

THE ATLIN DISTRICT.

RESULT OF LAST SEASON'S WORK AND THE PROSPECTS FOR
THE FUTURE.

(By Wm. Baillie.)

It is estimated that last summer there was a population of between 6,000 and 8,000 people in the Atlin district. A year previously, the district was wholly unknown, though not many miles from it, tens of

known as the first discoverer of placer gold in the Atlin district, went in from Juneau. They returned with the tidings of their discovery during the summer, and immediately chiefly from the ranks of the men employed on the construction of the White Pass and Yukon Railway, there was a stampede of many hundreds of people to the new gold fields, and as the area of the placers was found to be extensive, none of them



Atlin—Scene on Tramway, two miles long, connecting Taku Arm with Atlin Lake, to be replaced this Year by a Railway.



Atlin—Commodore John Irving's Steamer, The "Gleaner," plying between Bennett and Taku City.

thousands of people were coming and going over the dreary trail to the mining fields of the Klondike. In the spring of 1898, a party of three or four prospectors, the chief of whom was Fritz Miller, now well

had difficulty in locating and recording claims for themselves. But they came in at the tail of the season, and winter closed in on them before they had an opportunity to attempt much in the way of actual gold getting. Still, in the shallower diggings, enough had been done to give great promise of wealth to the lucky claim holders when the grip of winter should be loosened by the sunshine of the coming summer. The gold production of 1898 is variously given at figures somewhat below \$100,000.

Meanwhile the news of the Atlin discoveries had reached the capital of the Province at Victoria and thence with marvellous rapidity had spread the world over. As usual in such cases the reports were frightfully exaggerated, and Atlin was heralded as a gold field equalling and outstripping the great Klondike. It may be said at the outset that while Atlin, as shown by the extensive mining operations of 1899, cannot be compared in point of richness as a placer field for the operations of poor men in the way of panning, rocking and sluicing, with the Klondike, it still has been demonstrated to be a mining district of very extraordinary interest and importance. Nor is its import-