

HUNTING EXTINCT ANIMALS

Results of a Government Expedition Into Alaska.

SOME DISCOVERIES WORTH WHILE

Four Months of Diligent Work Exploring the Yukon and Tributary Rivers—Scenery on the Way.

WASHINGTON, May 22.—A zoological expedition to Alaska, sent out by the Smithsonian Institution last season and conducted by Mr. C. W. Gilmore of the United States National Museum, has brought back besides interesting information many fragments of bones of early animals of varieties no longer living there.

The official report of the trip will be published in the series of "Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections" at about the same time as the appearance of this article.

Ever since Otto von Kotschub, nearly a century ago, brought back from Alaska a few pieces of skulls and bones of strange extinct beasts, men of science have looked upon that region as a possible source of information concerning the early ancestors of our northern American animals.

Where the Party Traveled. The party was gone in all about four months, during which nearly the entire length of the Yukon river was covered and several of its tributaries nearly explored.

The party here spent two days gathering remains from the frozen cliffs 150 to 200 feet high. The almost perpendicular faces of the cliffs are being continually undermined by the swift current.

The party paddled on, however, in search of larger game, and at the mouth of the Nowitna river information gained from an intelligent Indian, who had visited the headwaters of this stream on hunting excursions, that he had seen "big horns and other big bones" on the river bars and had picked up the "shank bone" of some large animal, hured them into a side trip up the river.

Stopping at Mouse Point and at Korkines, an Indian settlement and trading post, they paddled down into a region of towering cliffs. In places the banks rise 20 and 30 feet, and from them were taken now and then a skull or a tooth of some forgotten animal.

It was found that the scattered remains of the very early animals occur throughout the heart of Alaska not constantly covered by ice and snow, in three quite distinct deposits. First, in the black muck accumulated in gulches and the valleys of the smaller streams; second, in the fine elevated clays of early origin, known as the Yukon silt and Kowak clays; and, third, in the more recent deposits along the banks of streams. These specimens have been either washed out by the process of erosion or dug out by miners in search of gold.

The fossil bones secured came from localities on the Bonanza creek, Little Milk creek, the palisades of the Yukon, the Nowina river, the Yukakakak river and the Kliallekakak river.

speculation. Mr. Madsen believed they put their end on the shores of glacial lakes and that their bones, carried out on the ice in the spring break-up, were dropped here and there as the ice melted, becoming imbedded in the silt. Mr. Gilmore, however, believes that since the best specimens have been found in gulches and valleys of smaller streams, and are more common in muck than in silt, these animals probably at some ancient period became mired in prehistoric bogs, then not frozen as now. The bones were afterward probably separated by the "flowing" or "creeping" of the muck.

A BOYHOOD DREAM REALIZED

Tropical Birds and Flowers the One Luxury of a Boston Mill-Honoree.

Dreaming when a poor boy, working for a mere pittance, of a large estate where flowers would grow in profusion and numerous species of the feathered kingdom would flit from tree to tree, Seth Borden of Fall River, now a rich man, has come to realize his heart's desire, for today this gentleman, an industrious mill-honoree, has a garden said to be one of the finest in this country and a private aviary which is the most extensive in the east.

The birds and flowers came from all parts of the world, for in his love for them Mr. Borden has spared no effort and no expense.

Only a few days ago seventy-four of the most valuable English songbirds arrived in Boston consigned to Mr. Borden's estate. They occupied a saloon stateroom and were paid the utmost care and attention.

It was in his boyhood years that Mr. Borden first conceived the plan which has cost him many thousands of dollars to bring into life.

Mr. Borden's estate is famed throughout the land. Artists flock there to seek inspiration, naturalists come to study birds and flowers, gardeners haunt the grounds for practical hints to be applied in laying out other estates, all come there to admire and to enjoy the picturesque and the beauty of the gardens, and all join in praising the man who made it possible.

Everybody in Fall River knows the way to Mr. Borden's estate. Any child can direct a stranger to it, and long before it is reached the merry songs of the birds announce its proximity.

Situated in the center of the residential section it presents a magnificent view. Acres upon acres of valuable land have been utilized for the aviary, the hothouses, the lawns and the park.

Flying in the open and confined in 300 small cages are over 500 birds of many varieties. There are Japanese robins, partridges, quail, native robins, European blackbirds, stone thrushes, catbirds, goldfinches, bullfinches, English larks, English linnets and song thrushes, 250 pigeons of twenty kinds strut over the ground, while beautifully plumbed wild wood duck swim about the artificial pond on the big lawn.

There is hardly a flower in the world that is not represented in Mr. Borden's hothouses. Over 10,000 orchids of the 150 varieties are found in the orchid house. In another structure a wealth of chrysanthemums is to be seen. An immense hothouse is filled with Hamberg and Foster seedling grapes already fast ripening and in a few weeks the fruit of the fig trees will be ready for the table.—Boston Post.

We do not buy pianos because they are cheap, but always because of their quality.

Very few persons would buy the cheapest watch to be had if they intended buying only one watch during life. Apply this same logic to pianos and you have the Bennett Company plan. We positively know one of the main reasons our Piano Department is showing such a remarkable increase this year, is due to our determination to stick to what is known as legitimate piano business, and straight forward methods of selling them.

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