

until the waters begin to flow late in the spring, and not until then is the luck of the miner determined.

Prospecting during the summer is not a joyous undertaking by any means. The labor necessary to pack the tools and a sufficient quantity of supplies over the hills and across the marshes has a tendency to relax one's energies and seriously impair good nature.

In considering the ordinary difficulties of a prospecting tour in Alaska, we must not fail to include the mosquito pest. Myriads of these pesky insects spend the summer in Alaska; they emerge from the bark of firewood in the winter, and come skating down the glaciers in the early spring. The Yukon variety has no conscience, nothing but an appetite—a thirst for gore. Snow and frost do not destroy them, and they utilize the dense fogs as an ambush from whence to pounce upon the unwary prospector. It is almost impossible to move about the trails or to undertake any kind of labor during the summer unless thoroughly protected by some sort of mosquito bar. As there is no night on the Yukon during the summer season, the mosquito evidently feels that it is not proper for the Klondiker to sleep while the sun shines, and does everything in its power to encourage wakefulness. Although the active members of this host of tormenters are usually small their bite would do credit to a much larger beast.

No. 96.

Gold Miners at Work.

There are some portions of Alaska in which hydraulic mining is carried on to advantage, although the developments in this line are still in their infancy. Of course all mining of this character must be undertaken during the summer or open season.

No. 97.

Transfer Point at St. Michael, en route to Dawson.

During the crusade of 1898 there were thousands who shrank from the hardships and dangers of the trip by way of the Chilkoot Pass, the lakes and upper river, and, therefore, contented themselves as best they could until the Arctic winter let go its frigid grasp on Bering Sea and the