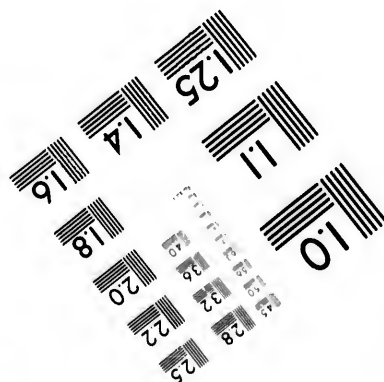
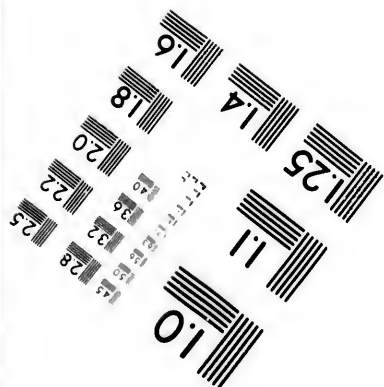
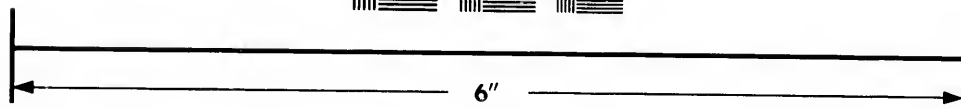
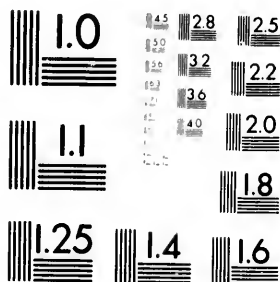
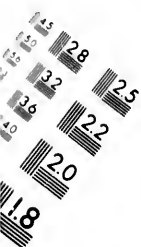


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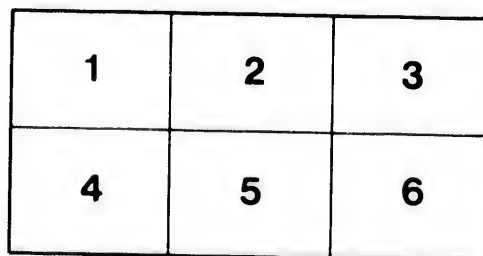
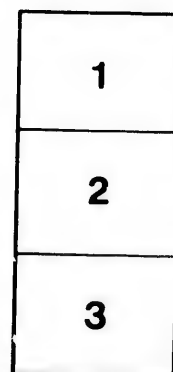
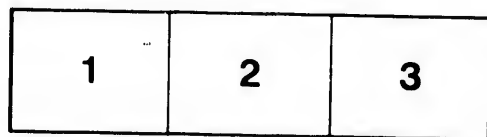
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# HO! FOR ALASKA



HOW TO GO  
WHAT TO TAKE  
WHAT IT COSTS  
WHAT YOU FIND



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# ALASKA GOLD FIELDS.

## KLONDIKE SYNDICATE OF NEW YORK CITY.

**\$100,000 Capital, in 10,000 Shares of (\$10)  
Ten Dollars Each.**

**Liability limited to the amount of stock subscribed and paid for at par.**

### THE OBJECT OF THE SYNDICATE IS :

**1st.**—To acquire and work certain valuable Placer and Quartz Gold Claims, to be located in the KLONDIKE GOLD FIELDS and ALASKA, by A PROSPECTING PARTY OF TWENTY-FIVE (25) members, who will be selected by the Board of Directors, from the Subscribers.

**2d.**—To obtain money, on the co-operative plan, to pay for the expenses of securing and working the Mines, examining Titles, furnishing Surveys, Engineer's Report, Estimates, etc.; all of which is to be incorporated in a suitable Prospectus, as follows :

The Syndicate will proceed to business as soon as the first five hundred shares are sold.

The reason for this is, that this amount may be enough to accomplish the primary object of the Syndicate.

The limit of expense for organization purposes and services shall be five thousand dollars (\$5,000), and by delivery to the promoters of said Syndicate, an equivalent amount in Syndicate full-paid shares to that which may have been paid for in cash, as and when the same may have been paid for in like amounts.

**N B.**—The members of this Syndicate will, in addition to the above, be entitled to receive **ten times** the amount of their subscriptions (upon surrender of their Syndicate certificates,) in **full-paid** shares, of each of five separate Five Million Dollar (\$5,000,000) Companies, to be organized on each five (5) of the Gold Mining Claims, when secured by the prospecting party.

**Without further payment**, \$500 in stock will be given for only \$10 invested; or **fifty times** the amount of your subscription. **This stock will be listed on the New York Mining Exchange.**

**By joining this Syndicate you will have an interest in all of the twenty-five claims we secure.**

The Syndicate Prospecting Party will consist of a Physician, a Mining Engineer, a Purser, a Cook, and twenty-one (21) competent and hardy Mine Workers.

It is proposed that each Company formed shall own at least one or two Quartz Claims, as well as Placer, in order that work may be done all the year round, while the Placer can only be worked in the Summer. Besides this, Placer Claims in time become exhausted, while Quartz Claims seldom do, and very often prove to be of the greatest value. From all accounts and from reliable authority, this is the **Greatest Gold Discovery** the world has ever known, and to those who have not the means, or the time to go, we would say that it is your fault if you do not invest what you can, **now**, and secure a competence, without risk or expense, to which others are subjected. This is the one opportunity of your life; therefore take advantage of it while you can. You cannot lose much and according to authentic reports you are sure to reap a rich harvest.

### SUBSCRIPTION BOOKS NOW OPEN.

For full particulars write to or apply at the Office of the Syndicate, **No. 17 Broadway, Rooms Nos. 1 and 2**, between the hours of 9 A. M. and 6 P. M.

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For Index see last page

## HO FOR ALASKA!

## HO FOR THE KLONDIKE!

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WHAT a fever of excitement has been stirred up in the veins of millions by the marvellous stories of the fabulous wealth discovered in the alluvial deposits of the Yukon! The country is almost beside itself at the extraordinary revelations, and many an ordinarily soberminded citizen finds himself strangely thrilled by the tales of sudden fortunes taken from the gravelly soil of our great river of the northwest. An uneasiness, such as that which sent many a Spaniard on a luckless quest for the will-o'-the-wisp El-Dorado in days of old seizes the breast of the day laborer, the clerk, the plodding professional man, the half-successful merchant, or the effervescent speculator. "Why should I toil along in a mere hand-to-mouth existence," he says to himself, "while others are picking up independent fortunes on the Yukon? What is a few months' hardship in exchange for ease and comfort for the rest of my life. I'll pack up and go at once."

Ah! But "there's the wife;" or, "there are the little ones;" or, "I am tied down by business;" or, "I can't raise the necessary money," or numerous other restraining causes appear on second thought, which serve fortunately as wholesome restraints to the too impetuous. We are not Arabs or Indians, leading a nomadic existence, free to fold up our tent on a moment's notice and migrate whithersoever we will. And so, we comfort ourselves with philosophical reflections on the compensations of civilization and conclude that the Lord intended us to be poor all our earthly lives, in order that we may inherit the kingdom of heaven.

The man who is so tied down that he cannot get away will find

much in the following pages to solace him. The man who is free to go will find in them much to help him. We propose to paint an unvarnished picture. We intend to tell the truth, pro and con, as faithfully as we can, and base our statements on information from the most authentic sources accessible.

### TRUTH OF THE KLONDIKE STORIES.

In the first place there is no doubt about the substantial truth of the Klondike stories. They agree with well-known geological data, and they are consistent with themselves and known facts. The man who is to be discouraged from setting out for Alaska must be deterred by considerations other than the supposed absence of the gold. The gold is there! It is there in such quantities as make it probably the richest gold bearing region on the continent. For centuries upon centuries Boreas has been gnawing at the golden vitals of those titanic mountains with his glacial teeth, and dropping his precious shining crumbs in the valleys and canyons for men to gather. Amid scenes of unparalleled grandeur and marvellous diversity—a diversity so great as to present almost contradictory physical features—this process has been going on until the region has become an Aladdin's storehouse of riches. For the lover of nature, let alone the lover of wealth, a trip to Alaska is worth the cost. There stands the mighty St. Elias range, with an altitude of 20,000 feet, wedging the earth and the sky, and clothed in a perpetual bridal of snow, looking across a vast primeval region to other mountains still smoking with Plutonic fires. Frozen deserts alternate with hot marshes; and boiling springs issue from beneath the ponderous, slow-moving glaciers.

In one section a climate milder and more equable than that of our familiar State of Maine, contrasts in another with the rigors of eternal winter. There, in the land of the midnight sun, thermometers register in certain localities 120° above zero in the hot season, and 70° below zero in the cold. There, during the short, quick summer, the butterfly flits lazily across a region blooming with beautiful flowers which for nine months of the year is locked in the deadly embrace of the Ice King, and in which a civilized being can scarcely maintain an existence.

During the short summer, the banks of the Yukon are fringed with flowers, carpeted with the all pervading moss or tundra. Birds countless in numbers and of infinite variety in plumage, sing out a welcome from every tree top. Pitch your tent where you will in

midsummer, a bed of roses, a clump of poppies and a bunch of blue bells will adorn your camp. But high above this paradise of almost tropical exuberance giant glaciers sleep on the summit of the mountain wall, which rises up from a bed of roses. By September everything is changed. The bed of roses has disappeared before the icy breath of the Frost King, which sends the thermometer down to seventy degrees below freezing point. The birds flee to the south-land, the white man to his cabin, the Indian to his hut, and the bear to his sleeping chamber in the mountains. Every stream becomes a sheet of ice; mountain and valley alike are covered with snow.

These rivers and lakes extend in the vast systems measured not by hundreds but thousands of miles, diversifying the scenery and affording avenues of travel. With the exception of the small settled portion of southeast Alaska, the country is a primeval wilderness, grand and inspiring. It has no railroads, or wagon roads. Communication is entirely by natural courses. It has almost no laws, as will appear in the succeeding pages, although it is probable that the sensation produced by the gold discoveries will secure in near future that adequate measure of consideration from Congress for which the Governors of Alaska have repeatedly pleaded in their successive annual reports to the Secretary of the Interior. Indeed, it may be said that this is an important turning-point in Alaskan history; that the rich gold-finds in the Yukon country will lead to the speedy development of this almost wholly neglected territory; that Alaska will become a constantly increasing factor in our national existence; and that she will attract the attention not only of the speculative, but of the sober minded, enterprising business men of the country.

This further may be added, by way of preface: the next twelve months will probably see more suffering and hardship in Alaska than any succeeding year. Carried away by the cyclone of excitement, a multitude of people will rush into the wilderness beyond the capacity of the region to subsist them. The reports all agree, as might have been anticipated, that there is no packing outfit now at Chilkoot or at any other supply base that is capable of getting in supplies for any large number of men. Another season there will be. At present there are but two avenues of entrance to the Klondike country—one through the Yukon, which is closed by ice from early September until June; the other overland and down the chain of lakes and rivers from Dyea to the upper waters of the Yukon. But a year hence, there will probably be two or three more routes

opened up, by way of the Stikine river, or by Chilkat Pass (which is shorter than by Chilkoot), or by other ways. On July 22, 1897, a joint resolution for the construction of toll-roads in Alaska was reported favorably in the United States Senate, from the Committee on Territories, by Senator Carter. The resolution authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to grant rights of way two hundred feet wide. Franchises are to be limited to twenty years. The rates of toll are to be approved by the Secretary of the Interior, and the roads are to be under the supervision of the Secretary. The resolution applies to "trails, wagon roads and other highways." This will afford opportunity for a decided improvement in the means of interior communication. Transportation of supplies will be easier and more reliable. The organization of new transportation companies from the United States to Alaska will remove the carrying of food and equipments from the hands of the monopolies that have controlled them heretofore. Prices will go down, conditions of life will be ameliorated, and in many ways the mere business of sustaining life, to say nothing of digging fortunes, will be a less desperate struggle a few years hence than just now.

Meanwhile, the gold supply will hold out. The presence of these placer deposits yielding rough gold indicates that the precious metal has not been carried far from its original quartz veins, and suggests that there are treasures yet locked in the rocky chests of the mountains, to be taken out when the placer gold has been picked up, and when, in the due course of events, it becomes practicable to transport milling machinery into the interior or to carry the unmilled ore to the coast. The gold deposits exist over a length of 500 or 600 miles. New districts will be discovered and opened up year by year during probably the next ten or twenty or thirty years. Now that the first rich diggings have been found, the progress is likely to be fairly steady.

In order to understand intelligently the conditions which will surround the enterprising man who, like the Spanish conquerors of old, sets out to make his conquest of Alaska, it is necessary to glance at the history, physical characteristics, and governmental regulations, before taking up the more local subject of the Yukon gold deposits.

### HISTORY.

In 1725, under commission of Peter the Great, an expedition crossed the continent from St. Petersburg to Kamschatha. Here a vessel, the *Gabriel*, was constructed in 1728, and sailed with Vitus

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Behring as master, who discovered St. Lawrence Island, and passed through Behring Strait, which he named. In July, 1741, on another expedition, Admiral Behring discovered the American continent in latitude  $50^{\circ}$  or  $58^{\circ}$  north (authorities differ). During the next hundred years there were numerous other expeditions by the Russians, who took possession of the region, and it was called Russian America.

In 1864, negotiations were privately begun for the acquisition of the territory by the United States, but our Civil War distracted attention, and it was not until 1867 that the purchase was effected by treaty for the sum of \$7,200,000. There was a fierce opposition to the measure in Congress, and it was carried through almost wholly by the efforts of Secretary Seward and Senator Sumner. After the purchase, ridicule was heaped upon it, and the question was asked: "Now that you have it, what are you going to do with it?" The answer was not long in coming, and it came in such unmistakable facts that criticism was turned to praise. In the next twenty-two years, the products of Alaska paid for the original purchase price eight or ten times over, the furs being worth \$46,500,000, the canned or cured fish \$10,000,000, and gold and silver \$7,000,000 in round figures; to say nothing of the whale and oil fisheries and minor industries not included in the foregoing.

### GEOGRAPHY.

Beginning at Demarcation Point, on the northern extremity of the boundary line between Alaska and British America, lat.  $69^{\circ} 38'$  N., long.  $141^{\circ}$  W., the coast extends westward to Cape Barrow, thence southwesterly to Point Lisburne, thence in a general southerly direction follows the line of Kotzebue Sound, Behring Strait and Behring Sea to the southwestern extremity of the Alaska Peninsula. From this point the Aleutian Islands sweep away to the southwest in a curve of a thousand miles with its convexity to the south. From the same point the mainland makes a mighty bow of 1,200 miles, trending first in a northeasterly direction, then bending to the east and south to Cape Muzon, at the entrance to Dixon Sound, in lat.  $54^{\circ} 40'$  N., long.  $132^{\circ} 40'$  W. Dixon Sound extends eighty miles due east to Portland Inlet from the entrance to which the boundary line extends about eighty miles more in a northerly direction through Portland Inlet and Portland Canal. Thence the boundary line extends in a generally northwesterly and westerly direction to a point just north of Mount St. Elias, and then runs

due north along the 141st meridian to Demarcation Point first mentioned. (See "Boundary Question.")

### SEAL ROOKERIES.

The rights and interests of the United States in the fur-seal and other fisheries were acquired by purchase from Russia, and conveyed to it by treaty of cession. The fur seal rookeries are located on the treeless and rocky Pribylov Islands (St. Paul, St. George, Otter and Walrus), near the center of that part of the Behring Sea ceded to United States, and about 1500 miles due west of Sitka. St. Paul has an area of thirty-three square miles and St. George of twenty-seven square miles. The Alaska rookeries maintained a seal population of about 4,000,000 up to 1886, in spite of the capture of an average of 100,000 seals a year for the preceding fifteen years, but since then the number has been reduced by the indiscriminate slaughter to less than half a million. This destruction of our seal fisheries has been and is yet a subject of serious international concern between the United States and Great Britain.

### POPULATION.

The eleventh census of the United States, taken in 1890, placed the population of Alaska at

	White.	Mixed.	Indian.	Total.
Male.....	3,853	891	12,106	16,850
Female.....	445	923	11,426	12,794
	4,298	1,814	23,532	29,644

Including those who have gone to the Yukon country, the white population has been increased to date by about 3,500, most of whom have settled at Juneau and vicinity.

### DESCRIPTION.

From north to south the extreme length of Alaska is about 1,100 miles, and its greatest breadth from east to west 800 miles. Its total area is about 580,000 square miles. Alaska exceeds in area the original thirteen states, with Maine, Vermont, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee and Alabama added, or nearly one-fifth of the whole United States and Territories (not counting Alaska itself). The vastness of this domain may be realized from the fact that the meridian of the most western island of Alaska, Attou Island, lies 64 degrees west of that of San Francisco. San



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Francisco is practically the longitudinal center of our dominion, lying 56 degrees west of the longitude of Eastport, Me. Taking the fortieth parallel of latitude as a convenient line of measurement, the meridian of Eastport is 3,000 miles east of that of San Francisco, and the meridian of Attou Island 3,400 miles west of it, in round figures.

Alaska has 4,000 miles of sea coast and 25,000 miles of shore line, 1,100 islands, sixty volcanoes that have erupted since Russian possession; thermal and mineral springs, hot marshes and warm lakes.

Along the southeastern coast in an almost continuous chain of precipitous mountains, from 3,000 to 5,000 feet high, but rising much higher than these in the Mount St. Elias and White ranges. Mount Logan is 19,500 feet high. From Mount St. Elias west to the extremity of Alaska Peninsula, with the exception of a section about Cook Inlet, the coast region is very broken and mountainous, although the mountains are not so precipitous as in the southern portion, and the lumber growth becomes smaller until it ceases entirely from Kadiak Island westward.

The interior beyond the coast mountains is less elevated and contains extensive plains and hilly country about Behring Sea and Arctic Ocean. The vast valley of the Yukon and other extensive river systems are partly wooded. The shore is deeply indented with inlets or sea channels, which form a means of penetrating the interior. Some of these salt water ways are supplemented by immense rivers like the Yukon and its branches, the Kuskokwim, the Nushagak, the Copper, the Stikine, Noyatak, Colville and Kowak.

Glaciers are numerous among the mountains of the southern and southeastern portion; and the frozen tundra lands of the Arctic region and in the Yukon valley, a few miles back from the river, afford no wood or timber and give little promise of future cultivation.

Much of Alaska is *terra incognita*, and so far as the white man is concerned is a sealed book. Descriptions of the country, north of Cook Inlet, are based on the conflicting stories of the natives, who say that the rivers lead into lakes, and the lakes are connected with other lakes, until the waters flow into the basins of the Tanana and Yukon.

The forests of Alaska form a prominent feature of the country. Along the coast and on the islands, from its south-eastern boundary

to Kadiak Island, and on the peninsula opposite, there is almost one continuous forest, except where the mountains rise to a height of 1,500 feet or more. The vast region of the interior northward is partially covered with forests.

The Yukon River and its southeastern branches, including the Klondike region, are fringed with dense forests, while to the northward the growth becomes gradually more stunted until in the low country, bordering the Behring Sea and Arctic Ocean, it disappears entirely. Alder bushes, fringing the streams, and driftwood, furnish fuel, except what wood and coal are transported. The lumber business has been harassed by the unfortunate conditions of land titles, and most of this lumber is transported from the United States.

### CLIMATE, SEASONS AND DAYS.

In judging of the climate of Alaska, careful regard must be had for the standpoint of the observer. In a vast country extending over  $16\frac{2}{3}^{\circ}$  of latitude, there is a wide opportunity for a diversity of statements. A governor of Alaska, in a recent government report, says the climate has been unjustly abused; and meteorological reports made from the latitude of Sitka are certainly not very appalling. For instance, here is a sample year, taken at random, covering observations made on the U.S.S. *Pinta* at Sitka and other places in southeastern Alaska, from July 1, 1890, to June 30, 1891:

	TEMPERATURE.			DAYS.			
	Max.	Min.	Av.	Fair	Cloudy	W or S	Thunder and Lightning.
1890, July.....	80	51	58.0	8	15	5	.....
" August.....	74	44	56.5	17	8	6	.....
" September.....	70	42	53.3	5	2	23	26th and 27th.
" October.....	66	34	45.8	11	2	18	.....
" November.....	61	34	43.3	6	3	21	.....
" December.....	46	22	35.1	11	5	15	5th and 6th..
1891, January.....	57	32	40.5	2	5	24	.....
" February.....	59	17	34.5	17	3	8	.....
" March.....	58	20	39.1	5	10	16	.....
" April.....	59	33	43.4	12	9	9	.....
" May.....	60	36	50.8	16	7	8	.....
" June.....	63	48	56.5	15	13	2	.....

Observations for a series of years show Sitka to be even warmer than Portland, Maine.

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	SITKA, lat. 57° 3'				PORTLAND, ME., lat. 43° 39'			
Year.	Lowest in Winter.	Highest in Summer.	Mean Summer.	Mean Winter.	Lowest in Winter.	Highest in Summer.	Mean Summer.	Mean Winter.
1880..	.....	.....	.....	.....	— 3°	94°	68.4°	30.5°
1881..	.....	79°	54.4°	.....	— 6	88	66.3	26.0
1882..	4°	70	53.4	33.5°	—12	94	68.7	30.4
1883..	8	68	52.1	36.8	1	89	68.0	25.3
1884..	11	75	54.4	35.6	— 8	89	67.3	26.6
1885..	15	75	56.3	35.1	— 6	90	65.7	25.1
1886..	4	72	55.8	34.4	—12	94	64.0	23.3
1887..	3	72	52.5	31.1	—15	96	65.5	21.3
1888..	.....	.....	.....	.....	—12	96	64.6	21.8
1889..	.....	.....	.....	.....	— 8	92	65.0	26.4

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But it should, be borne in mind that Sitka is on the coast, and is under the influence of the Japanese current of warm water (called the Kuro-Siwo) which, flowing across the Pacific Ocean from the tropical region of the eastern hemisphere, strikes the American coast near the southern boundary of Alaska, and is deflected in part northward, following the coast in its sweeping bend westward and southward again. This ocean current produces a mild, equable and moist climate along the coast from Dixon Entrance to the extreme western end of the Alaska Peninsula, and beyond to the thousand miles of Aleutian Islands. But inland, the violent extremes of temperature are shown by the stunted vegetable growth or its entire absence. In the Yukon Valley the thermometer frequently registers over 100 in summer, and from 50 to 70 below zero in winter. From the Yukon, north, there are almost no alleviating conditions. The earth below the tundra moss remains frozen perpetually. Those portions of land lying favorably for drainage produce grass, small bushes, beautiful flowers, and an abundance of berries. Snow does not accumulate to great depth in this region, and there is little rainfall. Cyclones are unknown.

On the coast, in the region of the Yukon, the temperature varies from 70 above in summer to 40 and 45 below in winter. The late summer and fall are usually stormy and wet, the snowfall being from three to five feet on a level. Navigation is closed to the outside seven months of the year by heavy ice on the sea. The Yukon is closed by ice from September to the end of May. In the interior

DAYS.	
5	Thunder and Lightning.
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23	26th and 27th.
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Yukon region the climate is drier with greater extremes of heat and cold. In summer the temperature rises to over 100 and in winter drops to 60 or 70 below zero. Professor Dall records a temperature of 112 in the shade in late June at Fort Yukon and reports traditions of thermometers having burst in efforts to go above 120. He says the month of May, June and part of July are generally delightful, sunny, warm and clear. But in midsummer the only relief from the intense heat under which vegetation attains an almost tropical luxuriance is during the brief space when the sun hovers on the horizon and the voyageur or laborer welcomes the transient coolness of the midnight air. In July, 1897, Archie Burns, a miner, was prostrated with sunstroke while crossing the pass from Dyea. He recovered and proceeded after two days' rest.

In the winter of 1896-97, according to the record kept at Fort Constantine, the temperature in the Klondike district first touched zero November 10th, and the zero weather recorded in the spring was on April 29th. Between December 19th and February 6th it never rose above zero. The lowest actual point, 65 degrees below, occurred on January 27th, and on twenty-four days during the winter the temperature was below 50 degrees. On March 12th it first rose above the freezing point, but no continuous mild weather occurred until May 4th, after which date the temperature during the balance of the month frequently rose above 60 degrees. The Yukon River froze up on October 28, 1896, and broke up on May 17, 1897.

In regard to the length of the day, it is a striking commentary on the vast extent of the American Republic that the sun rises on our easternmost possessions as it sets on our westernmost. In the late spring and early summer there are a few weeks when sunrise in Eastern Maine occurs before sunset in the westernmost Aleutian Islands, distant 120° of longitude. In fact, inasmuch as the extreme northern part of Alaska is within the Arctic circle there is a short period, near the summer solstice, when there is daylight for twenty-four hours a day. It is literally the Land of the Midnight Sun, and in summer a man can work almost as many hours a day as he likes. Labor contracts should therefore be specific on this point, for the benefit of both employer and employé.

In May, voracious flies and mosquitoes appear in frightful swarms, so thick as to look like smoke, and it is impossible to do anything without the protection of a netting mask and gloves. It is said that men have been driven to suicide by Alaskan mosquitoes.

## GAME.

In the following pages prospectors are frequently cautioned against depending upon the game supply of the gold country for their subsistence. The further up the Yukon one travels the scarcer becomes the food supply, until in the Klondike region and thereabout it ceases almost entirely. There is practically no large game, with the exception of one or two moose and reindeer, which have become separated from the rest of the herd and wandered out there. Reindeer formerly were seen in very large numbers on the Yukon, some two or three hundred miles from where the Klondike flows into it, and a gentleman who spent two or three winters there several years ago states that he has seen a herd of at least 5,000 reindeer cross the river on the ice in one day. He also saw moose and caribou in herds of large number, but such an occurrence is unusual. There may be a few rabbits, ducks and geese in the spring, which disappear very quickly. Lower down the Yukon, at certain seasons of the year, there is abundance of game, probably from 400 to 500 miles from the Klondike River. The moose is about the largest. There are beavers on the streams and various kinds of deer, bear and caribou. In the winter months these go south and disappear almost entirely. The polar bear is found several degrees further north, never appearing in that vicinity. In the mountain streams which feed the Yukon River there are mountain trout of good size and flavor. Salmon are found in the Yukon. It was while salmon fishing that Cormack made his famous Klondike discovery. White fish are found near the Klondike, and can be caught through the ice in winter. Early in the spring water fowl, such as ducks, geese and swan, put in an appearance, but they do not tarry long.

## CIVIL GOVERNMENT.

Civil Government of Alaska was instituted by act of Congress, approved May 17, 1884, called the Organic Act; but it is a very inadequate measure, and Alaska, although called a Territory, occupies an anomalous position. She has no representative in Congress, and no local legislative powers; but the government is administered by a Governor, a United States district judge, a United States marshal, a clerk of court, district attorney, collector of customs, (the former at the seat of government at Sitka) and United States Commissioners at Sitka, Juneau, Fort Wrangel and Unalaska; assisted by eight deputy marshals, five deputy collectors, clerks, justices of the peace, notaries public, constables and native police.

The courts consist of the United States district court and four commissioners' courts at Sitka, Juneau, Fort Wrangel and Unalaska. There is an inadequate territorial jail at Sitka, and little "lock-ups" at Juneau and Wrangel, and it is practically impossible to confine malefactors long enough to mete out justice to them.

The forms of legal procedure are enveloped in great uncertainty, each judge doing his best to reconcile the Organic Act of 1884, the Revised Statutes and the Code of Oregon which applies to Alaska.

Across the international boundary, on British soil, the situation is even worse. In the Klondike district, when the first rush took place, there was an utter absence of governmental regulation, so the miners held a meeting and established a sort of government of their own for recording claims. Dominion Surveyor Wm. Ogilvie complains sorely of the need of some kind of a court to settle the various claim disputes that are continually arising between the miners. He says that the force and virtue of miners' meetings prevailed until the mounted police made their appearance, after which sneaks had full swing.

The morality of the Klondike would seem to be of a much higher order than is usually found in new mining camps, the presence of the mounted police seeming to have a most salutary effect. Mr. Ogilvie seems to regret it for he says:

"The man who was stabbed here in November has quite recovered, but may never have the same use of his back as of old, having received a bad cut there. His assailant is out on bail, awaiting the entrance of the judge to try him. As the police are here, there will be no lynching; it is almost a pity there will not."

Mr. Ogilvie takes up the subject of liquor, saying: "The impression of the best men here, saloon men and all, is that the liquor trade should be regulated, that no one should be allowed to bring liquor in but men in business here of established reputation and having an interest in the country; and that the retail traffic should be licensed as in Eastern provinces, to men of fair character only. Now any loafer who can gather enough money to secure a few gallons and a few glasses and wants to have an idle time, sets up a saloon. It is my opinion that it is imperative that the business be brought under control at once, or it may develop phases that will be at least annoying in the future."

#### PUBLIC LANDS AND LAND LAWS.

One of the first things that a prospector, investor or settler wants to know about Alaska is the law governing the acquisition of

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## LAWS.

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titles to public lands. Owing to the anomalous position which the Territory occupies in the sisterhood of the Union, many misunderstandings and contentions have arisen, and the General Land Office at Washington has been overwhelmed with inquiries for copies of the Public Land Law. No time need be wasted in applying to the Government for copies of this law, for it is not applicable to Alaska. The laws which *are* applicable are these:

First.—The mineral land laws of the United States.

Second.—Town-site laws, which provide for the incorporation of town-sites and acquirement of title thereto from the United States Government by the town-site trustees.

Third.—The laws providing for trade and manufactures, giving each qualified person 160 acres of land in a square and compact form.

The coal land regulations are distinct from the mineral regulations of laws, and *the jurisdiction of neither coal laws nor public land laws extends to Alaska*, the Territory being expressly excluded by the laws themselves from their operation. The act approved May 17, 1884, providing a civil government for Alaska, has this language as to mines and mining privileges:

"The laws of the United States relating to mining claims and rights incidental thereto shall, on and after the passage of this act, be in full force and effect in said district of Alaska, subject to such regulations as may be made by the Secretary of the Interior and approved by the President," and "parties who have located mines or mining privileges therein, under the United States laws applicable to the public domain, or have occupied or improved or exercised acts of ownership over such claims, shall not be disturbed therein, but shall be allowed to perfect title by payment so provided for."

There is still more general authority. Without the special authority, the act of July 4, 1866, says: "All valuable mineral deposits in lands belonging to the United States, both surveyed and unsurveyed, are hereby declared to be free and open to exploration and purchase, and lands in which these are found to occupation and purchase by citizens of the United States and by those who have declared an intention to become such, under the rules prescribed by law and according to local customs or rules of miners in the several mining districts, so far as the same are applicable and not inconsistent with the laws of the United States."

The land law of Alaska, or rather the lack of land law, has undoubtedly served as a positive discouragement to the settlement of public lands. On June 30, 1890, the real estate held in fee in the

Territory consisted only of twenty-one pieces, originally conferred under Russian rule, consisting of twenty small lots in Sitka and one in Kadiak; certain church properties in Sitka belonging to the resident congregation of the Russian church; and fourteen mining claims and five mill-sites for which patents had been issued by the United States under its mining laws which have been extended to Alaska. Since 1890, the principal titles acquired have been of mineral lands, which are practically the only kind of real estate that it is possible to acquire in the present state of things. Those who venture to make improvements on public lands, hoping to secure legislative relief afterward, do it at their own risk; and in many cases, such as the taking of lumber, the suits resulting have pretty effectually discouraged enterprise and the development of trade outside of furs and fish. It has been a source of repeated official complaint by the Governors of Alaska that a Territory hitherto exporting annually about \$10,000,000, and with the immediate prospect of doubling or quadrupling that amount when the mines within the American border are developed, should be so shamefully neglected.

Said a Governor of Alaska in a recent report to Congress: "Under existing laws, no legal titles to lands, except mineral lands for mining purposes, can be secured for any process whatever. Every resident who erects a shanty to protect himself and his family from the storms of winter in this northern latitude is a trespasser and liable to be ejected by legal process. The cutting of a walking stick or the gathering of wood sufficient to boil his coffee is a breach of the law which must be ignored by the officers sworn to faithfully execute it. One who comes into the Territory to live must take his chances with every other resident, recognizing the fact that in places remote from centers, though in the midst of savage tribes, communication with the authorities is impossible, except at rare intervals; and when informed of trouble needing immediate attention, the civil government lacks facilities for serving processes or affording protection so that long delays in execution constitute the rule rather than the exception."

Unless Congress has made some provision since another Governor wrote to the following effect, it would be well for travelers to Alaska to be cautious about real estate investments. "None of the many hundred actual settlers who have built homes for themselves in the several villages and settlements are able to obtain titles to the lots they have occupied and improved. Juneau City presents an instance where hundreds of thousands of dollars have



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### MINING CLAIMS AND TAXES.

(See also British Mining Regulations, p. 57.)

Southeastern Alaska was divided into three recording districts by order of the United States District Court on February 6, 1888. The recording for the Sitka district is done by the clerk of the court at Sitka; for the Juneau district by the United States Commissioner resident at Juneau, and for the Wrangell district by the United States Commissioner resident at Fort Wrangell. *All mining claims are filed in the recording district where located, but patents must be sent to the land office, which is at Sitka.* A river claim in the Yukon country is 500 feet in the direction of the river, and from bank to bank, provided it does not exceed 666 feet. The cost of recording a claim is \$15, and the yearly rental \$100. Claims have held as high as \$50,000, and a still higher price has been refused for others.

On July 22, 1897, in the House of Representatives, Mr. Lacey asked unanimous consent for the consideration of a bill creating the office of Surveyor-General for Alaska at a salary of \$2,000, and giving the President the discretion of dividing the Territory into two land districts. Consent was given, and Mr. Shafroth, of Colorado, explained that under present conditions many miners must travel from 800 to 1,000 miles to Sitka to make entries of their claims. The new office would doubtless be located in the Yukon district in the vicinity of the gold field. The bill was passed.

Bearing in mind that the Klondike discoveries are across the international border in British dominions, the following remarks by Dominion Surveyor William Ogilvie will be better understood. After telling of the discovery of gold there in 1896 by G. W. Cormack, Mr. Ogilvie presages considerable trouble and confusion in the near future from the lack of system in making out claims. He says: "When it was fairly established that Bonanza Creek was rich in gold—which took a few days, for Klondike had been prospected several times with no encouraging results—there was a great rush from all over the country adjacent to Forty Mile. The town was almost deserted; men who had been in a chronic state of drunkenness for weeks were pitched into boats as ballast and taken up to stake themselves a claim, and claims were staked by men for their friends who were not in the country at the time. All this gave rise to much

confliction and confusion, there being no one to take charge of matters. The agent, not being able to go up and attend to the thing, and myself not knowing what to do, the miners held a meeting and appointed one of themselves to measure off and stake the claims and record the owners' names, for which he got a fee of \$2, it being, of course, understood that each claimholder would have to record his claim with the Dominion agent and pay his fee of \$15. I am afraid that a state of affairs will develop in the Klondike district that will worry some one. Naturally, many squabbles will arise out of those transactions when the claims come to be considered valuable and worked, and those, together with the disputes over the size of the claims, will take some time to clear off. Many of the claims are said to be only 300 and 400 feet long, and of course the holders will insist on getting the full 500, and it is now probably impossible that they can without upsetting all the claimholders on the several creeks. Many of them will be reasonable enough to see things in their proper light and submit quietly, but many will insist upon what they call their rights."

On July 28, 1897, the Canadian Government announced that it had decided to impose a royalty on all placer diggings in the Yukon district in addition to a registration fee of \$15 and \$100 annual assessment. The royalty will be ten per cent. each on claims with an output of \$500 or less and twenty per cent. on every claim yielding above that amount yearly. Besides this royalty, it has been decided in regard to all future claims staked out on other streams and rivers, that every alternate claim should be the property of the British Government and should be reserved for public purposes and sold or worked by the Government for the benefit of the revenue of the Dominion.

Up to the present time goods carried to Klondike by Americans have escaped the British Customs Collector, but this is to be stopped soon, if not already stopped, and every pound will be subject to duty. There will be practically no exception, and the duty comes below 20 per cent. on but few articles. On most of the goods the duty is from 30 to 35 per cent., and in several instances higher.

Two inspectors of the Canadian customs service are going north and will enforce the customs laws, establishing themselves on the pass that leads from Dyea into the Yukon country. The number of these inspectors will be increased as the traffic demands. The Canadian Government is said to be terribly in earnest over this duty question.

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## THE BOUNDARY QUESTION.

A number of letters have been received at the State Department in Washington from citizens of the United States who have established mining claims in the disputed territory along the Alaska-British Columbia line. The writers want to know what they shall do to protect themselves if the British Government takes possession of the property. Every such letter has been answered by the information that a treaty between the United States and Great Britain is pending for the determination of the Alaskan boundary, and that its consummation will be followed by the erection of monuments by a joint British-American Commission to locate the boundary. It is said at the Department that the British Government has an undoubted right to prohibit the entrance of foreigners to the Klondike fields. Department officials believe, however, that the right will not be exercised against Americans, as British subjects are not prohibited from locating mining claims in the Yukon River country on the American side of the boundary.

It should be borne in mind that there is no question concerning the location of the international boundary or the Government which has jurisdiction in the Klondike region. From the vicinity of Mt. St. Elias near the southern coast, the boundary runs straight toward the North Pole along the 141st meridian of longitude. Whatever is east of it (and that includes the whole course of the Klondike River,) is Great Britain's. Whatever is west of it belongs to the United States. To determine the question of jurisdiction, therefore, one has but to make the necessary observations and calculations to determine the line of the 141st meridian of longitude.

The portion of the boundary now in dispute between Great Britain and the United States is that part extending from Mt. St. Elias to the southern extremity at Cape Muzon. The problem in a nutshell is this: We bought Alaska from Russia in 1867. Whatever belonged to Russia then belongs to us now. In 1825 Russia and England made of treaty fixing the boundary as follows: Commencing the southernmost point of Prince of Wales Island "the line shall ascend to the north along the channel called Portland channel as far as the point of the continent where it strikes the 56th degree of north latitude." Thence the line "shall follow the summit of the mountains situated parallel to the coast, as far as the point of intersection of the 141st degree of west longitude, and finally, from the said point of intersection of the 141st degree, in its prolongation as far as the frozen ocean. Wherever the summit of the mountains which ex-

tend in a direction parallel to a coast, from the 56th degree of north latitude to the point of intersection of the 141st degree of west longitude, shall prove to be at the distance more than ten marine leagues from the ocean, the limit between the British possessions and the line of coast which is to belong to Russia as above mentioned, shall be formed by a line parallel to the windings of the coast, and which shall never exceed the distance of ten marine leagues therefrom."

Now, the Americans claim first that to get to the Portland Channel the line must first run east from Cape Muzon, which is the southern extremity of Prince of Wales Island; while the British claim that the line should start north from that point. Secondly, the Americans claim that the ten league line should measure from the inmost coast line of bays, inlets, etc.; while the British claim it should measure from the main channels of water. These two contentions, if granted, would give Great Britain about half the thirty-four mile strip of southeastern Alaska, lying east and south of Mount St. Elias; but, as before said, from a point on the 141st meridian ten leagues from the southern shore to the Arctic Ocean, there is no controversy at all, and the boundary question therefore can only affect the jurisdiction over the passes leading into the Klondike country, not the Klondike country itself.

### THE GOLD BELT.

The most successful gold mines on the western continent lie within a mainland belt or zone running southeast and northwest, beginning in Mexico and passing in almost a straight line to the Arctic Ocean at Cape Barrow. Varying from 2 to 20 miles in width, it embraces some of the best mines in Mexico, the Western States and Alaska. Douglass Island, Gold Creek, Berner's Bay, and the placer mines of the Yukon Valley are in this belt. The most productive placers on Forty Mile and Klondike Creek, lie directly in its path.

The existence of gold in Alaska has been known almost from the beginning of exploration by our American scientists. The first mining camp of importance in Alaska was established about 1876 at Shuck, on the mainland, near the mouth of the Stikine river, but in 1880 an event occurred which worked a wonderful change in the industrial life and growth of Southeastern Alaska. A French halfbreed named Joseph Juneau discovered gold on Douglass Island, and although auriferous quartz veins had previously been known, yet this was the first to attract large capital and served as a turning point in Alaskan history.

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The best known mine in Alaska previous to the Klondike discoveries was the Paris or Treadwell, on Douglass Island,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles below Juneau, which John Treadwell bought for \$450 and which, between 1881 and 1890, turned out over \$3,000,000.

The Bear's Nest mine, adjoining the Treadwell, was sold in London for \$1,125,000, but owing to disagreements between the stockholders and mining engineers it was abandoned and the plant disposed of to neighboring mines.

Mining on the Yukon, up to a few years ago, was not a success. For the first four years, after the first excitement in 1886, few individuals took out more than \$2,000 for two or even three seasons of hardships. The majority of miners worked on their prospects, with a heavy account against them to the store.

## MINING.

The Governor of Alaska, in his annual report in 1891, said that many discoveries of rich ore and placer deposits had been made within that year and scores of locations recorded in the local recording districts. Eleven applications for patents had been filed in the land office at Sitka and assessment work had been done on hundreds of prospectors' claims. Since then great strides have been made in mining development.

All of the quartz lodes now being worked are near the coast, namely: the Sheep Creek region; Salmon Creek, near Juneau; Silver Bow basin; Douglass Island, opposite Juneau; Fuhter Bay on Admiralty Island, south of Douglass Island; Silver Bay district near Sitka; Berner's Bay in Lynn Canal, forty or fifty miles northwest of Juneau; Fish River district of the mouth of the Yukon, across Norton Sound; Unga Island, 1,400 miles west of Sitka, and Lemon Creek.

In the ten quartz lode districts mentioned there is an aggregate of about 525 stamps, nearly half of which belong to the Alaska Treadwell Gold Mining Company on Douglass Island, said to be the largest stamp mill in the world.

Placer mining is carried on in eight or more districts, namely, the Silver Bow Basin near Juneau; Sum Dum and Shuck, some distance south; Latuya Bay on Cross Sound, fifty miles southwest of Juneau; Yakutat, fifty miles southeast of Mount St. Elias; Kenai Peninsula, lying east of Cook Inlet; Fish River District on Norton Sound, and the great Yukon district.

### THE KLONDIKE DISCOVERY.

The honor of discovering the richest placer mines in the world belongs to an Illinois man named George Cormack, who went to Alaska eight or ten years ago. In July, 1896, Cormack, who had married a woman of the Stick tribe and was living with his family on Takish Lake, was devoted to catching and curing salmon, with little idea of the great upheaval he was to cause in a few months. In preparation for the annual run of fish, he had gone down the Yukon as far as the mouth of the Klondike, and where he had spread his nets. Half a mile up the river he had erected a birch covered shed for the protection of his catch. Cormack expected to sell his crop the following winter, principally for dog feed, although in times of a food famine, as really occurred last winter, dried salmon becomes a staple article of diet for white men.

At that time, before his discovery, Cormack was well-posted about the Upper Yukon. The Klondike had been known for several years to drain a gold country, and the first five miles of it had been indifferently prospected, but the gold hunters were generally run out by bears. If the miners had made any encouraging finds at the outset it would have been different, but all other things being equal, in their estimation, they concluded to try streams where the bears were not so aggressive. And it happened that there was a reason for the bears being so bad in that particular place, as it is possibly the best stream for salmon of all the tributaries of the great river. The fish start on their annual 'run' some two or three weeks after the ice goes out, usually about the beginning of July. They come by millions. The river is turbulent with them. They crowd each other, and jump out of the water, and the Indians—and like-wise the bears—come long distances to give them a welcome. At every tributary some of the salmon turn aside, but the multitude press onward at the speed of about a hundred miles a day. Before the first of August some of them may usually be found above White Horse Rapids, 2,200 miles from the Delta.

But to return to the Klondike—up to last summer, when Cormack was catching his salmon, the Indians and the bears had made a more or less harmonious division of the territory. The redskins maintain their foothold at the mouth of the river, where they take the salmon in nets and dry them in sufficient quantities to last the whole year. Bruin adopts divers way of securing the fish, but they are so plentiful that he gets all he wants while they last. After the salmon season his living is precarious, and he probably regards

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While Cormack was fishing, like many a disciple of Izaak Walton, he kept his wits and work and did a lot of thinking; and he made up his mind that as soon as the salmon season was over he would prospect up the Klondike. Four weeks later he took two Indians and started up the stream. After a few miles of laborious pulling against a rapid current they turned into the first considerable tributary that came in from the right, called Bonanza Creek. Here conditions were favorable for prospecting, the water being shallow, and they found gold in encouraging quantities on the bars of the creek. They followed the windings of this stream for twenty or twenty-five miles before they made locations and went to work.

The results were almost enough to turn the brain of a prospector who had searched for many years in the hope of finding gravel that would yield a few grains' weight of gold to the pan. Here at a depth of three feet in the low bars by the creek they found dirt that carried a dollar to the pound in coarse, ragged bits of gold. Others have since found diggings tenfold richer. Cormack was almost beside himself with excitement. If he had rubbed Aladdin's wonderful lamp he could not have been more surprised at the revelation. In three weeks he had taken out \$1,400 with three sluice boxes.

Remote as his discovery was, Cormack was not long to remain in sole possession of it. With the exhaustion of their few days' provisions, the two Indians were sent back to the village for supplies, and soon the news was bruited about. The creek was soon staked from one end to the other, and all the small gulches were also staked and recorded. About September 10, a man of the name of Whipple prospected a creek emptying into the Bonanza and named it Whipple Creek. He shortly afterward sold out and the miners renamed it Eldorado.

The steamboat *P. B. Weare*, one of a fleet of three belonging to a Chicago company, makes three or four trips during the short summer season from St. Michael's, near the mouth of the Yukon, to Circle City and Forty Mile, the distance to the latter place being nearly 1,800 miles from St. Michael's. One of these trips of the *Weare*—the first usually—is extended about 200 miles further up the river to carry supplies to Sixty Mile and Fort Selkirk, where there are trading posts. About the middle of August, 1896, when the *Weare* arrived at the Indian village, which is about half-way between Forty Mile and Sixty Mile, the Indians were waiting there

to lay in their supplies. There were also several other prospectors who had happened along, and Cormack's discovery was common talk. The stories of fortune proved a little too much for the crew of the *Weare* to withstand. They deserted in a body and joined the rush to the new gold fields. The captain, after being delayed three or four days, got an Indian crew sufficiently trained to handle the boat. When he arrived at Forty Mile on his return the reports were alluring enough to impel a hundred or more men to start at once for the new field.

It soon became known that this was probably the richest placer ever known in the world. Miners took out gold so fast and so much of it that they did not have time to weigh it with gold scales. They took steelyards, and all the syrup cans were filled.

The rest of the story is common fame. Forty Mile, Circle City and other localities in the neighborhood were deserted as if stricken by a plague, and everybody rushed madly for the Klondike as if fleeing from the wrath to come. It took months for the news to reach the outer world, and months more before people would believe the fabulous tales. And thus eleven months elapsed, from Cormack's first phenomenal discovery, before the country became possessed of the extraordinary excitement which stirs it at this writing (August, 1897), from ocean to ocean.

Dr. C. F. Dickenson, who arrived in San Francisco July 23d from Kadiak Island, which lies opposite the entrance of Cook Inlet on the southern coast of Alaska, says that the gold excitement all over the Territory, in consequence of the Klondike discoveries, is something unprecedented, and people are flocking to the Klondike in a way that threatens to depopulate many of the trading posts and the coast.

"When I left Kadiak two weeks ago," said Dr. Dickenson, the people were leaving all that section of the country and flocking in the direction of the Klondike. In a way the situation is appalling, for many of the industries were left practically without the means of operation. Mines that are paying handsomely at Cook's Inlet have been deserted. In my opinion there are just as good placer diggings to be found at Cook's Inlet as in the Klondike region. There is not a foot of ground in all that country that does not contain gold in more or less appreciable quantities. The great trouble has been that people have not had either the courage or the opportunity; I do not know which, thoroughly to prospect the country. I think that in another month the country about



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Cook's Inlet will be practically deserted. There is room there for thousands of men, and there is certainly no better place in the world for a poor man."

### LOCATION AND MEANING OF THE "KLONDIKE."

The Klondike river, on one of the tributaries of which Cormack made his original strike, is a comparatively small stream, flowing southwestwardly, and emptying into the Yukon about sixty or seventy miles east of the Alaskan boundary. The whole course of the Klondike lies in British territory. The town of Dawson has sprung up at its mouth. One of the tributaries of that stream is Bonanza Creek, which discharges into the Klondike about three miles above the latter's mouth. The Eldorado, now celebrated for its rich deposits, is a branch of Bonanza Creek. In what is known as the Bonanza district, fully three hundred claims have been staked out. Hunter Creek is another tributary of the Klondike, and has given its name to a district in which two hundred more claims have been staked out.

Harold B. Goodrich, of Boston, Mass., who was one of a party sent by the United States Geological Survey in 1896 to investigate the gold fields of Alaska, is authority for the statement that the name Klondike is a miner's corruption of the Indian "Thronduik," which means "water full of fish." The little river bearing the name has from time immemorial been a favorite fishing ground for the *gens des bois*, who meet at its mouth and wait for the salmon to ascend every June. The old name, Reindeer River, was given by Lieut. Frederick Schwatka in 1883, and on all the United States coast survey charts since then that have appeared. In the forthcoming Government report of the Geological Survey, the name will be spelled "Clondike." The official report of Dominion Surveyor William Ogilvie confirms Mr. Goodrich. He says: "The name Klondike is a mispronunciation of the Indian word or words Thron-dak or duick, which means plenty of fish, from the fact that it is a famous salmon stream. It is marked Tomdak on our maps."

### FORTUNES MADE IN A DAY.

The stories of the wonderful riches made in a day in this district would be incredible if not authenticated in many ways. Here are a few of the fortunes taken out by Cormack's successors, as reported on reliable authority. While the amounts may not be accurate to a dollar, they are doubtless approximately true.

Anderson, Henry, \$65,000.

Berry, Clarence, bought his partners' claims for \$95,000 and cleaned up \$140,000 on his winter dump alone.

Brannon, C. A., \$7,000.

Clemens, Chas., of Los Angeles, a tenderfoot without experience, panned out \$5,000 and sold his claim for \$35,000.

Clements, J. J., brought out \$50,000 in June and left \$12,000 more invested.

Culbertson, E. M., of Seattle, writes from Klondike of one that washed out \$150,000 in one day.

Gray, Albert, \$6,000.

Hatterman, J. J., \$12,500.

Hornblower, George, of Indianapolis, aged 21, found a nugget worth \$5,700; took out \$100,000 in four months.

Keeler, Frank, \$50,000.

Kelly, T. J., \$33,000.

Lippy, Prof. T. C., of Seattle, has taken out \$50,000 since fall and has \$150,000 more in sight. His claim is valued at \$350,000.

Lord, Joe, \$3,500.

Loveland, C. H., \$8,500.

McNulty, R., \$20,000.

Mercer, N., \$15,000.

Moffett, John R., \$9,000.

Moran, T., \$13,000.

Moss, Frank, Dubuque, Ia., \$6,000.

Myers, C. D., \$6,000.

Stanley, Wm., brought out \$112,000 in June.

Summers, Frank, a tenderfoot from Los Angeles, went in winter and has sold his claim for \$50,000. He found one nugget worth \$232.

Tuttle, Capt. Francis, of revenue cutter *Bear*, saw a man, 30, who a year ago was a deck-hand, and who now comes to Klondike with \$150,000 in nuggets.

Wall, ———, has all he wants and comes out after selling his claim for \$50,000.

Wiborg, Peter, bought his partner's claim for \$42,000.

Jimmy McLain took out \$11,000 during the winter, just in expecting the dirt. Clarence Berry and his partner, Anton Starbuck, panned out about the same in the same manner. Mrs. Berry has to go down to the dumps every day to get dirt and carry it

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g the winter, just in pros- partner, Anton Stander, manner. Mrs. Berry used get dirt and carry to the

shanty and pan it herself. She has over \$6,000 taken out in that manner. Mr. Lippin, from Seattle, has a rich claim, and his wife has a sack of nuggets worth \$6,000 that she has picked up on the dumps. Four boys on a "lay" in Eldorado took out \$49,000 in four months. Frank Phiscater, who owned the Grand, had some men hired and cleaned up \$94,000 for the winter. Mr. Lippin cleaned up \$54,000. Louis Rhodes, No. 25 Bonanza, cleaned up \$40,000.

One claim yielded \$90,000 in forty-five feet up and down the Klondike stream.

Steamer *Bertha* landed \$20,000 worth of gold from Unga Island at San Francisco, July 22d.

Steamer *Weare* landed about \$1,000,000 at St. Michael from the Yukon June 27th.

Steamer *Excelsior* is expected to land in San Francisco about September 5th, with between \$5,000,000 and \$6,000,000.

Single pans of dirt in the Klondike have yielded hundreds of dollars. One is said to have run up to \$1,500. The owner of one claim reports that his dirt paid him \$250 an hour. B. W. Shaw, formerly a well-known insurance man of Seattle, has written a letter to a business man of Seattle, in which he states frankly that he does not expect to be believed. "This is a great mining strike," says Shaw, "probably the greatest on the American continent or in the world. Some of the pay streaks are nearly all gold. One thousand dollars to the pan is not an uncommon thing, and as high as 100 ounces have been taken out in a single pan. It is not unusual to see men coming in with all the gold dust they can carry."

Henry Hettler, brother of George Hettler of Altoona, Pa., who disappeared mysteriously one year ago, writes from Alaska that he has found a large fortune in the Klondike. He was formerly a member of the Allegheny City Council.

#### OUTPUT OF GOLD FOR 1896.

The output of the mines of Alaska is difficult of estimation. The vastness of the mining territory, the extremely migratory character of its population and the entire absence of reports and statistics from a great part of the smaller camps render it a very difficult matter to arrive at a statement approximating correctness except by careful study and watchful attention to every detail. The following estimate is the result of just such work, and is believed to be as nearly correct as is possible and still represent fully, yet conserv-

atively, the production of gold in Alaska during 1896, before the recent Klondike discoveries:

Nowell Gold Mining Company, 35 stamps.....	\$160,000
Berner's Bay Mining and Milling Company, 40 stamps....	125,000
Alaska Treadwell Gold Mining Company, 240 stamps.....	800,000
Alaska Mexican Gold Mining Company, 120 stamps.....	450,000
Alaska Commercial Company, 40 stamps.....	500,000
Bald Eagle Mining Company, 4 stamps.....	200,000
Ebner Gold Mining Company, 10 stamps.....	35,000
Juneau Gold Mining Company, 30 stamps.....	35,000
Julian Gold Mining Company, 10 stamps.....	20,000
Alaska Willoughby Gold Mining Company, 10 stamps.....	15,000
Green mine, Norton Sound, 10 stamps.....	15,000
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Total output of quartz mines.....	\$2,355,000
Lituya bay placer mines.....	15,000
Cook Inlet placer mines.....	175,000
Birch creek district, Yukon mines.....	1,300,000
Other Yukon districts.....	800,000
From several small creeks in various parts of the territory,	25,000
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Total output.....	\$4,670,000

#### ESTIMATED OUTPUT OF GOLD FOR 1897.

C. B. McIntosh, Governor of the British Northwest Territory, who is in Seattle, freely subscribes to the truthfulness of the stories sent out as to the richness of the new diggings. He estimates that the Klondike and its tributaries yielded over \$3,000,000 in gold last winter. Of this amount, he says, \$2,000,000 and upward came to the United States, via the steamships Portland and Excelsior, while more than \$1,000,000 in dust is now stored away in the cabins of miners along the creek being developed. He predicts that the British Yukon yield of gold for 1897, will not be less than \$10,000,000.

B. W. Shaw, formerly of Seattle, after seeing five five-gallon oil-cans full of gold dust in one cabin, the result of two men's work during the winter, and judging from other signs, predicts an output of \$50,000,000 for 1897.

#### VAST TREASURES YET UNTOUCHED.

Whence comes the gold found in the gravel beds and bars of the Klondike, Forty Mile and other tributaries of the Yukon, and in the auriferous sand dunes of the North Pacific coast in the region of the great glaciers? On Yakutat Bay, one has but to gather up the

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beds and bars of the e Yukon, and in the in the region of the t to gather up the

black sand on the shore to work gold in paying quantities. Manifestly, these deposits can come from no other source than rich quartz veins in the mountains where it was originally imbedded, and whence it has been worn out and carried to its present resting places by the action of the weather, water and ice. The most effective agents have been the glaciers, which are simply great rivers of ice, moving slowly but irresistibly, and grinding up the rocks and carrying the sands, gravel and boulders down into the gulches and streams. For the present, on account of the abundance of the placer deposits in the interior and the difficulty and expense of getting in machinery, quartz mining, as before stated, is confined almost exclusively to the coast; but it is apparent from all evidence that there are vast secret treasures yet lying hidden in the hearts of the interior mountains, and that the stimulus given by the Klondike excitement will result in such enterprise as will develop a golden era for Alaska past any comparison.

Prof. W. H. Dall says on the subject: "The gold-bearing belt of Northwestern America contains all the gold fields extending into British Columbia. The Yukon really runs along in that belt for five or six hundred miles. The bed of the main river is in the lowland of the valley. The yellow metal is not found in paying quantities in the main river, but in the small streams which cut through the mountains on either side. These practically wash out the gold. The mud and mineral matter are carried into the main river, while the gold is left on the rough bottoms of these side streams. In most cases the gold lies at the bottom of thick gravel deposits. The gold is covered by frozen gravel in the winter. During the summer, until the snow is melted, the surface is covered by muddy torrents. When the snow is all melted, and the springs begin to freeze, the streams dry up. At the approach of winter, in order to get at the gold, the miners find it necessary to dig into the gravel formation.

"Formerly they stripped the gravel off until they came to the gold. Now they sink a shaft to the bottom of the gravel, and tunnel along underneath in the gold-bearing layer. The way in which this is done is interesting, as it has to be carried on in cold weather when everything is frozen. The miners build fires over the area where they wish to work, and keep these lighted over that territory for the space of about twenty-four hours. Then at the expiration of this period the gravel will be melted and softened to a depth of perhaps six inches. This is then taken off, and other fires built until the gold-bearing layer is reached. When the shaft is down

that far fires are built at the bottom, against the sides of the layers and tunnels made in this manner. Blasting would do no good, on account of the hard nature of the material, and the charge would blow out just as out of a gun. The matter taken out containing the gold is piled up until spring, when the torrents come down, and are panned and cradled by these. It is certainly very hard labor."

### NEIGHBORING ATTRACTIONS.

While the Klondike is the focus of popular excitement just now, the probability is that old districts, temporarily deserted, and new districts as yet unheard of, will soon share the attention of the public.

Information comes that several strikes have recently been made in the neighborhood of Forty Mile. It has been named Minut Creek, and is now panning out \$22 a day to the man. Another discovery on American Creek, fifty miles below Forty Mile Camp, is said to be paying well, and a great number of men have flocked there during the last few weeks. The pan runs from \$10 to \$18. It is thought likely that many of the prospectors will strike for these camps, thus relieving the strain on Dawson City.

Just as these pages go to press, news is received of wonderfully rich quartz in large quantities on the Stewart River. Particulars are vague, and beyond the fact that the ledge is a large one, and that the rock assays \$300, nothing can be learned. This, if true, will mean much for the Klondike district. The report confirms the theory advanced in the preceding pages, to the effect that the rough placer gold indicates a rich, original source of quartz veins not far distant. The Stewart River runs into the Yukon not far above Dawson, and it is reasonable to suppose that the placer gold now being found below may have its origin in the mountains at the head of the Stewart River and neighboring streams.

### DISTANCES AND RATE OF TRAVEL.

If, after duly balancing the encouragements and discouragements offered by the gold regions, the reader is inclined to pack up and set out for the new Eldorado, it is well for him to pause a moment and consider how far he has to go, how long it will take him, and what it will cost.

From New York to Seattle, Wash.....	3,100 miles.
" San Francisco to Seattle.....	697 "
" Seattle to Juneau .....	899 "
" Wrangel to Juneau.....	148 "

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From Sitka to Juneau.....	160 miles.
" " Unalaska to San Francisco.....	2,369 "
" " " Sitka.....	1,278 "
" " " St. Michael's.....	770 "
" " " Cape Prince of Wales.....	816 "
" " " Point Barrow.....	1,346 "
" " " St. George Island.....	222 "
" " " St. Paul Island.....	271 "
" " " St. Michael's to the Klondike via the Yukon.....	1,800 "

The distances to the Klondike, with Juneau for a base of measure-  
ment, via the Chilkoot Pass, are approximately as follows: (No  
actual survey has been made.)

Juneau to Healey & Wilson's Camp.....	100 miles.
" " head of canoe navigation.....	105 "
" " summit of Chilkoot Pass.....	120 "
" " Lake Linderman Landing.....	130 "
" " head of Lake Bennett.....	140 "
" " International Boundary.....	150 "
" " foot of Lake Bennett.....	165 "
" " foot of Caribou Crossing.....	169 "
" " foot of Takish Lake.....	189 "
" " Takish House.....	191 "
" " head of Mud or Marsh Lake.....	192 "
" " foot of Mud Lake.....	202 "
" " head of Cañon.....	242 "
" " head of White Horse Rapids.....	245 "
" " Takheena River.....	257 "
" " head of Lake Le Barge.....	320 "
" " foot of Lake Le Barge.....	365 "
" " Hootalinqua.....	395 "
" " Cassiar Bar.....	422 "
" " Little Salmon River.....	465 "
" " Five Fingers.....	527 "
" " Pelly River.....	586 "
" " Stewart River.....	706 "
" " Klondike Creek.....	826 "

The rate of travel under favorable circumstances will be about  
as follows:

	Days.	Days.
New York to Seattle, Wash.....	7	7
Seattle to Juneau.....	4	4
Juneau to Klondike, via Chilkoot Pass.....	25	40
Juneau to Klondike, via St. Michael's and Yukon River.....		
Total.....	36	51

The foregoing rates are subject to variation by circumstances. For instance, the twenty-five days' travel from Juneau to the Klondike is based on the statement of Prof. W. H. Dall, the Alaskan explorer. Over a good, open trail a pack-train could make the distance in twenty-five days. With snow, landslips and other obstructions this time could easily be doubled. Parallel contingencies beset the all-water route via St. Michael's and the Yukon. Fogs, ice and other obstacles are liable to protract the trip over the forty days above given.

### FARES TO THE KLONDIKE.

The present routes to the Klondike and its neighborhood all begin at Seattle. The fare from New York to Seattle via the Northern Pacific Railroad is \$67.75. From Seattle there are two general routes to the Klondike. One is by way of the North American Trading Company's steamers to the mouth of the Yukon at St. Michael's and thence up the Yukon by river boats to Dawson City. The fare by this route is \$180, and but 150 pounds of baggage are allowed to each passenger. The other routes are by way of Juneau. The fare to Juneau from Seattle is \$75, and from Juneau to Dyea, at the head of steam navigation, usually \$10. Miners generally employ natives to pack supplies across the mountains, the charge for this work usually being from \$12 to \$14 per hundred pounds. The distance is about 27 miles.

### WHAT TO TAKE.

Juneau merchants who make a specialty of this trade, know exactly what is wanted and how it should be put up. An outfit depends much upon the purse and taste of the purchaser, and will cost from \$50 to \$150. Experience has proved the following to be essentials:

- Two pairs heaviest woollen socks.
- One pair Canadian laragans or shoe packs.
- One pair German socks.
- Two pairs heaviest woollen blankets.
- One oil blanket or canvas.
- One Mackinaw suit.
- Two heavy flannel shirts.
- Two pairs heavy overalls.
- Two suits heavy woollen underwear.
- One pair gum-boots (Golden Seal, crack proof, preferable).



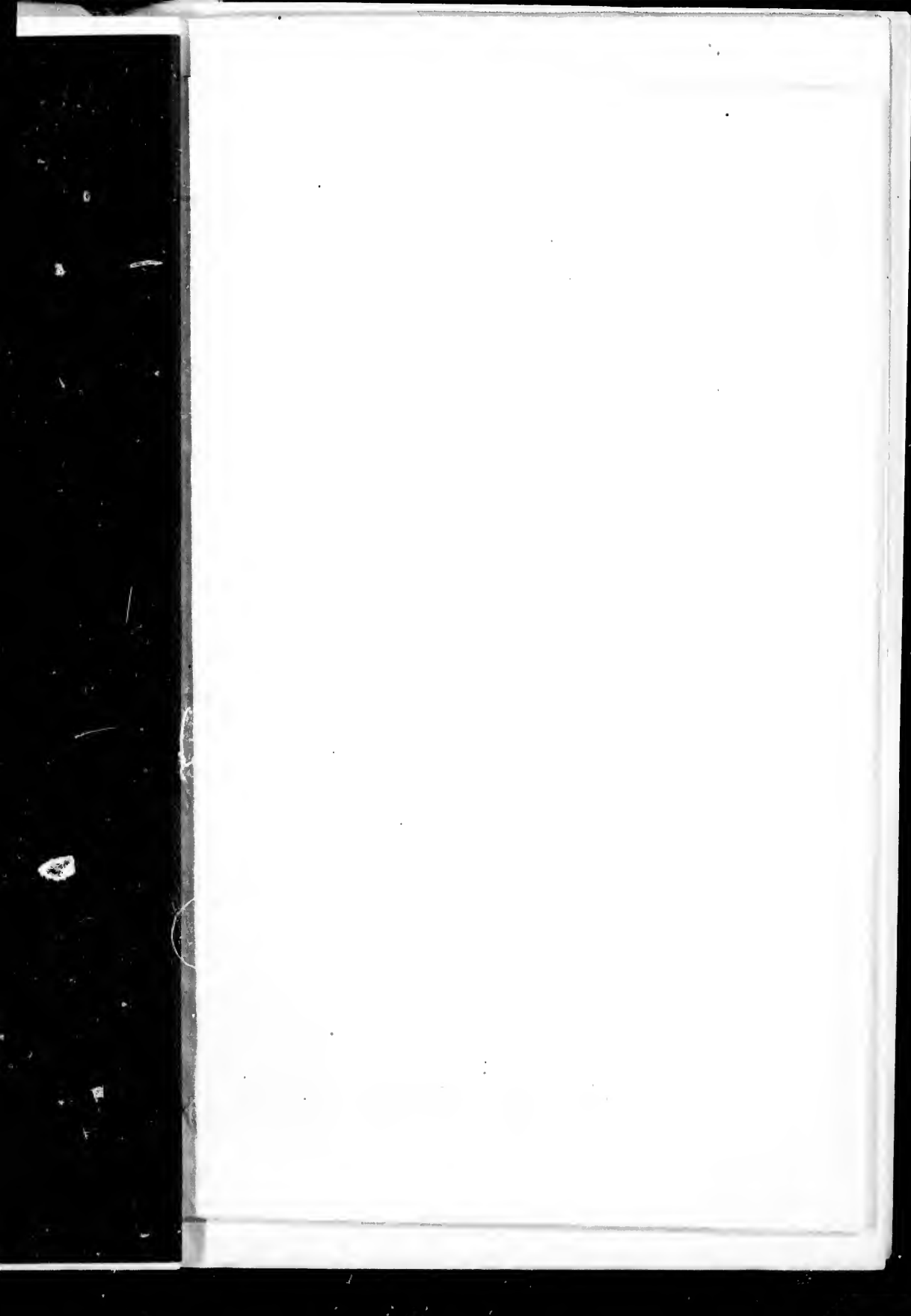
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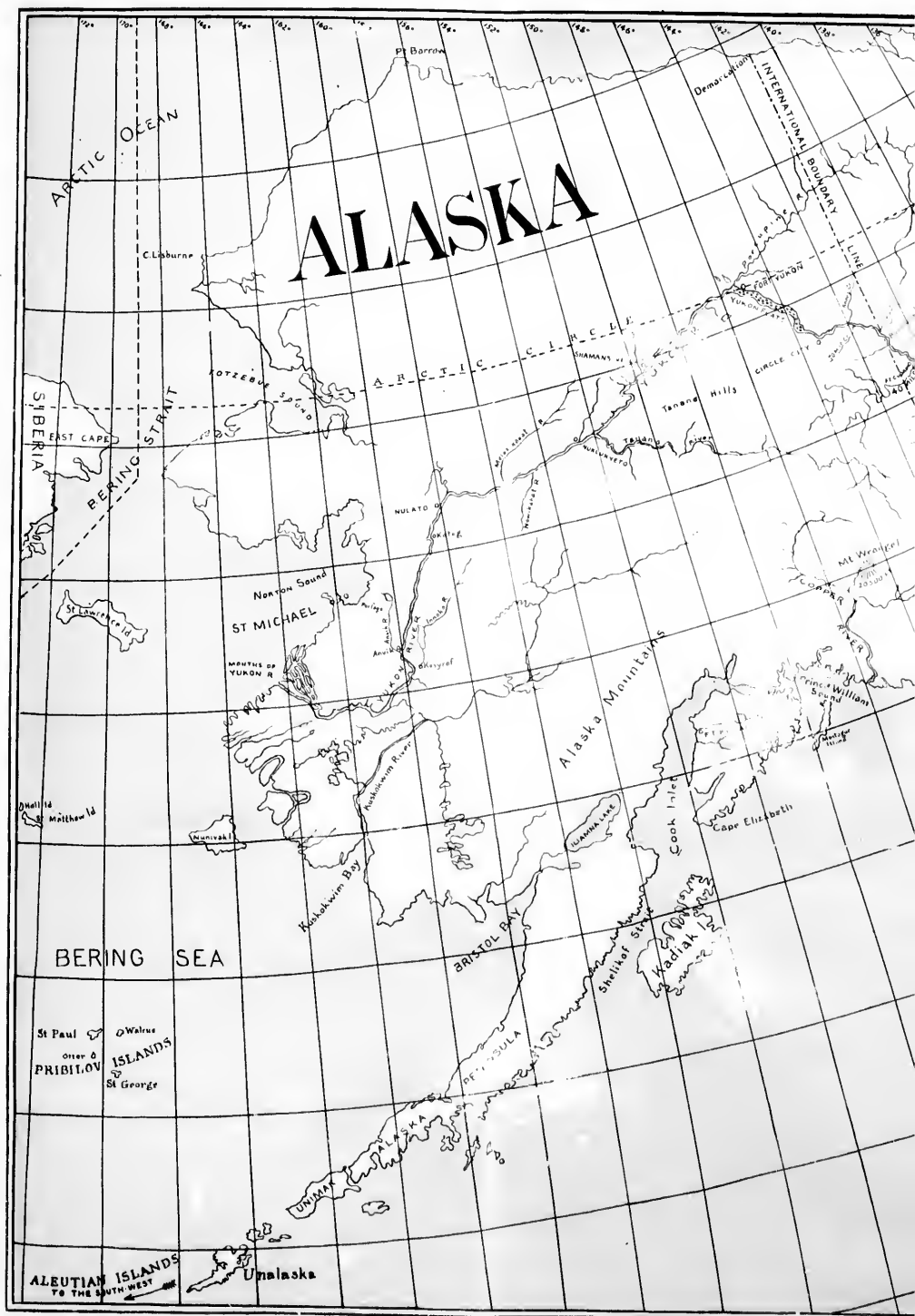
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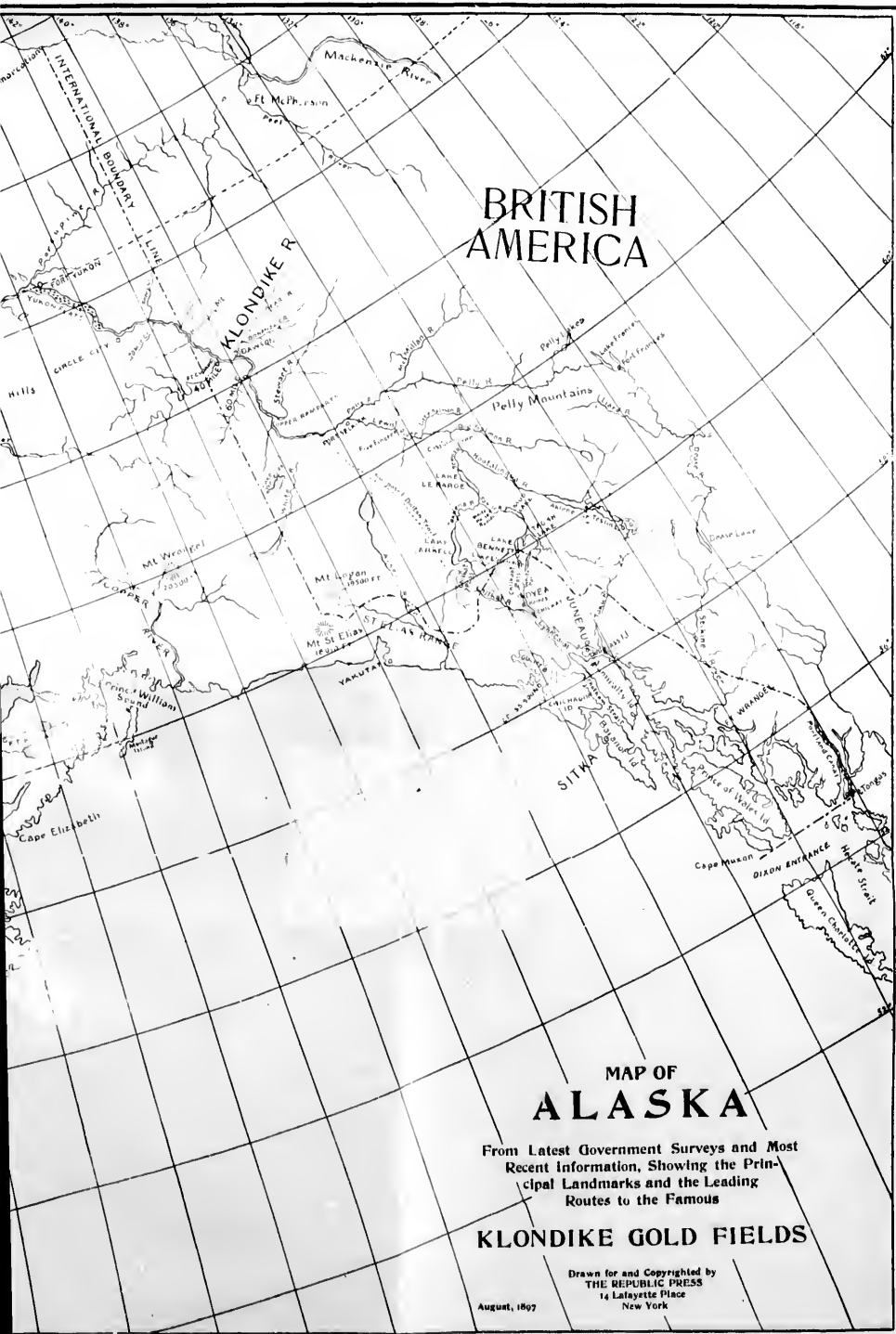
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One pair snowshoes.  
 One pair snow-glasses.  
 Cap and mittens.  
 One 8 x 10 wall tent (8 oz. duck or heavy drill).  
 One small Yukon stove.  
 Three lengths telescope pipe.  
 One large frying pan.  
 One baking pan.  
 One 8-qt. granite kettle.  
 One 6-qt. granite kettle.  
 One 8-qt. bread pan.  
 One coffee pot.  
 One granite plate.  
 One granite cup.  
 One large mixing spoon.  
 One knife, fork and spoon.  
 Three and one-half pound axe.  
 Nails, hammer, saws.  
 Pitch and oakum for boat building.  
 Fifty feet of  $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch rope.  
 Matches.

A good rifle and ammunition are not a necessity, but are advisable for an emergency, and may be a useful means of supplementing the food supply. Little game is seen, however, unless one goes back into the hills for it.

Fishing tackle of some sort should certainly be taken. Fish are plentiful and a gill net should form a part of every outfit.

Needles and thread and buttons are also necessary.

Mosquito netting, cap and mittens are needed to protect from the swarms of vicious mosquitoes.

Large outfits, however, are now pronounced unnecessary and inadvisable, as "competition between the trading companies has so reduced prices at Forty-Mile and vicinity that it does not pay to take in more than a generous supply for the journey." We quote the foregoing statement from an Alaskan publication which may have been inspired and we advise the reader to bear in mind the pitiful tale of the spider and the fly when he reads it.

The cost of the outfit depends on the purse of the buyer. A few have started out with as small as a \$25 outfit, but it is safe to say they repented of their economy. A hundred dollars is a more comfortable figure, and \$150 still safer. An ordinary outfit weighs

about 400 lbs. to the man, although some have been taken that would tip the scales at 1,500 weight.

A miner's clothing is largely a matter of taste and financial resources. Miners usually adopt the native costume. The boots, made by the Coast Indians, are of several varieties. The water boot is of seal and walrus skin, while the dry weather or winter boot is of all varieties of styles and material. The more expensive have fur trimmed legs, elaborately designed. They cost from \$2 to \$5 a pair. Trousers are often made of Siberian fawn skin and the skin of the marmot, or ground squirrel. The parka, or upper garment is usually of marmot skins, trimmed with wolverine around the hood and lower edge, the long hair from the sides of the wolverine being used for the hood. This hair is sometimes five or six inches in length, and is useful in protecting the face of the wearer. Good, warm flannels can be worn under the parka, and the whole outfit will weigh less than the ordinary clothes worn in a country where the weather gets down to zero. The parka is almost cold proof. But it is expensive, ranging in price from \$25 to \$100. Blankets and fur robes are used for bedding. Lynx skins make the best robes. Good ones cost \$100. But cheaper robes can be made of the skin of bear, mink, red fox and the Arctic hare. The skins of the latter animal make warm socks to be worn with the skin boots.

As to the food supply, the following list is recommended by a transportation company, and we give it for what it is worth, with the caution that it appears inadequate to do much more than land the traveler in the Klondike region where he must depend on supplies purchased at exorbitant prices at the "store," for his future subsistence.

- Flour, 50 pounds.
- Baking powder, 1 1-2 pounds.
- Dried fruit, 15 pounds.
- Bacon (side), 20 pounds.
- Beans, 35 pounds.
- Sugar (loaf), 10 pounds.
- Coffee, 3 pounds.
- Tea, 1 pound.
- Salt, 3 pounds.
- Pepper, one-half pound.
- Dessicated onions, 1 pound.
- Butter, milk, rice, corn meal, etc. (optional).



Another expert gives this list of provisions as sufficient to last a man for one month:

Twenty pounds of flour, with baking powder.

Twelve pounds of bacon.

Six pounds of beans.

Five pounds of desiccated vegetables.

Four pounds of butter.

Five pounds of sugar.

Four cans of milk.

One pounds of tea.

Three pounds of coffee,

Two pounds of salt.

Five pounds of corn meal.

Pepper, mustard.

It is well to reinforce here what has been said elsewhere, that the principal danger is not from sunstroke in a temperature of 100 to 120 degrees in summer, or freezing to death in a temperature of 70 below zero in winter, or being lost in snow drifts, or overwhelmed by glaciers or snow slides, or assassination by natives, or murder by drunken miners, but from *starvation*. We should therefore advise the taking of either actual food enough for a year, or the money with which to buy food for a year. For after once getting into the country, it would be found difficult to get out until the ice breaks up at the end of the nine months' winter. One of the transportation companies guarantees to feed a man for a year for \$400.

A man of experience writes: "The man who goes in this coming winter over the Chilkat and Chilkoot passes, or the man who goes in this summer by the steamboat route, should take in two years' grub. I understand that steamboat companies will not carry grub or merchandise for any man, and that they are making a flat passenger rate of \$150 for any port from Seattle to Dawson. This means that they will get several thousand people in there this season, and if they do not get enough grub in, grub will be high. Not less than 1,000 newcomers came over this spring, and how many will come by boat we can only conjecture."

#### APPROXIMATE COST OF TRIP.

Concerning the amount of money required at the outset, estimates vary. One authority says: "The smallest sum of money which any man of experience has advised a man to go in with is \$250 in hand after buying supplies and paying all passage money

from Seattle. Two hundred and fifty dollars' worth of supplies is the smallest amount that it is safe to start with. One hundred dollars' worth of winter clothing must be added to this. No person should start from New York or vicinity for the Klondike with less than \$750 in hand, and the more a man has the better for him. And no person should start from Seattle after the middle of August."

Another authority says: "I should place the minimum amount at \$600. It would not be safe to start out with less. But he had better make it a thousand, if possible, for with the present rush it is likely that prices will be trebled or even quadrupled. Even the Indians will charge more for their assistance. Still, if a man is stranded on the way he will probably find it easy to make a living almost anywhere in the gold bearing portion of the Yukon basin. He can earn \$10 or \$15 a day digging the ground for men with good claims. And with the rise in prices these wages may also go up. Bear in mind, however, that the price of living must increase in proportion."

Still a third authority asserts that it would be extremely foolhardy for a man to start from New York for Klondike with less than \$1,500 in his pocket. "It would take at least \$400 to get within 1,000 miles of the gold fields with only his traveling bag in his hand. If he should go on without a miner's kit and proper supplies the scarcity of food and the exorbitant prices would take the rest, and he would find himself working for \$15 a day in Klondike and paying \$14 for board."

Perhaps the best way to get at it is to figure it up for yourself, and you will come somewhere near the following estimate:

Fare from New York to Seattle.....	\$67 75
Meals, in dining car.....	9 00
Pullman sleeper.....	18 00
Steamer fare, Seattle to Juneau, cabin and meals.....	75 00
Expenses while staying in Juneau.....	30 00
Miner's outfit, .....	150 00
Juneau to Dyea.....	10 00
Packing over the "divide," say.....	30 00
Provisions for one year.....	400 00
*Canadian mining claim tax (annual).....	100 00
*Registering mining claim.....	15 00
Guide and incidentals.....	95 25
	<u>\$1,000 00</u>

\* In addition to these items there is a 10 per cent. Canadian tax on mining outputs of less than \$500 per year, and 20 per cent. on outputs of over \$500. (See "Mining Claims and Taxes.")

## JUNEAU.

Juneau, the outfitting point, is a thriving city at the head of regular steamboat navigation in south-eastern Alaska. It is directly opposite Douglass, on Douglass Island, from which it is separated by Gastineaux Channel. Here the steamers leave passengers brought from the Sound ports or Victoria. The town is well supplied with hotels and restaurants, where board can be obtained for \$1.00 a day up, with lodgings extra. The market offers everything necessary of good quality and fairly reasonable prices.

## STARTING OUT.

Parties should start from Juneau between the middle of March and end of April if going via Chilkoot Pass, as they can then do their own transporting on sleighs across the summit and down the lakes to where good timber for boat building is to be found, and the start down the river made when the ice breaks, which is much earlier than on the lakes, and the mines may be reached a month sooner than if the boats are built on the lakes and a wait made for the ice to break there. Four or five men should compose each party, as one tent, stove, set of tools, etc., will suffice for all. One of the party should have a knowledge of boat building, for it is an absolute necessity that the craft shall be staunch and substantial. The double ended batteau is the pattern ordinarily preferred, though the plain scow of good depth is more easily built and can be depended upon. No man should attempt the journey alone for various reasons which are obvious. Beside the economy of a party of two, three or four, considerations of self-preservation and self-protection dictate companionship. In a region governed by only miners' law, it is well to have some friends to stand by you. In case of sickness, a trusty friend may be the means of saving one's life when coldly calculating avarice is freezing the well-springs of human sympathy in a community more absorbed in getting gold than in ministering Samaritan comfort. The solitary man is exposed to a still further risk, effectively illustrated in a letter received by a Brooklyn, N. Y. man at the time of this writing, from his brother in the Yukon region. After remarking that although but twenty-eight years old, his experience has aged him so that he feels like a man of sixty, he says that he comes out with a snug little fortune, but that it is only about one-tenth of his clean-ups. The rest had been stolen from its hiding place from time to time while he was working his claim. The pres-

ence of a companion to watch one's pile is almost essential to success.

On the other hand, in making up a party, it might be well to profit by the well-known axiom of sportsmen going into the woods of Maine and the Adirondacks, to the effect that while "two is a company," there or more is sometimes a crowd. That is to say, in the natural diversity of human minds, there is more chance of reconciling the opinions and tastes of a few than of many, and a small party stands a better chance of a good time than a large one. In the present case a party of four is probably the best.

### CHILKOOT PASS ROUTE.

Assuming that your party is ready, your outfit bought, and that you have selected the Chilkoot route to the Klondike, you embark on a small steamer at Juneau for Dyea, a hundred miles to the northwest, at the head of navigation. This route is the shortest, quickest and cheapest, and the one taken by fully ninety-five per cent. of the gold seekers of the vast interior.

The trip in good weather is made in twelve hours if there is no towing to be done and the regular fare is ten dollars, each passenger furnishing his own blankets and provisions. If the party is a large one with considerable baggage a scow is loaded with the miners' outfits; if the tides are high the boat sometimes goes over the bar at the head of Douglass Island, thus saving nearly twenty miles of travel besides avoiding the rough waters of the Takou. If the tides are not high the scow may be towed over the bar by the little tug "Julia" and the steamboat will take its course around the lower end of Douglass. In rounding the point of the island the vessel is often subjected to the fierce winds which sweep down the valley of the Takou river. If there is a strong north or southwest wind, like a demon it comes roaring out from the Takou, lashing the water into foam in its rage and tossing volumes of spray clear over the top of Grand Island. When the steamer has come around to the head of the island it takes the scow in tow. In about twenty hours from the time of leaving it enters the mouth of the Dyea river near Chilkoot and the salt-water journey is ended.

Here on a sandspit, about a mile below Healy & Wilson's trading posts, the outfits are taken from the scow and piled upon the beach. Each man must look out for himself now—the guardianship of your baggage by any carrying company is ended. Juneau is nearly 100 miles behind you. Immediately in the foreground is

the ranch and store owned by Healy & Wilson, and beyond, in their mantles of snow rise the coast mountains, cold and severe, striking a feeling of dread into many a heart; and beyond this frozen barrier there stretches away hundreds of miles the vast country of the Yukon, an expanse so wide that it is limited only by the extent of man's endurance. But haste must be made in the sorting of outfits and getting them above tide water. Most miners camp near by in the edge of the woods, perhaps taking one or two meals at the trading post, which can be had at the price of 50 cents each; others find both board and lodging there until they are ready to push on.

Now for the first time the miner begins to size up his belongings, and begins to realize that a proper outfit for a trip of this kind is the result of experience, and the longer he has been in this country and the more thoroughly he knows it, just so much more care is used in the selection and packing of his outfit. A careful and thorough examination should be made to see that nothing has been lost or forgotten. There is his Yukon sleigh, without which further progress would be well nigh impossible, a skeleton affair made from the best hard wood and shod with ground steel runners. It is seven feet three inches long and sixteen inches wide—just the proper width to track behind snowshoes, and its cost from seven to fourteen dollars. Brass is preferable to iron for the shoes, as it slides more easily through the fine, dry snow one finds in the early spring. Steel is disposed to grind and drag, as if it were gritting over sand. A practical suggestion by an Arctic explorer is to the effect that sledging is rendered much easier in cold weather by filling the mouth with water and ejecting it upon the runners, where it forms a coating of ice that materially lubricates the sledge. A sledge bound together with leather thongs, in the Esquimaux style, is much safer than one made with nails and bolts in the English mode, as it is more elastic and less liable to break in case of overturning.

On leaving Healy & Wilson's camp one bids farewell to hotels, restaurants, steamboats, stores, conventionalities of civilization and organized government. Up the Dyea river five miles, over ice if early in the season or through ice if it is breaking up, one reaches the mouth of the canyon. Here in the woods a comfortable camp can be made. The tent is pitched on top of the snow into which the poles and pins are pushed with little effort. While the best cook is preparing supper, others are making the bed. If you have no stove, the campfire must be built either on an exposed rock or in

a hole in the snow. If you have a stove, you arrange the stove in the tent on a "grid-iron" made of three poles six or eight feet long, to prevent its settling down when the snow melts underneath. The bed is made of hemlock brush laid on the snow to the depth of a foot or more, and covered with a large square of canvas, blankets and robes. When finished the bed is a fragrant and delightfully springy couch, as grateful to the aching bones of the fatigued traveler as the softest eider down or the most perfect wire spring mattress. Hauling a sled all day is calculated to give big appetites for food and sleep.

Dyea Canyon is not navigable, but in early spring miners go through on the ice, bridging the dangerous holes with poles. The canyon is about two miles long and about fifty feet wide. After the ice breaks up it is necessary to follow the trail or the east side of the canyon. Captain Healy built this trail at his own expense, but as most miners go through on the ice, it is little used. Beyond the canyon is a strip of woods, some three miles long, in which is a resting place called Pleasant Camp. This alluring name has not even a log shanty to represent it. It consists of an ample ground-work of snow and the shelter of the trees; and that is all.

Quite a steep ascent is now made until Sheep Camp is reached, the last camp in the timber before crossing the summit. Here the party rests awaiting favorable weather for making the most tedious eight miles of the climb that intervene between the camp and the top of the divide. As this camp is on the edge of the timber, no fire-wood can be gotten further up, and it is customary not to pull up stakes until all the equipment has been sent on ahead to the summit. In favorable weather, everything except what is actually needed in camp is pushed on a mile and a-half to a big clump of rocks called Stone House, and then to what is called the "second bench."

In soft weather care must be taken against a snow slide or avalanche sweeping away the outfit. In such an unfortunate event the Indians will prove of great assistance in recovering part of the things. With long, slender rods tipped with steel they feel down in the snow and locate most of the larger packages, which, without them and their feel rods, one would never find. At Sheep Camp the summit towers above you about 3,500 feet, but the pass is some 500 feet lower. No further progress can be made until a clear day, and sometimes the weather continues bad for two or three weeks, the mountain top hidden in thick clouds, and icy wind hurling the new

fallen snow in every direction, or driving the sleet in the face of any one bold enough to stir out of camp, and peep up at that almost precipitious wall of snow and ice. But sunshine comes at last, and the winds grow still. Now comes the tug of war—to get the outfit to the summit, for 600 feet every step must be cut in the ice, and so steep is it that a person with a pick on his back must constantly bend forward to maintain his equilibrium. The first load landed on the summit of the pass, a shovel is stuck in the snow to mark the spot, then back for another pack, and fortunate is he who gets his whole outfit up in a single day.

Indians may be hired to do the packing, and their rates vary slightly, but the regular price has been \$5 a hundredweight from the second bench to the summit, or 15 cents a pound from Healy & Wilson's to the lakes. These prices have been shaded a little the past season, and some outfits were packed over to the lakes at 13 cents a pound. The reasons for this cut in prices are that many miners insist on doing their own packing and that their work has been seriously affected by a tramway device which was operated last season with more or less success by one Peterson, whose inventive genius led him to believe that a simple arrangement of ropes and pulleys would greatly help in getting outfits up the steeper places. A small log is buried in the snow, and to this "dead man" a pulley is attached through which a long rope is passed, to the lower end of which a loaded Yukon sleigh is attached. An empty box on a sled fastened to the upper end of the rope is then filled with snow until its weight becomes sufficient to take it down the incline, thus dragging the other one up. The snow was found too light, but with three or four men as ballast in place of snow, it worked well and saved a good deal of hard packing. When the last load has reached the summit, and the miner stands beside his outfit looking down toward the ocean only 20 miles away, he can feel that his journey has fairly begun, and as he turns he sees the descending slope melting away into the great valley of the Yukon.

From the summit is gained a magnificent mountain view of the coast. The eye ranges over leagues of snow peaks, forested slopes and shining glaciers. Secretary Wm. H. Seward was the first pleasure traveler to penetrate the region, and could not sufficiently extol the grandeur of the view.

The descent for the first half mile is steep, then a gradual slope to Lake Linderman some ten miles away. But there is but little time for resting and none for dreaming, as the edge of the timber

where the camp must be made is seven miles from the summit. Taking the camping outfit and sufficient provisions for four or five days, the sleigh is loaded, the rest of the outfit is packed up, or buried in the snow, shovels being stuck up to mark the spot. This precaution is necessary, for storms come suddenly and rage with fury along these mountain crests. The first half mile or more is made in quick time, then over six or seven feet of snow the prospector drags his sleigh to where there is wood for his camp fire. At times this is no easy task, especially if the weather be stormy, for the winds blow the new fallen snow about so as to completely cover the track made by the man but little ahead; at other times during fine weather and with a hard crust on the snow, it is only a pleasant run from the Pass down to the first camp in the Yukon basin. In all except the most sheltered situations the tent is necessary for comfort, and the stove gives better satisfaction than the camp-fire, as it burns but little wood, is easier to cook over, and does not poison the eyes with smoke. It is a noticeable fact that there are fewer cases of snow blindness among those who use stoves than among those who crowd around a smoking camp-fire for cooking or for warmth. Comfort in making a trip of this kind will depend, in a great measure, upon the conveniences of camping, suitable clothing, and light, warm bedding. Yes, upon provisions, too, though often more depends upon the cook than what is in the larder.

After the rest of the outfit has been brought from the summit the next move is to Lake Linderman, about three miles distant. The route now lies seven miles across the lake to its outlet, down the outlet three or four miles in a northeasterly direction to Lake Bennett, down to the foot of this lake, twenty-five miles, then down the river four or five miles and Takish lake is reached. This lake is some 20 miles long and empties into Mud or Marsh Lake through an outlet 3 miles long; Mud Lake is about ten miles in length, and at the foot of it open water is usually found in April. Open water will probably be passed before reaching this point in the rivers connecting the lakes, but firm ice at the sides affords good sledding, but at the foot of Mud lake a raft or boat must be built. Dry timber can be found along the shores with which to build a raft, which will take everything to the Lewis river canyon, about forty miles to the northwest. The course down the lakes has been much in the form of a horseshoe and now bears to the west instead of the east.

Before reaching the canyon, a high cut bank of sand on the right hand side will give warning that it is close on hand. Good river



men have run the canyon safely even with loaded rafts, but it is much surer to make a landing on the right side and portage the outfit around the canyon three-quarters of a mile and run the raft through empty. The sameness of scenery on approaching the canyon is so marked that many parties have gotten into the canyon before they were aware of it. Below the canyon are the White Horse rapids—a bad piece of water; but the raft can be lined down the right hand side until near the White Horse, three miles below. This is a box canyon about a hundred yards long, and fifty in width, a chute through which the water of the river, which is nearly 600 feet wide just above, rushes with maddening force. But few have ever attempted to run it and four of them have been drowned. Of two men who made the attempt in May, '88, nothing was found save a bundle of blankets. Below the White Horse another raft is built and the journey continued seventy-five miles to Lake LeBarge. This usually requires three days.

After entering Lake Le Barge, solid ice is found perhaps a mile from the inlet. Camp is made on the shore, and as the ice gets soft most of the sledding is done in the early morning, it being sufficiently light in May to start soon after midnight. This lake is about forty-five miles long, and there is an island about midway. Little snow will be found here late in April, but it will be all glare ice. After camping on the island a day's journey will make the foot of the lake and the sledding is completed. If one expects to stay in the country the sled should not be thrown away, however, as it will prove useful later on. A comfortable camp should be made here, and the building of a boat commenced. This will require from 7 to 10 days, and the method of preparing lumber is novel to all who are unused to frontier life. Sound, straight trees, a foot through the butt, are selected. A sawpit about six feet high is built near the tree and the tree felled and cut into twenty-five foot logs. Your companions are invited to a "rolling bee" to help place the logs on the pit, where, with a sharp saw, an experienced hand and a plenty of "elbow-grease," good lumber is manufactured. After the pit is leveled and the log peeled, a square is marked off on the smaller end and its counterpart on the larger end. Then it is lined above and below, and squared or "slabbed" by sawing. Next it is lined off for boards, an eighth of an inch being allowed for the thickness of the saw. After the boards are sawed, the boat is built, the seams caulked, the boat pitched and the poles and oars made. Then the journey is resumed.

Descending the Thirty Mile river from the mouth of Lake Le Barge, the water is very swift, and extreme caution must be observed to avoid rocks. Thence for 132 miles, there is clear sailing down the Lewis River, passing the Hootalinqua, Big Salmon and Little Salmon rivers on the right, until one reaches five columns of rock, resembling human fingers and called Five Fingers. For half a dozen miles before reaching the Five Fingers, the high hills crowd closely upon the river and accelerate the current. As it is necessary to land twenty yards above the Fingers, which present a partial obstruction, the navigator should hug the right bank, and make a landing in an eddy in the bend. If the craft is loaded, it should be lightened before attempting to pass the Fingers, between which the water flows rapidly in five passages. The right hand passage is the only safe one, but care must be taken to keep in the "middle of the road."

A few miles lower down, the last dangerous obstacle for many miles is reached in the Reef or "Rink" rapids, a mile and a half long, extending nearly across the river. Here again the right-hand course is the right course.

Five hundred and eighty-six miles from Juneau you reach the confluence of the Lewis and Pelly rivers, parents of the Yukon. Here is the site of old Fort Selkirk, which was abandoned 44 years ago, when the natives "held up" the occupants and burned the wooden structure to the ground in their attempt to resist the inroads of civilization. At this point is reached the first trading post called Harper's.

#### DOWN THE MIGHTY YUKON TO KLONDIKE.

The Pelly and Lewis rivers unite in longitude 137 degrees 30 minutes west, approximately, in British territory. The traveler must remember that half way down Lake Bennett (near the start) he left the protection of the Stars and Stripes, and has been under the dominion of the Union Jack, and will so continue until he gets below Forty Mile on the Yukon. The Lewis and Pelly are both large rivers. The Lewis, down which the traveler has just come, is best known, having been used for the past thirteen years as the highway from Southeastern Alaska to the Yukon gold diggings. Its length from Lake Linderman, one of its chief sources, to the junction with the Pelly, is about 456 miles and lies entirely within British territory, with the exception of a few miles of the lakes at its head.

The Pelly River rises in Dease Lake, near the headwaters of the

Stikine, and flows some 500 miles before joining the Lewis to form the Yukon. The union of these rivers forms a stream varying from three-quarters to one mile in width. For many miles on the northern bank is a solid wall of lava, compelling the swift current to follow a westerly course in search of an outlet to the north. The southern bank is comparatively low, formed of sandy alluvial soil. A few miles above the White river the stream takes a northerly course through a rugged, mountainous country, receiving, on the south, the waters of the White River—so called from the milky color of the water—and a few miles farther on the waters of the Stewart River on the north. The current is very swift here, and has been observed to reach seven miles an hour. The water of the Yukon above the mouth of the White River is clear and dark. Below their confluence, the clear water and milky water flow side by side without mixing for many miles. But after they are finally mingled, the water of the Yukon is discolored to the sea. At the Upper Ramparts, so called, where the Yukon cuts through the Rocky Mountains, and flows through a cañon, the scenery is said to be extremely grand. From Stewart River to Fort Reliance both banks are closed in by high mountains of basalt rock and slaty shale. Many bluffs are cut into picturesque forms by glacial action.

The next tributary of the Yukon, below the Stewart river is Sixty Mile Creek, so called because it is sixty miles above Fort Reliance. A hundred miles further down stream, that is to say, forty miles below Fort Reliance, is Forty Mile Creek, so prominent in the news from the gold fields. About half-way between Sixty Mile and Forty Mile Creeks, the now famous Klondike River enters the Yukon from the northeast, and landing at Dawson City, at the mouth of the Klondike, you are at your journey's end. But for the sake of continuity, let us proceed down the Yukon to its mouth.

At Fort Reliance, an abandoned trading post, the Yukon takes a general course to the northwest for 500 miles to the confluence of the Porcupine River. Forty miles down stream, Forty Mile Creek enters from the west. Here the Yukon is nearly two miles wide. On Forty Mile Creek were the principal gold diggings of the Yukon valley until the discoveries of the Klondike, and one of the principal trading posts of the interior. Thirty-eight miles from there the Yukon crosses the international boundary into Alaska, and for 100 miles flows in a broad stream, confined by high banks and a mountainous country, said to abound in moose, deer and other game.

The river then widens out, and for 150 miles is a network of channels and small islands. At old Fort Yukon, an abandoned Hudson Bay post, it attains its highest latitude, being just within the Arctic Circle. This place is probably the only serious obstacle to navigation that is met with from its mouth to Fort Selkirk, a distance of over 2,000 miles, the channel here shifting from year to year and being difficult to find. From Fort Yukon to the mouth of the Dall River and the entrance of the Lower Ramparts, the river is wide, tortuous and filled with sloughs, islands and changeable deposits. Entering the Ramparts, a great change is noticed. The river becomes deep, narrow and rapid, closely shut in by hills from 500 to 2,000 feet high. In lat. 64 degrees 7 minutes N., long 150 degrees 8 minutes W., the great Tanana river adds its volume to the Yukon.

For many miles on the lower Yukon, the banks are devoid of timber other than a stunted growth of willow, alder, and cotton wood. The first spruce is seen some fifty miles below the Russian mission at Ikogmiut, and from there up to the head of the river it is more or less belted with spruce, fir, hemlock, birch, alder and cottonwood. The lumber is so checked by frost and full of knots, however, as to be useless except for the purposes of the miners. Cranberries, blueberries, salmon berries, currants and raspberries abound. An abundance of grass suitable for hay is found on the banks of the streams, but away from the water courses there is a dreary expanse of thick moss which excludes flowers and small vegetation.

Game is generally very scarce in the Yukon region. Although signs are numerous on the banks of the main river, few whites have proved successful hunters owing to difficulties of travel. A native, traveling unimpeded, can scour the country, and being familiar with every game indication could gain some reward for his exertions where a white man would starve to death.

#### DANGER OF STARVATION.

Foremost of the dangers which threaten the explorer for gold is starvation, not freezing. The inland snow-fall of three feet is not much of a drawback, comparatively speaking, if one is not on the trail, in which case he is liable to get lost in drifts fifteen feet deep. Neither is the low temperature of 70° below zero an insurmountable obstacle. Mere low temperature can be provided against with sufficient clothing and food enough of the right kind. The difficulty is starvation. Prof. W. H. Dall says: "It is a country in which it is

very hard to find food, as there is practically no game. Before the whites went into the region there were not more than 300 natives. They have hard work to support themselves on account of the scarcity of game."

A terrible tale of suffering and death from hunger is given by Frank Moss, an old-time Montana miner, who was one of the first Americans to visit the Klondike, and who returned to Great Falls, Mont., in July, 1897. He tells a story of horrors and starvation which is seldom equalled even in modern novels, and which, although contradicted by the latest reports, we give for what it may be worth. He says that gold abounds at Klondike, but no ordinary man can stand the hardships of the uncivilized region. When Moss left home four years ago he was a sturdy fellow over six feet tall. From hardships and privations he is a cripple for life and badly broken in health. In three years he saw over 2,000 graves made in the Klondike basin, a large majority of their occupants dying from starvation. The steamship companies bring in all food and allow no private importation. Consequently it is not uncommon to go for weeks with a scant supply and for days entirely without food. With the great crowds preparing to go in to the scene now, Moss says hunger and suffering will be great when added to other hardships to be overcome by those who survive. At the death of a man possessed of dust his body was buried without a coffin and the dust divided among those who cared for him. The gold brought in during one week of July to Seattle, Moss says, did not represent the findings of individual shippers, but a large proportion was confiscated from the effects of these 2,000 miners who fell a prey to the hardships.

Moss' story, however, receives a flat contradiction from F. G. Bowker, who declares that, so far from there being over two thousand deaths on the Klondike during the last three years, there was nobody there to die until less than a year ago, and since then there have been three deaths in the whole district, so far as known. In the graveyard at Forty Mile Post, which has served for all that section for several years, there are only thirty or forty graves, he says.

Birch Stickney died at the foot of Lake Lebarge. His partner offered \$200 for a man to accompany him to Dawson with the body, and, getting no assistance, made the trip alone, the journey requiring five days. Stickney's was the first body buried in Dawson.

Capt. Hays of the Alaska Commercial Company's ship *Bertha*, speaking of the Klondike boom, says:

"The fact that the new gold fields are 1,800 miles from St. Michael's and the difficulties of transportation are innumerable cannot be too forcibly impressed upon the intending prospectors. The newspapers will be responsible for the loss of many lives and a great deal of suffering and hardship if they do not strongly advise the public that the river Yukon, now that the mountain torrents have ceased running, is very low, and consequently much of the five thousand tons of supplies now awaiting transportation cannot possibly be conveyed to their destination for some time."

The Messrs. Sloss, of the Alaska Company, are equally frank, One of the firm says: "What we fear most is that the excitement will cause many people to rush northward without properly considering how they are to live through the winter after they get there. We have now about 5,000 tons of provisions on the Yukon, and we are sending large additional quantities, but we are not able to say whether the supply will be equal to the demand nor when the supplies will reach their destination with any certainty. The stern-wheel steamer with which the *Excelsior* will connect will be the last to make the Yukon river trip this season. It will reach Dawson City with a barge tow in September and must immediately return, as the river usually freezes over early in October." The *Excelsior* sailed from San Francisco, July 28, 1897.

The Alaska Commercial Company's large steamer *Arctic* was wrecked in the ice floe this spring near Forty Mile. Nothing has been saved but the machinery. There are enough provisions there at present, but owing to the loss of this river boat it is believed that there will be a shortage this winter.

### THE STIKINE RIVER ROUTE.

Among the new routes discussed as open to development is one from Fort Wrangel, up the Stikine river, via Telegraph Creek, the Lake Teslin Trail, Lake Teslin, Hootalinqua River, to the Lewis River, thence by the water courses previously described in the Chil-koot route to Dawson City.

The Stikine River is the largest in southeastern Alaska, but lies within our boundary for only about 30 odd miles. The interior of the country adjoining the river is broken into a succession of sharply defined mountain ranges, separated by narrow, deep valleys, similar to those between the islands near the coast. It takes its rise in a chain of great lakes, and its banks are covered with glaciers, descending from the snow-covered peaks on either side. This

river was once arched by a glacier, under which the water made its course; but the spring freshets have washed away the obstruction.

One wide passage from the Stikine to the ocean is called Sumner Strait. Another runs up along the coast and empties into Chatham Strait, and a branch of it, Stephen's Passage, extends further north, and mingles with waters from Chilkat inlet.

The Stikine is navigable for over 200 miles by stern-wheel steamers.

After leaving Telegraph Creek the traveler strikes straight across the smooth table land for about 175 miles. Then Teslin Lake is reached, and it is plain sailing clear to Dawson City. The only dangerous part of this route is the Five Fingers rapids, and these are not bad if one has a guide. John C. Calbreath, for many years a resident on Telegraph Creek, has been directed by the British Columbia Government to open this new route, and \$2,000 will be expended upon it immediately. Steamboats can operate up Telegraph Creek. Even now, it is said, the trip to the gold fields can be made with less danger and more quickly by this route than by any other. It is open usually until the middle of October, and sometimes as late as November.

#### THE DALTON TRAIL ROUTE.

The Dalton trail, through the Chilkat Pass to the Yukon at the Pelly River, is also attracting much attention as a feasible route, and a party consisting of Henry Bratnaber, the agent of the Exploration Company of London, John F. Mahoney and Frank Bach, are about to start over the route to demonstrate its practicability for passengers. Jack Dalton, its discoverer, has already started over it with a herd of cattle for the mines. After passing the Chilkat Pass, the route is by horseback over what it is said to be a good easy trail for 450 miles to the Pelly River, and then down to the Klondike by scows.

Next summer there will unquestionably be a wagon road constructed through Chilkat Pass to the gold diggings, seven hundred miles distant. This can be kept open most of the year, while the Yukon River is choked with ice and frozen solid. The trip through the Chilkat Pass, which is an all-land route, is much safer than the one by the way of Dyea, through the Chilkoot Pass, although a little longer. It has been made from the missions to the gold diggings by men on foot in summer in fourteen days. The trail passes through the Chilkat Pass and over a prairie route en-

tirely by land to Fort Selkirk where the Pelly River joins the Yukon, and thence by water. This route has forty-two horses on it for baggage, and in the spring it is promised that as many more will be provided as are needed.

James Sheakley, Governor of Alaska, in 1894, in recommending the establishment of mail communication between Juneau and the Yukon region, remarked that the distance via Chilkat Pass was longer than by the Chilkoot Pass, but the divide was much lower.

On this route every pound of luggage must be carried through the pass and at the portages, either by the traveler himself or on the backs of Indians or mules. There are but few Indians to be hired, and still fewer mules.

#### WHITE PASS ROUTE.

On July 16, 1897, the White Pass route was opened. This route is the same as the Chilkoot Pass route except for a few miles over the mountains at the start. White Pass lies just east of and parallel with Chilkoot Pass. On reaching the summit the traveler steps upon an almost level country, the grade to the lakes being twenty feet to the mile. The distance from salt water to the Takish Lake is thirty miles, and from salt water to the head of Lake Bennett the distance is forty-five miles. Both routes from the summit are through rolling country, for the most part open, with plenty of grass for feeding stock, water and sufficient timber for all purposes. From salt water to the summit stock and pack horses can be driven through easily.

#### THE YUKON ROUTE.

The longest route, by way of St. Michael and the Yukon steamers, is about 3,800 miles long, 1,800 miles of this being on the Yukon. Navigation closes on the Yukon early in September, and does not re-open until June.

#### PICTURESQUE SCENES IN DAWSON CITY.

At the mouth of the Klondike river is the mushroom mining city of Dawson, for which miners have deserted other regions in their excitement. All the lower camps are deserted, and Dawson is on the boom. Money is plentiful and stores and business houses are flourishing. There are several townsites at the mouth of the Klondike, but Dawson seems to be the most flourishing.

Edgar Misner, son of our ex-Minister to Central America, describes his arrival in Dawson in June, 1897. "We reached Dawson



about three o'clock in the morning and found one of the liveliest mining camps I ever saw. There are about 4,000 people here, and saloons, dance halls, and restaurants never closed. The gambling tables are always crowded and thousands of dollars change hands in a remarkably short time. Men who this time last year did not have a dollar now count their wealth by the thousands. Nearly everybody has a sack of gold dust with him as big as a policeman's club.

"The sun sinks out of sight now about 10:30 P.M. and comes up about 3 A.M. At midnight, however, it is almost as light as noonday. There is no night. At Dawson there is a little sawmill, and rough houses are going up in all directions, but for the most part it is a city of tents. On the shore of the river are hundreds of boats, and others are getting in every day.

"Klondike has not been one particle overrated. I have seen gold measured out by the bucketful. Just think of a man taking \$700 out of one pan of dirt. Mrs. Wilson, wife of the Alaska Commercial Company's agent, panned \$154 out of a single pan in one of the mines I am to take charge of. This is without doubt the richest gold strike the world has ever known.

"With all the new men in the country many miles of new ground will be prospected, and from the lay of the land I think other gold fields are certain to be located. Of course every foot of rich ground has an owner, so the newcomers have to depend on new strikes. Every day rumors of new discoveries reach here, which at once start stampedes, and hundreds rush out to strike claims.

"This rushing out is awful work. You have to race through deep, slushy swamps and fight millions of mosquitoes, climbing mountains covered with soft moss and thick brush. It is very hot in the middle of the day. Yesterday the thermometer was 97, and on top of it came a rumor that gold had been found on a creek seventy miles away. So at night the Alaska Commercial Company's steamer *Alice* started for the creek loaded to the guards with men and small boats. My duties kept me here, but my brother went out with the rush to put down his stakes. The gold is here, and the man who doesn't get some of it has himself to blame for it."

One will find more gold in circulation in Dawson than he ever saw in all his life. Saloons take in \$3,000 to \$4,000 each per night. Men who have been in all parts of the world where gold is mined say that they never saw such quantities taken in so short a time.

The practical owner of Dawson City is Joseph Ladue, formerly of Plattsburg, N. Y. Mr. Ladue was born in Schuyler Falls, the

town adjoining Plattsburg, and is now returning to Schuyler Falls. He is forty-eight years old, and went West about twenty years ago. After ten years spent in the Black Hills and other Western mining districts, he journeyed to Alaska, where he worked two or three years in the big mine on Douglass Island. Seven or eight years ago he entered the employ of the Alaska Commercial Co., and since then he has been engaged in trading and lumbering. He was stationed last fall about forty miles from the new gold fields, and, hearing many reports of their richness, went there and thereby made his fortune. Mr. Ladue has in the years of his absence made two or three strikes, but none like the present, and his ownership of Dawson City will make him a rich man. He has been back to his old home only twice in twenty years, the last time having been two years ago, and then he said he would return in two years. Mr. Ladue's family moved to Iowa before he first went West.

Gambling dens and dance halls have already opened in Dawson. Games of every description are running, and some of the miners play very heavily. They go into the mining camp in sheer desperation at the loneliness and gloom of winter, and gamble in a reckless manner to break the monotony. It is said to be hard to get along in Dawson City on less than \$50 a day, and many of the men spend ten times that much. It is said that one saloon cleaned up \$30,000 in three weeks this summer.

At present only miners' laws rule the camp, but next year Dawson City will be incorporated and municipal officers elected. The miners are reported to be determined that order shall be preserved at all hazards. No "sure-thing" gamblers will be allowed in either Dawson City or the diggings.

#### FREIGHT RATES.

Of freight rates, it must be said, as of the prices of commodities and labor given in this pamphlet, that in a period of extraordinary excitement like the present they are liable to extreme and sudden fluctuations, owing to the inevitable law of the relations of supply and demand. Subject to the foregoing qualification, the following figures will give an idea of the rates by steamship:

From San Francisco to Juneau, Sitka, Douglass Island, Killisnoo Chilkoot and Pyramid Harbor: Flour, \$12 per ton; groceries and general merchandise, or canned goods, \$14 per ton; lumber, \$14 per ton; dry goods, \$14 per ton.

Rates from Portland, Ore., to these points are \$2 less than from San Francisco; from Port Townsend, \$4 less than from San Francisco, and from Seattle and Tacoma, \$1 less than from Port Townsend.

Once arrived in Alaska, the avenues of intercommunication are only those provided by nature. There are no railroads or wagon roads, and travel is performed along water courses and lakes, by means of canoes and rafts, except in cases of such rivers as the Yukon, which are navigable by steamboats.

Navigation of the Yukon is generally open during June, July, August and half of September, although an occasional severe winter will close the mouth of the river till July 1st.

### **COST OF LABOR.**

The ordinary labor supply of Alaska consists of white men who receive large wages as skilled workmen, foremen and leaders of gangs; Chinamen, who usually work at specialties, and in the fish-canneries, on contracts, and natives, who form the largest class and are variously employed. The ordinary wages in the settled portions are \$3.00 to \$5.00 a day for white laborer, and \$1.50 to \$3.00 a day for natives. But these figures cannot be depended on to apply to the gold fields. Dominion Surveyor Wm. Ogilvie, commenting on the rush for Klondike from other rich fields in that district, says that men cannot be got to work for love or money, and the standard of wages is \$1.50 an hour. Some of the claims are so rich that every night a few pans of dirt is sufficient to pay all the hired help.

An attempt was recently made at the Klondike diggings to cut down wages from \$15 to \$10 a day, but most of the men struck and went back to Dawson, as they said they could not work for less than \$15 and pack their grub in over the trail. The trail is one of the worst imaginable. It is like walking through rotten straw. The country is all covered with moss from two to four feet deep, and when the frost is out about twelve inches, one goes down to the bottom at every step. Many miners are fifteen miles from Dawson and they have to pay twenty-eight cents a pound to have supplies packed in, but when it freezes up it is an easy matter to sled supplies up the river and creeks.

In some sections last fall \$2 per hour was common wages, and even now in these long days a man can command \$1.50 per hour up there, or from \$15 to \$20 per day. The river steamers cannot keep

crews this summer, for all run away to the mines as soon as they get in that region. Indians are all the help that can be kept, and even they are doing something in the line of locating claims.

### COST OF LIVING.

It is impossible for a miner going into the Yukon country over the difficult and dangerous trail from the head of Dyea inlet, to carry any considerable quantity of supplies, and when he reaches the diggings he is necessarily dependent upon traders for subsistence. The prices charged by these traders render it unprofitable to work in gravel yielding less than \$10 a day to the man; hence many bars that would pay under ordinary circumstances are abandoned as soon as it is ascertained that they do not pan out that amount. With prices running like those given below, a man working only 3 months must earn good wages to have anything left after paying for a whole year's supply of provision.

Cost of shirts.....	\$5 00
Boots, per pair.....	10 00
Rubber boots, per pair.....	25 00
Caribou hams, each.....	40 00
Bacon, per pound.....	75
Coffee, per pound.....	1 00
Sugar, per pound.....	50
Condensed milk, per can.....	1 00
Live dogs, per pound.....	2 00
Picks, each.....	15 00
Cordwood, per cord.....	25 00
Lumber at mill in Dawson, per thousand feet.....	130 00
Slabs, each.....	50
Sawdust, per sack.....	10
Flour, per cwt.....	1 00
Fresh beef, per lb., \$1.00 to.....	2 00
Ordinary shovels, each.....	18 00
Eggs, not fresh by many weeks, per dozen.....	5 00
Beans, per lb.....	20
Rice, " ".....	25
Lard, " ".....	35
Crackers, per pound.....	25
Whiskey, per drink.....	50

### MAIL SERVICE IN THE YUKON COUNTRY.

Prospectors going into the Yukon region must expect to be cut off almost entirely from communication with the outside world. There is no regular mail service in Alaska. Between ports, mails are sent by steamers when possible. Inland, mail is carried over-

land at rare intervals, at great expense, and amid great danger. As illustrative of the latter, we may cite the experience of Mail Carriers Hugh Day and O. E. Carr, who arrived at Juneau from the gold fields July 6th. The trips for both Day and Carr going in were arduous ones. More especially is this true as to Carr, who had to encounter so much broken ice. Day's trip completes the Hays-Day contract. Carr says that between Forty Mile and Circle City he repeatedly broke through the ice, and finally was compelled to make a boat from oiled canvas, using willows for a frame. This he placed on his sled, so that when he, with his dogs, went through the ice his provisions and mail would buoy up. He waded the river the last few miles, while at times his dogs were compelled to swim. However, both parties brought through the mail successfully, but only through pluck and perseverance. Day says he would not take another winter contract for less than \$3,000 per round trip, which statement will not be very encouraging to the present contractors, who get but \$600. It is said to be likely, however, that the new contractors will not begin the task, much less complete it.

#### SUB-PORT OF ENTRY AT DYEA.

On July 23, 1897, Secretary of the Treasury Gage decided to establish a sub-port of entry at Dyea. This action was taken as the result of an application to the Treasury Department by Canada for permission for Canadian vessels to enter at Dyea and land passengers and baggage there. It was desired to save passengers the annoyance of disembarking at Juneau and awaiting another steamer for Dyea, the head of navigation on this route to the Yukon frontier. The granting of the application would have made it necessary in all cases of vessels clearing for Dyea to give a special permit to the deputy at Juneau in the case of each vessel. In order to obviate this difficulty the Secretary of the Treasury made Dyea a sub-port of entry in the district of Alaska. This action was taken under the authority of the act of March 16, 1896, which authorizes the Secretary to establish sub-ports at such places in Alaska as he may deem proper.

The Canadian Government has been informed of the decision to create a subport of entry at Dyea for the benefit of British shippers of supplies for the gold district. Vessels carrying men, provisions and supplies will be allowed to proceed past Juneau to Dyea, where the supplies are to be put in bond and shipped over the short inter-

vening stretch of United States territory to the British Columbia boundary line, and thence to the Klondike fields.

All the members of the Cabinet were agreed upon the course to be taken. In the brief discussion over the matter it was pointed out that it was not only a neighborly action to take, but would be helpful to citizens of the United States as well. About nine-tenths of the men now in the gold belt belong to this country, it was said, and a failure to make the concession might deprive American citizens of needed supplies. It was also intimated that if the privilege were denied by this Government Canada might take up the matter, and by way of retaliation restrict operations in the part of the gold fields of Canadian soil to citizens of that country.

#### INFORMATION FOR THE GOVERNMENT.

An evidence of how deeply the Klondike excitement has taken hold of the Government appears in the announcement made at Washington July 24th, that in recognition of the importance of the gold discoveries in Alaska and adjoining territory, and in obedience to the widespread demand for authentic information in regard thereto, the Commissioner of Labor has detailed from his regular force an expert, thoroughly familiar with all the features of gold mining, to proceed immediately to the Klondike for the purpose of making a careful and exhaustive study of the conditions as they exist there. It is the intention of the Commissioner to embody the facts in a special report or bulletin of the department, which will appear at as early a date as possible. This is a subject of absorbing interest to all classes, and in making this investigation the Commissioner feels that he is working in the interest of the unemployed. Such a report as that contemplated, giving the unbiased facts as to the opportunities for the investment of capital and the employment of labor, wages, cost of living, etc., he believes will be of great value to the people of this country.

#### CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.

As it is probable that the Alaskan furor now developed by these revelations of marvelous mineral riches will secure for that much neglected territory a generous measure of Congressional attention next winter, we give herewith the names of the Committees on Territories and Public Lands appointed by Speaker Reed on July 24, 1897:

*Territories*—William S. Knox, Massachusetts; P. B. Low, New

York; Cass Broderick, Kansas; Loren Fletcher, Minnesota; M. Griffin, Wisconsin; William J. Foote, Jr., New York; J. A. Hemenway, Indiana; William S. Mesick, Michigan, Republicans. William McAleer, Pennsylvania; A. J. Hunter, Illinois; John A. Moon, Tennessee; John W. Gransford, Texas; James M. Griggs, Georgia; Marcus A. Smith, Arizona, and H. B. Ferguson, New Mexico, Democrats.

*Public Lands*—John F. Lacey, Iowa; William R. Ellis, Oregon; Samuel S. Barney, Wisconsin; Monroe H. Kulp, Pennsylvania; F. C. Stevens, Minnesota; C. D. Sheldon, Michigan; Daniel M. Mills, Illinois; Frank M. Eddy, Minnesota, Republicans. John F. Shafrath, Colorado, Silver Republican. Rudolph Kleberg, Texas; James H. Lewis, Washington; James R. Campbell, Illinois; Marion De Vries, California; David Meekison, Ohio, and Marcus A. Smith, Arizona, Democrats.

### BRITISH MINING REGULATIONS.

The laws which govern mining claims in British North America—and these apply to the Klondike and Stewart River regions—may be summarized as follows:

A *Bar Digging* consists of a strip of land, 100 feet wide from high water mark, and extending along the river to low water mark. The side lines of such a digging are to be at right angles with the stream and parallel with each other, and marked by four mere-stones or legal posts. One of these posts must bear the name of the owner and date when he staked the claim. *Dry Diggings* are 100 feet square, and must be marked with posts as above indicated. *River Claims* are 500 feet along the river, and extending from base to base of hill on either side. Where the distance between such bases is less than 100 feet, the width may be extended to a full hundred. The ends of the claim are de-limited by lines running at right angles to the course of the stream. The claim must be marked by legal posts, one of which shall bear the name of the claimant and the date of staking. A *Bench Claim* is 100 feet square, measured horizontally, irrespective of the unevenness of the ground. A *New Mine*, if discovered, entitles the discoverer to a bar digging claim of 750 feet. A new stratum of gold-bearing "dirt," even if found in a locality where claims have been abandoned, is accounted a new mine. *Forms of Applications* for a grant, and *Forms for Grants* of the same, must conform with the standard prescribed by the Gold Commissioner. *Claims must be recorded* with the Gold Com-

missioner in whose district it is located, within three days from the date of location, if not over ten miles from the Commissioner's office. If it is more than ten miles distant, one day additional for every ten miles is allowed for recording. The claim must be *staked personally* by the applicant, and an affidavit that the applicant himself staked the claim must accompany the application. The *entry fee* is \$15; the *annual tax* \$100, and the *royalty* 10 per cent. on annual outputs of \$500 or less, and 20 per cent. on outputs of over \$500. The entry of every placer grant must be renewed annually, at an expense of \$15, the old receipt being relinquished and a new receipt obtained. After recording a claim, the removal of a post by, or on behalf of, the owner, for the purpose of altering the boundary, works a *forfeit of the claim*. A miner may be granted *but one claim* in a given locality, but he can hold as many claims as he likes by purchase. *Partnership* arrangements must be registered with the Gold Commissioner, at a cost of \$5. A miner has *exclusive right* of entry upon his own claim for working the same and building a residence, and exclusive title to the proceeds therefrom, but *no surface rights*, and the Gold Commissioner may grant adjacent miners the privilege of such entry thereon as may be absolutely necessary for the working of their claims. He may also permit miners to cut timber for their own use. A miner is entitled to the *use of water* flowing through, or by, his claim, to such extent as the Gold Commissioner shall determine to be necessary for the working of the same.

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## CAPITAL AND ENTERPRISE.

### DEVELOPMENT COMPANIES.

The possibilities offered by the new discoveries have stimulated the formation of many development companies for operation in Alaska. Among them is the Alaska Coöperative Gold Mining and Development Co., with headquarters at 76 Park Place, New York, elsewhere advertised. The proposed incorporators are men engaged in different lines of business, and it is their purpose to avoid illegitimate speculative methods and to conduct their business in a business man's way.

### TO DAWSON FROM NEW YORK.

The Pacific Mining and Trading Co., capital \$100,000, shares \$10 each, with headquarters at 2 Macon Street, Brooklyn, N. Y., have secured a vessel that sails with both cargo and passengers from New York about September 10th to Dawson, via Magellan Straits, calling at San Francisco and Seattle, and expecting to reach the Yukon ahead of others by at least two weeks. The fare is \$350.



#### THE ADDICKS SYNDICATE.

The first large Eastern capitalist to embark seriously in the development of the upper Yukon country is J. Edward Addicks of Delaware. His attention was seriously directed to the region early in 1897, by George B. Kittinger, a mining engineer, who had been for two years in the Cariboo section of British Columbia, which is at the head waters of the southern feeders to the Klondike and Yukon rivers. With characteristic shrewdness Mr. Addicks quietly incorporated "The Yukon-Cariboo British Columbia Gold Mining Development Company," secured men who are British subjects as local trustees for the corporation, and to-day has on the ground and en route several thoroughly equipped corps of miners, engineers and packmen. Former Governor John H. McGraw of the State of Washington, and President of the First National Bank of Seattle, sailed in July, 1897, in charge of the last party dispatched by the Addicks syndicate. Among the directors are bank presidents in several of the large cities of the country. Also in the list are E. F. J. Gaynor, Auditor Manhattan Elevated Railroad Company, New York; Sylvester T. Everett, Cleveland, O.; Camille Wiedenfelf, banker, No. 44 Wall street, New York; former Governor John H. McGraw, Seattle; Philo D. Beard, Buffalo; John Laughlin, Buffalo; Benjamin Butterworth, Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C.; Charles H. Kittinger, Wilmington, Del., and J. M. Buxton, M. E., Vancouver, B. C. The corporation is incorporated with J. Edward Addicks as president, C. H. Kittinger, secretary, and E. F. J. Gaynor, treasurer.

This company confidently expects to land the first large consignment of Klondike gold dust and nuggets in New York. A returning party is believed to be on its way to Vancouver at this time.

Mr. Addicks says that the wealth of the upper Yukon has been fully known to him for a long time, and that he did not take a step until he had special reports from men of absolute trustworthiness. He left for Vancouver in July. He will not go to Alaska himself this year, but he wants to establish a depot of supplies on the Pacific coast, and to secure steamers for next season. One of the parties already en route to Dawson carries a great quantity of provisions which will be cached, if necessary, in the Chilkoot Pass between Juneau and Lake Linderman on the way to the gold fields. That party does not intend that its successors shall starve.

#### PORTABLE HOUSES.

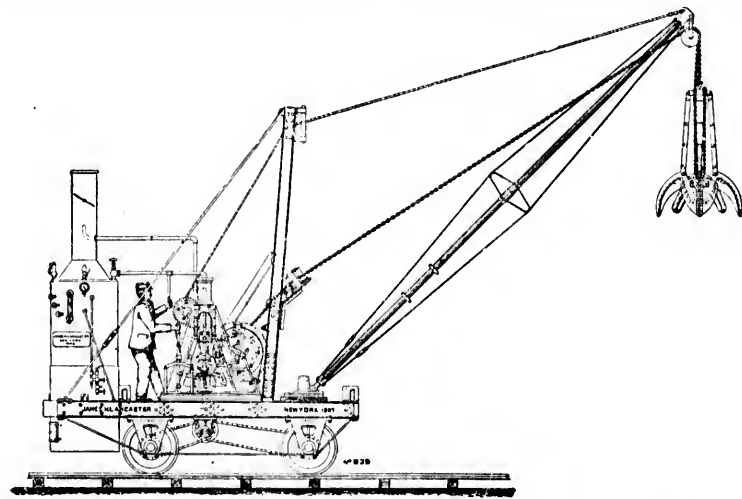
As previously mentioned, while speaking of the lumber laws of Alaska, there is practically no lumber industry, and lumber has to be carried from the States. A great convenience to residents and prospective settlers is afforded by the Ducker patent portable houses, of which we give an illustration herewith. These houses are practical, strong and durable, made of carefully selected materials, and easily erected and taken down, without the use of nails, screws or any external appliances, no skilled labor being required. Taking into consideration their simplicity of construction, size and



accommodation, the cost is said to be less than any other building used for a similar purpose. They are made principally of hard wood, consisting of strong sectional frames (for facility of transportation) filled in on the outside and inside with wood panels of a combined thickness of one and one-half inches. Each section is tongued and grooved, and when fastened the joints are air-tight. They cost from \$50 to \$2000 each, and are made by the Ducker Portable House Co., 26 Cortlandt Street, New York. A number will be sent overland as soon as arrangements are made, and late in the fall the firm will load a vessel and send it by way of Cape Horn around to Seattle, in time for the spring immigration.

#### PLACER AND QUARTZ WORKING METHODS.

Considerable attention and painstaking research has for years past been given to the subject of working ores and placer ground for obtaining therefrom the free gold and concentrates at the lowest possible cost. Necessarily mechanical means have been resorted to and with more or less success. Prominently among the active and successful men devoting their energies in this direction is J. H. Lancaster, 123 Liberty Street, New York, who for years past has done more than any other concern in the perfection and introduction of successful machinery for handling placers and reducing and treating ores of all kinds. On another page is described the



"Lancaster" hand power placer apparatus and above is illustrated a steam power placer digging machine which more rapidly furnishes the gold bearing gravel to the sluicing apparatus. This latter is built in sizes to correspond with the capacity of the automatic digger; power for same is transmitted to the sluicing apparatus thus saving manual labor.

The "Lancaster" Drilling and Frost Thawing Apparatus for working the hard frozen ground in Alaska is a most important adjunct to the above machine. It drills deep holes and supplies steam and hot water thereto for thawing out the frost and thus loosening and making the gravel and sand beds more readily workable. The outfit fills every requirement for the rapid, economical and successful working of the placer material found in the Arctic regions as well as that found in the warmer climates.

Addic  
Admin  
Alask

Bear:  
Behr:  
Best:  
Boat:  
Bour:  
Cana:  
Chill:  
Chill:  
Clim:  
Clot:  
Com:  
Com:  
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Cool:  
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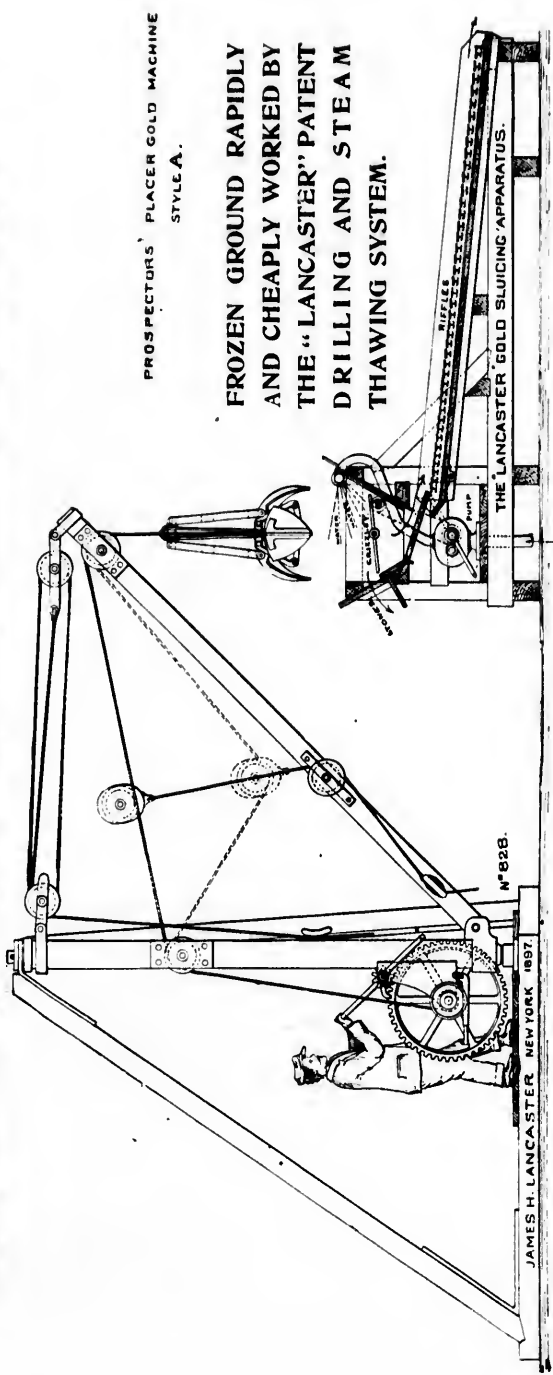
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\$350 carries you direct to Dawson via Magellan Straits, where recent gold discoveries have been made. Our crew will prospect there for two months, which is the summer season there, and, if successful in discovering gold deposit, will arrange for working it. Those who desire can remain there while the vessel proceeds on her journey to Dawson, the main reason for the early start being that we gain opportunity to ascertain if the report of rich deposits found at Magellan are true, and if so, take advantage of them in a region closer to home, easier of access and less trying to health.

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" \* \* \* The expedition is the result of a number of conferences held by business men, who see an opportunity to make money. Everything has been mapped out with the greatest care, and so far as human foresight can be depended upon, nothing will be neglected."—*N. Y. Journal*, August 2.

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**CHARLES H. KITTINGER, *Secretary,***  
66 Broadway, New York City.      Harrison Building, Philadelphia.

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