

hundred passengers aboard, were caught in the ice last fall in that vicinity, and a town known as Rampart City sprang up at the mouth of Minook Creek, about 50 miles above the Tanana. The town, which is well built, had a population during the winter of four or five hundred, many of whom thoroughly prospected quite a number of the principal creeks in the district. No ground of value has been opened up on Minook Creek. Little Minook, which enters Minook Creek about 8 miles from the Yukon, has proved to be the best creek in the district. There are about thirty claims on the creek, each 1,000 feet in length, and most of them paid wages. From No. 6 to No 10, inclusive, the claims are rich, so far as developed. No. 8 produced \$30,000 from 45 feet of ground. This output was the result of five months' work by two men. Nos. 6 and 9 are also very rich. On Hunter Creek, 2 miles nearer the Yukon, coarse gold has been found all along the creek. Two men on No. 1, above Discovery, shoveled in for a short time from the rim rock, 10 feet above the bed of the creek, and averaged \$20 each per day for the time employed. There is pay in the benches along Hunter Creek. Quail Creek, which is near the head of Hunter Creek, was discovered late in the season, and 15 or 20 men are working there. The ground is shallow, making good summer diggings. Prospects running from 25 to 40 cents to the pan have been found. On Julia, Leonora, Miller, Hoosier, Gold Pan, and Chapman creeks, all of which run into Minook parallel with Little Minook, coarse gold has been found. The claims have not been worked, but simply represented. About April 10, 1898, a discovery was made on the hillside above No. 9, on Little Minook, and within a few days \$1.60 to the pan was obtained. There was immediately a stampede, and the hilltops between Little Minook and the Yukon were all staked. This formation is similar to that on the hills between Eldorado Creek and Skookum Gulch in the Klondike district. It is supposed to be an old river bed or glacier channel, and can be distinctly traced for miles by the bowlders and the gravel shown on the surface. With a crude rocker \$67.50 was taken out in six hours, and the hillside claims have yielded nuggets weighing from \$4 to \$8 each. Work is being prosecuted there now. The claims are 1,000 by 660 feet. Surface water is utilized in the spring for washing up the dumps. Minook gold is coarse and very pure, the returns of the Seattle assay office showing that it mints \$19.50 per ounce. The largest nugget taken out in the Minook district during the winter weighed \$184. A great many nuggets were found, the owner of No. 8 on Little Minook having taken out \$3,500 in nuggets weighing from \$6 to \$60 each. There are a great many creeks in the district which have not been staked or prospected. Several quartz locations have been recorded, but they have not been proved to be of value. The ore is refractory, selected specimens assaying as high as \$200 per ton. There is plenty of wood on every creek for cabins and firewood, while there is an abundance of water and sufficient grade for sluicing. The