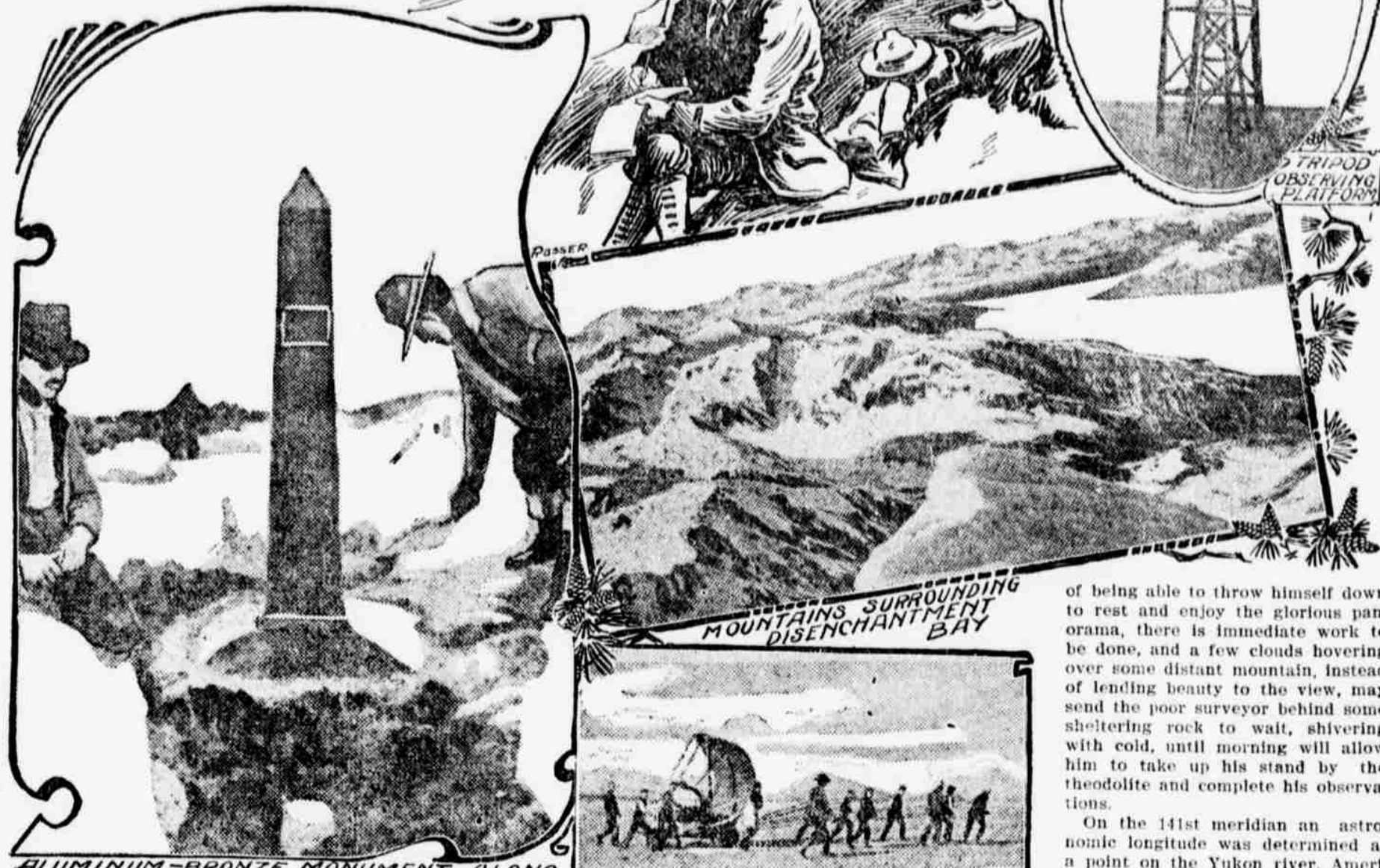
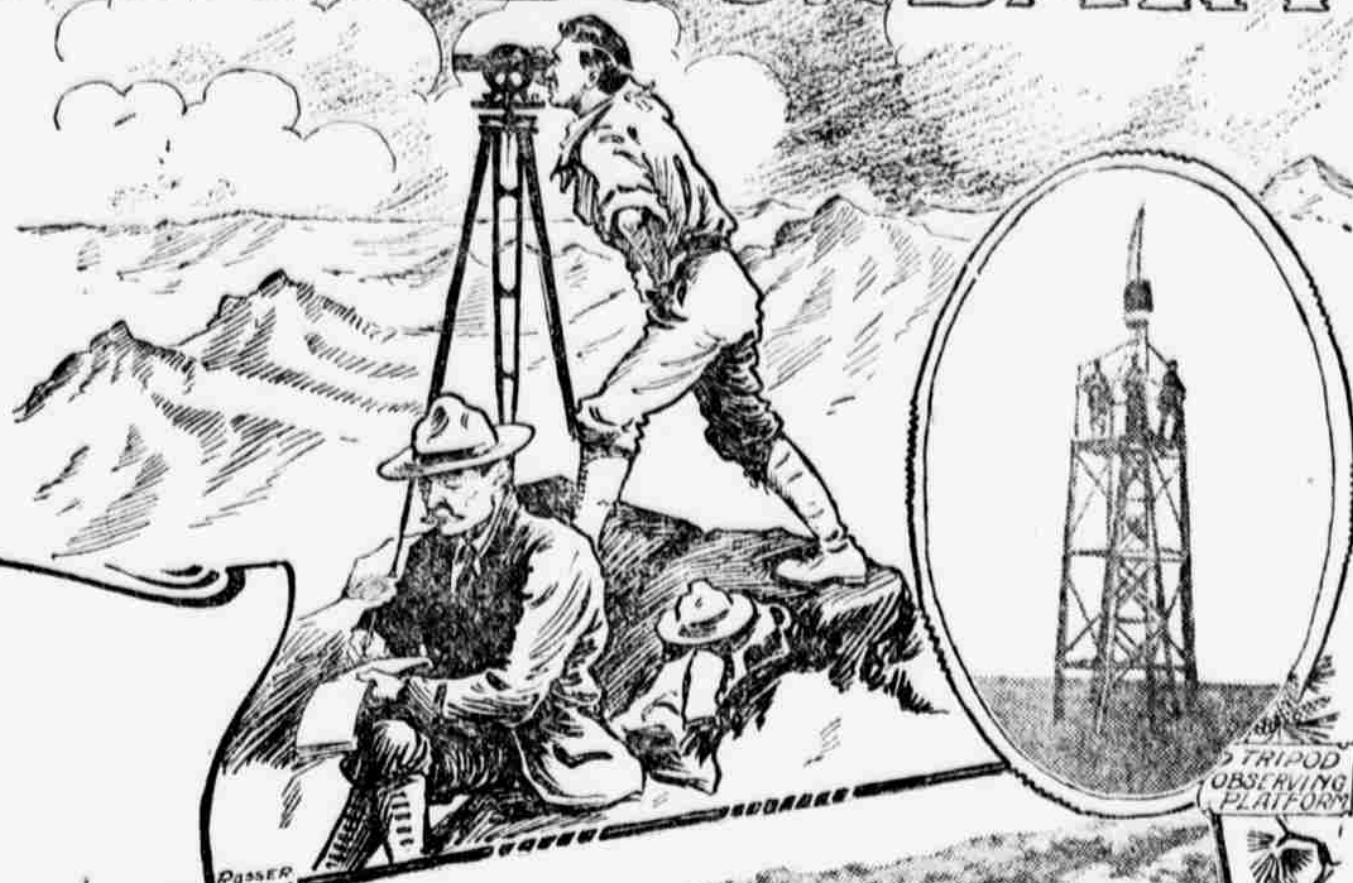


MARKING THE ALASKAN BOUNDARY

BY THOMAS RIGGS, JR.

HERE had been some dispute as to what constituted the boundary of the country bought from Russia by the United States in 1867, but until the real value of the territory was known, no one cared. The miners of the early days managed very well with an approximate boundary. They held miners' meetings and any decision reached by them constituted the law. For the opening up of Alaska we are indebted to the public of 1893. Throughout the west the harder spirits preferred to brave the dangers of that almost unknown region than to accept the starvation wages then offered. They knew that grubstakes



ALUMINUM-BRONZE MONUMENT, ALONG BOUNDARY LINE

MOUNTAINS SURROUNDING DISENCHANTMENT BAY



TAKING ADVANTAGE OF A FAIR WIND



ALSEK (LIVE) GLACIER ON THE ALSEK RIVER

and independence were to be found on the bars of the Forty Mile, the Stewart, and at Circle City.

With the increase of population came the representatives of the American and Canadian governments, custom-houses were established and court decisions took the place of the rude justice dispensed by miners' meetings. With the new order of things came also the necessity of a determined line between the two countries.

The United States claimed, under the old Russian treaty, a line running up Portland canal to the 56th parallel of north latitude, thence to follow the summit of the coast range to its intersection with the 141st meridian. In the absence of a definite mountain range near the coast, the line was to be not more than ten marine leagues distant from tide water.

Canada claimed that the line should follow the coast range paralleling the general contour of the coast, and cutting across all inlets and fiords.

There were other contentions of minor importance, but the real trouble was that Canada thought she was entitled to a seaport which would allow of shipments through Canadian territory to the now valuable Klondike.

As to the 141st meridian being the rest of the boundary, there was no dispute. This line starts at a ridge of Mount Saint Elias and runs through to Demarcation Point on the Arctic ocean.

Maps showing a strip of land along the coast were made, archives were rummaged, every available bit of history and tradition were searched, and the whole mass submitted as evidence to a tribunal of three Americans, two Canadians, and one Englishman, which met in London in 1903. The sifting of the evidence required three months. The opposing counsel helped by the geographic experts put forth their best arguments, a vote was taken, and the result showed four to two for the United States, the lord chief justice of England, Lord Alverstone, casting his vote with the Americans.

Naturally the Canadian representatives felt greatly disappointed, but the evidence was too conclusive to allow of any other outcome. Then came the question of what mountains constituted the coast range. In places a compromise was effected departing slightly from the claims of the United States.

It was decided that certain well-defined peaks on the mountains fringing the coast should constitute the main points on the boundary. Lord Alverstone, wielding a blue pencil, marked on the maps what appeared to the tribunal to be the proper mountains. The members of the tribunal were all eminent jurists, but this did not make them proficient in the intricacies of contour maps, and the advice of the experts was constantly requested.

The location of the boundary was left to two commissioners, Mr. O. H. Tittmann, superintendent of the coast and geodetic survey, for the United States, and Dr. W. F. King, chief Dominion astronomer, for Canada.

Wherever the blue-pencil mark appears on the map, this point without any recourse is a boundary point, even though a higher and better point may be but a short distance away.

To follow the sinuosities of the mountain ranges in this country would be hopeless, so the commissioners will probably decide that a straight line connecting the various blue-penciled points shall constitute the boundary.

The actual demarcation of the boundary, to be satisfactory to both governments, must be done jointly. By this it is not meant that there is a di-

vision of labor in every party. There are American parties and Canadian parties, and with each locating party, or party which decides on the line, go representatives of the other government. There are line-cutting parties, leveling parties, topographic parties, triangulation parties, and monumenting parties, which work separately, their work being such that joint representation is not always necessary, as the line will be subject to inspection at some later date. These parties report yearly to the commissioner of their respective governments. The commissioners meet sometimes in Washington and sometimes in Ottawa, and either accept or reject the work done by the field parties. Their decision is final.

The magnitude of the task is little understood except by those closely connected with the work. There are 600 miles of boundary from Portland canal up the coast to Mount St. Elias, where it hooks around on to the 141st meridian and shoots for another 600 miles straight north to the Arctic ocean.

All the land lying along the boundary must be mapped on an accurate scale, and a strip of topography four miles wide must be run the entire length of the 141st meridian; peaks which cannot be climbed, or rather those which would take too long and would be too expensive to scale, must be determined geodetically; vistas 20 feet in width must be cut through the timbered valleys, and monuments must be set up on the routes of travel and wherever a possible need for them may occur.

The field season is short, lasting only from June to the latter part of September, and along the coast operations are constantly hindered by rain, snow, and fog. Rivers abounding in rapids and quicksands have to be crossed or ascended. A man who has never had the loop of a tracking line around his shoulders little knows the dead monotony of lining a boat up a swift Alaskan river with nothing to think of but the dull ache in his tired muscles and the sharp digging of the rope into his chafed shoulders.

Vast glaciers are to be crossed, with their danger of hidden crevasses. More than one surveyor has had the snow sink suddenly beneath his feet, and has been saved only by the rope tying him to his comrades. Several have been saved by throwing their alpine stocks crosswise of the gap, and one, while crossing the Yakutat glacier with a pack on his back, caught only on his extended arms. High mountains must be climbed; if they are not the boundary peaks themselves, they must be high enough to see the boundary peaks over the intervening summits.

And these climbs are not the organized expeditions of an Alpine club, with but one mountain to conquer, but daily routine. Heavy theodolites and topographic cameras must be carried, and instead

of being able to throw himself down to rest and enjoy the glorious panorama, there is immediate work to be done, and a few clouds hovering over some distant mountain, instead of lending beauty to the view, may send the poor surveyor behind some sheltering rock to wait, shivering with cold, until morning will allow him to take up his stand by the theodolite and complete his observations.

On the 141st meridian an astronomical longitude was determined at a point on the Yukon river. American and Canadian astronomers worked together, bringing time over the wires both from Seattle and Vancouver. An azimuth was then observed and this azimuth is be-

ing prolonged in its straight shoot across the peninsula. This line has been accepted as the 141st meridian and consequently the boundary. It has been run into the mountains fringing the Pacific coast. Topography, triangulation, line-cutting, and monumenting are now being carried along the located line.

For the present the line will not run to Mount St. Elias. It would be possible, but not practical, to run it across the intervening 80 miles of snow and ice and towering mountain ranges. To complete this part of the boundary the use of an airship is contemplated.

In the interior the difficulties of the work are changed. Long wooded stretches, interrupted by barren ridges, take the place of glaciers and craggy mountains. In place of snow fields there are heart-breaking "nigger-head" swamps to be crossed, where the pack-horse becomes mired and exhausted and the temper of man is tried to the breaking point. Supplies have to be ferried across the rivers on log rafts, while the horses swim.

There is no longer the guiding line of the coast to follow, and the surveyor must rely on his instinct for topography and on woodcraft to pilot him through an unbroken wilderness.

The inconveniences of transportation have to be overcome, and year by year they are becoming worse as the work carries us each year farther from the Yukon with its steamers. For the season of 1909 the American party of 30 men will have to walk 300 miles before they can even start work.

Then the topographer with his theodolite tries to make up for lost time. Regular hours for work are ignored. A day's work is reckoned as ten hours, if the work can be done in that time; if not—well, in midsummer the days are 24 hours long. Holidays and Sundays see the same old routine—even the Fourth of July.

Usually bases of supply are established at certain known points before the opening of the season. These are called "caches." Mistakes in the locating of a cache are sometimes made, and last season one surveyor in consequence of such a mistake was without food for two days, finally reaching another camp in rather disheveled condition. It so happened that this other party was moving south toward the same cache and was on short rations; so nothing remained to do but beat a hurried retreat 60 miles northward, arriving at another base with belts pulled in to the last notch.

Paul a Prisoner—Before Felix

Sunday School Lesson for Oct. 17, 1909
Specially Arranged for This Paper

LESSON TEXT—Acts 24. Memory verses 25, 26.
GOLDEN TEXT—"Herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offense toward God, and toward men."
Acts 24:16.
TIME—Spring of A. D. 57 or 58, and the two succeeding years.
PLACE—Caesarea on the Mediterranean, the Roman capital of Judaea.

Suggestion and Practical Thought.

Closing Scenes in Saint Paul's Life.
I. The Journey Toward Rome by Sea from Malta.—Vs. 11-14. In our last lesson we saw Paul and his companions ministering to the sick in Malta, and receiving many honors from the grateful inhabitants. They had lost everything in the wreck, and were in need of many things.

Early in the spring they embarked in another ship from Egypt, named the Dioscuri, or The Twin Brothers or Castor and Pollux who were the twin brothers.

The First Landing was made at Syracuse, the capital of Sicily, 80 to 100 miles sail from Malta. Here they remained three days. From Syracuse they made a wide circuit, which required frequent tacking or alteration of the ship's course on account of head winds, and "by good seamanship" were able to work up to Rhegium.

The Third Landing was at Puteoli, the seaport of Rome, though 150 miles away.

Here they remained seven days.
II. The Journey by Land, and the Reception by the Roman Christians.—Vs. 15-22. First. From Puteoli they marched 33 miles before they reached the famous Appian Way, the great military road from Rome to southern Italy.

Fifty-seven miles farther along this road they came to Appii Forum, i. e., the Market of Appius.
Here the first delegation of Roman Christians met Paul and welcomed him to the city.

Second. Three Taverns. (V. 15) "And the three taverns," thirteen miles beyond Appii Forum, on the Appian Way, and 39 miles from Rome. Here a second delegation met Paul and his companions.

"Whom when Paul saw, he thanked God, and took courage." The words imply that Paul had been depressed in spirit.

Paul Encouraged. When Paul was met and greeted by the Christians of Rome, his heart was lifted out of its depression.

Reception at Rome. Paul was delivered to the authorities at Rome, but (v. 16) he "was suffered (permitted) to dwell by himself" "in his own hired house" "with a soldier that kept him."

III. Paul's Life and Work at Rome.—Vs. 23-31. First. Paul's Work Through the Soldiers. The soldiers which guarded Paul were "from the imperial guard," the flower of the Roman army.

Second. His Work Among the Jews. By mutual arrangement on an appointed day the Jews came to his lodging, and Paul expounded the gospel of the kingdom, (v. 23) "persuading them concerning Jesus" out of the Scriptures acknowledged by all as true.

26. "Hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand." They should hear the words with the outward organs of hearing, but they would not understand the real meaning and power of the words. "And seeing ye shall see, and not perceive."

27. "Their eyes have they closed." They themselves refused to hear and see, because they were unwilling to make the change in their lives which would be required. "And should be converted," "should turn round, and go back again," as God was anxious they should. "And I should heal them," of their sin and dullness and disobedience. They did not wish to be healed.

Third. His Work Among the Gentiles. 30. For "two whole years," Paul received all who came to "his own hired house."

31. "Preaching the kingdom of God," its truths revealed, its motives, its righteousness, its usefulness, its hopes, its immortal life, all of which come through the Lord Jesus Christ the everlasting Saviour, the Son of God and the Son of Man.

Fourth. Work; Epistles to the Churches. Four epistles, those to Philemon, Ephesians, Colossians, and the Philippians were probably written during this captivity: Titus and 1 Timothy after his release, and 2 Timothy during his second imprisonment, not long before his martyrdom.

After several years of effective labor, Paul was again apprehended, and brought a second time as a prisoner to Rome. Tradition places his imprisonment in the dungeon of the Mamertine prison. "This was the Bastille of the old world." Here Jugurtha, the African king who warred against Rome, starved to death (B. C. 104).

The Acts were probably completed at this time.

IV. The Closing Years of Paul's Life. The Acts closes with the two years of Paul's imprisonment. But it is generally believed that his death was several years later. Eusebius the historian (A. D. 264-349) states the common belief of the early churches in these words: "After defending himself successfully it is currently reported that the apostle again went forth to proclaim the gospel, and afterward came to Rome a second time and was martyred under Nero."

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