



★ The Willamina Times ★

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WE are often called upon to answer a question from strangers who visit our city. We must always hang our head in embarrassment and disgust when we give our answer, "no," in a very small voice. The nature of our work is such—newspaper work—that we cannot evade the questioner; for we are supposed to know and we do know, and in knowing, we blush. Some of these questioners are men who are looking for business locations, and others are men who want good mill and factory sites. They have money to invest and they would be valuable additions to our city. Others are those who wish to locate here and build homes to become valuable residents in our town. They say, "We like this part of the country," and they are in a mood to be influenced to make the right kind of a decision, had we an organization to work with such individuals. And they ask this very question: "Have you a chamber of commerce in Willamina?" This is the first thing that comes to the mind of a person who comes to our city to give us the "onceover." Today, every city, town and hamlet, nearly, has its commercial organization, and the average citizen always thinks of these associations when he desires to obtain help in locating a business or industry. The well established organizations over the state headed by the State Chamber, have educated him in this line. These organizations are helpful and in turn, they are the means of bringing much help to a town that wishes to go ahead. Willamina needs just such an organization. In fact, she will never go ahead with Oregon until she does take steps in this line. Somebody must act. Someone must lead out in organizing a commercial body. But the state of mind in Willamina has been such that no person has had the courage to undertake such a work. The chances are that he would be thought of as one who was not attending to his own business. There is also a spirit present that drives our business men away from each other instead of leading them together. Each one seems to feel that anything in the way of an organization would be too apt to give too much help to the other fellow. This spirit of selfishness must be laid aside if we ever expect to get anywhere as a town or city. We must realize that to organize for the betterment of all will mean that we all will be benefitted individually. What do you say, men, shall we go ahead with Oregon, or shall we stay behind to soon be forgotten as other live towns grow into cities all around us? There are big problems that Willamina should be working out at this time, and we need a good live chamber of commerce organization above everything else, and we need it now. What shall we do about it?

IT seems that Oregon may have its share of rain this year after all, providing, of course, it keeps on sprinkling.

UPHOLD RESPECT FOR LAW

By CHARLES H. TUTTLE, United States Attorney, New York.

Today the danger which confronts our flag and country is not from without but from within. The time, therefore, has come for a thoughtful consideration of the strength and durability of the foundation beneath this vast superstructure and for the American people, by a qualitative analysis of their own democracy, to heed the recent warning of our President that there is occurring a subsidence of our foundations. Stated in another way this means that the foremost problem before the American people today is the problem of their relation to the law and of the law's relation to them and that their foremost task is to preserve the dignity of the law.

One is appalled by the consequence to the vast and delicate structure of the American state if this keystone of reverence and respect for law should ever be shaken by the ceaseless attacks upon it.

Interesting Trips To Other Lands

(Prepared by the National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.)

AMERICA'S farthest northwest and Asia's farthest northeast mark the icy region where airplanes of the United States and Soviet Russia have been seeking to find Lieut. Ben Eielson who disappeared while trying to carry aid by air to a marooned ship. The region in which search was made embraces Bering strait, a portion of the Arctic sea to the north, and Bering sea to the south.

While whaling ships pass through these waters at intervals, much of the region is far from being a frequented one. Less than 300 years ago Bering strait had not been crossed by a boat with a civilized navigator in command, but since then, whalers, Arctic explorers, and adventurers have passed through and across the strait.

About twenty years after the Pilgrims landed on Plymouth Rock, two Russian expeditions sailed along the western bank of Bering strait without seeing the American side. Later a trading station was established on the Russian bank, but it was nearly a century later that Alaska was explored from the west.

Rumors were current at the Russian trading station that there was an island in the strait, hidden by the fog that envelops the region, and that America lay to the east. The "island" proved to be two islands now known as Diomedes. Today one of the Diomedes belongs to Russia, the other to the United States; for the international boundary line runs between them. They are inhabited by Eskimos who make their living chiefly as "go-betweens" for American and Russian traders.

Named for Vitus Bering.

Bering strait and Bering sea take their names from Vitus Bering, a Danish navigator who enlisted in the Russian navy in 1703. Peter the Great ordered him to the east coast of Siberia in 1725. He went overland to Okhotsk and then to Kamchatka, where he built a ship for his explorations. He sailed up the Bering sea-coast but America was hidden in the fog. On a subsequent voyage, in 1741, he saw the American continent for the first time. On his way back to Siberia, Bering's ship was wrecked on what is now known as Bering island in the Commander group. Sailors who reached the mainland carried the story of the fur trade possibilities in Alaska and soon Russian trappers and traders moved to the new continent.

If the international boundary line continued north and south as it does through the strait, half of the Aleutians would belong to Russia. But at the south end of the strait it veers southwestward, missing the western end of the Aleutian chain by about 150 miles.

The Commander Islands form the only group on the Russian side of the line while the United States acquired the St. Lawrence, St. Matthew, Nuni-vak and the Pribilof Islands when Seward paid Russia \$7,000,000 for the famous "Seward Ice Box," as Alaska was called by the critics of the purchase.

Perhaps the most important and best known of the American islands are the Pribilofs, where the United States bureau of fisheries maintains a sealing station and fox ranch. The Pribilofs consists of 5 islands, lying in the Bering sea, about 200 miles north of the Aleutian chain. St. Pauls and St. Georges islands, the largest and only ones of the group that are inhabited, are each slightly more than 30 square miles in area. The other three are merely jutting rocks with a combined area no larger than a fair-sized eastern farm.

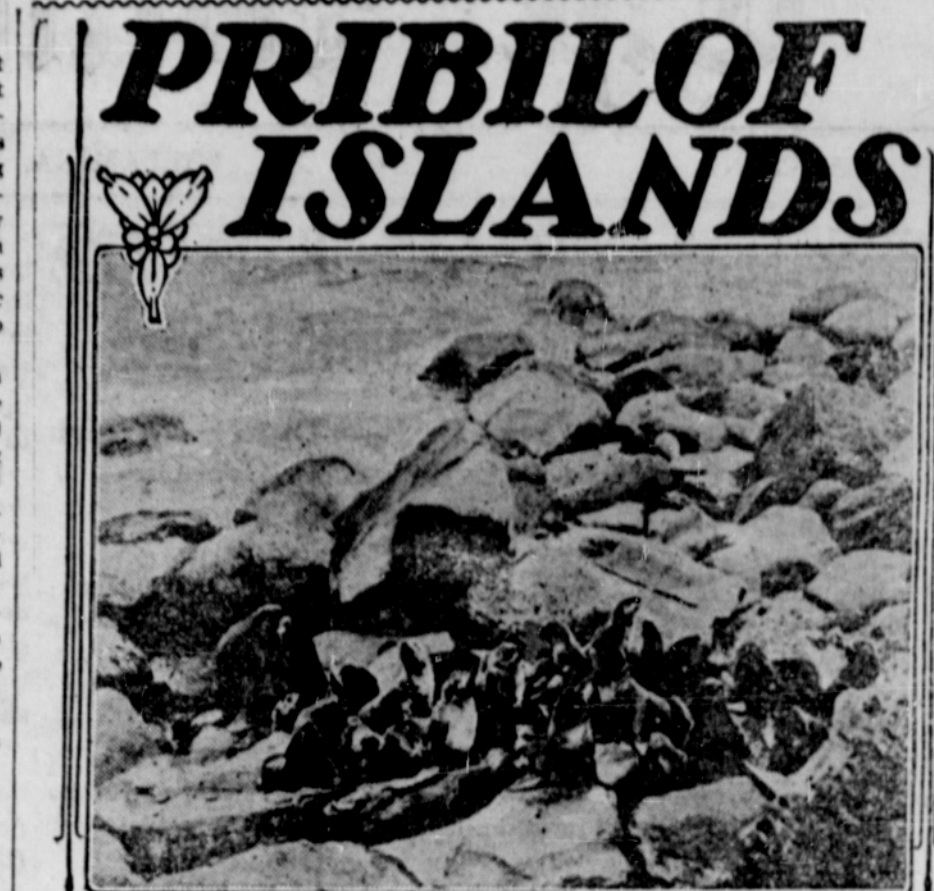
Seals on the Pribilofs.

The islands are bleak and desolate.

HELPING YOUNG FOLK TO BECOME BANKERS

Through the American Institute of Banking, which is the American Bankers Association's educational section, the banking profession is educating 35,000 bank men and women in the technical and scientific departments of their work. These students are enabled by this institute, which is entirely non-commercial in its operations, to obtain a grasp of the finer points of banking without interrupting their employment or interfering with their earnings, in their bank jobs.

The courses given, including banking economics and law and bank administration in all the departments, have been worked out under the direction of senior college educators and the lectures are always given by practical men, such as lawyers in the legal courses, experts in banking operations and college professors in the economics courses. There are chapters with meeting rooms in over 200 cities and also a number of smaller



Seals on One of the Pribilof Islands.

Their barren, volcanic peaks and rocky shores are hostile to vegetation. In the winter they are covered with ice and snow, and whipped by the frigid Arctic gales, while during the summer months, that fog that envelops the whole area is so dense that the sun's rays rarely touch the earth. As a result the climate is uncomfortable, cold and damp. Toward autumn the wind clears the atmosphere and here and there grass and mosses make the best of the short fogless and iceless season. Only a few years ago, the inhabitants of the islands were entirely isolated from the rest of the world for six months of the year, but the radio has changed that condition.

When Pribilof, the Russian navigator, whose name the islands bear, landed there in 1786, after three years' search for the breeding grounds of the seals that frequented the north Pacific and Bering seas waters, he found no human life, but millions of seals. He was followed by Russians and later by natives from the Aleutian Islands. Russians and a few Americans make up the present population, most of whom are connected with the government sealing and fox raising industries.

While seals are sometimes known as sea bears, their names peculiarly follow those of cattle and dogs, and even human beings. The adult male is called a "bull" and the female, a "cow." Instead of referring either to bears or cattle by calling the baby seals "cubs" or "calves," man calls them "pups." The young males fare better by annexing a name of human origin—bachelors.

The more rocky the shore, the more the seals like it during the breeding seasons, for the harems (seal families) forsake the few smooth spots on the islands and establish their rookeries (breeding places) among the broken rocks along the shore, or on the sides of rocky hills. From the rim the rookeries appear to the eye as collections of black splotches continually moving, while to the ear comes a blend of loud grunts and barks. Each of these splotches represents a harem of 50 or 60 cows and, perhaps, twice as many pups, which are protected by a bull. The bachelors are not allowed to come near the harems but occupy "hauling grounds," on smooth rocks or sandy beaches, outside the family circles. Sometimes a bachelor raids a harem

study groups are fostered with correspondence aid.

It has been said that the A. I. B., as it is familiarly known throughout the banking field, is the greatest adult educational organization in the world and is supplying the banking business with the largest supply of trained workers each year that any comparable line of business is receiving. The organization holds an annual convention attended by hundreds of young bank workers as well as senior bank officers actively interested in furthering the institute's educational work, at which numerous technical subjects of practical banking application are presented and discussed. This year's convention will be held at Denver, Colorado, June 16 to 20.

When the soil has plenty of humus it plows up better and can be reduced to the proper fineness much more quickly and with less power.

Soy beans do not make an ideal forage crop because they do not produce new growth when eaten off and consequently their season is short.

and if successful in his fight with the bull, he takes away a cow or two.

As cold weather approaches, the cows and newborn pups leave the islands and go south, followed shortly afterward by the bulls. They never touch land until their return to the Pribilofs in the spring. The two to three-months-old pups, who have been subsisting on milk and hardly know how to "navigate," are forced to make their own way without assistance from the rest of the family. As a result, it is estimated that 50 per cent of them die before the next season.

How the Herds Are Protected.

The seal herds of the Pribilofs decreased from between 2,500,000 and 4,000,000 when the islands were taken over by the United States in 1868, to 150,000 in 1911. Although the government placed restrictions on killing them on the islands, the loss was largely due to the killing of cows while they swam about in the water in the summer, perhaps seeking squid and fish at the nearest food source, a hundred miles south, or during the winter while in the Pacific. The death of a cow in the winter means the loss of a pup to be born the following summer, while a similar killing in the summer would perhaps be more disastrous, for the new-born pup left at the rookery would die of starvation and an unborn pup would also be lost. Laws and treaties now protect seals while at sea.

Scientific propagation is showing its favorable effect upon the herds annually. Only surplus males are killed for their pelts. The best furs are taken from seals under five years old. Those that are to be killed are separated from the herd, struck on the head with a large club, and then struck through the heart with a knife. After the killing an expert skinner can remove the pelt of a seal in two or three minutes.

The government also successfully maintains and propagates blue and white foxes on the Pribilofs, which add to the revenue already received from the sealing industry. Nearly 1,000 pelts are shipped to this country annually. Unlike the fox farms on the Aleutian Islands where the little animals are inclosed in chicken-wire cages, the Pribilof packs are allowed to run wild. They are the most successful packs in the world.

Most of the pelts of both the seals and foxes are auctioned off in the St. Louis fur market.

Bering sea is 38 times larger than Lake Michigan. The Gulf of Mexico could be swallowed up in its area. If the Bering sea were placed on a map of the United States with its northernmost point at Chicago, the Aleutian Islands, which form its southern boundary, would dot the northern shore of the Gulf of Mexico.

From the standpoint of feed production, the pasture is commonly the most important field on the farm. Don't overlook the permanent pasture when applying this winter's manure.

Soy beans are recommended by specialists as an excellent emergency hay crop. The soy bean is tolerant of acid soils and produces a hay of high protein content and feeding value comparable to alfalfa.

Plows scour most easily in soils that have plenty of humus. A starchy condition of soils can be corrected by bringing the percentage of organic material up to 4 per cent using calcium carbonate for soil acidity.