

rendevzous by everyone, it being the last place where fuel for camp stoves can be procured. From here to the foot of the summit the outfits are taken in 100-pound loads, the cache being marked by sticking a long pole in the snow in the event of a heavy storm which would cover everything up and destroy all vestiges of the camp. After the entire outfit has reached the foot of the summit a favorable day is waited for upon which to make the crossing. On the mountain storms and blizzards are of frequent occurrence and are often of such severity that no human being could live through them. Once across the summit the hardest part of the journey is at an end.

WHEN TO START

Persons who contemplate doing their own packing across the summit should leave Seattle between the first and middle of March. At that time the water courses are still frozen solidly and there is abundance of well packed snow for sledging purposes. As the season advances traveling becomes much more difficult and expensive. The snow melts and becomes so rotten it will scarcely bear up one's weight and the mountain streams are swollen to small-sized rivers. Many persons choose the month of July in which to cross the summit. The trip at that season of the year possesses less hardships than at any other time, and if one's finances will permit of his having all his labor performed by others the journey will be found to be one of much pleasure and interest. As a rule it is only those who already have claims located or are in business who make the trip in the summer. In the spring when the great influx regularly occurs the trail soon becomes packed as hard as adamant and once beyond the summit prodigious loads can be hauled on a sled drawn by but one man. As the ice in the river breaks up several weeks before it does in the lakes a great many either purchase or build their boats at Lake Bennett, mount it on sleds and continue down the chain of lakes and river as long as the ice remains solid, often reaching the canyon above White Horse rapids before it becomes necessary to launch the boat. During the spring of the year a stiff breeze will always be found blowing down the Yukon and a sail hoisted on a sled will be of great assistance in moving the load along. Those who build their own boats should construct them as solidly as possible, as it requires a staunch craft to stand the rough water encountered in running the rapids.

HOW LONG TO STAY

The length of one's stay in the Yukon may be indefinite. But little can be accomplished in the way of acquiring a stake within less than three years, unless one is extraordinarily fortunate.

The first year is generally spent in looking over the country,