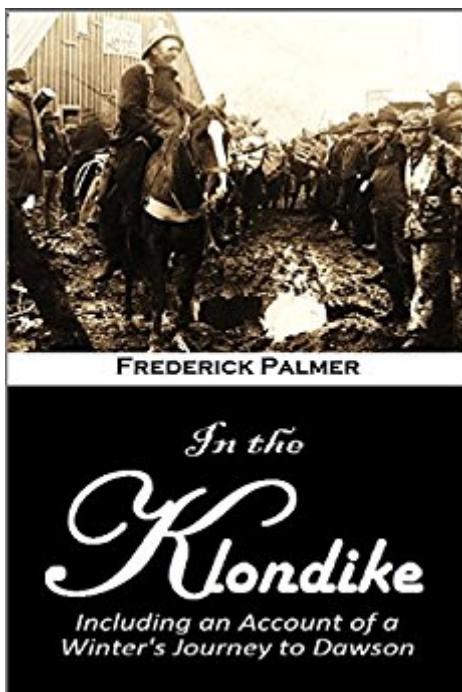


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# In The Klondike, Including An Account Of A Winter's Journey To Dawson (1899)



## Synopsis

Frederick Palmer (1873 - 1958) was an American journalist, war correspondent, and writer who wrote about his time in the Klondike reporting on the gold rush. IN the winter of 1897-98 some eighty thousand “pilgrims” turned their steps toward the promised land of the Klondike. Of these eighty thousand about thirtyfive thousand reached Dawson in the spring. In all, the pilgrims spent between \$30,000,000 and \$40,000,000 on outfits and transportation, by Mr. Palmer’s estimate, while the Klondike’s gold output for the year was only \$11,000,000. These contrasted figures tell in a graphic way the disheartening story of the most impressive migration of its kind for generations, one whose impressiveness suffered popular eclipse owing to absorption of interest in the Spanish war. This is the story of Mr. Palmer’s book, beginning not with the pilgrims en masse, but with his personal experiences, when, after being stranded in Dyea by the abandonment of the government relief expedition which he was to have accompanied, he, despite solemn warnings, started out with two companions, in early March, to climb the Chilkoot Pass and to make Dawson by dogs and sleds before the ice went out of the Yukon. This feat he accomplished just in the nick of time, “Cheechawko” that he was, “Cheechawko” being the Klondike for “tenderfoot.” This part of the story reads like a bit out of Nansen, with its sleeping bags, snow blindness, and dog travel-although, unlike Nansen, Mr. Palmer’s party was not reduced to killing some of the dogs to feed the others. Taken as a whole, the book is a most entertaining compilation of fugitive Klondike facts with which newspaper readers are cursorily familiar. Its style is distinctively journalistic, marked by an excess of humorous cynicism. No oddity of type and odd types are as common in the Klondike as gold nuggets and no uniqueness of incident or situation escape Mr. Palmer’s eye or pen. One concludes it with the feeling that the boasted advantage of civilised over primitive conditions is, after all, debatable. The chapter on the mismanagement of the Dominion Government after the “boom” began, a mismanagement which put a premium on corruption in true Tammany fashion, is peculiarly pertinent now that so much is made of the excellence of any government anywhere that goes by the name of “British.” In fairness it should be added that the story is exceptionally fortunate in its illustration.

CONTENTS

I. THE START FROM DYEAChoosing Comrades • Jack Beltz and his Dogs • Fritz Gamble • From Sheep Camp to the Summit • Packing over the Chilkoot Pass • The Halt at Lake Linderman • A Night in a Sleeping Bag • Coasting down the Frozen Yukon • Half Way to Dawson

II. ON THE TRAILPersonalities • The Forebears of Jack and Fritz • Good Camp Manners • Dog Individuality • Dude • The Team of Huskies • Wayfarers

at Five Fingers • Fort Selkirk and Pelly • The Thanksgiving Turkey that Did Not Get to Dawson • A Diet of Flapjacks • Suburbs of the Klondyke Capital • The Passing of the Trail. III. DAWSONIV. THE FIRST DISCOVERIESV. MINERS AND MININGVI. SOME KLONDYKE TYPESVII. GETTING ACQUAINTEDVIII. ARCTIC TRAITSDaily Life in Dawson • Renting a Cabin • Circumventing the Huskies • Joey Boureau and his Restaurant • The Faro Dealer's Wife and her Bakery • The Laundryman and his Claim • Jack Beltz's Schemes • A Pair of Dreamers IX. PILGRIMS' TRAILS AND TRIALSX. PROFITS AND LOSSESXI. GOVERNMENTXII. DOWN THE YUKON AND HOME Good-By to Dawson • The Extinction of the Unfit • Steamboating to St. Michaels • Mosquitoes and Sandbars • Pilgrims by the All-Water Route • Behring Sea • Civilization Once More Kindle republication of 1899 book; may contain occasional imperfection; original spellings kept in place.

## Book Information

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