

quantities of fish are annually taken by the Indians and cured for food.

Fish constitutes one of the most important articles of diet for all the coast tribes, and they take much interest in fishing; but as a general thing they prefer their ancient implements to more modern styles of civilized nations.

From Fort Wrangle we proceed to sea in a westerly course, and having passed around Cape Ommam, at the southern end of Baranoff Island, we sight Mount Edgecombe on Kruzof Island, and changing our course to the east we enter the harbor of Sitka or New Archangel as it was formerly called.

While the Russians held possession of Sitka it was a place of considerable importance; but latterly since the Americans have occupied it and since the soldiers have been removed, it has fallen into decay. The only thing which keeps it up is that it is the port of entry, with a custom house. There is also a Greek church with a fine chime of bells and some fine pictures, and other decorations in the interior, which were given by the Empress Catherine, of Russia, years ago. The other principal buildings in the town are the former residence of the Russian governor, the custom house and the military barracks, all of which are built of massive timber and will last for years. But the new towns of Harrisburg and Takou, where the gold mines are situated, have taken the trade and population from Sitka, and it is only the monthly visit of the mail steamer which gives it a sort of temporary life. It is, however, a good place to study Indian customs, although there are not as many carved columns and outside decorations to the buildings as are to be seen on Queen Charlotte's Islands. The mortuary customs of the Indians are very similar all along the northwest coast. We give an illustration of Chief Shakes lying in state at Fort Wrangle, of the grave of Chief Bella Bella Jack and of a baby's grave. The latter is of interest from its simplicity. The little child's canoe and other toys are displayed, and the whole showing the affection of the mother who placed the relics about the grave. In the view representing Shakes may be seen the shawl of heraldic design behind his head and another one placed over his person. On his head is a carved helmet from the back of which depends a cloak made of dressed deer-skins thickly covered with white ermine skins. The shawls are made from the wool of the mountain sheep and are elaborately embroidered. The bears heads at his right and left indicate his family totem. The whole of the surroundings are evidences of his wealth and importance in his tribe. It was the practice among the northern Indians to burn the bodies of their dead friends, but of late years they have adopted the manners of the white people and bury the dead. Still, the custom does not prevail, and about as many bodies are cremated as are buried. The carved columns seen at various villages are erected with much ceremony and at great expense. A chief, after having one carved, will collect his friends and give a potlatch or a distribution of property; and the more he gives away the more he is thought of. We have heard it stated that some of the Haida chiefs have given on such occasions, as much as fifteen hundred dollars worth of blankets. Our illustration shows some of these columns at Gold harbor, Queen Charlotte's Islands, B. C. The tall column at the corner of the building has a

raven on the top, underneath which is a series of discs which represent the hat worn by a person of rank, and called by the Haidas, Tadinskilik, under this are the bear, beaver, frog and crow. The next column represents the killer or grampus "*Oreas ater*" with its tail erect in the air; the bird on the summit represents the Thunder bird, or Eagle, and underneath it is a human figure. The carving on the right hand is one of the big columns face down. These columns or pillars are hollowed out in the back to make them lighter to handle and are almost universally alike. From Sitka to Takou the tourist has to pass through Poghibshi or Peril strait into Chatham strait and thence through Prince Frederick's Sound. Harrisburg or Takou city is as yet in its incipiency and simply represents a mining town, but its prospects bright and its friends predict for it a brilliant future.

The whole voyage from Portland to the new mining towns is one of intense interest, and as the country becomes better known it will be attractive to hundreds of people who now visit the European cities for summer recreation.

NATURAL ADVANTAGES.

As the wholesale destruction of timber in Oregon and Washington must eventually exhaust the supply, the wise foresight in the purchase of Alaska, will be generally appreciated by the citizens of the United States. To Alaska we must eventually look for our ship-building timber. On the mountains of Baranoff Island, on which Sitka is situated, and on the adjacent islands, we find fine timber, consisting of birch, spruce and yellow pine, the latter a splendid ship-building material.

The islands are very rocky, but wherever a piece of soil can be found on a slope toward the south it will serve as a garden to raise potatoes and turnips, and sometimes even cabbage.

The climate is moderate, on account of a warm current in the neighborhood, but it rains almost continually, the amount of moisture falling there being greater than at any other place in the United States. This description will serve for all the islands from Wrangell, opposite the mouth of the Stickeen to Fairweather Bay. Of the main land lying east of these islands, very little is known, as the native tribes there are very numerous and hostile. From the Kenai Peninsula northward the mainland is accessible, as far as any opposition of the natives is concerned. The climate here is much colder. Vegetables cannot be grown except in a few spots where slopes of light soil face the south. At the trading post at the mouth of Kenai river, a few potato gardens are also cultivated, and hay can be made there, though of very coarse quality. Timber is only found on the mountains in this region, that growing near the shore being stunted and useless for almost any purpose. A great feature of the whole territory is its berries, an endless variety of which ripen during the short summer months; and wild currants grow in some sheltered valleys.

Minerals exist in abundance, but both prospecting and working mines in this country is attended with difficulties and hardships exceeding anything encountered in the mineral regions of more genial climes.

The population of the territory from Cook's Inlet northward is thin, and fish and game correspondingly plenty. Salmon of eighty to one hundred pounds are common, and they are easily

caught in gill nets or with baskets pushed out into the stream with long poles.

From the head of Cook's Inlet, northward, the interior is almost unknown except the course of the Yukon, a magnificent stream which takes its rise in the British possessions, and has been navigated for 1,300 miles.

The Aleutian Islands produce berries and grass, but no timber is to be found on any of them, the Aleuts depending on driftwood for fuel, but of this a great quantity is cast upon the beach by a friendly southerly current. Sulphur can be obtained on some of these islands, which are all of volcanic origin. The climate here is comparatively mild and Siberian cattle can be easily wintered. On the island of Kodiak which has a length of ninety miles by forty to fifty miles in width, the Russians first established themselves. The climate is mild and allows the cultivation of potatoes, turnips and hay.

Immediately north of Kodiak is the island of Afognak, which contains in its southern end a colony of Russians established there at the beginning of this century, the people of which till the soil, raise cattle, and, besides, are experts as boat builders.

The most important commercial enterprise of southeastern Alaska, is the Northwest Trading Co., of which Mr. Paul Schulze is President, and C. Spuhn, General Manager. The head office is located in Portland. The company began operations in 1880, and besides extensive oil works at Killisnoo, has trading posts established and in successful operation at Sitka, at Hoonyah, on Cross Sound, at Chilcoot at the head of Lynn Canal; at Killisnoo on Chatham Straits, at Juneau City or Takou mines on Gastineaux Channel, and at Kaignan on Cardova Bay on the southern extremity of Prince of Wales Island.

A glance at the map will convince even the most casual observer, that judicious business judgment has been used in the selection of these trading posts, and whilst the company is already doing the largest business in the southeastern Alaska, their operations are spreading over the main land so rapidly, that it is only a question of time when the bulk of the Alaska trade will be transacted by them. Two of their steamers find constant employment, one in connection with the fishing enterprises and in carrying freight between the different posts, and the other in whaling. Engaged in the fisheries, the oil works, and the different posts, the company employ about sixty men, nearly one-half of which are Indians, who are used almost exclusively in fishing.

Aside from the manufacture of oil, curing fish, etc., etc., the company is largely engaged in trading in furs with the Indians, and whilst of course studying their own interest, they by no means lose sight of the welfare of the Indians, having been almost solely instrumental in preventing the introduction and manufacture of intoxicating liquors; and in no way can the Indians best interest be better protected than by shutting down on the liquor traffic.

Tourists express their universal admiration of Davidson's views of scenery and public buildings of the Pacific Northwest. Gallery, southwest corner of First and Yamhill streets, Portland, Or.

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