

GOLD MINING IN YUKON IN 1915

According to the Dawson Daily News the Yukon Territory has contributed to the outside world approximately \$185,000,000 in virgin gold. This magnificent sum has come chiefly from the placers within fifty miles of Dawson. Other rich creeks within 100 miles of Dawson have furnished the bulk of the remainder, while the remaining portion has come from more distant locations.

The record shows a fluctuating output during the ten years previous to the famous discovery on Bonanza Creek in 1896, a tremendous yearly increase until the banner year of 1900, and a gradual decrease until the lowest ebb was reached in 1907, and then began a continued upward leap due to the installation of hydraulics and giant dredges. Since 1910 the fluctuation has been but slight, and the shipments from Dawson have approximated \$5,000,000 annually. In 1914 the slight shrinkage was accounted for to considerable degree by the breaking down of one of the largest dredges just as it got into the best of pay. The same dredge has been out of commission all of this season, undergoing repairs, and it is not certain when it will resume work, so that it is not aiding in this year's totals. Another dredge which worked most of last year on Bonanza is idle this year. But, notwithstanding the idleness of the two dredges, a splendid showing is being made.

The 1915 production is estimated at \$4,750,000, a slight increase over that of 1914.

"The Yukon Gold Company's dredges have been in some of the richest ground this year that they ever worked, and, as a consequence, the total yield for this season of the Klondike camp is ahead of last year. The Yukon Gold Company worked one virgin claim, No. 21, on Eldorado, this season, from which an enormous sum was taken. The claim was bought in the early days of the camp by John J. Healy, the veteran frontiersman, for the N. A. T. & T. Co., and never was worked, so that when the dredge got to work there this year it found the pay as rich as custard. Representatives of the two companies say nothing of the total clean-up, but rumor has it that the dredge got fully half a million dollars in virgin gold out of the ground.

"Some Eldorado claims yielded much better than that by old methods. Tom Lippy, of Seattle, is said to have cleaned up more than a million and a half from No. 16 Eldorado, and No. 17, which was owned by Jim Hall, was a marvellous producer. Both of these claims, like nearly all the best Eldorado properties, were worked by steam thawing and hoisting methods. The old system required five or six years to work out a claim, whereas the dredges now work out several of the claims in a single season, and take up several feet of bed-rock and get therefrom much gold which the miners by the old methods could not get.

"The yield now is slightly lower than a year or two ago. Bonanza and Eldorado are now worked by new methods, to a large extent, and other creeks which have been under preparation for the new methods are expected to begin yielding in another season.

"The Treadgold properties, totaling many miles, on Dominion and Quartz creeks, have been in preparation for several seasons, and the first excavator or machine for working there on the large scale has just

arrived. It is now being hauled to the creek, and is to be set up this fall. Mr. Treadgold is expected to arrive here this fall to see it work. The machine was worked in England as a test before being sent here. Similar excavators are used for other classes of mining on an extensive scale in other parts of the world.

Producing Creeks.—"The gold is extracted from the Klondike river, between Bear and Bonanza creeks, and from Bonanza, Eldorado, Hunker and Gold Run creeks. The largest hydraulics are along Bonanza benches. Milvain is working a dredge on Miller creek. Individual production also comes from Sulphur, which now leads in activity on old time creeks near the city and elsewhere in the territory.

"It has been estimated by some that the placers in the old Klondike district, that is, within fifty miles of Dawson, still contain \$130,000,000 to \$150,000,000. The Treadgold property of Indian river, Dominion creek, Quartz creek, Sulphur and tributaries alone aggregating 75 miles or more, have been estimated in the company's prospectus to contain fully 300,000,000 cubic yards carrying 30 cents to the yard, or \$90,000,000. It was stated some time ago that eight miles of gravel between Bear and Bonanza creeks, on the Klondike, remaining to be worked and carrying gravels worth 22 cents a yard, contain fully \$20,000,000. The Yukon Gold Company's properties remaining in the camp are believed to contain fully that much, if not far more. They include, besides properties on Hunker, Eldorado and Bonanza yet unworked, a large portion of Gold Run. Upper Gold Run, comprising 70 claims, also is practically unworked. Many other creeks in the territory being worked by individuals may yet yield millions.

Possible Dredge Propositions.—"Creeks which have been looked on as possible dredge propositions, but which are yet in the hands of individuals, include Gold Bottom, Allgold, Eureka, Clear, Barlow, Scroggie, Mariposa, Henderson, Barker, Thistle, Britannia, Canadian, Nansen, Livingstone, Big Salmon, some of the Kluane creeks, Highet and several others of the Mayo district and a long mileage on McQuesten, many miles of Forty-mile and tributaries, while below the Yukon boundary are numerous creeks in the gold belt in the Circle district, including Independence, Mammoth, Mastodon, Woodchopper and Coal creeks; the several creeks about Eagle and others out of which individuals have taken much gold.

"If the Treadgold excavator works as estimated it will bring many of the lower grade creeks into the producing zone, which years ago never were dreamed of as being workable at a profit, but which are indicated to contain such pay that were they in a thawed zone would produce multiplied millions even by the old dredge methods. Some predict that ground sluicing and scraping or excavating methods, if not dredging, will yet win their golden treasure and good profits to the operators."

"Scotty" Allan, a well-known driver of racing dogs in Alaska, has returned to America from France, whence he went with about 400 malamutes from Alaska and Labrador, for which the price was \$100 each. Some of the dogs had been winners of long distance races over frozen trails in the Nome region, Alaska. Mr. Allan was in Montreal at the end of December and went thence to Berkley, California, to visit his family before returning to Alaska.