

"In the meantime, however, I venture to point out to you that two most misleading statements occur in paragraph (II.) of your circular.

"In this paragraph you couple the Chilkoot and White Passes as being capable of transit in two days, and that by horses or Indian carriers.

"The facts are as follows:—

"The Chilkoot Pass is absolutely impracticable for horses, and difficult and dangerous for men, in proof of which I would refer you to the letter of Mr. Harry de Windt, appearing in the *Times* of the 23rd instant.

"The charges made by Indians for carrying loads on their backs to the summit only of the Chilkoot Pass has amounted to from 6d. to 10d. per lb.

"The Chilkoot Pass debouches on the head of Lake Bennett, whence a long and tedious water-passage occurs before the Windy Arm of Tagish Lake is reached, with shallow and difficult rapids intervening, called Cariboo Crossing, where a long portage is usually necessary. (See Dr. Dawson's map.)

"The result of this is that last spring a party of eight miners who went over the White Pass (before the trail now completed was constructed) reached Tagish Lake some fourteen days before another party who started *via* the Chilkoot Pass on the same day.

"It is correct to describe the White Pass route as occupying two days (although our agent recently rode through it and back in that time), but to reach the same point by the Chilkoot will occupy, under the best conditions, eight or ten days.