

learn that they were still as far from the Klondike, so far as the expense of travel and time are concerned, as they would have been at Dyea or Skagway.

It would now seem that at last the residents of the Yukon Valley are to have a regular mail. A semimonthly service has been established between Juneau and Tanana, at a cost to the Government of \$56,000 per annum, and a monthly service is provided for between Tanana and St. Michaels, at a cost of \$23,000 per annum. Mr. John P. Clum, a post-office inspector, to whom had been given the power to appoint postmasters, traversed the entire length of the Yukon during the present summer and established post-offices as follows: Eagle, at the mouth of Mission Creek; Star, at the mouth of Seventy Mile Creek; Yukon, at Fort Yukon; Rampart, at the mouth of Minook Creek; Tanana, opposite the mouth of the Tanana (the station designated in the prospectuses and on the maps of the North American Transportation and Trading Company as "Weare"); Koyukuk, at the mouth of the Koyukuk, and Anvik, at the mouth of the Anvik River. Upon the recommendation of Mr. Clum, the Post-Office Department has issued instructions to the postmasters at Juneau, Tanana, and St. Michaels authorizing them to employ special carriers to perform the service whenever the contractor shall prove delinquent. This wise provision, lacking heretofore, will solve the problem of a regular mail service on the Yukon, so far as human agencies can overcome the difficulties. There is a period of about a month in the spring, just preceding the breaking up of the river, and another in the fall, following the closing of the river and varying from thirty to sixty days, when it is impossible to travel, and until permanent trails or roads are constructed, the post-offices along the Yukon will receive no mails during the periods indicated. (a)

At St. Michaels reliable information was obtained in regard to affairs at Kotzebue Sound, the scene of the most profitless of all the stampedes that have occurred as accompaniments of the general movement to the Klondike. Kotzebue Sound lies just beyond Bering Strait and forms the southern arm of the Arctic Ocean. The three principal rivers emptying into it are the Noatak, Kowak, and Selawik. During the past fall and winter the newspapers of the Pacific coast published numerous articles setting forth that marvelously rich placer ground existed on these three streams, particularly on the Kowak. As a result of these stories, which seem to have been based on a rumor that the Indians of that region occasionally brought small quantities of

^a As this Bulletin goes to press, it is learned that it is the purpose of the Canadian Government to maintain a fortnightly mail service during the winter along the Yukon between Skagway and Dawson, with post-offices at Bennett, Tagish House, White Horse Rapids, Lebarge, Hootalinqua, Big Salmon, Little Salmon, and Sixty Mile. It is presumed that a post-office will also be maintained at Forty Mile; if so, it will be dependent upon our service, as the Canadian service does not extend below Dawson.