

THE OBSERVER

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GREAT YEAR FOR ALASKA.

An era of unprecedented activity toward the development of Alaska began last year and it is said that there is already a general flocking of men of the pioneering spirit from Washington and Oregon that promises to make 1916 the biggest year of development in the history of the great territory.

The little investment of \$7,200,000 which Mr. Seward made in behalf of the United States in March, 1867, produced exports valued at \$56,335,000 last year. This does not include the foreign gold trans-shipped from Alaskan ports, but is purely Alaskan production. The territory exported more than \$16,000,000 in gold, more than \$14,000,000 worth of copper, \$23,997,406 in fisheries products and the balance consisted chiefly in furs. The total fisheries products since the purchase have aggregated \$188,607,000, and the total minerals, \$268,152,000. Of this \$244,156,799 was in gold, which, unlike the other products, remains of fairly permanent value as a recognized basis of money issues.

This vast territory has been barely scratched. It has a population of but 75,000, including native Indians. It has but little railway transportation and few common highways. Its coal fields, that are available practically at the surface of the ground, are said to be greater than those of Pennsylvania. About 60 per cent of the territory still remains a practically unknown country. As soon as Alaska is opened up by transportation routes it promises to become a popular resort for summer tourists, for it contains some of the world's greatest glaciers and some of the greatest mountains on the continent.

The area of Alaska is about one-third larger than that of the original 13 colonies of the United States. It is larger by 26,000 square miles than the combined area of Norway, Sweden, Finland, England, Scotland and Ireland. The German empire, France and Spain combined are but 40,000 square miles larger than Alaska. It is not strange that Alaska should loom up as a new land of promise in the eyes of the energetic and adventurous men of the northern Pacific states.

WAR MAKES WOOL SHORTAGE.

Sheep do not naturally come to mind in contemplating the effects of war, yet one of the serious problems of American commerce is to insure an

adequate supply of wool for this country in the next few years.

Soldiers at the front must be equipped with a great deal of woolen clothing and British factories are turning out garments for practically all of the allies. An embargo has been placed on wool in the British possessions, restricting its sale so that manufacturers will not be compelled to bid against outside producers in obtaining raw material. The result, it is predicted by the Philadelphia Wool & Textile association will be a shortage in wool for American manufacturers.

The association is sending out circulars to promote sheep raising in the United States. A preparedness argument is advanced together with other reasons for increasing the flocks of this country. Wool is as necessary as steel and nitric acid in carrying on war.

Conditions especially favorable to sheep raising exist in many parts of this country. Large areas of land which are poor grazing for other stock will support sheep and many farmers can advantageously combine flocks of the wool breeds with other farm enterprises.

What the association, and the textile interests, of the United States would most like to see, however, is the establishment of sheep ranches, since to make money from wool large tracts and a considerable investment are required.

There are extensive regions in the United States well adapted to sheep raising. Cut-over lands afford good grazing, even the old pine districts being suitable for sheep. The laws of economics are plainly in favor of the sheep rancher and the movement for more domestic wool is likely to increase the wealth and prosperity of this country.

FAREWELL, THE SHENANDOAH.

The Shenandoah was a clipper ship once upon a time; a staunch, trim, swift craft that helped to carry the stars and stripes to fame in far seas. There were no ships like American-built clippers in the Shenandoah's day, and she was one of the best; no sailors like Yankee tars, and the hardest men were proud to ship in her.

Stripped of her towering spars and great reaches of canvas, the Shenandoah, succumbed to conquering steam and became a tow barge. Her decks, once as white as holystone could make them, were hopelessly grimed with coal dust. She crawled sullenly behind a tug in and out of New York harbor.

One day she sprang a leak and sank off the Long Island coast, planting herself, as though by vengeful design, in the path of coasting steamers. The government dispatched a coast guard cutter to remove the Shenandoah. She was not even to be permitted to lie in peace on the seabed.

The cutter's commander reported that several times as much gun cotton was required to blow up the Shenandoah as would have been needed to sink a modern battleship. Her stout oak ribs offered stubborn resistance. But finally explosives rent the rugged hull that had defied the buffets of innumerable storms and her splintered planks were washed ashore.

There is a sailor's chantry called Shenandoah and the name, that winter scene off Long Island, with the evil rumbling of exploding mines, the obscure finish of a brave ship, call up the ghosts of the men who made and manned her; of the days when a nation's pride was in its sailing craft.

CARMEN SYLVA.

Pauline Elizabeth Ottilie Louise, Queen of Rumania, is better known in America by her literary nom de plume, Carmen Sylva. Her 73 years sojourn on earth sums up as a very noble life of high purposes, great love and many sorrows. Born a princess of Wied, one of the least of German principalities, she benefited by unusual educational opportunities. She became an adept musician under the tutelage of able instructors and an accomplished pianist under Rubenstein. She was also, brilliant as a linguist, developed considerable ability as an artist, and sang the folk songs of Germany and Rumania with peculiar pathos.

At the age of 26 she was married to Prince Charles of Rumania. She immediately devoted herself to an acquisition of the language of her people and became a student of their history, traditions and folklore. She endeared herself to the Rumanians by her constant interest in their welfare, her many charities, her promotion of schools and her intimate association with them. With the court set she was less popular. During the Russo-Turkish war she devoted herself to the care of the wounded and to the relief of the distressed families of those who were killed and wounded.

Her leisure occupation was a devotion to literature. She was an omnivorous reader and wrote several books, both in prose and verse. She translated the folk songs and legends of Rumania into several languages and thus gave them to the world. She also wrote some philosophical treatises of a high order. Pierre Loti made her acquaintance and met her many times. He gave his public a mental picture of her personality. He said: "That sentence of her Pensées d'une Reine, which one might regard as her own picture or painting of herself, startles me somewhat: 'Some women are majestically pure, like swans. Offend them and you will see their plumes bristle up for one brief moment, then they turn away in silence and take refuge in the bosom of the waters.'"

TO SAVE CIVILIZATION.

Bertrand Russell in the Open Court drives home some facts about the need of ending the present war to save civilization in the following language:

This war to begin with, is worse than any previous war in the direct effect upon those who fight. The armies are far larger than they have ever been before, and the loss by death or permanent disablement immensely exceeds what has occurred in the past. The losses are enhanced by the deadlock, which rendered a purely strategical decision of the war almost impossible. We are told to regard it as a war of attrition, which means presumably that victory is hoped for the gradual extermination of the German armies. Our military authorities, apparently, contemplate with equanimity a three-years' war, ending only by our excess of population: when practically all Germans of military age have been killed or maimed, it is thought that there will still remain a good many English, Russians, and Italians, perhaps a sprinkling of Frenchmen. But in the course of such destruction almost all that makes the Allied nations worth defending will have been lost; the enfeebled, impoverished remnants will lack the energy to resume the national life which existed before the war, and the new generation will grow up listless under the shadow of a great despair. I hope that the men in authority are wiser than their words; but everything that has been said points to this result as what is intended by those who control our fate.

In all the armies, a number of men go mad, a much larger number suffer from nervous collapse, becoming temporarily blind or dumb or incapable of any effort of will, and almost all suffer considerable nervous injury, causing loss of vitality, energy, and power of decision. In great part, no doubt, this effect is temporary; but there is reason to think that in most men something of it will be permanent, and in not a few the nervous collapse will remain very serious. I fear it must be assumed that almost all who have seen much fighting will have grown incapable of great effort, and will only be able, at best, to slip unobtrusively through the remaining years of life. Since the fighting will if the war lasts much longer, absorb the bulk of the male population of Europe between 18 and 45, the cause alone will make it all but impossible to maintain and hand on the tradition of civilization which has been slowly acquired by the efforts of our ancestors.

The men who repeat this hoary falsehood must have learned nothing from the reports of friends returned from the war, and must have refrained from talking with wounded soldiers in hospitals and elsewhere. It is true that, in those who enlist of their own free will, there is a self-devotion to the cause of their country which deserves all praise; and their first experience of warfare often gives them a horror of its futile cruelty which makes them for a time humane and ardent friends of peace. If the war had lasted only three months, these good effects might have been its most important moral consequences. But as the months at the front pass slowly by, the first impulse is followed by quite other moods. Heroism is succeeded by a merely habitual disregard of danger; enthusiasm for the national cause is replaced by passive obedience to orders. Familiarity with horrors makes war seem natural, not the abomination which it is seen to be at first. Humane feeling decays, since, if it survived, no man could endure the daily shocks. In every army, reports of enemy atrocities, true or false, stimulate ferocity, and produce a savage thirst for reprisals. On the western front, at least, both sides have long ceased to take prisoners except in large batches. Our newspapers have been full of the atrocities perpetrated by German soldiers. Whoever listens to the conversation of wounded soldiers returned from the front will find that, in all the armies, some men become guilty of astonishing acts of ferocity. Will even the most hardened moralist dare to say that such men are morally better for their experience of war? If the war had not occurred, they would probably have gone through life without ever having the wild beast in them aroused. There is a wild beast slumbering in almost every man, but civilized man who has once been under the dominion of the wild beast has lost his moral self-respect, his integrity, and uprightness; a secret shame makes him cynical and despairing, without the courage that sees facts as they are, without the hope that makes them better. War is perpetrating this moral murder in the souls of vast millions of combatants; every day many are passing over the dominion of the brute by acts which kill what is best within them. Yet, still our newspapers, parsons and professors prate of the ennobling influence of war.

Mr. Russell contends, if it lasts much longer, we may be sure that it will grow worse in these respects.

MIDDLE AGE.

(Collier's Weekly.)

There comes a clear day when one realizes that clothes are to keep the weather off you, that food is to give you health, that home is shelter and inspiration; that aside from being clean and inoffensive, one's personal appearance does not signify very much; that the main thing in life is to be going along toward the goal of your ideals. That isn't getting old, it's getting sense. From then on Time is not master, but friend.

According to Germany, battering one's way through a neutral country is purely a defensive measure, while the carrying of a gun by a steamship for the purpose of holding off murderous attack is wantonly offensive.—Philadelphia North American.

President Wilson is evidently committed to the theory that there is no President at a time in Washington.—Chicago Herald.

MEAT INJURIOUS TO THE KIDNEYS

Take a tablespoonful of Salts if Back hurts or Bladder bothers—Meat forms uric acid.

We are a nation of meat eaters and our blood is filled with uric acid, says a well-known authority, who warns us to be constantly on guard against kidney trouble.

The kidneys do their utmost to free the blood of this irritating acid, but become weak from the overwork; they get sluggish; the eliminative tissues clog and thus the waste is retained in the blood to poison the entire system.

When your kidneys ache and feel like lumps of lead, and you have stinging pains in the back or the urine is cloudy, full of sediment, or the bladder is irritable, obliging you to seek relief during the night; when you have severe headaches, nervous and dizzy spells, sleeplessness, acid stomach or rheumatism in bad weather, get from your pharmacist about four ounces of Jad Salts; take a tablespoonful in a glass of water before breakfast each morning and in a few days your kidneys will act fine. This famous salt is made from the acid of grapes and lemon juice, combined with lithia, and has been used for generations to flush and stimulate clogged kidneys, to neutralize the acids in urine so it is no longer a source of irritation, thus ending urinary and bladder disorders.

Jad Salts is inexpensive and cannot injure; makes a delightful effervescent lithia-water drink, and nobody can make a mistake by taking a little occasionally to keep the kidneys clean and active.

Corns Come Off Like Banana Peel

Wonderful, Simple "Gets-It" Never Fails to Remove Any Corn Easily.

"Wouldn't it jar you? Here I've been going along for years, with one desperate corn after another, trying to get rid of them with salves that



Hesitate! Use Sure "Gets-It" for Those Corns and Save Your Life and Your Toes!

cut off the toes, tapes that stick to the skin, make a package of the toes, trying blood-bringing razors and scalpels. Then I tried "Gets-It" just once and you ought to have seen that corn come off—just like a banana peel. It's a simple, wonderful. It's the new way, painless, applied in two seconds, never hurts! Really fresh or irritated. Nothing to press on the corn. Never fails. Quit the old ways for once any way and try "Gets-It" tonight. For corns, calluses, warts, and bunions. "Gets-It" is sold everywhere. See a bottle, or sent direct by E. Lawrence & Co., Chicago, Ill.

Sold in La Grande and recommended as the world's best corn remedy by C. D. Putman.

For Easter

HENDERSON CORSETS

Smart Styles for One Dollar and Stylish Women Above

Particular and discriminating women will be interested in the display that we are showing of

HENDERSON CORSETS

In our Corset Department. We invite your inspection of the latest and best styles of Henderson Corsets, in black and front laced designs

PRICED \$1.00, \$1.50, \$2.00, \$2.50, \$3.50

New Gloves far Easter

Fine Kid Leathers; Perfect Fitting; Come in Back White and Champagne with Stylish Crochet Stripes on back of hand in contrasting colors—2 clasps—satisfactory wear guaranteed. Pick your Easter Gloves now, because later on the sizes will be broken. Priced\$1.50

This Store is Exclusive Agent 'MODEL' BRASSIERES

"Model" Brassieres conform perfectly with the Spring fashions in corseting and gowning. No other Brassiere for over the corset wear can so exquisitely enhance the charm and beauty of your figure and gowns.

We show more than 25 "Model" Styles (priced 25c to \$2.25) and you are sure of finding here just the type of Brassiere that suits your figure and your taste. "Model" Brassieres are guaranteed best in fit and effect—in materials, workmanship and wear. Special showing in the window of "Model" Brassieres. Priced at50c

New Crepe-de-chine Handkerchiefs

Very dainty, pretty Handkerchiefs of finest quality white crepe de chine with colored crochet lace edges—the colors are yellow, pink, lavender and blue. Priced25c each

McC West & Co
THE QUALITY STORE

TOO LATE!

The Careful man puts money in the Bank before old age or sickness or adversity takes away his ability to earn

JUST LOOK AT THIS PICTURE AND DO A LITTLE "THINKING."

THEN YOU WILL BANK YOUR MONEY.

BANK WITH US.

WE PAY 4 PER CENT INTEREST ON TIME DEPOSITS

La Grande National Bank

LA GRANDE, OREGON

Capital \$200,000.00, Surplus \$50,000.00, Resources \$1,000,000.00
 Fred J. Holmes, President; C. C. Penington, Vice President; F. L. Meyers, Cashier; E. Zundel and H. E. Coolidge, Assistant Cashiers.

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Deafness Cannot Be Cured

by local applications, as they cannot reach the diseased portion of the ear. There is only one way to cure deafness, and that is by constitutional remedies. Deafness is caused by an inflamed condition of the mucous lining of the Eustachian Tube. When this tube is inflamed you have a rumbling sound or imperfect hearing, and when it is entirely closed, deafness is the result, and unless the inflammation can be taken out and this tube restored to its normal condition, hearing will be destroyed forever; hence cases of deafness are caused by Catarrh, which is nothing but an inflamed condition of the mucous surfaces.

We will give One Hundred Dollars for any case of Deafness (caused by catarrh) that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure. Send for circulars, free.

J. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, Ohio.

Sold by Druggists, etc.

Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

Why Shamed by Blotchy Skin

If you are a sufferer from Eczema or unsightly pimply skin, you know just what it means to have that humiliating, backward feeling about meeting strangers and offending friends. Many a time you have looked into the mirror and wished that your skin would be like other people that you know, "without a blemish." This wish can be yours for the asking. If you will go to the druggist and procure a bottle of D. D. D., the greatest of all skin remedies, apply it according to directions, in a short time your skin will be as soft as velvet.

Come in and ask for a bottle today on our money-back guarantee. Ask also about D. D. D. Soap, that keeps the skin healthy.

D. D. D. For 15 Years the Standard Skin Remedy

Putman's Drug Store.

What has become of the old-fashioned housewife who borrowed coffee of the neighbors and found fault with the brand?—Toledo Blade.

"A Shine In Every Drop"

Get a Can TO-DAY From Your Hardware or Grocery Dealer



W. L. Stringham INSTRUCTOR

PIANO

STUDIO—Over Young's Confectionery.