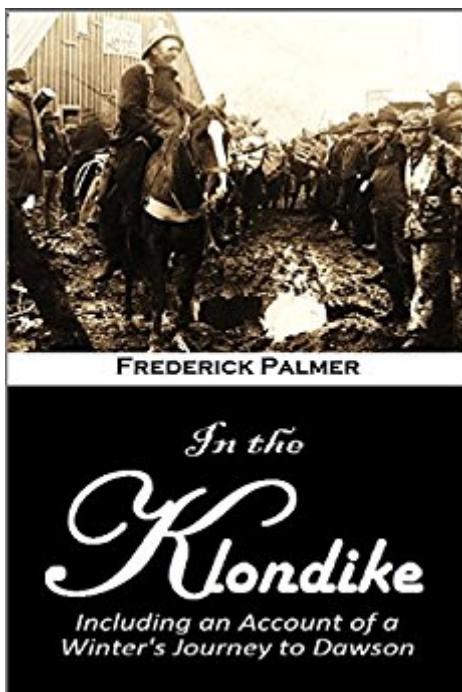


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# In The Klondike, Including An Account Of A Winter's Journey To Dawson (1899)



## 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 à œpilgrimsâ • 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, à œCheechawkoâ ™â ™ that he was, à œ Cheechawkoâ ™ being the Klondike for à œtenderfoot.â • 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 typeâ "and odd types are as common in the Klondike as gold nuggetsâ "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 à œboomâ • 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 à œBritish.â • In fairness it should be added that the story is exceptionally fortunate in its illustration.

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## Book Information

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