

phenomenal, being made on lines that are sure and enduring, and withal by no means slow.

WARNING NOTES.

Joaquin Miller, who has recently written in a much more sober-minded style about the Yukon, sounds several useful notes of warning in a recent letter to the San Francisco Examiner. Thus he states, that without the slightest evidence of the existence of gold lodes—the ground being covered with frozen muck or glacier for a depth of from five to fifty feet—many hundreds of quartz claims have lately been located and registered in the Dawson district, with a view to sale either to foolish tenderfeet or else to wily promoters, who will, by means of unproved and probably worthless claims thus acquired, float bogus companies in the United States and England. None but a fool will buy a quartz claim in the Yukon, unless first proved on the best and most trustworthy authority to be not only gold productive, but rich almost beyond precedent. In such a land as the Yukon a gold quartz claim must be of at least five times the average value of a like profitably workable claim elsewhere, having regard to the extreme cost of labor and machinery, and the great difficulty of mine development.

Another point made by Mr. Miller, and well worth noting by would-be Yukoners, has been made before, but cannot be too often repeated. It is that Dawson, being built on a pestilential mudswamp, is, to quote Mr. Miller, "going to be the sickliest place in spring you ever heard of." The sooner, therefore, those now in Dawson, when and where able, spread themselves further around, the better. The fewer among others who enter there to live, the better also, in every way, as the available ground near Dawson has practically all been taken up long since. There will assuredly be terrible trouble, distress and sickness in the Yukon shortly, unless to Dawson City there be added several other fairly large mine camps, that will take away many of the superfluous temporary residents of the town on the dismal swamp. It is already clear to men who know the Yukon

well, because they have long been compelled to live in that land under very hard conditions, that there is little chance of a Canadian railroad now reaching the headwaters of the Yukon sufficiently early in autumn, to enable the getting in of next winter's supplies. Hence Captain Constantine, the chief of the mounted police at Dawson, has already ordered from the Alaska Commercial Company, for inshipment via St. Michaels, the next winter's supplies for his company of 100 men. Captain Constantine sees serious difficulties in the way of next winter's provisioning of a big host of Yukoners, and it is already clear that if 100,000 or more people enter the country shortly—half of whom will probably only carry with them supplies for a few months—there must of necessity be again brought about a big enforced winter exodus of those whose rations are "running out."

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Victoria Times is to be commended highly for seeking to ascertain and tell the truth, cost what it may, concerning the Yukon passes, even if the result be to show that the Stickine route is for the present almost impassable, though travel along it will be fairly easy in a month, when navigation opens. Difficult and dangerous are also now the two other leading routes, with trails breaking up, and, in addition, completely blocked at some early points on the way north by thousands of tons of goods, and a vast horde of dogs, horses and human beings. Those who can, will wisely wait at least a fortnight, yet, ere attempting their, in any case, arduous journey towards Dawson, and the warnings of the Victoria Times may well have saved from much suffering, and it may be even death, many a previously uninformed northern gold-seeker. What though revelation of the truth may postpone for a period, or even prevent, the making of transport or other arrangements, and thus retard or hinder profit earning on the part of some amongst us. Our trade should rest on truth, and require no dependence upon the suppression of awkward or unpleasant facts that should be known in