
ACADEMIC DEPARTMENT

UNDER SUPERVISION OF MISS M. V. GAITHER, *Principal*

THE INDIAN PROBLEM IN ALASKA

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Energy, system, perseverance—these are the great components of success in a young man's life, and with them he is bound to succeed as well today as he ever succeeded. He must have a set standard of achievement; he must make up his mind what he is going to do in the world and then keep fighting for his standard.

—JAMES J. HILL.



THE Territory of Alaska has an area of 590,884 square miles, which is equivalent to one-fifth of the United States. This last census report gives her a population of about 65,000 of whom 35,000 are of the caucasian race. The handful of people, pioneers of the last western country, has been pitting its puny strength against nature and all her terrors to develop that great land.

Were this all they had to contend with they could not complain. But the laws have been detrimental to her development. The Railroad Bill recently passed by the senate appropriating \$40,000,000 will be of immense value to us in opening the doors to the wealth of Alaska.

The development of Alaska has opened in that district the same question which has puzzled educators in the States and the Department of the Interior—"What shall be done with the Indian and how best to educate him?"

These people have been hungry for an education and are literally starving through lack of opportunities. The first missionary to Alaska, other than from the Greek Catholic, was a Presbyterian missionary and was secured through Dr. Lindsley of Portland, Oregon, on the earnest appeal of Chief Towyatt of Wrangell. The direct result of this movement was the establishing of a Girls' Home in Wrangell, which was later destroyed by fire. Another school was built at Sitka. This school, lately rebuilt with every modern facility, has a capacity for 150 pupils. Other denominational schools are working in the western district, but do not reach the people of the southeastern portion of that country.

The department of education maintains public schools, which because of the Indian's mode of living and obtaining his livelihood, are inadequate. And yet without a spirit of braggadocio one may see that the Alaska Indian has assimilated more civilization than any other tribe of Indians in the States.