

the proper development of the country depends. Alaska must not be simply stripped of its mineral treasure; this must help to enrich the settler, and afford him opportunities of molding the country in ways that will soonest bring it the joys of civilization.

The soil of the country is rich and its valleys are luxuriant every summer with waving acres of wild hay. Experiments have demonstrated that the hardier cereals and all manner of vegetables can be raised with profit. A government agricultural station has been established at Sitka for experiment, and its reports have been most encouraging. The long days of summer sunshine—when the sun is below the horizon only an hour out of the twenty-four—cause vegetation and cereals to develop with great rapidity. It is not a question of days or weeks with their growth, but simply a matter of sunshine and light. The hundreds of islands of the Aleutian peninsula will some day be dotted with farms and stock-ranges, while the interior is capable of supporting an affluent population. There will come

a time when Alaska will be one of the wealthiest possessions of the American domain.

On July 19,

1897, a steamer arrived from the north with about a hundred and fifty Klondikers on board, their great buckskin sacks almost bursting with gold dust and nuggets. All had money, and several of them had each over a hundred thousand dollars' worth of the precious yellow stuff. Within twenty-four hours the news had spread all over the world, and the rush to the new Eldorado set in immediately. Miners came from England, France, Germany and Spain, while South Africa and Australia gave up their prospectors by the thousand. The mining regions of the United States were threatened with depopulation. Chilkoot pass and Dyea, the route selected by the Indians for



FIRST SLUICE-BOX ON PINE CREEK.



ARRIVAL OF THE FIRST PASSENGER-TRAIN AT THE SUMMIT OF WHITE PASS, FEB. 20, 1899.

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