

in the way of hardware, notions, etc., etc. Glassware, ammunition and the thousand and one things needed to make an ideally complete Yukon outfit can be purchased here at prices which will compare favourably with those charged by firms who make much greater pretensions. Mr. Taylor personally supervises every department of his rapidly increasing business and purchasers will find that he is willing and able to assist them in securing the best and most suitable goods for their purpose.

W. H. MORTON.

The view in this issue of the interior of the general hardware store of Mr. W. H. Morton, conveys a fair impression of the dimensions and variety of the stock carried. Mr. Morton, who is one of the aldermen of the city and well-known as an energetic and enterprising business man, purchased a few months ago the stock-in-trade, etc., of his present establishment from the estate of the J. H. Pleace Hardware Company and investing considerable capital in increasing the number and variety of lines carried has now one of the completest hardware stocks in the province. He also does a large manufacturing and repairing business, and in Yukon cooking stoves and camping utensils, will be found well up-to-date.

D. H. BECKLEY & CO.

To visit the store of Messrs. D. H. Beckley & Co., Nanaimo Meat Market, Victoria Crescent, and see the vast and varied assortment of fresh meats, game, poultry, sausages and bolognas of which an excellent and artistic display is always on hand, is to be convinced that attention to details and a determination to neglect no means likely to ensure success are characteristics of the firm. Six years' experience in their present location, during which time they have secured by far the largest share of the meat business of the city, has enabled Messrs. Beckley & Co. to successfully compete in the filling of large shipping orders, while in the hotel and general wholesale and retail trade they have distanced all rivals.

#### PRESENT PROSPECTS IN THE YUKON.

**M**ANY of those into whose hands this special edition of the MINING RECORD may fall will ask what prospects there are for anyone going in in the spring. It is all very well, they will say, to tell what has been done and what sort of an outfit a man requires who is bent on going there, but what are his present chances for making what miners call "a stake" when he gets there?

While little has been said specially on this point in the foregoing pages, Inspector Ogilvie and Mr. Jones have answered the question inferentially, and in a way that will encourage the fondest hopes of those who are bent on seeking sudden fortune in the great gold fields. It is now too late to stake any claims about Klondyke. Hunker Creek, Gold Bottom and Last Chance Creeks as well as the creeks of the Indian River district, Dominion, Sulphur and Quartz, have already been thoroughly prospected and staked out; but there is still plenty of unoccupied land where gold will unquestionably be discovered in sufficient quantities to reward the adventurous souls who seek it. Not only does the prospect for placer mining seem practically limitless, but the outlook for quartz mining is particularly bright. Of course mining is

an uncertain calling. In its preliminary stages skill is not of so much account as luck. It would be idiotic to argue that all of those who seek the gold fields will return rich men. The fact is, rather, that many of those who go will fail, and it should not be forgotten that unless a man is physically able to stand the hardships of the difficult journey, it is much better for him to stay at home. But when all this is said, there is still the fact that this vast district is rich in placer deposits and there can be no reason for doubting that the discoveries already made are a mere prelude to what is to come. Inspector Ogilvie says: "We have in this province an area of from 550 to 600 miles in length and from 100 to 150 miles in width, over the whole of which rich prospects have been found. Stewart and Pelly Rivers in this gold-bearing zone, also give promising indications. Everywhere good pay has been found on the bars." The man who has made up his mind to take the chance and face the hardships will find in Mr. Ogilvie's assurance every encouragement to seek the favours of My Lady Fortune.

On the subject of quartz claims Mr. Ogilvie has this to say: "On Bear Creek a quartz claim was located last winter, and I drew up the papers for the owner. He had to swear that he found gold; he swore that he did, and he told me the amount, which, if true, will make it one of the most valuable properties that exists in the country. On Gold Bottom another claim has been located, and I made a test of the ore. The poorest result obtained was \$100 to the ton, while the richest was \$1,000." But while there may be an attempt at quartz mining later on, there is little doubt that there will be no persistent efforts in this direction until the cream of the placer deposits has been skimmed. The expense of living in this part of the world is so great, and the hardships and discomforts to be endured so great and so many, that placer mining will be abandoned as soon as the results cease to be of the nature that has marked them in the past.

The greater part of the vast Yukon territory is still unexplored. The man who seeks to explore it must face countless dangers and privations, but that the gold is there there is no manner of doubt.

## Everything

The Yukon Miner needs can be  
procured in

# VICTORIA

Of the best quality at ROCK-  
BOTTOM prices, and can be  
carried into the Gold Fields

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