

probably the voyageur will make the best of his time northward. After following down the Mackenzie river to nearly its mouth, when the confluence of Peel river is reached the course is then across Peel river to the mouth of a small stream called Rat river, which requires to be ascended, and here the value of a suitable boat is demonstrated. While Rat river is a mountain stream, the mountains are but 500 feet or so in height and the river is passable for small boats almost to its source. On the height of land some small lakes exist, out of which flows the Bell river, a branch of the Porcupine, itself in turn a branch of the Yukon, and to reach these lakes a portage of not over half a mile is required from Rat river. This route was travelled years ago

The time required is variously estimated up to three months, but the make of boat, experience of the party in boat travelling and whether they have a guide are all factors that will count. Said Mr. Geo. Gairdner, of the Edmonton-Yukon bureau of information, an old-time Hudson's Bay Co. employe, who has spent some years in the Yukon country, "I would not be afraid to make the trip in sixty days with a picked crew of experienced men and a good boat."

OVERLAND FROM EDMONTON

To leave Edmonton for the Yukon gold fields overland is quite a different proposition from taking the water route. Indeed it is quite different

mountains, but take their rise on the western slope and find their way east through passes in the mountains. These rivers, even in their lower reaches contain gold bearing sands and especially on the Peace considerable washing with good paying returns has been done on the bars and benches for years. As long ago as 1862, Wm. Cust, a prospector still living and now a resident near Edmonton, made good strikes on the upper waters of the Peace River, his richest strike being on a bar of the Findlay River, three miles from its confluence with the Peace. All the results obtained on these waters by Cust and others were in short periods of work, supplies being scarce and no one having gone in outfitted for anything more than prospecting. Where these



WATER ROUTE TO THE KLONDYKE.—Party at Athabasca Landing Preparing to Embark.

Photo by C. W. Mathers

by Mr. Jas. McDougall, a Hudson's Bay Co. officer still living in the north country. The journey down Bell river to the Porcupine and then down the Porcupine presents no serious obstacle. The Porcupine flows into the Yukon at the site of old Fort Yukon, some 300 miles below Dawson City and the Klondyke. Here again, where the voyageur has to "track" or pull his boat up stream, the superiority of a properly constructed boat shows itself in the greater ease with which this work can be done.

The whole distance covered by this route is but little over 2,700 miles from Edmonton, as compared with the ocean and river route via St. Michael's and the mouth of the Yukon, over 5,000 miles.

from any other means of access to that region. To begin with (and here is the important feature), the route, or routes, for there is choice, leads direct to and along the headwaters of the sources and tributaries of the Yukon, taking their rise on the western slope of the most easterly range of the Rockies. And the point which requires emphasis is that in this slope of this very range are all the rivers and streams, including the Klondyke, which have thus far been the location of rich gold finds. In addition to the rivers, such as Pelly, McMillan and Stewart, which are tributary to the Yukon, the overland prospector must cross the valley of the Peace and the Liard Rivers, tributaries of the Mackenzie river which flow east from the

men got their best results they had to leave owing to shortness of supplies, and in many cases never returned. On Cust's richest strike on the Findlay river, Peter Toye, another old timer, also made good washing some years after. Eighteen miles above Rocky Mountain portage rich diggings were struck. Mr. Cust remarks on all these diggings that no one had ever got to bed rock lying to the water, and the presumption is that the richest finds would be there.

In order to travel overland from Edmonton the prospector requires to provide pack horses for the transport of his supplies, and suitable animals are cheap and plentiful in the district and in all parts of the west, as it is a field of usefulness for which the gay