

point have yielded considerable gold in the past, particularly the Cassiar bar.

From the junction of the Pelly the river is called the Yukon, and its length from here to its mouth is over two thousand miles.

There is no administration of civil law in the interior of Alaska; miners' law prevails. Whether the title to a valuable gold claim is in question or partition proceedings are in order over a row-boat the course is the same—a miners' meeting is called, and the case is discussed and settled by vote. An excellent state of law and order has resulted. Murder has not been committed along the river for years. In the few cases of stealing that have been discovered, the culprit has been ordered to leave the country and has promptly

keeps a record of ownership and transfers.

Prospecting for coarse gold is carried on in the numerous gulches, through which flow small streams, formed from the melting snow and ice of the hills. They do not carry sufficient water for hydraulic mining, though after storms they frequently rise and wash away the dams, destroying the labor of weeks. The soil, which is glacial drift, covers the bed-rock to a depth of from five to twenty feet, and remains frozen all the year round beneath the moss covering. Prospecting is done by sinking holes to bed-rock, or by removing the moss from a narrow strip of ground that cross-cuts the claim, and turning into this shallow ditch the water of the creek, that cuts for itself, with the aid of the sun, a channel through the



*From a photograph.*

SAWMILL AT FORT CUDADY.

obeyed. Supplies, when protected from animals, can be safely left at any place; were this not so, the country could not be prospected.

When gold is found on a new creek, the first few arrivals form a mining district; the laws governing all of these are practically the same. One man can enter but one claim in the district, but the discoverer is allowed to enter two. A claim is five hundred feet long, up and down the creek, and the width of the gulch. Any number of claims can be bought, but each claim must be occupied during the season by the owner or his representative under penalty of forfeiture. The season is generally from the first of June to the middle of August. A Recorder is elected, who, for a nominal fee, measures the claims and

frozen ground to bed-rock. The ground is then tested with pick and pan until the pay streak is located. The soil above the pay streak is removed by a stream of water, and sluice boxes, made from lumber whip-sawed from the nearest suitable trees, are placed in position. Riffles collect the gold in the bottom of the sluice boxes, which is washed out from the dirt shoveled into them.

During the last two winters, miners have begun to work their claims by "burning and drifting." A fire is built in the hole or drift, and after the fire is extinguished, the thawed ground is removed and another fire built. The pay dirt is kept and washed out in the spring.

At the post I found a man with a boat who was going to Forty Mile, and he

From a  
agr  
ing  
to m  
sou  
boil  
fryi  
T  
jour  
of t  
Gate  
is fil  
narro  
lime  
fanta  
"turn  
by a  
moun  
the  
are e  
Klon  
which  
ber a

From a