

The New El-Dorado on the Klondike.

AN INTERVIEW WITH MR. HARRY DE WINDT.

BY WILLIAM G. FITZGERALD.



CAN it be possible that in these prosaic days a real Tom Tiddler's ground has been found? A region 192,000 square miles in extent, where even the humblest may pick up pans full of gold? Yes, it is absolutely true. All you have to do is to get there, and then it is your own fault if you don't return a millionaire. No doubt exists in competent minds that Klondike and the Yukon district generally is the richest gold "strike" the world has ever known. We were, therefore, fortunate in securing an interview with Mr. Harry de Windt, the famous explorer, whose life has been one long pilgrimage over the face of this planet.

Mr. De Windt has taken a ride to India, through Persia and Beluchistan. He made the amazing journey from Pekin to Calcutta by land. He knew the prisons of Siberia almost as well as his own cosy flat in the Champs Elysées; and he all but succeeded in the virtually impossible journey *overland* from New York to Paris. This last nearly cost him his life, but it also caused him to pass through the gold-bearing regions of Alaska and the North-West Territories. The "present-day" portrait on the opposite page shows the explorer in the quaint dress he wore whilst journeying from Juneau City to the mouth of the Yukon, in Behring Sea.

"The Klondike gold fever is raging everywhere," remarked Mr. De Windt, "especially in America. In Seattle and other handy ports, the very policemen

have gone off to the gold-fields. Husbands are deserting their wives. Clerks, lawyers, doctors, merchants, shop-keepers, and others are selling all they possess to pay the high passage rates, and then have enough left for outfit and provisions. Clever fellows with no money are 'minstreling' their way to the Klondike—playing and singing as they go along. Victoria (B.C.)," continued the explorer, "may be called the British starting-point. The big shops in Government Street are advertising every imaginable requisite, from guns, boots, and gold-pans to Yukon boats. 'If there are dollars in it for us,' plead the leading grocers, 'there may be thousands in it for you.'"

The photo. here reproduced shows a number of miners leaving San Francisco for the New El-Dorado. The enthusiasm of the immense crowd is well shown. The voyagers



"OFF TO THE KLONDIKE."

From a Photo. by Charles Weidner, San Francisco.