

## ECONOMIC POSSIBILITIES OF YUKON—CAIRNES

creek, and Tanana river. This route is quite feasible as far as location, grade, and ordinary problems of construction are concerned. A good grade and suitable location also exists from Whitehorse, the terminus of the White Pass and Yukon railway, westward to Lake Kluane. Also a series of connected valleys or depressions affords an excellent route from White Horse to White and Tanana rivers, via Ibex river, Takhini river, Hutshi lake, Aishihik lake, Nisling river, Wellesley lake, Beaver creek, Snag creek, and Mirror creek.

Thus when the necessity arises, there need be no lack of railway transportation facilities throughout Yukon, and particularly throughout the southern portion of the territory. At present, however, the building of these railroads would not seem to be warranted, but if instead, a number of good, trunk wagon roads were constructed, similar to the Whitehorse-Kluane road, which would crosscut and intersect the more promising portions of Yukon, and thus allow prospectors and others to prosecute their explorations and investigations with reasonable facility, such would be of great and immediate benefit to the territory.

### SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Yukon is thus a vast territory concerning much the greater part of which very little or nothing is known. The prospected and explored areas, however, have proved to be very rich in natural resources. More than \$157,000,000 in placer gold has already been produced, and there is estimated to be still between \$30,000,000 and \$45,000,000 remaining in the explored gravels of the few already producing districts. In addition the writer has estimated that within the explored portions of the territory there are probably 5,190,000,000 tons of coal in seams one foot or more in thickness, and this estimate is so conservative as to practically represent "known" instead of "probable" coal. Further, valuable lode deposits of economically important minerals are widely and extensively distributed throughout the known portions of the territory which undoubtedly constitute an important future asset to the territory. Also there are thousands of square miles of valuable valley lands which are well adapted to various