

**THE TRAGEDY OF THE KLONDIKE:  
THIS BOOK OF TRAVELS GIVES  
THE TRUE FACTS OF WHAT TOOK  
PLACE IN THE GOLD-FIELDS  
UNDER BRITISH RULE**

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The tragedy of the Klondike: this book of travels gives the true facts of what took place in the gold-fields under British rule by Luella Day

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**LUELLA DAY**

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## PREFACE

**F**ROM time immemorial the human race has been more or less "gold-mad." The lust of gold has been the motive-power which has ruled the world, opened up new countries, made cities to spring up on the plains, discovered new continents, made wars and bloodshed in every part of the world.

Solomon could not have built his temple without gold. It was the motive-power that led to the search for golden fleece. It was the lust for gold that brought Christopher Columbus across a trackless waste of water to discover a new world and a new people and finally to death in chains.

Australia, with its vast area and varied resources, would still be a sheep-farm except for the discovery of auriferous deposits, which was but a penal colony instead of the world-power it is to-day. India was and is the most brilliant of Great Britain's crown-jewels as a producer of gold and precious stones. And all this has been acquired by the few, and the multitude has fallen by the wayside. Men have risked and lost their lives in desert amid thirst and sand-storm; have climbed almost inaccessible heights and perished by the many risks which beset the explorer. And none of these things either daunt or deter men from the quest of the precious, glit-

tering, golden lure, hidden in the bowels of the earth.

In the ages whose history is unwritten lie the tragedies of the gold-lust. The Aztecs, with their primitive methods of roasting the ore, accumulated vast stores of the yellow metal, which with fire and bloodshed the Spaniards took from them, and they went to their graves without revealing the source of their wealth, which remains in great part the secret and the mystery of the land of the Aztec, our next-door neighbor.

When the Aleutian Islands were found to produce gold in quantities, their remote and almost inaccessible location in Behring's Strait did not deter the gold-hunter from his quest any more than did the search for the yellow metal yield to the risks of tropical fevers and deadly reptiles.

This being briefly a true history of the world's mining fever, a disease for which there is not and never will be a remedy, we come naturally to the latest craze and one of the most remarkable. The discovery of placer-gold and the rush for the region in the far Northwest, the Klondike, a much larger population and a greater number of adventurous spirits combined to make the rush excel that which invaded California in the historic days of "'49."

It had been many years since a great gold discovery had been given to the world, when in 1897 the Klondike discovery was given in its primitive form to the world at large.

It was in the autumn of 1898 that the world, or that portion of it which is interested in mining,

first heard of the great gold discovery or field in what has since come to be known as the Yukon Territory.

Two prospectors claim credit for the discovery at the same time, though as for time they had no timepieces or almanacs. It was early spring, however, and the two prospectors were camped about sixty miles apart. These men were prospectors from boyhood, trained only as a hunting-dog is broken.

They are a unique class of men. They go out every year with never-dying hope and supply of "grub." Either they work a portion of the year to earn money enough to "grub-stake" themselves out of their savings, or else they enthuse some one into a belief that they will find a mine; and the man who finds the grub-stake is entitled to a one-half interest in any mining property which the prospector may locate. A grub-stake is a term used to designate the provisions carried by the prospector or the sleuth in search of gold. These necessarily are very limited, as he has to carry them on his back; a robe of fox-skin, in which to sleep, as being the warmest fur procurable; flour, bacon, salt, sugar and tea. The only cooking-utensils are a frying-pan, tin plate, tin cup, knife and fork, pick and shovel and gold-pan.

Birch-bark is in profusion everywhere, and peeling it from the nearest tree the prospector builds a fire and cooks his flour, salt and water in a cake as thin as a flap-jack, and the frying of his bacon greases the pan for this elaborate meal.