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creeks. The dumps on Sulphur and Dominion were expected, when I was at Dawson this year, to yield returns as rich and great as most of the Eldorado. I have heard since that they did not do so, but it must be remembered that for want of food men could not work their claims as they had hoped; moreover, lights were scarce; candles sold at one dollar each, and then could not be bought. Water, too, failed this year for sluicing the dumps. Mr. Lippi, who went in two years ago, owns one of the richest claims on the Eldorado. He was offered, I was told, \$1,000,000 for his claim and refused it. This year he had been there only a few weeks and was going out with \$200,000.

Standing at the Eldorado, where the pay streak is richest, a line due east runs straight through the rich claims of Hunker, Gold Bottom, etc.; from the same point a line due west and away beyond the Yukon runs through the rich creeks of Sixty, Forty Miles, Birch Creek, etc. What a magnificent distance and extent of territory this is over and in which gold is found!

The innumerable creeks of the Forty Mile, as far to the westward as the watersheds of the Tanana, all carry gold, and it remains yet to be demonstrated by work what wealth they contain. They have not been worked as yet. What little has been done on several has proved quite encouraging. While at Forty Mile two men came in from their winter's work on a claim, weighed out their gold, and after paying all expenses had \$3,000 each for their own. A man and his wife sold their claim on Franklin Creek for \$10,000 and have gone out to make their home at Seattle. They sold too cheap, so men told me who knew the mine. Prospectors tell how on passing this claim they could hear this man and his wife dropping the little gold nuggets, "plunk, plunk," into a tomato can, as though they were pumpkin seeds—and the gold of this creek is of the size and shape of pumpkin seed.

About fifteen miles below the boundary line, on our territory, a live camp has sprung up at the mouth of Mission Creek.

The promise of a town here is due to the fact that very rich claims have been discovered on American Creek (which runs into Mission) and its tributaries. I hope this will prove true.

It is evident, then, that gold is found extensively in large sections of that vast Yukon territory.

You have doubtless heard by this time complaints as to the laws and conditions now existing at Dawson and the Yukon. I confess that complaints were general, both loud and strong, even in Dawson when I was there. The system of royalty, recording, timber licenses, etc., were all denounced. If one tenth of the charges made were true, then there is immediate need of a change; but of this I am unable to speak. The gold commissioner, whom I had the pleasure of meeting, did not strike me as a man who would countenance any dishonorable action or dealing. I am going to speak advisedly, because I cannot vouch as to the absolute truthfulness of these cases, but Captain — of Seattle told me that being very ill—ill all winter—almost in despair of recovery, he gave a friend \$10 to go and get his letters. The man returned and said: "The postmaster (member of the mounted police) said, 'I have no time to bother with his mail for \$10,'" and his letters he did not get. Many similar stories are freely told, and if they are true they are horrible.

In our own territory the law does not seem to be explicit enough; it errs in being too generous. It is possible for one man to locate any number of claims. A friend told me that he had eighty-five claims staked and these almost entirely in one section. They define every creek and every tributary of that creek as a distinct district and according to the law a man can hold one claim in each district. This ought to be regulated by law. A district should embrace a reasonable section, all the creeks and tributaries within it. For want of this a few men can monopolize all the claims, holding them to sell to the "cheecharka," and thereby shutting out the many who, if they had a chance to stake a claim, would remain in the country and aid its development.