



THE GOLD MINING IN YUKON. The pioneer miners of the Klondike mined under many and strong disadvantages, but be it said to Dame Fortune's credit, their returns were in many cases fully great enough to compensate. The wood fire maintained in the shafts at night thawed the frozen ground for removal next morning, and the same system of sluiceboxes and waterways now most in evidence here snatched from the long-hidden gravels their concealed golden grains. All over Yukon the expensive but effective old-time system of mining will be noticed by our visitors on their tour of the creeks, save that the wood fire has been replaced with steam thawers, and it is therefore unnecessary to dilate upon the old system. What is newest to us, and that which we look to to revolutionize this camp and quicken its life-blood into something of the frenzied movement of the rush days, is the newer and larger plants and mining systems of the larger companies, and it is with them that this book will treat mostly.

Because of the cost of supplies landed in Dawson, the expense of mining is excessive. Vast deposits of gold-bearing gravel that would be considered an Eldorado of fabulous richness elsewhere cannot be handled here to a profit except by the reduction of the cost of mining over what it has been in the past. The individual miner has in many cases been compelled to release ground that was reasonably rich but that with his limited facilities he could not make pay a profit, and from the accumulation of such properties, and by purchasing the holdings of speculative concessionaires who were the first terrible menace that confronted the camp, strong mining companies have attained mining areas upon which they are spending fortunes on machinery preparatory to developing their holdings, and it is of some of these greater plants that we would speak.