

ALASKA AND THE YUKON



FORT WRANGLE, ALASKA



COPPER RIVER VALLEY

The old saying, "Familiarity breeds contempt," does not hold good with Alaska; on the contrary, it begets a fondness which swells into enthusiasm as one fact after another is discovered and demonstrated. In some way or other the country has a drawing and winning effect upon most persons who have lived there, if only for a short period. Some are attracted by the beauty and magnificence of the scenery, and others find rest and returning vigor in the mildness and evenness of the climate; some, again, attracted by the wonders of the vegetable and animal kingdoms, and others, the majority perhaps, delve into the richness of the mineral treasures, writes John G. Brady, ex-governor of Alaska in Independent. The adventurers into British Columbia, the Yukon territory and Alaska are a hardy and buoyant stock.

Those who have gotten up our physical geographies were pumping from dry wells when they came to treat of the northwest coast of America. Much that was given was erroneous. For instance, Mount St. Elias in one edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica is spoken of as a burning volcano. Many well educated people well along in middle life become impatient when the deficiency is revealed to them. It is well that this is so, for by a reasonable amount of diligence they can make good the loss and have much pleasure in acquiring information so much at variance with preconceived ideas. The Yukon is one of the mighty rivers of the globe. Captains who have had their training on steamboats upon the Mississippi and who now have been a number of years on the Yukon believe that during the months of navigation as great a volume of water is discharged into Bering sea as into the Gulf of Mexico. Its headwaters begin in the mountains east of Skagway, in British soil, somewhat south of the sixtieth parallel, and flow in a generally northwest direction. Two branches, the Lewes and the Pelly, unite at Selkirk, at which point it takes the name Yukon. On its northern trend it receives the volumes of other large tributaries before Dawson is reached, near the mouth of the Klondike. Keeping a still northerly course it crosses the boundary line in latitude 141 degrees, 90 miles from Dawson. Holding still its main direction at Circle City, it widens into numerous channels and great flats till a few minutes north of the arctic circle, where it is joined by the Porcupine, coming in from the northeast. Here it bends and takes a generally southwest course, gathering as it goes the Tanana, coming up from the southeast, and farther on the Koyukok, a mighty meanderer from the north, and at last discharging through numerous channels over an immense delta into Bering sea. It is navigable for large steamboats as far as Dawson, a distance of 1,600 miles. From that point smaller steamers ply to White Horse, 112 miles by railroad to Shakway. The summit is but 20 mile from this town and is at an elevation of 2,700 feet. This river drains a mighty basin.

Many good things are stored therein, and it does seem as though the Creator intended it for the use of his creatures. Gold has been found on most every stream throughout the length of the valley where men have made an effort to reach bedrock, even far beyond the arctic circle on the headwaters of the Koyukok. The production of this metal, which influences mankind so powerfully, Nature's mills have been grinding and reducing and sluicing in past ages; what has been separated from the lodes has been gathered and frozen securely in her safe deposit vaults. Nearly every camp has its own peculiar gold. There is a wide difference in regard to shape,

size, color and firmness. Dealers and miners become wonderfully accurate in these matters. Gold production in the north called for new methods and these were introduced and improved year by year.

The possibilities for stock raising and dairy farming are almost beyond calculation. Sunlight and moisture sufficient for plant life are unfailing. The limits of this article will not allow even a brief discussion of other rich resources—furs, copper, lead, silver, tin, gypsum, marble, iron, coal, fish and timber.

Surely Alaska is a goodly heritage, and we now hold in grateful memory William H. Seward, Charles Sumner, N. P. Banks, yea, Andrew Johnson, because what was called "folly" has proved to be wisdom. The present population is small, possibly 25,000 natives and about the same number of whites. The aborigines are a good stock, and with fair treatment and encouragement will do their full share in labor and development. They are doing it to-day in the fisheries, the logging camps and in the mines. We can hardly contemplate the history of our ownership of the vast possession for the past 41 years with pride.

The next need is railway transportation. The whole southeast and southern coast has good harbors, which are accessible at any season, and for the most part rates are reasonable. But when one leaves the coast and starts inland the unit is no longer the ton, but the pound. At the road house 50 miles in from Valdez the price of oats and hay for your horse is 20 cents per pound. Alaska needs railroads, and it cannot develop without them. Trails and wagon roads serve their purpose, but how can such mighty resources be developed and distributed by such frail means? The world needs butter and beef, coal and copper, and railroads are a necessity in dealing with these things in Alaska.

Resorted to Duplicity.

One night I sat at the right of Lord Randolph Churchill, who was only one chair removed from the host, and the conversation between them turned on the difficulties of public speaking. "Have you ever been embarrassed by finding that after telling your audience there were three points to which you particularly wished to call their attention, and after elaborating the first two you could not remember a word of what you meant to say on the third?"

The question was asked by the host.

"Yes," Churchill replied; "that has happened to me more than once, but it never gave me any trouble. I found an easy way out. 'Gentlemen,' I have said to them, 'I told you that there were three things which I desired to emphasize. I have mentioned two. Much more, very much more, could be said, but I appeal to your intelligence. Is it necessary for me to go any further; to waste any more of your time or my own on a question the answer to which is so obvious? Haven't I said enough to convince you as fully as I am convinced myself?' They have been quite satisfied with this, and while they were applauding I have swung into another part of the subject. Gross duplicity, but it has saved me as, sometimes, only duplicity will do."—H. Rideing in McClure's.

Using a Vacant Lot.

The Second church of Springfield, O., has a vacant lot in the central part of the city which it is reserving to build on a little later. But the trustees determined that it was not right to let the lot lie until it could be used for building, and so they provided that it should be fitted up as a playground for children of the neighborhood through the present summer. Flower beds were laid out and some lawn sown, but the most of the lot was given to swings, slides, and other suitable temptations to childish play. Moreover, observing that there was no public drinking place in the neighborhood, the trustees provided a coil of water pipe running through a box to be filled with ice, and thus improvised a public ice-water fountain. The public has shown great appreciation of both provisions on the part of the trustees. The example may certainly be commended to other churches which are holding vacant property.

Grin and Barrett.

"11—That lecturer is a tiresome talker.
"12—Well, to "er" is human, you know—Harvard Lampoon.

DIALOGUE ON SUMMER PORCH.

"Wandering Willie" Stops for a Few Minutes to Correct Lady's Wrong Impression.

"You ought to be ashamed of yourself!" said the woman who had been sweeping off the front porch. Wandering Willie took off his hat and made a low bow.

"The idea of your coming to respectable people's houses in this manner!"

"Lady," was the answer, "I wouldn't never have called if I had thought that de people here was anything but respectable."

And again he bowed. "I don't want to have any words with you," she proceeded. "You get out! Move on!"

"Where to, lady?"

"Wherever you are going."

"I ain't going nowhere."

"You ought to be ashamed of yourself."

"Lady, that's the second time you've give me that dose, an' it ain't took yet. What makes you keep sayin' I orter be ashamed? Are you picturin' me as a party wit' a past? I never done nothin' excep' roam de green earth under de blue sky, hearin' de birds sing an' takin' an occasional hand-out."

"You are a great, good-for-nothing loafer! You ought to be at work, instead of idling around, letting the grass grow under your feet."

"Lady, I beg to say, without de slightest forgetfulness of de consideration which you have a right to expect from a gentleman, dat you are wrongin' me. You are formin' conclusions dat ain't justified by de facts. About me bein' lazy, you has de right to your suspicions. I wouldn't interfere, lady. Go ahead and susphish. But when you says I lets de grass grow under me feet, matthewmatics is all ag'in you."

"I don't know what you're talking about."

"I'll teach you. You've heard of geometry, lady?"

"Yes."

"Well, dis is de real thing. Mos' of me time, except when travellin' de highway, is spent in a reclinin' position, which is not only restful, but more delectable. Me legs is horizontal wit' de earth, an' me feet is perpendicular to me legs, pointin' parallel to de direction in which de grass is growin', which, as I have often heard remarked by one of the queerest pals I ever had, is quod erat demonstrandum."

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To be Known as the *W.K. Kellogg* National Corn Trophy To be Awarded at the

National Corn Exposition, Omaha, 6 to 18, 1909.

Over one hundred thousand million (100,000,000,000) ears of corn were grown in the United States last year. Over a billion dollars were paid for them. More than a million and a quarter extra dollars went into the pockets of the farmers for corn this year than they received for the previous year's crop.

The reason for this may be found in the fact that the people of the United States are beginning to learn how delicious corn is and to realize its full food value.

Kellogg's Toasted Corn Flakes has placed corn among the indispensable items of daily fare.

The makers, therefore, are interested in the development of the King of Corns, and have decided to award a beautiful trophy for the man, woman or child who can produce the best ear of corn in two different seasons.

Professor Holden, of the Iowa State College, the greatest authority on corn in the world, will award the prize at the National Corn Exposition, to be held at Omaha, Neb., December 6th to 18th, 1909. Two single rules will govern the plan, and they are—That you send your best ear of corn to the National Corn Exposition, Omaha, Neb., before November 27, 1909; and that you are a member of the National Corn Association. Full particulars regarding which can be had by writing to National Corn Exposition, Omaha, Neb. The tag securely to your specimen and word it, "For the Kellogg Trophy Contest," and write your name and address plainly. If yours is judged the best, you will get the trophy for 1909. If you succeed again next year or the year following, the trophy will become your property for all time. In other words, you must produce the best ear of corn two different years.

There will be no restrictions. Any man, woman or child belonging to the Association can enter. It will be open to every state in the Union. Professor Holden will judge the corn particularly on the basis of quality. The growing of more corn per acre is one object of the award, but the main purpose of the founder of the trophy is for

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Miss de Byke—You haven't any of that kind, have you?

And Ma Fainted. "Why did she refuse you?" she asked her son, with fine scorn.

"Well," the boy replied between his sobs, "she objects to our family. She says pa's a loafer, that you're too fat and that everybody laughs at Dayse Mayme because she's a fool and talks about nothing but the greatness of her family." (Chauncey threw water in his mother's face, but at three o'clock this afternoon she was still in a swoon, with four doctors working on her.)—Atchison (Kan.) Globe.

They Were Good Mothers. Elizabeth Cady Stanton is quoted as saying that a woman's first duty is to develop all her powers and possibilities, that she may better guide and serve the next generation. Mrs. Stanton raised seven uncommonly healthy and handsome children, says an admirer of hers, and the children of Mrs. Julia Ward Howe testify to the virtues of the noted woman as a mother. The eagle may be as good a mother as the hen or the goose.

His Last Words. "Bound hand and foot, he was about to step from the end of the plank into the cavernous depths of the ocean. The pirate chief, swarthy and of demeanor ferocious, stood with his arms folded. "Have you anything to say?" he asked gruffly.

"Just one thing," said the undaunted victim.

"Go ahead, then, and say it."

"Well, I simply wanted to remark that I love my life, but oh, you Kidd!"

Following which the assembled cutthroats took great glee in pushing him off.—St. Louis Star.

A Mean Revenge. The fatal word had just been spoken. The rejected suitor stood before her listening to her elaborate explanations of her decision.

"I trust that I have made myself sufficiently plain," she said.

"Well, I would scarcely go so far," he answered as his courage gradually returned. "It's but fair to give nature the credit for that," he added as he retired in good order.

Shop Talk. It was a meeting of an engine drivers' union and the speaker was urging the adoption of certain new rules. In the corner sat a disgruntled member who kept up a continuous growl of objection in a half voice. At length the speaker addressed him:

"Say," he said, "Say, you in the corner. Suppose you don't ring again till you're pulled."

THE MAN WHO DOES HIS BEST CAN TRUST THE WORLD TO DO ITS PART.

Many who used to smoke 10c cigars are now smoking Lewis' Single Binder straight 5c.

Too many men try to build a skyscraper on a one-story foundation.

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup. For children teething, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, allays pain, cures wind colic. 25c a bottle.

Seeks the Man. Tommy—Pop, what is the office that seeks the man?

Tommy's Pop—The tax office, my son.—Philadelphia Record.

Practical Device. "Why don't you mend that large hole in your umbrella?"

"I keep it to put my hand through to see if it is still raining."—Meggen-dorfer Blaetter.

Self-Made. "I might say to you, young men, that I am a self-made man."

"In what respect?" asked an impatient youth.

"In this respect, if you must know," replied the orator. "I made myself popular with men who had a pull and thus obtained my present lofty position."

Prepared for the Worst. "How long had your wife's first husband been dead when you married her?"

"About eight months."

"Only eight months? Don't you think she was in a good deal of a hurry?"

"Oh, I don't know. We had been engaged for nearly two years."

Could She? "When women get to voting," said the man, "they will have a great many more calls than they now have to put their hands in their pockets and give money to further important causes."

The woman looked thoughtful.

"I'm always willing, of course," she said, "to give money for a good cause, but as for putting my hand in my pocket—"

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They have body too; these Post Toasties are firm enough to give you a delicious substantial mouthful before they melt away. "The Taste Lingers."

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