

Scroggie, Barker, Thistle, and Kirkman Creeks, Yukon Territory.

INTRODUCTION.

During the latter part of the year 1898, a number of creeks joining Stewart and Yukon rivers near their point of confluence were stampeded and staked. Most of these creeks lie to the east of the Yukon, and they extend up Stewart river about 45 miles. Since the staking there has been more or less placer mining along the various streams throughout this portion of Yukon Territory, and quite an important amount of gold has been obtained. Very little information has been available, however, concerning the geological conditions or mining operations throughout most of this region. Of the area adjoining Stewart and Yukon rivers and lying to the south of the Stewart, possibly less even was known than of the remaining portions of this general district. Accordingly, at the close of the field season of 1915, the writer spent ten days examining Scroggie, Barker, Thistle, and Kirkman creeks, which are the only four creeks in this locality on which any actual mining is known to have been done (Figure 1). These creeks were all discovered¹ in 1898, and since that time they have yielded between \$200,000 and \$300,000 in placer gold. When visited in September, 1915, about seventy men were actually engaged in placer mining on these streams, and during the winter months one hundred or more are employed, the greater number in winter being due to the fact that the creek gravels can in most places be worked by drifting. This method is one which may be pursued to advantage during the winter months, when very little other work is available in Yukon, and when prospecting and practically all other forms of placer mining are impossible.

Owing to the short time that was available, the examination of the creeks must be regarded as of only a preliminary nature. During the course of the investigation, the writer was accorded every possible assistance by all persons met on the various creeks, and he wishes to express his appreciation and gratitude for the many courtesies and kindly co-operation everywhere extended to him.

¹ In Yukon, when gold is found on a creek, and a Discovery claim is staked, the creek is said to be "discovered." This usually results in the creek being stampeded and staked practically from end to end