

the freight automatically at and taken off destination, in hooked on starting-point. For five miles of ion in opera- steepest grades not route, and shortly have miles in oper- may reason- ected by the ay. Another h much more ans, has just d on the con- one of these from its own

two miles out brought to Lake thus covering the land trip. e to carry ar- 500 pounds in tell as "knock-

s. eved that the f these plans to lies over the eight hours, bring the rate d to about ten handle freight and Skaguay, id by a neck of e sea known as

n of claims vary ne, the limit on aving been re- 0 feet in length, extending from length running high-water mark e further. This ar diggings" are high-water mark its lowest water- simply 100 feet

were staked and the old law, and made of the new ble to meet with

a stubborn resistance from them, as is also the 10 per cent. proposed as royalty to be put on the output of these older locations. But the Dominion of Canada will probably deal with the problem in a broad and liberal way, as the case would seem to demand. The prospectors were induced under different laws to hunt for gold in its frozen domains, and a law that would be retroactive would simply be bad faith. The new Canadian law also reserves every alternate ten claims for the crown. This reduced-claim area is calculated to dampen the ardor of the argonaut, for at best it reduces his prospects to one-fifth of what was allowed the pioneers. While the American side has not been proven nearly so rich, yet our Government permits the taking up of an equivalent to about twenty acres, or fifteen times as much as on the British side.

CANADA'S EQUIVALENT FOR HER EXACTIONS.

Canada also proposes to levy a duty on miners' supplies brought into the Northwest Territory, but the exact amount has not yet been determined from knowledge of the application. For the greater tribute it is true that Canada gives the better service. A claim on that side the boundary can be perfected with more dispatch than on the American side, and she lends assistance readily to open trails to new camps of any considerable size, connecting them with supply points; she has, moreover, a police system and mail service superior to that of Alaska proper.

The miners' meeting is the only government in the interior of Alaska, but it appears nearly to have outlived its usefulness, and with the growth of the country and the introduction of a class of

fold—legislative, judicial, and executive. No provision is made for a governing officer, the whole fabric resting on the great American principle, "majority rules." Universal suffrage is given and all have an equal vote. The method of proceedings is as follows: If a man has a grievance he posts a notice to that effect and calls a meeting for a certain date. At the appointed time the miners of that locality assemble, generally in the open air, and a moderator from their number is appointed. Then the prosecutor presents his case; the defendant answers. Cross-questioning speeches pro and con are made, and



NATIVE-BUILT FISH-TRAPS IN THE CHILKOOT RIVER.

Photo by J. F. Pratt.

in the end some one puts a motion, which is either carried or defeated. If carried, the penalty is imposed without delay.

III.—HOW AND WHERE THE GOLD WAS FOUND.

For half a century the existence of gold in Alaska has been known. It was reported by Tebenkof in 1848 and again by the engineer Deroschin in 1851, and from 1848 to 1855 the Russian-American Company spent a large amount of money in active mining operations. A force of forty miners under Lieutenant Deroschin was kept continually at work at the head of the inlet on Kaknoo River and in the Kenai and Prince William mountains. They found gold, but in such small quantities that their enthusiasm gradually waned, and the diggings had been deserted for fifteen or twenty years when the country passed into the hands of the United States. Ten years later Choquette and Carpenter found traces of the precious metal on the Stickeen River, and Prof. W. P. Blake verified this discovery in 1863. In 1873 there was some excitement over a discovery in Southeastern Alaska, but the real



CACHES TO PRESERVE WINTER PROVISIONS.

Re-drawn from photograph.

non-producing adventurers, attracted by the hopes of making their fortunes at the expense of the producers, it is fast becoming a mockery.

The powers of the miners' meeting are three-