

HINTS TO PROSPECTORS.

H. ROY STOVEL.

The art of prospecting—for so it may correctly be called—cannot be summed up in the idea of simply going and finding gold or whatever one is after; but, on the contrary, involves the most precise calculations with regard to transportation, provisions, camping and the actual prospecting; and this, which is gained only after long experience, in turn exacts a clear foresight of all that is likely to take place.

Having decided on the locality in which the work is to be done, the first thought that naturally occurs is, How one may get there? Assuming that railroads and steamboats, if any, have done their part, there are still four ways of finishing the journey. Namely: by driving, riding, by boat or by the old reliable way, walking.

Sometimes one can combine two or three or all four methods, certainly the last way will always be in the program.

It would perhaps be as well first to give an idea of the weights of loads, that it is possible to transport by the different methods. For a light cart, the limit is about 750 lbs.; for a canoe with two men, about 500 lbs.; for a pack horse, from 200lbs. to 250 lbs., and by the last method, I would not advise a heavier load than 75 lbs.

Let us now see what provisions will be necessary, say for two men. It has been estimated that one man will, in one week, consume 14 lbs. of meat, 10 lbs. flour, 3 lbs. sugar, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. tea, and $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. salt, making altogether a load of about 28 lbs. This of course can be augmented by other things such as beans, rice, meal, coffee, fruit (all kinds of evaporated), baking powder, canned milk and pepper. The rest of the indispensable equipment includes a nest of 3 tin pails, the largest holding about 1 gallon, a tea pot, a tent about 6ft. x 8 ft. ground area, a pair of blankets, a poll pick, small axe, gold pan (if prospecting for placer deposits), a butcher knife and sheath