

J. C. BREWER.

Left for Yukon in 1897.

I got the news of the great gold strike on the Klondyke. I bought a boat twenty feet long and five foot beam, and one Tibbits went with me. We left Alert Bay and went up the Vancouver Island shore, then crossed the Sound to the mainland and headed up Queen Charlotte Sound. The weather was fine and we sailed with light breezes, rowing at times and taking advantage of the tides. We skipped Millbank Sound by a little channel which cut the rocky cape, one too small to be marked on our chart. We called at Bella Bella and at the mouth of the Skeena River and Port Essington; thence to Ketlakahla and twenty miles farther north at Port Simpson. George Rudge, a marble cutter from Victoria, and Dr. McGillivray had built a little hotel there. The old stern-wheel steamer "Caledonia" was hauled out for the winter and the crew at the hotel. Rudge took me out in the evening to introduce me to the Town. Some of the houses were painted quite nice and in one house there was a very pretty little Klotchman playing "Yankee Doodle" on the piano. We left Port Simpson and crossed to Portland Canal on a strong wind. We passed through a number of small islands and landed at Tungass Island where there was an old deserted Hudson Bay building, a small trading store and an old Dease packer, who was still strong and vigorous. Some white men were here from the Nass River with their Indian women, and as they had a five-gallon keg of whisky with them they were having hilarious time. A man called "Russian Charley", hailing from Juneau, had a small boat and stopped at the Indian Village of Ketchikan. The Priest and the Indians tried to drive him away because he was giving liquor to the natives, so Charley got a stick of