Klondike and Yukon Today

THE world will go gold-hunting until the last yellow nugget is extracted from the earth. Naturally the Klondike and Yukon goldfields, as the latest to be opened, will attract the would-be pioneers of the present, and romantic stories coming out of the great Alaskan forests and mountains will stir the blood of the adventurous until the whole region has become commercialized. In a recent publication of the Smithsonian, H. C. Cadell reports his studies and investigations in the Klondike and the Yukon and presents a picture of conditions in these famous fields which the man with the gold fever will do well to see.

The name Klondike was once in every mouth, and late in the nineteenth century it nearly became a synonym for all that was rich and prosperous. But of late it has not been so common, its early bloom having faded away. The sensational pockets of fine placer gold, which attracted hordes of hardy adventurers from every quarter, now are nearly depleted, and no new ones have been discovered to maintain its earlier reputation. But while this part of the Yukon district can no longer be called a poor man's goldfield, it still contains a considerable quantity of alluvial gold which can be secured by the application of capital and brains. It remains a region well worth visiting, for besides the gold it has other possibilities of development. There are many points of geographic and scientific interest; in this remote and imperfectly explored northwestern corner of the British empire there are numerous problems awaiting the discussion and investigation of the geologist and the geographer of the years to come.

Skagway Now a Wretched Spot.

On his trip of investigation Mr. Cadell steamed up the coast from Vancouver, and through the Lynn canal, to Skagway, which he terms the gateway to the Yukon, and describes as "a wretched little town with decayed wooden houses and grass-grown streets, the scene of many robberies, riots and murders at the time of the gold rush, which the police authorities had neither the power nor energy to control. Skagway is not, and can never be, of much use to the United States except as an obstruction to Canadian progress, but might be of some advantage to the vast Canadian hinterland less than twenty miles inland."

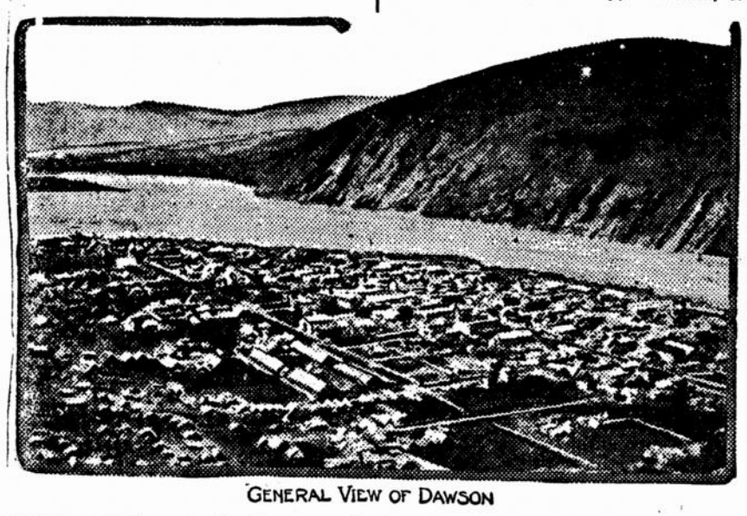
Skagway is surrounded on three sides by a plateau of steep and rugged mountains through which two trails lead to the north over the White Horse and the Chilcoot passes, up whose wild and difficult ravines thousands of fortune-seekers trekked and struggled with their heavy packs, tools and tents in the mad rush to the expected El Dorado over five hundred miles away. Soon after the gold was found in quantities a mountain railroad was built up the White pass from Skagway to the summit and on to Lake Bennett, a distance of 40 miles, traversing a wild and iceworn plateau of gigantic proportions, strewn with moraines, sprinkled over with lakes and inclosed by snowy peaks 5,000 to 6,000 feet in height.

At the head of Lake Bennett lies the deserted town of Bennett, where, at the time of the gold rush, there were lodged some five thousand people in houses, huts and tents. The only building now standing beside the railroad station is a wooden Presbyterian church—which shows that at least a few righteous men were among that sordid crowd. It was here that the first prospectors and miners got into boats and canoes and navigated their frail craft through lakes and rapids for the remaining 531 miles of their venturesome journey to Dawson City. The last stretch of the railroad from Skagway runs along Lake Bennett to White Horse, a few miles above Lake Laberge, where safe navigation down the Lewes river to Dawson begins.

Dawson City the Center.

Although the great ice fields of the early ages swept the greater portion of North America they missed the region of the Klondike, and consequently the gold-producing deposits remained intact until the early prospectors discovered them. The Yukon goldfield is confined mainly to the vicinity of Dawson City, although small quantities of gold can be found in the sand of the Yukon for hundreds of miles up the valley. Dawson City is situated on the alluvial flat where the Yukon is joined by the Klondike river, two tributaries of which are the famous Bonanza creek and Hunker creek. Although traces of gold were discovered in the Yukon valley in about 1869, it was twelve years later, in 1881, before it was found in the Big Salmon, and in the Lewes, afterward coarse gold was found on the Fortymile, a tributary of the Yukon below Dawson, and in 1894-1906 the discoveries of Bob Henderson and George Cormack, in Hunker and Bonanza creek and many miners made fortunes in a short time, but unfortunately most of the gold was spent foolishly or in debauchery. One man is said to have taken $600,000 out of a claim 86 feet by 300 feet, but, so the story goes, he spent it in a few years and died in poverty. The quickest fortune on record was secured by two men who cleaned up gold to the value of $65,000 in 27 hours. Stories of the proceedings at Klondike during these "golden days" are not edifying, but point to the moral that wealth too easily and quickly won is apt to work ill.

The total output in 1898 was $20,000,000, from which figure it jumped six million annually until 1900, when the production reached $22,275,000, the highest point. From this point a steady decline began until in 1908, when it was $2,829,131, at which time hydraulicking and dredging began, and the total output rose slowly until it was $5,018,411 in 1913. It has been estimated that only about $20,000,000 worth of gold remains to be produced, out of the original available amount of nearly $180,000,000. At the height of the boom in the winter of 1899 the population of Dawson is said to have reached 25,000; recently, however, it has dwindled down to less than two thousand people.



GENERAL VIEW OF DAWSON

Three Ways of Getting Gold.

The various processes of recovering gold in this region fall under three main heads—individuals, by washing surface gravels with shovel and pan, or by sluicing with flume and sluice box; small parties, by working drift with mechanical scrapers and sluices, or drift-mining in shafts and sluicing, and capitalists, by dredging with powerful mechanical plants, hydraulic sluicing with monitors, or mining and stamping ore in mills. The first class includes "poor men's diggings" and the second requires more financial resources and mechanical ability, but a successful man in the first may become a member of the second class. While the first two classes require fairly rich ground, only men with exceptional ability and ample capital can reach the third class and work the low-grade placer gravels or quartz veins successfully.

The author describes in detail the several methods of extracting gold from the frozen Klondike field, based upon his personal observations, and shows how man has changed the topography of this district, especially in the valleys. First the drift miners turned the gravel upside down, then the dredgers plowed it all over again and threw it into great ridges of stone with mud banks between, and finally where there were white gravels on the high ground, the hydraulic "giants" washed them down into great fan-shaped cones, sometimes reaching across the entire valley, completely burying all below, damming up gullies and producing new lakes. All of which operations have made tough problems for the future geologist.

The vast territory of the Yukon district is imperfectly explored, and although it is far north, the climate in summer is warm and favorable for agriculture and grazing. Exploration is now readily effected from Dawson, and Mr. Cadell hopes that fresh enterprise will reveal new resources that will lead to the permanent settlement of this remote and almost uninhabited outpost.

Anxious to Please.

"So you are expected to do a kind act every day?"

"Yes," replied the boy scout.

"How about today?"

"Well, the teacher has been having a little trouble with me. Don't you think I might stay away from school and give her a rest?"

IN SOUTHERN RUSSIA

MOST ADVANCED REGION OF THE MUSCOVITE EMPIRE.

Characteristics of the People Are in Strong Contrast to Those of the Central Districts—Are More Like the Westerners.

The South Russians, or the people of Little Russia, from among whom the colossal Muscovite empire draws some of its bravest, steadiest fighting men, are a people distinguished for their contradictory characteristics in a land that is a puzzle of contradictions. The South Russians, the toughest fiber of the Russian armies, are a people full of interest, of quaint philosophies, and of pleasant ways, according to a bulletin issued by the National Geographic society. The sketch reads:

"Between Central and South Russians the contrast is as strong as between the Prussian an dthe Bavarian. As in Germany, the vigor of the czar's mighty empire is more sharply expressed in the north than in the south, and yet, in the case of both empires, much of the national strength and energy are furnished by the south.

"Russian life is sprightly in the south. In the north, it is sullen, monotonous, oppressive. In the southland, too, there is a far greater display of well-being and comfort. The northern peasant lives in colorless villages, in grayish-brown thatched houses built of logs, which are stretched along unsanitary streets, redolent with the accumulations of carelessness. Around these houses there are almost never any signs that their occupants are making homes, there are no efforts toward improvements. The roads are mostly just ground left between two rows of houses; the yards are just ground left bare around them.

"The South Russian builds his home and orders his village, in the rule, picturesque and inviting. There are gardens before the door, and orchards round about, and the houses of the village are painted white or pale green. Porches, balconies, glass and vine-covered verandas relieve the architectural uniformity. There is more cleanliness, gayety, and softer manners in the south to tempt the friendly judgment of the stranger.

"The people of Central Russia confess that they are often more harsh and more neglectful of appearances than they of the south, but, also, they claim that the northern Russians are more faithful, consistent, sturdy and more tender than their brothers in Little Russia. North and south, east and west, all agree that in South Russia true laziness may be found in unsurpassed expression. It is said that the indolent South Russian will say to his wife: 'Little wife, say "woa" to my horse; I have a pain in my tongue.'

"Otherwise, the South Russian has become more like the Westerners. He dresses as the German, or the Englishman, and he more often takes an interest in the world without than the peasant of the north. He is better nourished, better educated, and, possibly, a trifle less religious. He is also of purer Slavonic stock, less melancholy Finnish is in his blood, and his dialect is strongly marked.

"He runs more to ornament, more to bright colors, to singing and to story-telling than does his northern compatriot. He is an unabashed and all-inquisitive questioner, asking the entire stranger whether the stone in his scarfpin is genuine or not, how much his neckwear cost, what his religion is, and other things somewhat personal and unexpected. But he is generally willing to be as free and frank himself, as he demands. Lazy, the Little Russian is vigorous and successful; of elastic, friendly temperament, he is an unpeered fighter; argumentative at all times, about all things; he is clannish and a patriot, and a stay-at-home he is, yet burning with interest for all that goes on in the world."

Need of Reforestation in Japan.

The forest area of Japan is decreasing at the rate of one million acres a year. This area is being cut away partly for timber and lumber and for firewood and partly to make the land available for the cultivation of rice.

The forests of Japan at the end of 1914 covered about 45 million acres. Extensive efforts are being made to increase the acreage of forest lands by planting surfaces now cleared off with young trees of quick growth. It has been urged that it is necessary to replant all surfaces as soon as they are cleared for commercial purposes in order to lessen the great loss annually caused by floods in the mountains.—Vice Consul Harold C. Huggins, Yokohama, Japan, in Commerce Reports.

Silver Mine Under City.

Embedded under 100 feet of solid earth, a silver vein more than a mile long and 7½ feet deep, and said to contain nearly a million dollars' worth of pyrites of silver ore, has been discovered on the United States bureau of mines site, Forbes and Craig streets, Oakland, by Chief Engineer J. D. McTighe.

This discovery was made when Engineer McTighe was surveying land where the boiler room of the new Bureau of Mines building is to be erected.

Italian workmen blasting slate saw little, white objects, which looked like diamonds to them, nestled among the rocks, and this led to the strike.—Pittsburgh dispatch Philadelphia Record.

CARE OF THE TABLE LINEN

Its Life May Be Materially Lengthened If It Is Always Handled Properly.

Careful housewives who fear the effects of fruit stains on their best table linen often lay it aside during the fruit season and use in its place table squares with the square doilies or the round table coverings with the round doilies to match.

These are chosen of fine linen or patterned damask, preferably with the scalloped edges or the simple hemstitched hems. Under them are used the asbestos mats, which perfectly protect the polished table top. Many are using the Japanese sets, made of the cotton toweling. These are herringboned together to make the square cover the desired size, some even having the blue linen knotted to form a fringe. They are pretty and cool looking with the blue Dresden china.

The use of the smaller table linens, apparently, increases the size of the laundry, but in reality it is less work to do up a number of the small pieces than it is to wash and iron the large, heavy tablecloths.

Almost all stains are removed quite readily with plain boiling water, which must be applied before any soap is used. Soap always sets a stain. But if the stain is stubborn and refuses to come out for the hot water, then salts of lemon may be applied, and the article should be allowed to stand in the sun while it dries.

Then rinse in cold water and apply the salts a second time if there are any traces of the stain still on the cloth. One may also use spirits of wine, ammonia or javel water, which latter must be rinsed out almost immediately for fear it may damage the material.

For grease or gravy spots, plain yellow soap rubbed well into them, then the boiling water turned through, will remove them at once. One must be careful with the laundry list while using the small tableware, for the loss of a few doilies spoils the set.

HELPFUL HINTS

When ironing delicate garments put powdered orris root between the folds of the ironing blanket. A delicate perfume will permeate the clothing.

Almost all vegetables—except beans—should be cooked in as little water as possible; then this water should be thickened with butter, cream and the tiniest amount of flour for the sauce.

To make boots waterproof melt together two parts beeswax to one part of mutton fat. Apply this to the leather at night, and in the morning wipe well with a piece of flannel.

If a magnet is kept in the hook and eye box, it will be an easy matter to pick up the hooks and eyes, and any hook that will not be picked up by the magnet, do not use, because it will rust.

Every cellar should have many shelves for the convenience of the housekeeper. There should be one or two hanging shelves. By this means the cellar may be kept in order and sanitary.

The Proper Spoon.

No other kitchen utensil will hasten the labor of cooking quite so much as the proper spoon.

Beating spoons which are split or perforated are essential for obtaining light and fluffy mixtures in the shortest time. They can also be used as vegetable mashers.

The tongs-spoon is an invaluable help in handling hot eggs, potatoes, etc. The strainer spoon and the measuring spoon, which usually come in sets of three, are found to be indispensable after a cook has once become accustomed to the use of them. For one dollar a complete supply of spoons can be put in the kitchen.

Persimmon Pudding.

One-half gallon good, ripe persimmons, strained through a colander with one-half gallon of sweet milk one teaspoonful soda, one teaspoonful nutmeg, two eggs well beaten, one quart flour or enough to make batter consistency of cake batter, butter size of an egg, one and one-half teacupfuls sugar, one good-sized sweet potato grated and one teaspoonful salt. Bake one hour.

Custard and Spinach.

Boil a quart of spinach in salted water until tender and press dry, setting aside until cold. Beat two eggs, add a teaspoonful of salt and gradually a pint of hot milk, stirring well. Add the finely chopped spinach and cook in hot water until firm. Cut in cubes when cold and serve as a garnish with clear soup.

Round Steak; Spanish Style.

Broil round steak until nicely browned on both sides; pour into a frying pan one can of tomatoes, one teaspoonful salt, one-fourth teaspoonful pepper, one grated onion and one teaspoonful of table sauce; cook slowly in oven until meat is done, or about half an hour; remove meat to hot platter and surround with sauce.

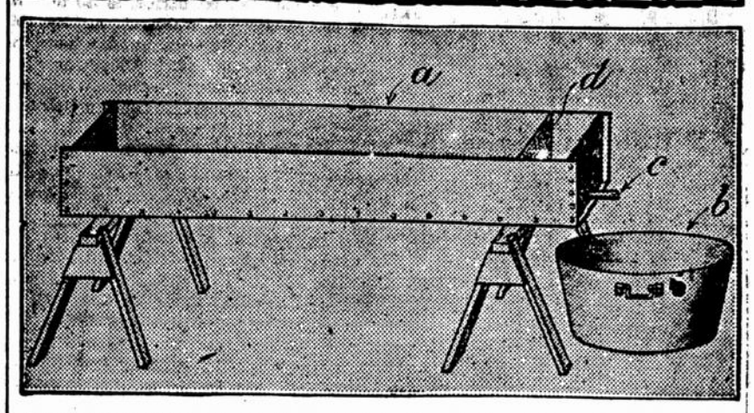
Corn Fritters.

Cut from the ears a pint of green corn. Beat together a cupful of milk two tablespoonfuls of melted butter one egg whipped light, salt to taste and enough flour to make a thin batter. Into this stir the grated corn. Beat hard and cook, as you would griddle cakes, upon a soapstone griddle.

To Make Potatoes Fluffy.

When mashing potatoes always use boiling, not cold milk. Beat hard and the potatoes will be light and fluffy.

SMUT OF WHEAT IS PREVENTABLE DISEASE



Simple Apparatus for the Formalin Treatment Consisting of Trough, Tub and Sawhorse—a, Trough; b, Tub; c, Pine Plug; d, Perforated Tin Plate.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Wheat growers in this country not infrequently experience serious losses caused by preventable diseases. Wheat is preyed upon by a number of parasitic fungi, three of which are classed as smuts. Two of these smuts are common pests in the wheatfields of North America, the other, commonly known as flag smut, is thus far unknown to this continent, though it is fairly common in Australia and certain other parts of the world where wheat culture has been in progress for centuries, says the department of agriculture.

Of the two smuts, bunt or covered smut of wheat, sometimes referred to as stinking smut, is found wherever wheat is grown, sometimes resulting in losses to the farmers of the United States of $20,000,000 or more annually. Not infrequently fields planted to untreated seed and giving promise of yielding 30 to 40 bushels per acre of good wheat, will produce a crop of covered smut amounting, in some cases, to as much as 40 to 60 per cent of the crop.

This smut disease is caused by a parasitic fungus which attacks the growing wheat plant before the first leaf appears above ground. Once inside the attacked seedling it continues its growth and by the time the wheat begins to head the diseased plants produce a crop of smut. If we examine the heads of such a plant we find instead of normal wheat grains only a lot of smut balls. In other words, the materials produced by the living plant for the purpose of building up sound wheat grains have been consumed by the parasite in forming its masses of smut spores which finally occupy the exact position in the wheat heads that would have been filled by the kernels had they been allowed to develop. These smut balls consist of nothing but millions of spores inclosed in each case by a thin enveloping membrane. When the smut balls are crushed the spores give off an odor not unlike that of herring brine. The liberated spores become attached to the seed, which, if planted without previous treatment, may produce another crop of smutted wheat.

Treat Seed With Formalin.

Bunt or covered smut of wheat is one of the most easily prevented of any of the cereal diseases. The following procedure is recommended: Run all seed wheat through a fanning mill in order to blow out the unbroken

Bunt or Stinking Smut of Wheat—Two Smutted Heads.

smut balls. This being done, the grain should be soaked ten minutes in a solution consisting of one pound of commercial formalin (obtainable at nearly all drug stores) added to 40 gallons of water. The seed thus treated is next allowed to drain and is then piled on the floor and stirred frequently until sufficiently dry to sow. If, during this process, the kernels have swollen very much, the drill should be set to sow a little thicker, else the quantity sown per acre will be less than was intended.

Rotation in Severe Cases.

Recent experiments have shown that in certain sections of the country the soil of a field producing a crop of smutted wheat this year may harbor enough smut spores to cause the appearance of smut in next year's crop if the field be reseeded to wheat. This sometimes occurs, where smut is very bad, in spite of the planting of treated seed, and shows that in such localities crop rotation should be practiced in addition to seed treatment. Bunt or covered smut of wheat attacks no other cereal crop, but other cereals have their own smut diseases.

Loose Smut.

The other wheat smut occurring in this country, known commonly as loose smut, is not so serious as bunt, although it probably produces an average loss of three-fourths of one per cent of the total wheat crop of the country. Loose smut may be prevented by treating the seed by the Jensen hot-water method or some modification of it.

The Jensen method consists in soaking the seed for ten to fifteen minutes in hot water at a temperature of 132 to 133 degrees, Fahrenheit. It is highly important that the water shall not rise over 135 degrees or fall below 130 degrees, Fahrenheit. A temperature below this will not kill the smut, while a temperature too high may affect the germination of the seed. The grain after treatment should be immediately spread out to dry. If it cannot be spread at once it should be dipped into cold water to cool at once, and spread as soon as possible.

USE OF CARBON BISULPHIDE

Affords Rather Cheap and Simple Treatment for Eradicating Grain Moths and Weevils.

(By T. J. TALBERT, Missouri College of Agriculture.)

A stitch in time saves nine, but even the time may not remedy the damage one would have prevented. Usually late threshing has left the grain in the stack or shock exposed to the attacks of the grain moth and the weevil this year. Fortunately, a rather simple, cheap treatment with carbon bisulphide will destroy all the weevils and moths that infest stored grains. This liquid looks very much like water but when poured on rags or into shallow pans on the top of grain, rapidly forms a gas so much heavier than air that it goes down among the kernels, destroying all weevils and moths.

The temperature, size, shape, and tightness of bins or granaries are important factors. It is not worth while to fumigate when the temperature is below 60 degrees F. More bisulphide is required and even then unsatisfactory results are obtained.

One pound of liquid for every 30 bushels of grain will be enough if the bin is tight and the temperature above 70 degrees. Another pound should be used for every 200 cubic feet of space above the grain in the bin.

The liquid may be thrown directly on the grain without injury, but better results will be secured by pouring it into shallow pans, scattered over the surface, or if these are not available, it may be poured upon old rags or cotton waste. One-half pound or at most not more than a pound, should be poured into each pan. The liquid may be poured down through a gas pipe in order to get it near the center and bottom of very large bins. Plug one end of the pipe with cotton or old rags, push it down through the grain and then remove the plug by pushing a rod down through the pipe.

The granary or bins should be kept closed as tightly as possible for 36 hours, and if the seed is not to be sowed, for 48 hours. The grain will be just as good for feed after treatment as before, but if it is to be sowed, care should be taken not to use too much bisulphide or to fumigate too long. It is often convenient to apply the liquid Saturday afternoon and fumigate until the next Monday morning.

The gas is very explosive and no lighted cigars, pipes, lanterns, or matches should be allowed in or near the building until it has been thoroughly aired. The work should always be done in the daytime. Cost may be kept down by securing commercial bisulphide instead of the more expensive chemically pure liquid, often kept by drug stores. Storekeepers will doubtless to glad to order the more economical form if it is not already in stock.

For directions in special cases, write to the College of Agriculture, Columbia, Mo. Be sure to state the size of the granary or bin to be fumigated.

Determine Value of Cow.

To determine the value of a cow it is necessary to measure her milk flow and also to test her milk for butterfat. A cow producing 40 pounds of 3 per cent milk and one producing 20 pounds of 6 per cent milk give equal amounts of butter.

Signs of Tuberculosis.

A cow that stays thin in spite of good feed and has a cough, shows pretty sure signs of tuberculosis. Let the veterinarian test her.