

a few points along the creek is any rock exposed. The tops of the higher hills and ridges are void of vegetation except arctic mosses and lichens, but all the rest of the country is covered with a thick layer of moss which, again, supports scrub spruce, some scrub white birch, and a thick growth of northern shrubbery. This completely conceals the surface of the rocks, and to remove to a sufficient extent to search for quartz prospects would entail a vast amount of labor—much more than the ordinary, every day prospector can afford.

DIAMOND DRILL THE CHEAPEST.

The cheapest and most expeditious method of quartz prospecting here would be by diamond drill. A light portable machine of that description, a compact light engine and boiler sufficient to work it, could be easily made and set up at various points along the various creeks. From the cones thus obtained experts could readily determine what the probabilities and prospects were. This requires capital, but I have no doubt a company formed with this object in view, prospecting in this way, would find it a profitable investment.

All the gold I have seen taken out of El Dorado and Bonanza, for that matter of other creeks, too, bears no evidence of having travelled any distance. Many, it might be said the majority, of the nuggets found are just as regular and irregular in shape as if they had been hammered out of the mother lode, instead of being washed out of the gravel.

MOTHER LOSE ALONG THE VALLEYS.

I have seen no evidence of glaciation anywhere in that district, so I cannot help coming to the conclusion that much of the mother lode from which this gold came will yet be found along the valleys. Whether it is concentrated enough to pay for the expenses of quartz mining can only be determined by proper research. I cannot help thinking that much of it will.

Now let us take a glimpse of the country south of the Stewart river, some sixty-five or seventy miles further up and about 400 miles in length. Its tributary will easily double this. This gives us in the neighborhood of 1,000 miles of stream. On a great deal of surface, prospecting has been done and fine gold found everywhere.

Now, where fine gold is found coarse gold has generally been found too. Assuming this to hold good in the Stewart Valley, we will have here one of the largest, if not the largest mining areas in the world, upwards of 100 miles further up the Pelly joins. On this fine gold has been found, too. Above is the Hootalinqua, upon which fine gold has been found. Still farther south the Cassiar district, in British Columbia, was a famous gold field. Farther on yet the Cariboo district was famous.

GREAT GOLD-BEARING AREA.

Now, draw a line through these several points and produce it northward, you will find that the Forty Mile gold bearing area, Mission Creek and Seventy Mile Creek, below Forty Mile, Birch Creek, Minook Creek, and still farther down the Klondyke, is either in this line or close to it. The general trend of these points lie in the direction of an arc of a great circle of the earth and it is probable that gold will be found along its production as far as Behring Sea. It is likely the gold found in Siberia is a part of the same system.

This shows a most extensive area of vast possibilities. What it wants for its proper development is increased transportation facilities, with the certainty of sufficient food supply to sustain the number of people required. At present and during the past, a visit to the country entailed a long period of time and considerable expense and much uncertainty as to whether or not one can remain there more than a few weeks. Give us increased, quicker, and cheaper ingress and egress, with a certainty of food in this part of Canada, and Alaska will furnish employment to untold thousands.

FOOD SUPPLY NECESSARY.

At present food is so expensive that ordinary, every day diggings, which would prove remunerative in more favorably situated localities, are entirely neglected. At present the food supply available at Dawson and to be laid down there this season will not much if any more than furnish the requirements of those now there.

If the rumors concerning the number seeking access to the country are true there will be much dearth of provisions. To make one's way out of that country during the winter to the nearest point where supplies are available, which is at Dyea or Juneau, is an arduous labor, requiring about one month with a good dog team for its completion.

Now, the people making this trip consume much more food while doing so than they otherwise would. The dogs, too, consume a tremendous amount. The old adage that the cure is worse than the disease is particularly applicable. If those on their way succeed in reaching Dawson they will either have to make their way down the river at once and return to Seattle or remain at Dawson and run the danger of starvation unless they have brought with them sufficient food for one year's use.

SHOULD GO WELL PREPARED.

I would emphatically warn all contemplating coming into this country for the betterment of their fortunes to come well prepared with provisions, clothing and miner's tools, with a few necessary carpenter tools.

In saying this, I do not wish to be understood as at all reflecting upon the companies now trading there. They are making strenuous efforts to meet the new requirements, but the transition from two small mining camps to such a world-famous one as Dawson was so sudden that it found them for the purpose unprepared. Next year their freighting facilities will possibly treble that of this year, but even that will probably be found short.

Then again, the ocean voyage from Seattle or San Francisco to St. Michael's, and from St. Michael's to Dawson, some 1,600 miles, is long, tedious and expensive. More important still, is the shortness of the time in which this route is available. Steamers seldom reach St. Michael's before the end of June, owing to the ice in Behring Sea, and captains of vessels care little about risking a voyage there after the middle of September, as storms are so violent and so shallow is Behring Sea.

ROUTE AVAILABLE FOR THREE MONTHS.

From these causes it cannot be claimed that the route via St. Michael's is available for more than three months in the early—July, August and September. The ice in the Upper

Yukon river breaks up about the middle of May. Generally about the 20th the river is clear enough for steamboat navigation. Ice begins to run again about the middle of October, so that we can count on nearly five months' steamboat navigation in that river, as against three via St. Michael's.

Give us some easy continuous route for the south down the river to these points and we nearly doubled our time available for transport and this, were there no difference in cost, would be quite an item in the development of the country.

But it will probably be found that the cost will be considerably reduced, too. Of course, the cost will be regulated considerably by the amount of demand, but give us the facilities and I firmly believe the demand will rise and meet it more than half way.

To those coming into the country contemplating getting a claim on Bonanza or El Dorado I would say do not think of it. As I said before, both these creeks were located last fall, and if you have money enough to purchase an interest in any of them you have money enough to remain where you are, possibly with as much benefit and assuredly with much more comfort to yourself.

ONLY ONE BONANZA.

The rich claims which have given these two creeks world-wide reputations aggregate 130 in number. From these spring all the stories of fabulous wealth of this region, and these stories are largely true. But as far as I know, up to the present time, there is only one Bonanza and one El Dorado. The other creeks I have mentioned prospected good, but as I have already stated they are practically undeveloped. That other creeks as rich as these two will be found I can neither assert nor deny. That there is an extensive gold bearing area here which will be an important factor in the world's supply of that metal for many years to come I am positive. But I would solemnly warn you to come prepared.

No gold mining camp ever yet found in world enriched more than a few of the miners, and it is sincerely to be hoped that this will prove an exception in that way.

I must qualify this by saying that much of this failure can be attributed to the life the average miner leads. A man with \$2,000 or \$3,000 generally is careful to take steps to keep it in his possession and to increase it. Not so with the average miner, however. It seems to me that he vies with his associates in spending his money as fast as he possibly can, and in most mining camps the facilities for doing so appear to be created and sustained with an ingenuity that is almost diabolical.

FEATURES OF MINING CAMPS.

Drinking the worst brands of liquors, gambling almost unlimited, and prostitution of the lowest order are prominent features of all the mining camps I have ever seen. In Canada efforts will be made to repress these conditions, but with the best efforts in the world only a measure of success can be achieved in that direction. What the majority of the community wants it will obtain, if not openly, then secretly.

If the majority did not want those things, certainly they would not exist to the extent they do.