

and which they were misled to believe did exist. In addition to the obnoxious regulations enforced upon them they found no adequate facilities for the transaction of the public business; they found an insufficient staff of inexperienced and incapable officials in whom the people had lost all confidence. When endeavoring to obtain entrance to the gold commissioner's office on business the miners were obliged to stand outside in line for days and even weeks unless they were able and willing to bribe an official to let him in before his regular turn.

**RESPONSIBILITY WITH THE GOVERNMENT**  
Admitting that through exaggerated reports and misleading statements the government was induced to frame those regulations by which the Yukon territory is still oppressed, responsibility in the matter rests with it all the same. For, it will be remembered, that the government was well warned through the public press by men of experience in mining operations and of undoubted veracity, and also by the government of British Columbia as to the iniquity of those regulations before they were put in force.

With respect to the alleged maladministration also, the government cannot shirk responsibility in the matter by putting in a plea of ignorance. In addition to the miners' memorial of the celebrated date of the 25 August, 1898, the grievances of which the miners complained occupied the attention of the public press throughout Canada, the United Empire and the United States for more than a year past and the government still rested on its oars and permitted the good name of Canada to be trailed in the dust in presence of representatives of all enlightened nations.

## CLIMATE AND AGRICULTURE.

Written expressly for the Klondike Nugget.

The beneficent Japan current influences the whole south coast, even as far north as the Kuskoquim river, and has the effect of soothing the climate of the north Bering sea coast.

Precipitation is very great along this coast line. The air is cool during the pleasantest time of the year, which is in the long summer days when the sun shines most. As a rule it is clear but a few days in the year; usually, however, in June and July the sun pierces the heavy clouds that settle over the mountains and brightens up the land scapes. When the sun is obscured, it is liable to rain for days and sometimes for weeks at a time.

The average rainfall along the coast is not far short of 100 inches a year, and at Unalaska, in 1884, 155 inches was recorded.

The fall of snow in the coast country is also considerable; but is usually damp and a snow storm is liable to turn to rain any moment.

The climate of the interior is altogether different. Taking Dawson as a point of view we find that in winter of '98-'99 the coldest registered temperature

at the government observatory, in charge of Wm. Ogilvie, was 48 degrees below zero, while at the same time the anemometer registered "no wind moving." For four months of the winter the thermometer day by day varied less than 10 degrees. Nevertheless there is considerable evidence that years ago, at least once the temperature of the lower country, at Fort Yukon reached 65 or 70 degrees below; but in the absence of reliable standard and tested thermometers it behooves one to take with considerable allowance the wonderful stories of extreme temperatures which have come from there and which mostly have their origin in the yarns of story-telling "sour doughs" or "old timers."

In the late summer and fall there is often much rain accompanied by thunder, something which is rarely known on the coast.

The agricultural possibilities of the

and he has deserved it all by demonstrating beyond the peradventure of a doubt that an ample supply of everything needed for the table, excepting sub-tropical fruits, can be raised right at home by the inhabitants of the Far North.

Southwest of Fort Selkirk are many thousands of acres of high level ground, free from moss, of a sandy nature and covered with a most luxuriant growth of nutritious wild grass, on which all kinds of stock thrives abundantly.

In dozens of places where stock has been fed along the route, oats, barley and rye have sprung up with a rankness which demonstrates that, though possibly all the grain might not ripen, still an abundant feed for stock can be furnished by the country in the form of ensilage. A herd of horses turned out at Whitehorse in the winter of '98-'99 to either starve or pick up their own liv-

markable regularity of the climate. Just think for a minute—if you wish to you can fix your day for a picnic 10 years ahead and know that on that day it will be fine.

Potatoes are raised in abundance the entire length of the coast line to Unalaska, and in the interior at Fort Selkirk, Sixtymile, Dawson and Forty-mile, yet so far they have seldom been cheaper than from 25 cents to one dollar per pound in the Dawson market, even for the frozen article. The opportunities in this line will be seen to be enormous. Wild berries of many kinds reach a state of perfection in this north-land, but most unfortunately at a time of the year when traveling on foot with anything heavy is an impossibility—and there are no wagon roads to bring the berries to market. Consequently, \$1 per pound is not considered unreasonable.

## JOHN B. LEE.

The hardships and dangers that men have undergone in reaching the Yukon gold fields can never be realistically portrayed on paper. They can be appreciated only by the man who has been there. To understand it all requires the actual experience. It requires that the man who would know what hardship is should take his pack on his back and climb the Chilcoot summit in the midst of blinding blizzards.

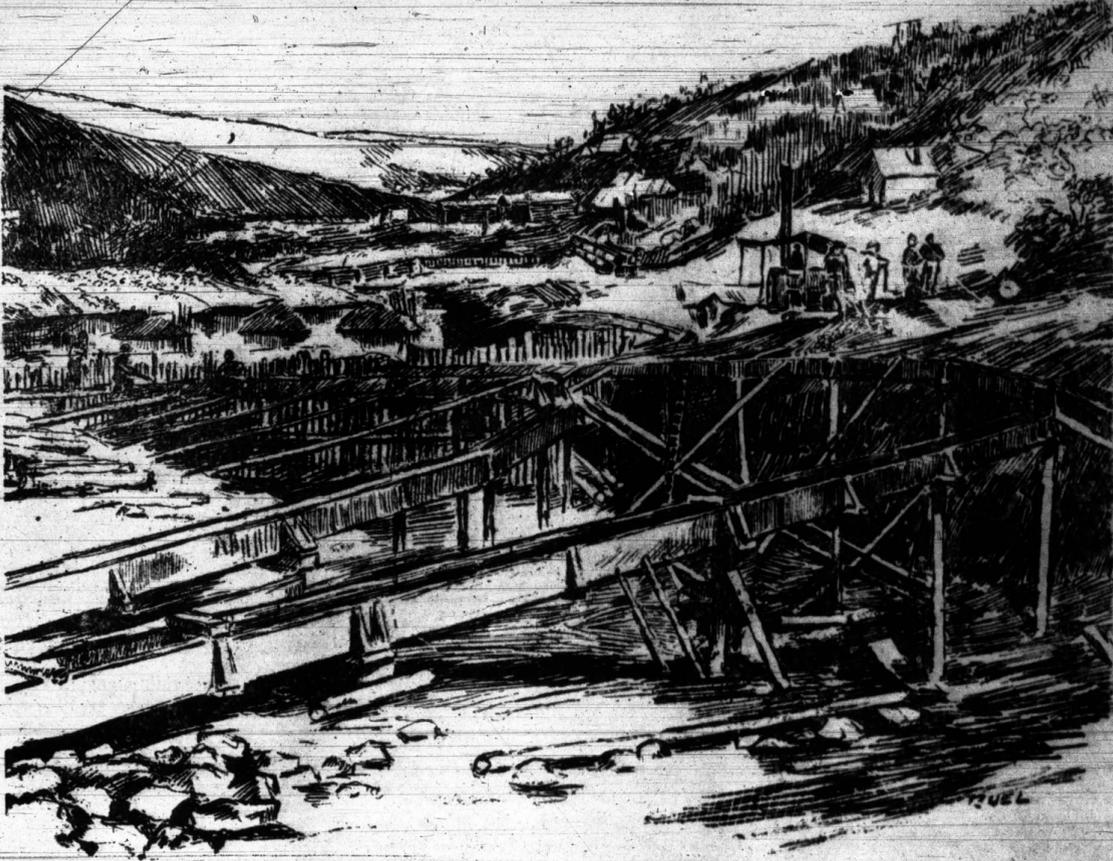
It requires that he should go into the woods and whipsaw his lumber and launch his own boat at the headwaters of the mighty Yukon. Let him bring his frail craft through the dangerous succession of lakes and rivers. Let him navigate the rapids and avoid, if he can, the rocks in the treacherous Thirty-mile that

loom up to impede his progress at every twist and turn in the stream. And then, when he reaches the interior, let him again assume his pack. Let him travel over hills and through swamps and morasses, contesting every inch of the way with countless swarms of mosquitos, following blind trail or guiding himself by the trend of the mountains or the run of the creeks. Let him



John B. Lee.

lie out in the open during the middle of winter, perhaps with nothing to eat, a single blanket to shield him from the fierceness of winter blast, and with no accurate knowledge of his whereabouts.



No. 32 Eldorado creek.

interior are but just becoming known as nothing but an occasional neglected trading post garden was known until the Klondike made market gardening profitable. We may therefore confine our observations to the summers of '98 and '99. Numerous small gardens appeared on every hand but the most persistent tests of the various soils was made by J. A. Acklin a California flower, fruit and vegetable gardener of considerable success. Of the numerous gardens he planted he found that the best was the one on the right bank of the Klondike some three miles from town. A large force of men were employed clearing, fencing and planting and notwithstanding the lateness of the season when he got started he furnished the Dawson market with many thousands of dollars' worth of garden stuff before frost chilled the ground. He found his hillside garden well adapted to the purpose, for by reason of being actually turned up on edge, with a southern exposure, it caught the earliest spring and latest fall sunshine, was clear of moss and was clear of frost all the way to bedrock. The summer of '98 saw the erection of greenhouses, the fencing in of much additional ground and the irrigation of the land at great expense from a neighboring mountain stream. Everything was grown, from carnations to lettuce, and an abundant crop testifies to the success of the enterprise. Today there is not a millionaire residence north of Victoria which can at all compare with the building and grounds of J. A. Acklin, of Dawson,

ing, came out in the spring in first-class shape.

The Laplanders who took the herds of U. S. government reindeer into Alaska in the spring of '99, by way of Dawson, state positively that there is a greater abundance of edible moss along the Yukon than where the reindeer came from besides being less trouble to get at on account of there being less snow. The country would maintain a million head.

To sum up, there is nothing but the newness of the country which makes it hard to live in at present. The climate is less severe than Minnesota, Dakota, Manitoba and many other populous countries, though it must be admitted that the winter season is longer. British Alaska (Yukon Territory) and U. S. Alaska can be made to supply their population with those necessities of the table which the white race believes it impossible to do without.

While between the 80 degrees of summer heat and the 50 degrees below of winter there is a range of 130 degrees of variation, there are few lands of as equable a climate. There are no sudden changes such as kill the old people in Europe and America; but from day to day the temperature either gains or loses just two or three degrees of heat, and so the seasons change without any such convulsions of nature as seems necessary elsewhere for her to do her work. That the closing up and the opening out of the rivers can be prognosticated from season to season absolutely within very few days, more than any thing else, demonstrates the re-