

CHAPTER X.

It might not be out of place to mention here my idea of a poling boat. Having worked with all kinds of boats I find a shovel-nosed boat is good, but it costs much money and much labor to build it, and for a cheap safe boat the scow model is the best for river work.

For a party of two or three a boat forty-five feet long and four feet wide will carry two tons and draw only six inches of water.



Description—Six feet wide on top, forty-five feet over all, four feet wide at bottom, two feet deep, six inches to the foot of flare. In the after end give seven inches of a rise in eight foot run. This boat, as sketched above, with poles and bell cord line two hundred feet long is good; a sail ten feet by ten feet with back stays and halyards leading forward will in some parts of the river be a help. The sail should be six feet above the boat so that one can see under it and when the halyards lead forward the sail can be lowered from the boat.

The discovery of gold on Gold Bottom and All Gold Creeks by Bob Henderson started twenty thousand prospectors and traders to the Yukon River and the Klondike, and after many of them had made fortunes in the Klondike more prospectors wandered over to the American side and discovered Nome, Fairbanks and other places. Then more gold on the creeks of the Lower Yukon, copper at White Horse, coal fields on the South-West Coast, oil and gold at Seward. Hundreds of traders followed the prospectors and this, with fur buying, farming and fishing at the coasts, made hundreds of small towns grow up. This in turn started the great coast freighting business and built Vancouver, Seattle and other coast towns into great cities. The great number going to the new country greatly increased the market for the farmers' produce and turned for the opening of the Peace River country, which has shown the people of Canada that the limit of their best agricultural land has not yet been reached. The Americans are now going to spend mil-