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**The Stikkeen River Routes.** What appears to be one of the most direct practicable routes to the Klondike country is that by way of the Stikkeen river. The Stikkeen enters the Northern Pacific in Alaska, near the 56th parallel. The right of navigation in it is, however, guaranteed to Great Britain by treaty, and the river is said to be navigable for about 150 miles. From the point thus reached to Lake Teslyn, which is connected by navigable waters with the lower Yukon; is only about 125 miles, and the country it is said presents no serious engineering difficulties to railroad construction. It is stated that the Canadian Pacific contemplates the opening up of this route, and with such purpose in view has surveying parties now in the country. The plan proposed is to run a line of fast steamers from Victoria to Fort Wrangell, at the mouth of the Stikkeen, place lines of light draft steamers on the Stikkeen and also on the Upper Yukon waters, connecting the two by the proposed line of railway. It is believed that by this means Dawson city, in the Klondike country, can be reached in about ten days from Victoria. It is thought the route could be kept open about seven months of the year.

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**The West Indies Sugar Industry.** For a year or two past complaints have been coming from the West Indies, especially Jamaica, that the sugar industry in the colony was on the verge of ruin, owing to the impossibility of maintaining successful competition with the bounty-protected beet sugar producers of Europe. A royal commission, appointed in England to investigate the subject, has recently presented its report, confirming the statements as to the collapse of the sugar industry. The West Indian sugar producers ask to be put on equal terms with the European producers in the British market by a tax upon foreign sugars, and the chairman of the commission, Sir Henry Norman, advocates that policy. But the proposal finds little or no support in England. The British tax-payer, while sympathizing with the Jamaican sugar grower in his embarrassment, does not carry his sympathy to the point of being willing to introduce in his special interest the protective principle. The business interests in Great Britain dependent upon cheap sugar are very great. There are the jam, biscuit and confectionary manufactures, which now profit by the bounty-fed sugar industries of Europe, but which would be seriously handicapped if Sir Henry Norman's proposal to place a duty of a cent a pound on foreign sugars should be adopted. It is said that such a tax would cost Great Britain \$30,000,000 yearly, which is about twice the value of the sugar exported by the West India colony. The problem with which the sugar producers of that country are confronted is the more difficult because the competition against them is unnatural. If it were natural and therefore permanent, it would be

manifestly the part of wisdom for the sugar cane growers of the Indies to turn their attention to other more profitable forms of industry. But under actual conditions, it is not improbable that, if the pampered beet sugar industry of Europe succeeds in driving out of competition the cane growers of the west, the bounties will be withdrawn, with the result that the price of sugar will rise to a point that would make the production of cane sugar profitable again.

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**How to Spell Them.** The prominence into which the Yukon country has been brought of late through the excitement over the Klondike gold fields has caused the names of many places of which the world at large had previously heard nothing to be printed daily in the newspapers. Some of the names are of Indian origin and some have been given by white explorers of those northern regions, but, very naturally under the circumstances, there has appeared a great variety of spelling in reference to both classes of names. The United States Board on Geographical Names which meets in Washington at stated intervals is the best authority we have for the proper spelling of these names, and as correctness and uniformity in these matters are to be desired we give the following summary of decisions lately published by the Board in reference to a number of names which are appearing prominently in connection with accounts of the Yukon gold country:

"As to Klondike; the decision is to spell it as here given, not Clondyke, Klondyke, Chandlike, Chanik, or Deer, Reindeer, Trondike, or Thron Duick. One of the lakes of the Upper Yukon was named Lebarge by the Western Union Telegraph expedition in 1868, after Mike Lebarge, a member of the exploring party, who is now living somewhere near Ottawa, Canada. Late publications have fallen into the error of spelling this Lebarge, but the board adheres to the original form Lebarge. There is a Lebarge River in Alaska. When Schwatka descended the Yukon in 1883 he named one of the lakes on its headwaters Lindeman, after Dr. Moritz Lindeman, now vice-president of the Bremen Geographical Society. This sometimes appears erroneously as Linderman. The board adopts Lindeman. One of the principal tributaries of the Upper Yukon is the Lewes River, named by Robert Campbell, of the Hudson's Bay Company, about 1848. This is often mis-called Lewis.

The inlet, river and village at the head of Lynn Canal, which now appears in the newspapers almost daily under the form Dyea, the starting point for the overland route, is an Indian word which has appeared in many forms. Admiral Meade in 1869 wrote it Tyys, Krause in 1882 wrote it Dejah, Schwatka in 1883 Dayay, Dall in 1883 Taiya. The board adopts the form of Taiya. For the lake and river variously called Hootalinqua or Hootalings, or Teslin-Hina or Teslin-Too, or Teslin, the board adopts Teslyn. The terminations Hina and Too are said to mean river in different Indian dialects. An Indian village on the middle Yukon is called Nuklugayet. This has been written in several forms, including the erroneous one Tukluket."

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**The Fight in Greater New York.** As the time for the municipal elections in connection with the inauguration of civic government in the greater New York draws nearer, the interest in the issue of the contest grows stronger. It is not only the millions of people within the bounds of the great prospective municipality who are interested, but intelligent men the world over are eagerly watching the progress of the battle. Great interests are at stake, and a triumph of the forces which make for righteousness and purity in civic affairs will mean much, not only for New York, but for hundreds of other cities in which essentially

the same fight must be made. The contest may be described as a quadrilateral one. Four parties are in the field, with four set of candidates for municipal honors. The candidates for the mayoralty are Hon. Seth Low; the nominee of the Citizens' Union; Hon. Benjamin F. Tracy, who is virtually the nominee of the Republican boss, Senator Platt; Henry George, the single-tax advocate, who is the nominee of the National Democrats, or Bryanites, and Judge Van Wyck, the nominee of Tammany, and of "Boss" Croker. Mr. Low is understood to be in politics a moderate Republican, with some reservations, and personally he would no doubt be acceptable to all the better class of Republicans. But Platt's antagonism to Mr. Low is on the ground that he was not nominated by the Republican machine, and that if he were elected, the patronage of the municipality would not be manipulated in the interests of "the party." No one appears to expect that Platt's candidate can win, but the Republican boss will consider it more than half a victory if he can bring about the defeat of Low by Van Wyck, and thus show that the choice for greater New York in civic affairs must lie between Republican machine rule and Tammany rule. A great deal of enthusiasm is manifested on behalf of Mr. George, and his candidacy will be especially successful among the laboring men. The present indications are that as between Mr. Low, Mr. George and Mr. Van Wyck, the election will be a close one. The Outlook believes that the final issue will be between Mr. Low and the Tammany candidate, and though it declines to make definite predictions, it considers that there is a very fair chance for Mr. Low's election.

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**Britain and France.** The realm of diplomacy is largely a *terra incognita* to all except those who are within a certain privileged circle, and in spite of the highly developed curiosity and powers of divination of an army of most industrious newspaper correspondents, the world is often taken by surprise when moves which have been secretly made upon the chess-board of the nations come to be announced. A short time ago the British public received with surprise and disapproval the intelligence that Lord Salisbury had made concessions to France, by which the latter is to be permitted a free hand in dealing with Tunis, which will doubtless lead to a permanent establishment of French power in that region. Later it has been announced that France has withdrawn her opposition to Britain's continued occupation of Egypt. To have this cause of friction removed is doubtless of great importance to British interests in upper Egypt, and in the African continent at large. England has too much at stake, both in Africa and in Asia to be willing to surrender for some time at least her hold upon so strategic a position as is the country of the Nile, and as British influence unquestionably has done and is doing much for Egypt, there is no good reason why it should not continue. The removal of causes of friction between Great Britain and France is in itself a matter for thankfulness, as being not only a guarantee of peace between these two powers, but as making for peace among the nations generally.

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—We regret that it is necessary to make demands upon the patience of some of our correspondents this week again, by holding over to another issue some of the communications they have sent us.