

North-west Mounted Police.

bearing creeks in Canadian territory on the west side of the Yukon are as follows:—Gold, Miller and Glacier Creeks, all but one mile of Bed-rock, Moose and the first fork of Moose Creek, one mile of the 3 heads of Smith Creek, and of the several heads of Canyon Creek, about one mile of the Poker and Davis branches of Walker Creek, one and a half miles of Walker Creek.

On the east side of the Yukon are the following creeks, Bonanza, Boulder, Adams, Eldorado, Victoria, Carmack, Bear, Last Chance, Hunker, Gold Bottom and Baker Creeks. These latter creeks are all of a fair size with a good supply of water for mining purposes, and easy of access.

Bonanza is a large creek and it is possible there may be too much water to be easily worked in the spring.

A gold commissioner is urgently needed and should reside on the principal creek of the district. One man cannot do all the work there is to be done now, such as visiting the different creeks, settling disputes, and keeping the office work up.

STEAM LAUNCHES AND BOATS.

If police duties are to be carried out effectually, a steam launch or patrol boat is an absolute necessity. Facilities for quick and independent communication and transportation will be required between here and the new post at Klondike and this result can only be attained by a steamer. With our present facilities for travel we can only make an average of 20 miles a day, and no great distance can be covered on account of the difficulty of carrying enough supplies. The rivers are the highways and a steam launch is as much required here as horses are on the prairies. The river runs very swiftly above here and a steamer should have sufficient power to overcome at least a five mile current. Two canoes were received in August last. Although highly spoken of by some eminent travellers and explorers I cannot altogether agree with them. They do very well with experienced men going down stream, but going up heavily loaded when they have to be tracked along rocky shores, they are in constant danger of being split and broken, even with great care. The river boat of the country which can be built in three or four days by an ordinary carpenter is the best all round.

My idea of a steamer for this purpose would be a screw propeller 50 feet long 10-12 feet beam, steering gear in front, grates suitable for both coal and wood.

The following is an extract from Inspector Strickland's report on the canoes:

"I have found them not exactly the boat best fitted for travel on this river with heavy loads:

"The shores of the Yukon are rough and rocky, the current runs at an average rate of 5 miles an hour. When I left this post for the Klondike last fall, to cut wood, the 2 canoes carried between them 3,000 lbs. of stores as well as nine men. The stores consisted of such heavy articles as rope, axes, provisions, bedding, &c. The heavy loads made the canoes very hard to steer in the hands of inexperienced men and were continually striking against the shore to the great injury of their sides and bottoms. For this sort of work where time is not an object I consider the common river boat to be much the best, it is easily built and is very strong."

CIVIL COURTS.

The necessity for civil courts is daily increasing. They should be established with the least possible delay. The want of them creates a distrust in the administration of the government and there is an idea spreading that the country is occupied by the government solely for purposes of revenue.

A registry office is urgently required, the duties of registrar and clerk of the court could be combined.

NEW POSTS.

A new post should be built in the spring at the mouth of the Klondike River which flows into the Yukon on the east side about 53 miles S.E. of Forty mile. This