles above that, good claims have been found, and on Gold Bottom, Hunker, Last Chance and Cripple creeks. On Gold Bottom as high as \$15 to the pan has been taken, and on Hunker Creek the same, and although we cannot say that they are as rich as El Dorado or Bonanza, they are richer than any other creeks known in that country. Then, 35 miles higher up the Klondike, Too-Much-Gold Creek was found. It obtained its name from the fact that the Indians who discovered it saw mica glistening at the bottom, and, thinking it was gold,

said there was "too much gold—more gold than gravel."

A fact I am now going to state is, that from Telegraph Creek northward to the boundary line, we have in Canada, and in this Province, an area of from 550 to 600 miles in length, and from 10 to 150 miles in width, over the whole of which rich prospects have been found. We must have from 90,000 to 100,000 square miles, which, with proper care, judicious handling, and better facilities for the transportation of food and utensils, will be the largest, as it is the richest gold field the world has known.

Stewart and Pelly, in the gold bearing zone, also give promising indications. Everywhere good pay has been found on the bars, and there is no reason why when good pay has been found on the bars, the results should not be richer in the creeks. The Klondike was prospected for forty miles in 1897 without anything being found, and again in 1893 with a similar lack of result, but the difference is seen when the right course is taken, and this was led up to by Robert Henderson. This man is a born prospector, and you could not persuade him to stay on even the richest claim on Bonanza. He started up in a small boat to spend the Summer and Winter on Stewart River, prospecting. That is the stuff the true prospector is made of, and I am proud to say that he is a Canadian.

QUARTZ LEDGES.

In regard to quartz claims, seven have already been located in the vicinity of Forty Mile and Dawson, and there is also a mountain of gold in the neighborhood, bearing very low grade ore, yielding \$5 to \$7 a ton. The question, is, whether with that return it will pay to work it under the peculiar conditions which exist, and the enormous freight rates charged for the transportation of anything of that kind.

About forty miles up the river two claims have been located by an expert miner from the United States, who has had considerable experience in Montana and other mineral states, and he assured me that the extent of the lode is such that these two claims are greater than any proposition in the world, going from \$3 to \$11 a ton. On Bear Creek a quartz claim was located last Winter, and I drew up the papers for the owner. He had to swear that he had found gold; he swore that he did, and the amount, if true, will make it one of the most valuable properties that exist in the country.

On Gold Bottom another claim has been located, and I have made a test of the ore. I had no sieve and had to employ a hand mortar, which would not give the best results. The poorest result obtained, however, was \$100 to the ton, while the richest was \$1,000

do not know what the extent of the claim is, but the man who found it said that from the rock exposed, the deposit must be considerable. He didn't know whether the exposure was the result of a slide, but said it would be easy to find the lode.

About thirty miles up the Klondike another claim was located, and the man swore that it was rich, although he would not say how rich.

On El Dorado and Bonanza the gold obtained on the different benches has about the same degree of fineness, and is worth about \$16 per oz., and as you go down the creek this value decreases to about \$15.25. From that point, however, it increases, and the inference appears plain that the same lode runs right across the region that these creeks cut through, which is proved more surely by the fact that the value increases as you strike Hunker, and in the other direction Miller and Glacier. The nuggets found in El Dorado show no evidence of having travelled any distance, and some I have are as tough as though they had been hammered out of the mother lode.

The mother lode is yet to be found in the ridges between the creeks, and when this is found it may consist of several large lodes or a succession of small ones that may not pay to work.

On Stewart and Pelly rivers some prospecting has been done and gold found, and on the Hootalinqua in 1895 good pay was discovered, and the richness of the gold increases as work is continued further down. Some men, working 15 feet down, found coarse gold, when the water drove them out and they had to abandon the work and come out determined to return; but they did not go back, as in the meantime the Klondike excitement knocked that place out.

Gold has been found at the head of Lake Lebarge, on the stream flowing into the lake at this point; in fact there is gold everywhere in this zone, which is 500 miles long by 150 wide. Prospects, too, are to be found on the Dalton trail on the other side of the Yukon River. A man riding along the Altsek trail was thrown from his horse, and in falling caught at the branch of a tree. As he drew himself up he saw something shining on the rock which fixed his attention at once. He picked it up and found that it was gold. Other excellent prospects have also been found along the same creek. From these circumstances and discoveries it may be assumed that in all this country there is gold, while in this particular zone it is especially abundant. This zone lies outside of the Rocky mountains and distant from them about 150 miles.

COAL AND COPPER.

Another product of the country that