

Fort Wrangel, on an island off the mouth of the river, was the second settlement in southeastern Alaska after Sitka. It is 80 miles in from the ocean and its harbor is mountain-girt, and Wrangel, consequently, has colder winters and milder summers than

valleys, with occasional canyon walls and generally steep lower slopes, while high undulating and mountainous country form the surroundings. From Telegraph Creek southward for some 30 miles, or to the inland border of the Coast Range, high gravel terraces or

benches of a fairly regular level and outline are noticeable, especially on the east side of the valley, while near the water low benches are of more frequent occurrence, greater extent and few rocky projections on the river sides. About 116 miles from the sea the Clearwater River, a large tributary flowing through an open valley, enters from the northwest. Below the Clearwater and on to within 20 miles of the sea, the general course

Wrangel and in latitude $56^{\circ}40'$ N. and long. $132^{\circ}20'$ W. The range of mountains cleft by this river valley is principally of granite rock and grand to look upon, as the peaks are lofty, rugged and irregular, and some five or six large and many small glaciers are yet to be seen, but, with few exceptions, they are "dead." The whole valley and slopes to the timber limit are clothed with cottonwood, spruce and alder trees, which decrease in size and quantity as the interior is reached. The Stikine River is usually navigable for powerful steamboats of suitable design to Glenora or Telegraph Creek, a distance of 150 miles, between the 1st of May and a date sometimes well on in October, dependent of course on the openness of the season and the amount of rain and snowfall. Its width varies from half a mile on the lower river to 500 feet above. The depth is generally good, and the channel is remarkably free from snags, sunken rocks or boulders. At Little and Klutchman Canyons, respectively 96 and 106 miles from the sea, during high water periods when many drift trees are running, it is with considerable risk that the passage through these contracted reaches are made, and delays are common, as drift-wood is liable to become foul of the rudders or wheels. The first 50 miles from the sea, or to the Great Glacier, is very good water with a moderate current not exceeding 3 miles per hour, while from this point upwards the channel becomes somewhat more tortuous and contracted, with an increasing general rate of current varying from 3 to 8 miles per hour; however, the exceptionally swift sections are few and usually not over a half mile in length. A powerful river steamer should be able to make the Little Canyon in one day's run from the mouth of the river, and the Glenora or Telegraph Creek on the second day. The sum of \$5,000 could be advantageously spent in removing snags and boulders and in placing permanent cables for use in the heavy water, principally above the Little Canyon."

The trip from Wrangel to Glenora on the river steamers usually occupies about 36 hours, and Canadian territory is entered about 40 miles from the mouth of the river. A few months ago, Telegraph Creek was an aggregation of 40 or 50 cabins, with one store, but



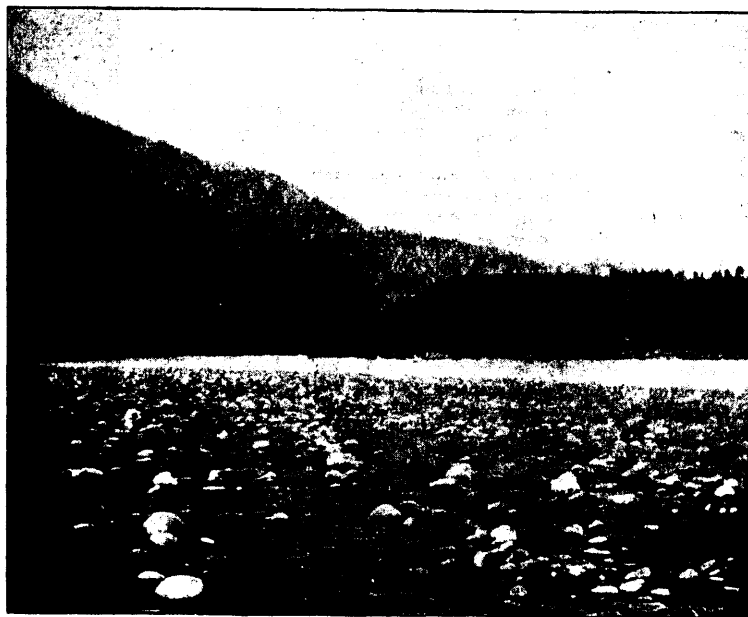
BANK OF STIKINE RIVER, SHOWING HIGH WATER MARK.

any place along that coast. The first settlement was made by Admiral Baron Wrangel, who sent a subordinate officer from Sitka to build a stockade and to prevent the Hudson's Bay Co. maintaining trading-posts on the Stikine River. After much diplomatic controversy, Russia leased a 30-mile strip from Dixon Entrance to Yakutat to the H.B. Co., renewing the leases until the transfer of Russian America to the United States. The old fort was the scene of an exciting life among the Hudson's Bay officers and their men, owing to the hostility of surrounding natives. The discovery of the Cassiar mines and the influx of miners were the next important events in the history of Wrangel, and U.S. troops occupied the barracks from 1875 to 1877. After the abandonment of mining up the Stikine, a great quiet reigned in the little town. There was a saw-mill left. The traders' stores still remained and natives exposed their quaint curios in vain. For a second time in its history, Wrangel is revived by a mining boom and houses are now going up, stores are being erected and new wharves are every day pushing out over the waters of the harbor, as if in the twinkling of an eye. Hotels and lodging-houses, such as there are, are packed, and big structures, to accommodate the incoming crowds, are in course of erection.

After a sea voyage of more than 700 miles, passengers and freight are transhipped from the ocean to the river steamers. Here, the sea is described as frequently very boisterous. Then begins a trip up stream to Glenora and Telegraph Creek. The Stikine River is thus described by W. T. Jennings, C.E.: "The Stikine River and its branching head waters rise in the Cassiar Mountains between latitudes $56^{\circ}20'$ and $59^{\circ}20'$ N. and longitudes 128° and $131\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ W. The main stream and its upper feeders, the Tanzilla, Tooya, and Tahlitan, gradually converge and eventually unite in one grand watercourse within a distance of 16 miles, and from 10 to 26 miles above Telegraph Creek, which is at the extreme head of steamboat navigation and distant from the sea, at Fort Wrangel, 150 miles. The feeders (excepting the Tooya) and main river run as a rule in deep and more or less contracted

of the valley is south, and it is from 1 to 3 miles in width, but the river makes many bends and swings from side to side of it, and the bottom lands are more frequently divided by sloughs or by channels cut during freshet seasons through the silty and loose formation. The Klutchman and Little Canyons being almost exceptional points where there is only 1 channel, confined between rugged but receding rock walls, respectively 300 to 400 feet apart and $\frac{1}{3}$ of a mile in length at the former, and 100 to 150 feet apart for $\frac{1}{3}$ of a mile at the latter. In both cases the direction of the river between the rocky shores is straight.

"Below the Little Canyon and on to the sea the flat lands increase in extent and the by-channels in number and volume. The Och-sa Kieen, Soud, Porcupine and Iskoot Rivers flow into the Stikine from the east at varying intervals, besides many small streams from glaciers and mountain clefts on both sides. The Iskoot River, which is the largest of the tributaries named, enters 35 miles from the sea, and 10 miles below it the Stikine changes direction to the west, passes out through the main range of mountains and on through an expansive valley to its wide delta-like mouth on the coast line, some 12 miles north of



GLENORA RAPIDS, STIKINE RIVER, LOOKING UP.

the process of transformation has been at work there, as well as in Wrangel.

Lying on the beach at Wrangel is the hull of the old river boat that plied the Stikine during the first boom. This moss-grown relic of former shipping is all that is left of the