

INDEPENDENCE ON THE FARM

SPLENDID RESULTS FOLLOW FARMING IN THE CANADIAN WEST.

Americans in Canada Not Asked to Forget That They Were Born Americans.

Farm produce today is remunerative, and this helps to make farm life agreeable. Those who are studying the economics of the day tell us that the strength of the nation lies in the cultivation of the soil. Farming is no longer a hand-to-mouth existence. It means independence, often affluence, but certainly independence.

Calling at a farm house, near one of the numerous thriving towns of Alberta, in Western Canada, the writer was given a definition of "independence" that was accepted as quite original. The broad acres of the farmer's land had a crop—and a splendid one, too, by the way—ripening for the reapers' work. The evenness of the crop, covering field after field, attracted attention, as did also the neatness of the surroundings, the well-built substantial story-and-a-half log house, and the well-ordered sides of the cattle. His broken English—he was a French Canadian—was easily understandable and pleasant to listen to. He had come there from Montreal a year ago, had paid \$20 an acre for the 320-acre farm, with the little improvement it had. He had never farmed before, yet his crop was excellent, giving evidence as to the quality of the soil, and the good judgment that had been used in its preparation. And brains count in farming as well as "brawn." Asked how he liked it there, he straightened his broad shoulders, and with hand outstretched towards the waving fields of grain, this young French Canadian, model of symmetrical build, replied:

"De gosh, yes, we like him—the farm!—well, don't we, Joannette?" as he smilingly turned to the young wife standing near. She had accompanied him from Montreal to his far-west home, to assist him by her wifely help and companionship, in making a new home in this new land. "Yes, we come here year ago, and we never farm before. Near Montreal, me father, he kep de girls' mill, an' de cardin' mill, an' he gosh! he run de cheese factory' too. He work, an' me work, an' us work turn har', be gosh! Us work for de farmer; well 'den, sometin' go not always wat' you call

Maidstone, Sask., Aug. 4, '10. I came to Maidstone from Menominee, Wis., four years ago, with my parents and two brothers. We all located here at that time and now have our own place. The soil is a rich black loam as good as I have ever seen. We have had good crops each year and in 1909 they were exceeding good. Wheat yielding from 22 to 40 bushels per acre and oats from 40 to 80. We are well pleased with the country and do not care to return to our native state. I certainly believe that Saskatchewan is just the place for a hustler to get a start and make himself a home. Wages here for farm labor range from \$35 to \$45 per month. Lee Dow.

Tofield, Alberta, July 10, 1910. I am a native of Texas, the largest and one of the very best states of the Union. I have been here three years and now have my own place. There is no place in the States to live. There is no place I know of that offers such splendid inducements for capital, brain and brawn. I would like to say to all who are not satisfied where you are, make a trip to Western Canada; if you do not like it you will feel well repaid for your trip. Take this from one who's on the ground. We enjoy splendid government, laws, school, railway facilities, health, and last, but not least, an ideal climate, and this from a Texan. O. L. Pugh.

James Normur of Porter, Wisconsin, after visiting Dauphin, Manitoba, says: "I have been in Wisconsin 25 years, coming out from Norway. Never have I seen better land and the crops in East Dauphin are better than I have ever seen especially the oats. There is more straw and it has heavier heads than ours in Wisconsin."

"This is just the kind of land we are looking for. We are all used to mixed farming and the land we have seen is finely adapted to that sort of work. Cattle, hogs, horses and grain will be my products, and for the live stock, prospects could not be better. I have never seen such cattle as are raised here on the wild prairie grasses and the vetch that stands three or four feet high in the groves and on the open prairie."

Sir Wilfred Laurier Talks to Americans.

Sir Wilfred Laurier, Premier of Canada, is now making a tour of Western Canada and in the course of his tour he has visited many of the districts in which Americans have settled. He expresses himself as highly pleased with them. At Craig, Saskatchewan, the American settlers joined with the others in an address of welcome. In replying Sir Wilfred said in part:

"I understand that many of you have come from the great Republic to the south of us—a land which is akin to us by blood and tradition. I hope that in coming from a free country you realize that you come also to another free country, and that although you came from a republic you have come to what is a crowned democracy. The King, our sovereign, has perhaps not so many powers as the President of the United States, but whether we are on the one side of the line or the other, we are all brothers by blood, by kinship, by ties of relationship. In coming here as you have come and becoming naturalized citizens of this country no one desires you to forget the land of your ancestors. It would be a poor man who would not always have in his heart a fond affection for the land which he came from. The two greatest countries today are certainly the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and the Republic of the United States. Let them be united together and the peace of the world will be forever assured."

"I hope that in coming here as you have, you have found liberty, justice and equality of rights. In this country, as in your own, you know nothing of separation of creed and race, for you are all Canadians here. And if I may express a wish it is that you would become as good Canadians as you have been good Americans and that you may yet remain good Americans. We do not want you to forget what you have been; but we want you to look more to the future than to the past. Let me, before we part, tender you the sincere expression of my warmest gratitude for your reception."

Serving Two Masters.

"Can a man serve two masters?" exclaimed John M. Callahan, candidate for the Democratic nomination for secretary of state, at a meeting in Eagles' hall the other night. "I say he cannot, and that reminds me of the answer I got from an Irish friend of mine when I asked him the same question. 'Kin a man serve two masters, is ut,' says my Irish friend. 'O! only knowed wan man that could do ut, and in the end they sent him to jail for bigamy!'—Milwaukee Wisconsin.

been re-sown to feed. There are individual crops which will run as high as 45 bushels on acres of 500 and 1,000 acres, but there are others which will drop as low as 15. A safe average for winter wheat will be 19 bushels. The sample is exceptionally fine, excepting in a few cases where it has been wrinkled by extreme heat.

The northern section of Alberta has been naturally anxious to impress the world with the fact that it has not suffered from drought, and this is quite true. Wheat crops run from 20 to 36 bushels to an acre, but in a report such as this it is really only possible to deal with the province as a whole and while the estimate may seem very low to the people of Alberta, it is fair to the province throughout.

When the very light rainfall and other eccentricities of the past season are taken into account, it seems nothing short of a miracle that the Canadian West should have produced 102 million bushels of wheat, which is less than 18 million bushels short of the crop of 1909. It is for the West generally a saying crop and perhaps the best advertisement the country has ever had, as it shows that no matter how dry the year, with thorough tillage, good seed and proper methods of conserving the moisture, a crop can always be produced.

As some evidence of the feeling of the farmers, are submitted letters written by farmers but a few days ago, and they offer the best proof that can be given.

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THE FORESTS OF ALASKA

By R. S. KELLOGG, ASSISTANT U.S. FORESTER

THE ordinary resident of the United States has no conception of what Alaska really is. He has heard of the "Klondike" for the last 14 years, and he wrongly thinks it is in Alaska. He has heard of great glaciers and high mountains, and that somewhere the thermometer occasionally registers 80 degrees below zero. Beyond this his knowledge is likely to be even more fragmentary and unreliable. In reality, Alaska is on continental dimensions, and one can no more state briefly what its characteristics are than he can similarly describe those of the entire United States; yet a few words concerning its most salient features will not be amiss.

Alaska was purchased from Russia in 1867 for \$7,200,000. The value of all its products since that date has been nearly \$250,000,000. It has an area of 586,000 square miles, or 375,000,000 acres, or more than ten times

that of the state of Illinois. From southeastern Alaska to the end of the Aleutian islands is as far as from Savannah, Ga., to Los Angeles, Cal. Its northernmost and southernmost points are as widely separated as Canada and Mexico. Its range of temperature is greater than that between Florida and Maine.

More than one-third of this immense territory is yet but little explored, despite the many years that it has been in the possession of the United States, and despite the active efforts of prospectors, of traders and of representatives of various branches of the national government. The permanent population at the present time is estimated at some 40,000 whites and 25,000 natives; about half of the latter are Eskimo in the region adjacent to Bering sea and the Arctic ocean. The most important product is gold, of which the output in 1908 was valued at more than \$19,000,000. Fisheries rank second, and the salmon packed in 1908 had a value in excess of \$10,000,000.

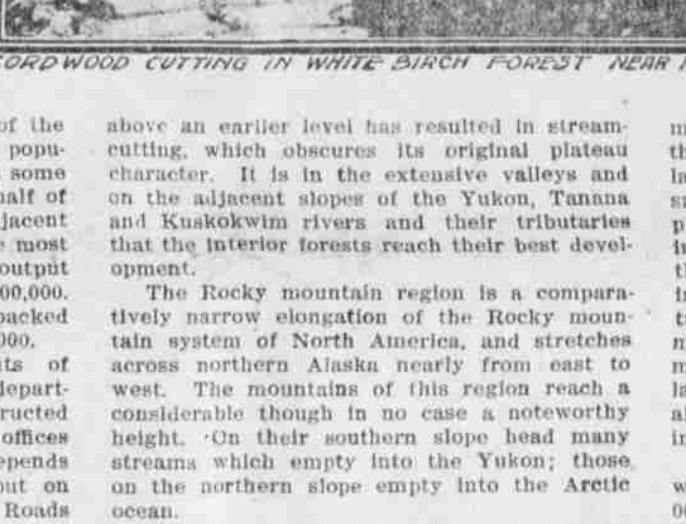
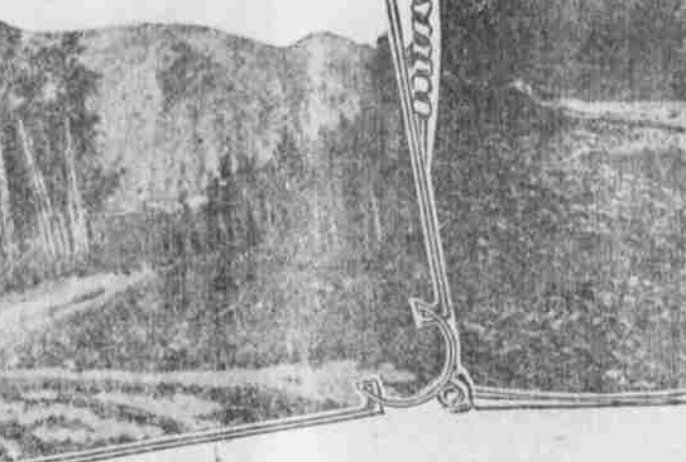
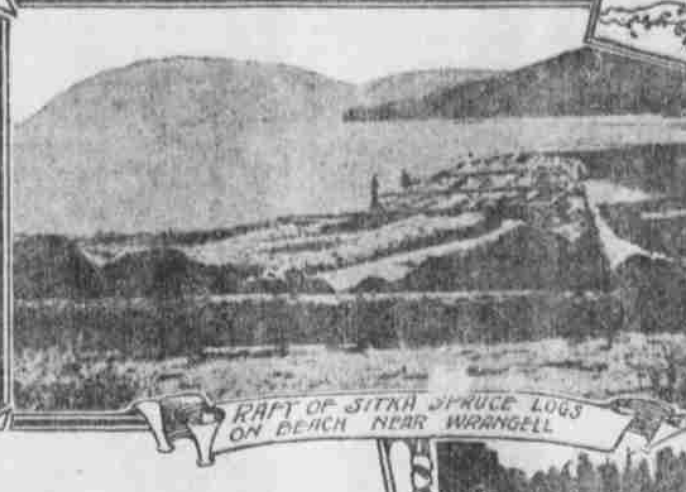
Most of the internal improvements of Alaska have been made by the war department. The telegraph system is constructed and operated by the signal corps, with offices at all important points. Transmission depends not only upon cable and land lines, but on high-power wireless stations as well. Roads are built chiefly by the corps of engineers of the war department. Railroads, except for short lines running out to a few mining camps, are utterly lacking, and the total railway mileage does not exceed 350. Transportation in summer is by steamboats on the larger streams and by poled boats on the smaller ones; in winter, by stages where the roads are good enough, and more generally by dog teams. Alaska has 4,900 miles of navigable rivers; without them most of the present development would have been impossible.

Alaska does not have even a territorial form of government, though during the past few years it has had a delegate in congress. Called a territory by courtesy, its anomalous standing for years was that of a customs district. It has executive and judicial officers appointed by the president and the senate, but no legislature; all legislation is by congress.

The United States geological survey recognizes four main divisions of the surface of Alaska. These are:

- (1) The Pacific mountain system, which, in southeastern Alaska, is a continuation of the mountains of British Columbia, extends northwest to the Mount McKinley range, and then swings sharply to the southwest, with a prolongation far into the Pacific ocean, represented by the Aleutian islands.
- (2) The central plateau region, which includes most of the Yukon and Kuskokwim basins.
- (3) The Rocky Mountain system, which bounds the central plateau region on the north and northeast.
- (4) The Arctic slope to the northward of the Rocky mountain system.

The Pacific mountain region is characterized on the coast by innumerable fjords and inlets, by deep inland passages and mountains which rise thousands of feet almost straight up from the water. In the interior it culminates in Mount McKinley, the highest point on the North American continent. There is very little level land in this region, especially in the southeastern part. The mountains are great masses of rock and the upper parts of them are covered with perpetual snow and ice. In the coast many glaciers reach the water, but in the interior they are confined to higher altitudes.



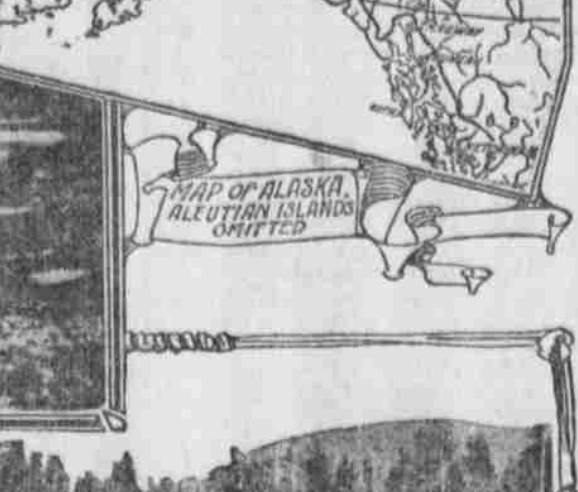
above an earlier level has resulted in stream-cutting, which obscures its original plateau character. It is in the extensive valleys and on the adjacent slopes of the Yukon, Tanana and Kuskokwim rivers and their tributaries that the interior forests reach their best development.

The Rocky mountain region is a comparatively narrow elongation of the Rocky mountain system of North America, and stretches across northern Alaska nearly from east to west. The mountains of this region reach a considerable though in no case a noteworthy height. On their southern slope head many streams which empty into the Yukon; those on the northern slope empty into the Arctic ocean.

The Arctic slope region, lying north of the Rocky mountain region, is composed of rolling tundra, in which truly Arctic conditions prevail. It has been less explored than any other portion of Alaska.

In many places in the interior the post-glacial silts and sands form an excellent soil, and upon them whatever future agriculture there may be in Alaska will chiefly be developed.

The climate of the southern and southeastern coast region of Alaska is mild and wet. The annual precipitation at Juneau and Sitka is from 80 to 90 inches. At these points the precipitation is chiefly in the form of rain, and only during a short time in the middle of the summer are there likely to be days when rain does not fall. In the mountains immediately above tide water, however, the snowfall is very great. This increases to the northward, and at Valdez a winter's snowfall of nearly sixty feet has been recorded. The lowest temperature on record at Sitka is 4 degrees F. below zero, and the highest 87 degrees. At Juneau the lowest record is 10 degrees below zero, and the highest 88 degrees. The Sitka temperature is but little cooler than that of the northern part of Puget sound or of Scotland.



Sharply contrasted with the climate of southeastern and southern Alaska is that of the central plateau regions of the interior. The Pacific mountain system cuts off the warm, moisture-laden ocean winds so that the interior has a semi-arid continental climate subject to sudden changes and great extremes. Satisfactory records are lacking, but such as are available indicate an annual precipitation in the Yukon valley of about fifteen inches, including melted snow. As low as 80 degrees F. below zero has been registered in winter, and in the summer as high as 93 degrees. The summers are short and comparatively hot; the winters long and intensely cold.

Despite the low temperatures and long winters of the Yukon valley, there is ordinarily a good growing season of at least three months. During much of this time daylight is almost continual, and growth is rapid. This compensates in a marked degree for the shortness of the season; and since the evaporation is not great the vegetation is by no means of an arid character, notwithstanding the small precipitation. The frozen subsoil is practically impervious to water, which accumulates in poorly drained areas and causes the many swamps and "muskogs."

The differentiations between forest types

are as sharp as those between the topographic and climatic, and, of course, depend upon them. The coast forests of southern Alaska are the northernmost extension of the coast type of Washington and British Columbia. The interior forests are an extension of the interior Canadian forests. The forests of the Stikine and Copper river basins are somewhat intermediate in character, since these rivers rise in the interior and break through the mountain barrier to the southern coast. On the coast of southeastern Alaska trees grow to large size; in the interior the timber is much smaller. The higher mountain areas are generally above timber line. Climatic conditions in the region adjacent to Bering sea and on the Arctic slope make forest growth altogether impossible, so there are great stretches of tundra whose vegetation consists chiefly of moss, sedges and a few small shrubs. Moss may be said to be the garment of Alaska, and layers of it 12 to 18 inches thick are not at all uncommon either on the coast or in the interior.

It is estimated that the total forest and woodland area of Alaska is approximately 100,000,000 acres, or about 27 per cent of the land surface of the territory. Of these, about 20,000,000 acres may constantly bear timber of sufficient size and density to be considered forest in the sense that much of it can be used for saw timber, while the balance, or 80,000,000 acres, is woodland which bears some saw timber, but on which the forest is of a smaller and more scattered character and valuable chiefly for fuel.

the south slope of a gorge above Ketchikan showed 235 rings. The diameter of this stump outside the bark was 38 inches. A 40-inch Sitka spruce stump in the same locality was 230 years old. This tree had been 135 feet high. Near Wrangell three Sitka spruce logs averaged 23 inches in diameter at the butt inside the bark, with 265 annual rings. Two examples of extreme age in Sitka spruce were noted in Portage bay between Petersburg and Juneau. A section of a log 54 inches in diameter taken 25 feet above the ground had 600 rings; another log 54 inches in diameter 8 feet above the ground had 525 rings. Both were entirely sound.

Logging in southeastern Alaska employs the crudest methods. It is now carried on entirely by hand, though logging machinery was used in a few earlier operations. Only the best spruce trees at the edge of tide water are cut. The logs are frequently made the entire length of the tree, and are jacked up and rolled into the water, where they are tied into rafts and towed to the sawmill by tugs.

The annual lumber cut in the coast forests of Alaska is about 27,000,000 board feet. This consists almost entirely of spruce, since hemlock is but little used. There are about 25 sawmills on the coast, at Cordova, Douglas, Juneau, Katala, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Seward, Sitka, Valdez, Wrangell, and other points, most of them rather crude in character and of small capacity. A large proportion of the output, probably more than one-third, is used for salmon cases, and much of the best lumber goes into them.

The southern and southeastern coast of Alaska has a much greater timber supply than there is any reason to think will be needed locally for a long time to come. The permanent industries of the region are fishing and mining. The mountainous character of the country will forever prevent agricultural operations of any magnitude. The total stumpage is large, much of it overmature, and the proportion of hemlock too great. The timber should be cut and utilized as soon as possible and the spruce, which is more valuable than the hemlock, should be an opportunity to increase. Under present conditions, with the well-known ability of the hemlock to reproduce under shade and upon decaying logs and debris, it has the advantage of the spruce.

Since the Alaska coast forests do not contain timber of either as high quality or as great variety as grows in Oregon and Washington, there is little likelihood that lumber from them will compete largely in the general market with lumber from those states. In fact, some lumber used in southeastern Alaska is imported from the Pacific coast states, but good management on the part of the Alaska mills should enable them to supply the home demand for common kinds of lumber. While Alaska may eventually export considerable material of this sort, it must continue to import timber like Douglas fir for heavy construction work. Utilization for other purposes than for lumber should be encouraged. The most promising of these is for pulp. Both the spruce and hemlock are undoubtedly good pulp woods, and, taken together, they comprise almost the entire forest.

The cutting which has so far taken place on the coast of Alaska has had small effect upon the forest. The bulk of it is yet untouched. Clearly, utilization should be encouraged as much as possible. With respect to the coast forests, there is little in the statement sometimes made, that the timber in Alaska should be held for the sole use of Alaskans. It should be manufactured into the most suitable forms and sold wherever it best can be marketed. Natural barriers, so far unsummoned, prevent it from being of benefit to the interior, where the need is greatest and the price highest. Moreover, the coast forests are not capable of producing a great deal of the structural material that will be needed in the interior when the latter region is more fully developed and made accessible by railroads.

The annual growth of the coast forests is far in excess of the local needs, and unless methods of utilization are developed which will result in the export of forest products these forests cannot be handled rightly.

The forests of interior Alaska are practically all included within the drainage basin of the Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers. They are chiefly of the woodland type, and are estimated to cover approximately 80,000,000 acres, but probably not more than 40,000,000 acres bear timber of sufficient size and density to make it especially valuable for either cord wood or saw logs.

Several times as much timber is used each year in the interior of Alaska for fuel as is used for lumber. The interior of Alaska depends entirely upon wood for heat, light and power.

Obviously all the forests of Alaska, whether on the coast or in the interior, should be protected and made of the utmost permanent use. The coast forests, which include most of the saw timber of the territory, and by far the heaviest stands, are nearly all protected by national forests. They have not been damaged by fire and are but slightly reduced by cutting. They are overmature. Carefully planned cutting should take place as soon as possible. Every effort should be made to have them utilized for lumber, and especially for pulp. They should be so managed as to increase the stand of spruce and decrease that of hemlock. In the interior forests, situated entirely upon public lands, unregulated cutting and devastating fires are going on. The coast forests were reserved before they were impaired. Those of the interior have already been seriously damaged. Their protection cannot begin too soon. While the products of the coast forests need a foreign market, the interior forests with the best of treatment are not likely to supply more than a part of the home demand. If protected they will continue to furnish logs for cabins, low-grade lumber and fuel indefinitely. Higher grade lumber required by the interior must always be imported.

Where Steady Nerves Win.

In one of the largest cooper shops of Milwaukee, Wis., you can find a man who has been in his trade only two years and has every man in the shop and every man in the history of the shop beat several lengths with his daily barrel record. He sets up, covers, and completes 180 barrels a day. For his speed and accuracy are not so much a matter of will and effort as of daily habit.

Any one who would like to see miracles of fast, whizzing, dizzying hand work should visit a large bindery during the rush season. Most all the fast work here is done by the nimble hands of women. At folding, inserting, and gathering, which requires regular and uniform muscular movements, some of them succeed in doing the phenomenal. When you watch the girl who can accurately fold 1,400 sheets of printed matter in an hour, her flying hands remind you of a shuttle in a sewing machine. If you were to sit down beside her and match your speed against hers, you would find she had you beat about six times. Experience means nerves, the habit of concentration, and natural nimbleness mean more.

Splendid Race of Officers.
When it comes to the captain and officers of the world's merchant marine the public has no idea what it owes these men, especially if judged by the silly, meager pay they receive for their immeasurable responsibilities and labors. At sea there are the watches on the bridge, "Mount Misery," and it may be in the bitter cold gales of the North Atlantic, with the spindrift lashing the face and blizzard-like fairly whipping the eyes almost out of the face. Or many walk "Mount Misery" under the dazzling glare of tropical sun. Or maybe on pitch dark nights peering through

driving rain the watch is ever alert on "Mount Misery" to "flick up lights" that warn of danger and death. No wonder sea eyes get strained and bloodshot.

As Usual.
"The crusty war is over. A Russian general has married the widow of a Japanese lieutenant."
"And everything will be as usual. If they have a child it will look like a Jap and talk like a Russian. And all kids do the same thing."