



THE "EAGLE'S NEST" ON THE LEWIS RIVER BELOW THE LITTLE SALMON.

(Photo by W. Ogilvie.) By courtesy of the Canadian Magazine.

stant action for ages, it sinks to "bed rock" and lies there in the hollows and against the rough edges, and with its own weight collects and forins the "pay streak." Time has lodged this streak thickest in the concavities of the "bed rock," and the value of a placer is largely dependent on these concavities in the area of a claim; and as this condition is liable to vary with each square yard, it lends the element of chance.

This is what makes it possible—and it is alluring to the gold-hunters—to find a "bed-rock" formation where fissures or a cross-ribbed fault may have served nature as bars, acting just as cleats in a sluice-box. Here the thickness of the "pay streak" may be unusual, and when this condition exists at a point in the stream where the swift current is above and a stagnant current below, it adds to the settlement of gold in these concavities. The reason that the gold seeks the lowest level makes the center of the "bed rock," or the lowest part of the crescent, the receptacle for the most valuable deposits.

THE BLIND CHANCES OF PROSPECTING.

But there is another element of chance where the stream may generally be known as rich: The most valuable of these "pay-streak" deposits is on the "bed rock" of the older or more permanent course of the stream, which has in many cases been changed by a landslide or a depression; and it is the "bed rock" of the older course

which holds the cups of gold. For this reason two miners of adjoining claims will often find their fortunes vary, and as there are no sure surface indications "bed rock" must be reached, the "pay streak" disclosed, and its course and limits drifted out. And it is for this reason that often the bench claims, away off to the side of the valley, will show upon digging the shaft that the bed of the older stream lay there.

The general rule is that a locality rich in placer gold is rich in quartz veins, and this will probably be found true in the mountain ranges that feed the Klondike, Indian, and Stewart rivers; but there have been frequent instances where such was not the case, due to a greater erosion, or a detritus formation feeding the streams, or a more constant milling or sluicing by that greatest of all miners, nature. Professor Wright, of Oberlin College, says on this point: "The amount of gold found in the placer mines is evidence not so much perhaps of a very rich vein as of the disintegration of a very large vein."

IV.—ALASKA'S HISTORY AND RESOURCES.

The Klondike River is in the Northwest Territory of British Columbia of the Dominion of Canada, but this Northwest Territory got its birth from Alaska and its history grows out of