

a so in quest of suitable means of transit for his effects, and a large supply of strong sleighs, capable of carrying ten hundred-weight, leathern trappings for packing goods, in lots of from 70 to 100 pounds, over the more mountainous and difficult parts of the journey; while for sailing, rowing or poling upon the open waters of that inland region boats of various designs, but simple, are purchased. There is a lively trade in horses of all kinds, irrespective of pedigree, the latter not being necessary, since, in most cases, already the extreme hardship of going two or three times over the Chilcoot and White passes, has resulted in the death of the greater number of the beasts of burden. In fact, the Hon. Clifford Sifton stated that during his journey over these passes he was struck with the number of horses scattered along the trail, and estimated that there must have been over a thousand such.

As regards the return of the prospector, this is of interest, too, if not always to himself, invariably to others. To see one who left with neat though gay attire, return with the same begrimed by constant contact with travel in rough and primitive country, with a luxuriant growth of beard and moustache where previously no such condition existed, whilst the hair has become such as to make any football tyro look with envious eyes, certainly arouses a keen interest in the observer. But if the hero of our wonder shall slip his hand into an inner pocket—presuming him to be one of the relatively few successful miners—then all thought of his appearance disappears, before an intense and feverish excitement to see what shall be produced. Perchance as he withdraws that hand it bears a precious little pile of nuggets of varying size from a bean downwards. As one handles these innocent pieces of the yellow metal and sees the effects, in the peculiarly worn and indented appearance, of the rush and detritive process, to which they have been subjected since first they were severed from the mother piece of some rocky gorge or mountain side, by the periodically frozen and latter hurrying mountain torrent far away in the Yukon territory, one feels the rising temperature, the quickened pulse and the delirious intoxication of the “gold fever.” But on second thought, one tries to picture what those nuggets have cost to obtain. There then passes through the mind in rapid succession, the scenes of travel over almost impassable mountains, where the snowslides and torrential rains abound, sweeping to death the hapless miner who is in the way. Then the scenes of travel over frozen lakes, in the teeth of biting blizzards, with possibly a reduced and limited supply of provisions for an indefinitely long tramp still to come. Then if this may have been