

THROUGH THE YUKON.*

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Extent of the Yukon.

THE Yukon Territory is a huge district of approximately 198,000 square miles on the north of British Columbia, between the Mackenzie River on the east and Alaska on the west. It lies in the same longitude as Norway and Sweden from Christiania northward. The auriferous gravels extend over such an enormous area that figures can hardly be given. The Klondike gold fields, as popularly understood, however, cover a small area of thirty to forty square miles, bounded by the Klondike, Yukon and Indian Rivers. But prospectors have been busy, and the country to the north, the west, and the south is here and there awakening into life.

If you travel northward from the great coast range to the north of British Columbia, you will find that the general elevation tends to fall all the way until you reach a range about twenty miles north of Dawson. The coast mountains show a maximum altitude of about 19,000 feet, which steadily diminishes as you go north, and the highest point in the Klondike, the Dome, which some vainly expected to be the "mother lode" of the alluvial gold, is only 3,700 feet. The Klondike is thus, as it were, an extensive valley sheltered behind the coast mountains. This geographical situation determines the climate of the



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Yukon. To the fall and elevation of the country add the fact that the coast range sifts the cold, damp winds of the coast of their moisture, and it will be understood how we find the interior of the Yukon so dry. Add further the intensity and long duration of the northern sunshine from May onward, and it will be easily understood, as Mr. Treadgold remarks, how it is that we can pass from winter on the Alaskan coast, as early as May, into summer in the Yukon interior, though faring due north all the time.

It is probably the Alaskan coast and extraordinary tales of winter hardship which have given people the impression that the interior of the Yukon is a land of almost eternal winter. In the romantic days of a couple of years ago photographers had a great run on fantastic winter scenes. But the man

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