

employment, and they must return to the States. As against this enormous outlay, we have for the period under consideration, as indicated by the mint returns, a gross product from the Yukon placers of less than \$12,000,000. Although this statement as to the immediate result of the Klondike "boom" can not be refuted, it would be misleading if allowed to stand without qualification. The condition described is almost entirely due to the exaggerated statements as to the extent of the new discovery so widely published in last year's newspapers and magazines, and should not be permitted to obscure the fact that there is now being developed on the Yukon a mineral zone of wonderful richness, which will eventually contribute hundreds of millions of dollars to the wealth of the world. The lesson to be learned from the present situation is that it will take years of hard work to bring the mines up to their highest point of productiveness, and that the country offers no opportunities for professional men or others who are not equipped by nature for the most exacting manual labor. When common carriers on the Yukon who depend upon the public for support are ready to carry for the public without discrimination in favor of selected patrons; when "competition" in commerce there shall come to mean a decrease and not an increase in the cost of living, and when the people of that long-neglected section of our common country shall again attract the attention of Congress and hold it long enough to secure the enactment of laws for the protection of life and property, then, and not till then, will it be possible to bring to full development the marvelous riches of the Yukon gold fields.

In April, 1898, Mr. J. C. McCook was appointed United States consul at Dawson, and arrived early in July at his post of duty. He has sent to the Department of State a number of reports, which have appeared in the Consular Reports, and as they contain authentic information relative to the situation on the Yukon of a later date than that given in this paper, they are quoted here:

Consul McCook has sent the Department of State an undated report from Dawson City (received September 12, 1898). Mr. McCook says:

"Dawson City, probably the largest mining camp in America, is built on a bog or swamp and contains a shifting population which now numbers about 20,000. Forty thousand prospectors have passed through here from the White and Chilkoot passes. Most of them had a year's provisions. Hundreds are going away daily, not being able to stay long on account of the cost of living. A dinner costs \$2.50, and breakfast and lunch \$1.50. Lodging is \$1.50 per night in a bunk, and a hotel charges \$6.50 for a bed per night.

"The price of property in the business locality is enormous. A lot of convenient size upon the main street can not be had under \$40,000. Lots in a bog off Main street bring from \$5,000 to \$10,000. To rent a log cabin costs \$200 per month. With the exception of the warehouses, the theaters, dance halls, saloons, and gambling houses are about the only establishments which can afford these terms. Along the river, ground leased from the authorities brings \$10 per front foot per month.