

Better than Gold

up the *Times*, which was lying on the floor beside his chair, and glanced down the columns.

'Read that,' he said, handing the paper to me, and pointing to a paragraph headed in bold type, 'A NEW ELDORADO.'

It was only a few lines, but it was to the effect that 'gold had been struck very rich' on a small tributary of the Yukon River called Klondike, far away in the North-West territory of Canada, about one hundred miles from the Alaska boundary. The reports of returned miners showed that for hundreds of square miles the tributaries of the Yukon were teeming with gold, and instances were cited of lucky individuals taking out as much as twenty or thirty thousand pounds worth of gold dust and nuggets in a few weeks. The richness of the field was confirmed by the report of the Canadian commissioner to the district, and it seemed more than probable that the discoveries of '48 in California and later on in Australia would be completely eclipsed by those of the Yukon. At the same time, intending immigrants were warned that the district being on the verge of the Arctic circle, the climate was a terribly severe one, and that food was already almost at famine price owing to the inrush of miners from the States.