

ECONOMIC POSSIBILITIES OF YUKON—CAIRNES

this amount, and all the important deposits of economic minerals, including the known valuable gold-bearing gravels, have been found within the 17 per cent of Yukon Territory that has been more or less prospected. It is thus only to be hoped that the remaining unprospected 83 per cent will prove to be relatively as valuable as the better known areas which are situated along the main waterways. This hope is strengthened when it is remembered that the discoveries so far made, dominantly occur along the main waterways, as before mentioned, and it is scarcely to be supposed that the streams of the territory in originally choosing their courses, were able to select the only areas possessing mineral wealth, and thus traverse them with a view to enabling the future prospector of to-day to make his discoveries the more readily. It must be borne in mind, however, that the prospected portion of Yukon—the 17 per cent—embraces the famous Klondike district which includes the richest gravels ever discovered in the world, and it is quite possible that no other area of similar extent may ever be found to contain gold in such phenomenal abundance. Nevertheless, the remaining portions of Yukon also contain valuable deposits of placer gold as well as other minerals, in fact, certain somewhat extensive belts are known to be quite highly mineralized. There thus seems no reason to suppose that the extensive, unexplored, interstream portions of Yukon, may not yet prove to be of great economic importance.

The principal natural resources of Yukon Territory, according to existing knowledge, include mainly mineral deposits and land suitable for agricultural and grazing purposes. In addition, the fur industry is one of considerable importance, and the forests, fish, and game are assets which must be considered. The mineral deposits are, however, of much the greatest present value; these include, chiefly, gravels containing placer gold, various types of lode deposits, and coal, as well as some native placer copper. The forest growth, though nowhere dense, is of considerable local value. The fur, fish, and game are of relatively slight importance when compared with the mineral resources, but are sufficient to largely, at least, support for many years to come, the few hundred natives in the territory, and a limited number of white men.