

THE YUKON GOLD FIELDS.

HOW TO GET THERE, AND WHERE TO OUTFIT.

George M. Dawson C.M.G., describes the Canadian Yukon as bounded to the south by the northern limit of the Province of British Columbia (Lat. 60°), to the west by the eastern line of the United States Territory of Alaska; to the east by the Rocky Mountain Ranges and the 136th meridian; and to the north by the Arctic Ocean. The district, as above defined, has a total area of approximately 132,000 square miles, of which, according to the most recent information, 150,768 square miles is included in the watershed of the Yukon. "The superficial extent of the district may perhaps best be realized when it is stated that it is nearly equal to that of France, greater than the United Kingdom by 71,000 miles, ten times the area of the Province of Nova Scotia, and nearly three times that of the New England States."

Whether or not the whole of this vast area is auriferous cannot now be said, but there is reason to hope that in all parts of it paying deposits of gold and silver may be found. Sufficient is already known, although only a very small part of the district has been prospected, to rank the Yukon as among the greatest placer gold fields that have ever been discovered.

Gold was first discovered in the Yukon basin in 1881, when a party went up the Big Salmon River, a tributary of the Lewis, for a distance of two hundred miles and found gold on all its bars, many of them paying very well. During the next few years the mining was done on the Hootalinqua, which flows out of Teslin Lake and into the Yukon. In 1886 gold was dug out of the Cassiar bar on the Stewart River in considerable quantities. Since then gold has been found on Forty Mile Creek, Sixty Mile Creek, Miller Creek, Glacier Creek, Birch Creek, and last, but by no means least, the creeks tributary to the Klondyke.

Forty Mile Creek is for the most part in Alaska, that is in United States territory; the head waters of Sixty Mile Creek are also in Alaska. Miller, Glacier, and Birch Creeks were once thought to be in Alaska, but are now known to be in Canada, and Stewart River and the wonderfully rich Klondyke are wholly in Canadian territory. The latter flow into the Yukon from the eastward, and the whole of the Lewis, Big Salmon and Hootalinqua Rivers are in Canada.

The Klondyke enters the Yukon near the 64th parallel of North Latitude. As yet no paying deposits of gold have been found in the main river itself, the rich placers, which have excited attention all over the world, being upon its tributaries which enter it from the south.