AGRICULTURE IN ALASKA

SURPRISING POSSIBILITIES SHOWN BY EXPERT INVESTIGATION.

Report of Professor Georgeson, of the Department of Agriculture —Grains, Vegetables, Etc.

WASHINGTON, April 8.—The third annual report on the investigations of the agricultural capabilities of Alaska has been submitted to Congress, and shows what wonderful progress has been made by Professor C. C. Georgeson, the special agent of the Agricultural Department, who has been conducting these investigations. During the past year he expended $12,000 on this work, which has created a widespread interest in Congress and elsewhere, and now has a fairly equipped experiment station at Sitka, although experiments have also been conducted at Cook Inlet and Kenai. Secretary Wilson, in his letter of transmittal, says:

"The experimental work was similar to that of the previous year, and consisted largely in growing different varieties of cereals, forage plants, flax and vegetables at Sitka, Kenai and Kadiak. Experiments were also made in making and storing silage and in making hay from native grasses. The correction of the acidity of new land with lime was successfully tried. Further information regarding agricultural conditions in different parts of Alaska was obtained through circulars of inquiry. Seeds were also distributed in a number of different regions. The results of the work this year have confirmed those previously obtained in these investigations. Sufficient evidence has been obtained to show definitely that a considerable variety of vegetables can be successfully grown in different parts of Alaska. It has also been shown that in Southeastern Alaska and in Cook Inlet oats, barley, buckwheat and Spring wheat will mature with careful culture. It has been shown that the failure of many attempts to grow crops in Alaska has been due to the naturally acidity of the soil and the lack of drainage. When these difficulties are removed by proper treatment, the land is fertile and productive.

"The remoteness of the region, the inadequate and expensive means for transportation and an insufficient and high-priced supply of labor materially increase the cost of agricultural investigations in Alaska. The work in Alaska, moreover, does not receive any financial aid, such as is directly or indirectly given to the stations in other parts of the country, either by the state governments or by the colleges with which the stations are connected. In view of these facts and the need of additional funds for the completion and equipment of the station headquarters, it is hoped that the appropriation for the Alaska stations will be increased this year to at least the same amount as is given to each of the stations in the states and territories ($15,000). As hitherto, a portion of this appropriation should be made immediately available in order that active operations during the Spring of 1900 may be prosecuted without financial hindrance, and it is therefore recommended that half of the appropriation be provided for immediate use."

Professor Georgeson's report is in part as follows:

"The work has been largely of a pioneer nature. Land has been cleared and prepared for cultivation on the reservations at Sitka and Kenai. A two-story headquarters building has been partly completed at Sitka, and a log barn and silo have been built at Kenai.

"Further experiments in the growing of cereals and vegetables at Sitka, Kenai and Kadjak were carried out on the lines followed last year, with the most gratifying results, especially at Sitka and Kenai, where Spring wheat, barley, oats, flax and buckwheat all matured, and all the common vegetables were likewise grown successfully.

Vegetables.

"Special emphasis was placed on the testing of grain crops, although the hardy vegetables were also grown, but only in small quantity. Vegetable growing in Alaska is no longer a matter of experiment. It has been abundantly proved that all the common, hardy vegetables which are grown in the gardens of the States, such as potatoes, cabbage, cauliflower, kale, peas, onions, carrots, parsnips, parsley, lettuce, celery, radishes, turnips, beets and the like, in their numerous varieties, can be grown in Alaska to a high degree of perfection and attain a crispness and delicacy of flavor which is rarely equaled in the best farming regions of the States, because they are there very frequently dwarfed and toughened by drought and heat. Those of the common vegetables which cannot be grown well in Alaska are tomatoes, beans, cucumbers, melons and sweet corn; and of these, beans and cucumbers may be grown with moderate success. Both last year and this the writer raised wax beans quite large enough for use, and he saw last year in a garden at Skagway and this year on Mr. Baker's farm near Killisnoo, cucumbers some five or six inches long, grown in the open. Vegetable gardens can be made not only successful but remunerative anywhere along the coast, where a local market is afforded. Mr. Thomas Baker, of Hootz Bay, near Killisnoo, who owns the farm above referred to; Mr. Reinhart, of Juneau, and Mr. Wadelich, who lives some 14 miles north of Juneau, are demonstrating this by their successful market gardens. The experiments in vegetable-growing at the station should therefore aim at improvements in methods of culture, combating destructive insects, the selection and growing of seeds, etc., rather than a mere test of varieties. That they will grow there does not need further proof.

Grain and Forage.

"It is otherwise with the grains. So far as the writer has learned, they have never been tried there, chiefly because of a rooted conviction that they could not be grown in Alaska. Some residents have freely expressed the opinion that attempts to grow grain must necessarily result in failure. Nevertheless, a few varieties of barley and oats ripened perfectly last year, and this year not only barley and oats ripened, but also several varieties of Spring wheat and both Fall and Spring rye at Sitka and Kenai.

"Of forage plants, red, mammoth, alsike, and white clovers, which were seeded and grew luxuriantly last year, lived through the Winter, and this year presented as fine a growth as it has been the writer's privilege to see anywhere. They all bloomed profusely, and the earlier heads developed seed which was ripe enough to grow before frost came. Vetches, lupines, rape, field peas, and timothy likewise grew vigorously and yielded a large amount of forage. A mixture of oats and peas, which were seeded thickly about the middle of June for feed, covered the ground with a dense growth, more than two feet deep, by August 23, when the crop was put in the silo, the peas showing bloom and the oats beginning to head.

"Whatever the future may prove in regard to the adaptability of the climate for graingrowing, it is certain that it is safe to depend on growing an abundance of feed for livestock every year. Dairying, beef, mutton, and wool production are therefore assured of success. Wild grasses are abundant in many places in Southeastern Alaska, chiefly on tide flats, from which they have not yet been driven by the ever aggressive, omnipresent spruce; but these patches are in most cases small and too far apart to make it practicable to utilize many of them. In the region about Cook Inlet the forest growth is light and the areas of natural meadow are in some places very large, while at Kadiak and westward grass takes the place of the forest.

Drawbacks to Graingrowing.

"The fact that grain will mature does not solve the whole problem of successful graingrowing in Alaska. Speaking now for Southeastern Alaska alone, to which our experience has so far been confined, it is evident that there are serious drawbacks to overcome before graingrowing can be pronounced an unqualified success. One of these is the heavy growth of straw induced by the moist climate and rich soil. This not only retards the ripening of the grain, but reduces its chances to stand up against the wind storms which visit the coast with considerable regularity in the Fall of the year. These storms beat down the already top-heavy straw, and if this happens before the grain is fully developed, the chances are that it it develops at all it will ripen unevenly and at best be of poor quality. How far it may be possible to remedy this by improving the soil nad by the selection and breeding of varieties with short and stiff straw remains to be proven. Our experiments will be directed to this end.

"Another condition which promises to be a serious drawback to the saving of small grain is to be found in the copious Autumn rains, which seldom fall to set in on the coast early in September or sometimes even in August, before the grain is ripe enough to harvest. It is true the Alaskan coast is not the only place where rainy weather prevails in the fall. Western Scotland and all the countries around the Baltic Sea not infrequently suffer from the same cause, and the farmers there, by care and vigilance, usually save their crops. The same care should also save them in Alaska. Judicious use of storm covers for the shocks, and perhaps also large open sheds in which to complete the drying, when necessary, would help to overcome this difficulty. Early maturing varieties, with short, stiff straw, would be an advantage in this case also.

"On the other hand, Alaska will in some respects have the advantage over warmer regions. It does not seem probable, for instance, that rust and other fungous diseases difficult to control will attack small grain in Alaska with the destructive virulence with which they usually attack grain fields in warmer regions. In some parts of the graingrowing West common wheat rust will often blast the promise of an abundant yield in three or four days. Of course, two seasons' experience in graingrowing on a very small scale cannot be set up as a criterion on which to base conclusions; but the almost total absence of diseases of this nature is at least negative evidence, which is strengthened by the fact that the cool Summer weather is against their rapid propagation.

Climate for Flaxgrowing.

"Our two seasons' experiments with flaxgrowing on a small scale have been very successful. Last year Riga flax grown on rich ground produced a rather coarse straw over 3 feet tall, but with a good fiber. On sod ground, which did not admit of the best preparation, it grew 2½ feet tall, with a good quality of fiber; while on new ground poorly drained it was a failure as a fiber crop, attaining a height of only 6 inches; but it matured seed in all three places.

"This year we have the same results. In an old garden patch with rich soil it was a yard tall, with a tough fiber, but coarse straw, while at the Kenai station, on a sandy loam, well drained, though new ground, it averaged about 2½ feet tall and produced a very even quality of straw, with fine and strong fiber. In every instance the seed matured. The climate is evidently propitious for flaxgrowing, and this being the case there appears to be no reason why the linen industry could not some day be made to flourish in Alaska.

Forage Plants at Sitka.

"Red clover, alsike clover, and white clover were seeded in the Spring of 1898. They all made a vigorous growth during the Summer of 1898, but there was some doubt about their surviving the Winter, especially the red clover. I was, therefore, much gratified to find them all alive in the Spring of 1899. As in the preceding year, their growth during the season was remarkably vigorous. They all bloomed profusely, and the early heads of all three sorts produced seed ripe enough to grow before frost. There is not the slightest doubt whatever but that red clover will do well anywhere in the coast region of Alaska, provided the soil is drained and otherwise in proper condition.

"Other forage plants grown at Sitka last year were rape and the blue lupine. The rape did particularly well. It is adapted to the cool Summer, and can always be depended upon to furnish a good yield. It is especially valuable for sheep feed. The vetches grew vigorously and yielded a large amount of forage. The other plants, although they made a fair growth, did not compare with the vetches in the amount of feed produced.

"Of grasses, timothy, Kentucky blue grass and velvet grass, were seeded and all grew well. Timothy perpetuates itself readily, as it may be seen in several dooryards, where it has been for years.

Peas and Oats.

"A portion of the cultivated ground on Japonski Island was seeded to a mixture of Siberian oats and yellow field peas on June 12, the object being to raise forage for the oxen. The crop was, therefore, seeded rather thickly. The result was a very heavy crop, which covered the ground to an average depth of about two feet. It was cut August 23, in order to go into the silo, which was then being filled. At that date the peas were in bloom and the oats heading out. A mixture of oats and peas is one of the most nutritious green feeds the farmer can grow, and the indications are that there are but few, if any, forage crops which can be grown in Alaska as a catch crop to better advantage.

Crops Fail on New Ground.

"The experience of last year on this point was confirmed the present season. Grain and vegetables of every description seeded on new ground, which had not been broken up or cultivated, before, were either total failures or the growth was so poor as to amount to a failure. The writer obtained the use of a patch of new ground about half an acre in extent. A portion of it had been cultivated one year. The remainder had not been cultivated. This ground appeared porous and friable. It was easily worked. Oats and barley of several varieties and buckwheat and peas were sown on this patch May 18. The seed germinated promptly, but on the ground which had not been cultivated it was very sickly, and more than half of it died. That which remained did not exceed seven to eight inches in height at the close of the season, although the oats attempted to set seed. The ground that had been cultivated the year before gave somewhat better results, but the growth was stunted and the yield very light. Oats appeared to do better on such ground than barley, which was to a large extent a failure. The peas and buckwheat did no better.

No Farms Ready Made.

"The settler in the coast region in Alaska will at the outset be confronted with the task of clearing and draining his land. In many places desirable small tracts of land can be found, which do not require clearing; but these are few and far between. In most cases the ground is covered with spruce forests or other woody vegetation, which must be grubbed out. This task is laborious and slow, and the likelihood is that where the ground must be cleared farms will be small and devoted chiefly to the growing of vegetabes and forage for livestock. In some places the soil is gravelly, and will not require underdrainage, but in most localities underdrainage will also be found necessary. People who have heard of the depth to which the ground freezes in the interior of Alaska sometimes assume that this condition also prevails in the coast region. This, however, is a mistake. In the coast region the ground rarely freezes to a greater depth than one foot, and this only in exposed places. The Winters are mild in comparison with the winters of our Northern States, and the heavy growth of moss, together with the snowfall, often prevents the ground from freezing at all. There is, therefore, no frost to contend with in clearing and draining the ground.

Interior of Alaska.

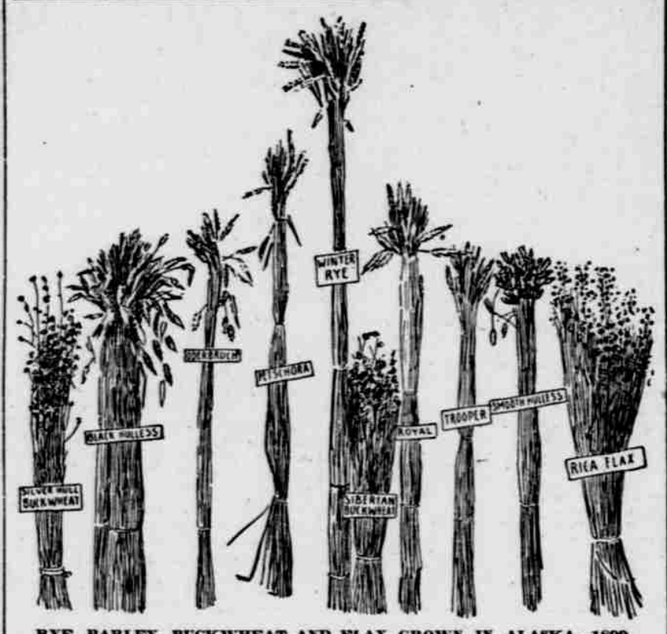
"Now that the stations on the coast have been established and enough work done there to prove that the region has possibilities which are susceptible of development, the next important step is to ascertain what the possibilities are in the interior. To this end the writer plans to go inside as soon as navigation on the the Yukon opens, with a view to examining as much of that region as it is possible to get over, but more especially the Yukon Valley. He also expects to make surveys at two or three places where the conditions appear favorable, with a view to having ample ground reserved for future experiments and finally to begin work on one of the places thus selected.

"An effort will also be made to interest settlers in the various villages on the river in our work, and, if possible, to start some experiments in growing vegetables and cereals in private gardens, somewhat after the plan followed at Sitka. It is hoped that by these means we shall be able to inaugurate tests which will demonstrate to what extent farming can be made a success in that region. The writer has attempted on several occasions to send seed, and particularly cereals, in small quantities to persons in the interior who had promised to grow them the past season, and in that way get a clew to what might be expected; but all efforts have so far failed. Packages sent through the mails have failed to reach the persons for whom they were intended, and travelers, although interested in the object sought, could not burden themselves with extra weight.

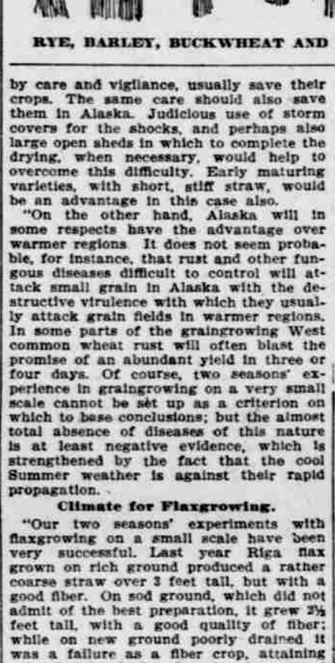
"There is reason to believe that it is possible to mature the Spring grains in the interior. The relatively high Summer temperature and almost continual daylight during the growing season are in favor of this presumption. Moreover, prospectors are authority for statements to the effect that volunteer grains scattered in the feeding of animals spring up and mature seed, and last year the writer received a ripe head of wheat said to have been one of a bunch of that character grown on the Upper Yukon.

Important Results Possible.

"Should it prove to be the case that our common Spring grains can be grown in the interior, the fact will be of untold value. It will give rise to varieties which are earlier than any we know of, and it will thus open a source from which early ripening seed can be supplied for the use of our Northern states where unusually early frosts not infrequently destroy the crops before they are ripe. This object would seem to be sufficient excuse for a determined effort to test the possibilities of the interior thoroughly."



RYE, BARLEY, BUCKWHEAT AND FLAX GROWN IN ALASKA, 1899.



Spring Wheat Grown at Sitka, 1899.

BUSINESS ITEMS.

If Baby Is Cutting Teeth,

Be sure and use that old and well-tried remedy, Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup, for children teething. It soothes the child, softens the gums, allays all pain, cures wind colic and diarrhoea.

Sohmer Pianos. Wiley B. Allen Co.

ALL RUN ON ONE TIME

SIBERIA CLOCKS ARE ALL GOVERNED BY ST. PETERSBURG.

Some of the Features of Railway Travel Across the Great Stretches of Northern Asia.

MARLINSK, Siberia, Aug. 31.—All over the Russian Empire, except in the isolated systems of the Transcaucasus, the Transcaspian line and the line between Khabarovsk, and Vladivostock, on the Pacific Coast, the railways are run by St. Petersburg time. There is no system of time zones, such as we have at home, and the consequences sometimes are very surprising, and even puzzling to the stranger. All clocks in railway stations have two sets of hands, one set red and the other set black. The latter mark the railway time, which is that of St. Petersburg, and the former the local time of the place where the clock is. In the Transcaucasus, the trains are scheduled by the meridian of Tiflis, and in the Transcaspian by that of Askhabad. In the latter instance, when one reaches the eastern terminus of the railway at Andijan, the discrepancy between the railways' clocks and those of the town is nearly two hours.

It is on this long journey eastward into Siberia, however, that the change becomes particularly impressive. From St. Petersburg to Irkutsh, the terminus of through-train service, travelers pass over exactly 74 degrees of longitude, making a difference in time of 4 hours and 56 minutes. From St. Petersburg to Tomsk is 55 degrees, or a time difference of 3 hours and 40 minutes. The railway time table posted in the hotel indicated the starting hour of the train to be 7:20 P. M., but, as a matter of fact, by the local clocks it was not to leave until midnight. That made it a dark drive from hotel to station, and a dark ride through the forest from the station to Taiga. The train was not too crowded to be comfortable, much to my surprise and delight, so that I was able to depart from the city by the Tom River with a compartment to myself, and enjoyed a genuine rest and sleep during the five hours of our run to the junction. When we got there, at midnight by railway time, but really at about 4 o'clock in the morning, another of the idiosyncrasies of the Siberian Railway was thrust upon me. It was the amazing lack of haste in the train service.

Delays of the Railway.

It may be ungrateful to carp at delays on a railway of such great length through an unsettled country within a year after it was first in running order, and I do not want to be unappreciative, but it does seem as if just a little more attention might be paid to the matter of getting along when there is nothing whatever to hinder. It is not the speed of the trains when running that is the subject of comment, but the loss of time at the stations. The daily train between Chellabinsk and Irkutsk, performing the local mail and passenger service, requires 6 days, 10 hours and 40 minutes to cover the distance of 3030 miles, or a rate of speed of but little more than 13 miles an hour, including stops. Out of this time it is safe to say that at least 20 hours are lost in the halts at the 100 stations getween the termini. It is not merely at the important towns and at the eating stations that the delays are long. At stations where there is no settlement whatever except that of the few railway employes, and where no passenger is to leave or join the train, the wait is from 10 to 15 minutes. The train rolls up to the platform, the officials and passengers descend for a leisurely saunter up and down the walk, the moments pass, and at last it occurs to some attendant to ring the first signal for departure. A few minutes later another signal is sounded, and after another wait the third.

The system of starting signals is a complicated one. When the first is to be made the attendant comes to the large bell, which is mounted on the wall just outside the station door, and with the clapper in his hand taps it lightly and tremulously against the metal for a dozen strokes. Then, waiting for the vibration to cease, he strikes one hard blow, which rings all over the station grounds. The second signal is made in the same way, except that the finish is of two strokes instead of one, and the third includes three strokes. At the smallest stations the first signal is sounded as the train comes in, the second five minutes later and the third three minutes after that. In the larger ones more time is allowed, and sometimes 10 or 15 minutes pass before the first bell. When the third signal is given the chief conductor blows a small whistle. The engineer replies with a toot from the locomotive. The conductor whistles again. The locomotive toots once more, and then the train is off.

Wait at a Junction.

At Taiga, junction of the main line with the Tomsk branch, the wait seemed interminable. Three trains are timed to meet there, all in the early morning. The main line train, westbound, should arrive at 1:15 A. M., and depart after a halt of 47 minutes. The train on the branch should arrive at midnight and return northward at 2:40 A. M., and the train eastbound, for which I had to wait, was scheduled to arrive at 12:33 A. M., and depart at 3:42. As far as local time is concerned, all of these are to be considered as nearly four hours later. When we pulled into the station at the hour of midnight, St. Petersburg, it was about 4 A. M., the stars shining brilliantly in the clearest of skies, the frost thick and sparkling on the wooden platforms. The little station building was crowded with passengers waiting for the trains, the floor so cumbered with baggage that it was almost impossible to get about. The news of greatest interest was that the train was very late. I walked the platform, trying to keep warm, returning to the buffet for another glass of boiling tea every half-hour, when pedestrianism failed to accomplish the purpose. Hours went by. I watched the sun rise over the dense Siberian forest, and saw the hoar frost sparkle for an hour before the heat was sufficient to take it away. Then the westbound train came in and went out. The buffet served a breakfast that helped to pass half an hour, and at last, three hours later than its proper time, the train for which I was waiting rolled in. Fortunately I waited there only an hour, instead of the three hours provided in the regular schedule, which permitted us to depart only one hour late on the eastward journey. But why the halt lasted one hour and why it should be regularly scheduled for three hours, I am entirely unable to understand.

For a traveler whose errand, like mine, is to see and learn as much as he can about the people and the country, this system of delays is not the worst thing in the world. It makes it possible to obtain some interesting glimpses of many places which do not seem worth a halt from one day till the next, so that in addition to breaking my journey at a dozen places on the route, I have been able to visit sufficiently many of the other stations and their surrounding country. When I have known that the stop was to be for an hour or more, it has been easy to take a droshky and drive to considerable distance in one direction or the other for a view of the neighboring country. Such a traveler, then, is not the one to complain. But it would be trying for the one whose object was haste to see the waste of time in mid-Siberia for no visible purpose.

Makes Picturesque Journey.

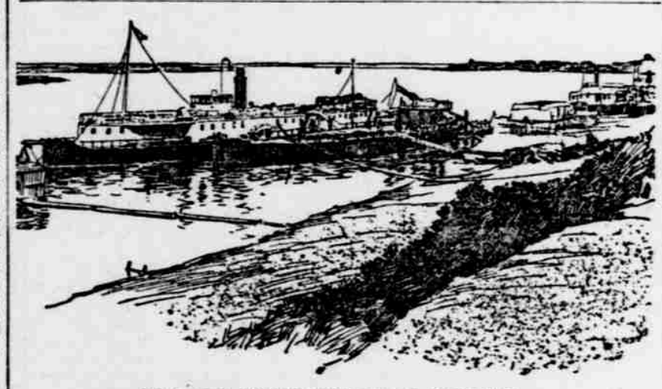
One cause of frequent delay contributes picturesqueness to the journey across the Siberian prairies and forests. The fuel used on the locomotives is birchwood, which burns with considerable rapidity, and needs to be supplied very generously to the tenders. The latter are topped with a high fence, which carries their iron sides at least six feet higher than the builders of the engines left them. These pens are piled with wood cut and split into ordinary stove lengths, and raised to a great heap, far overtopping the smokestack of the locomotive. Into these heaps of dry wood sparks from the engine fall, and are fanned into a flame. The first sign the engineer and fireman have is when a great blaze bursts out behind them. Sometimes it is possible to extinguish it by a few buckets of water, dashed on from the cab while the train is in motion; but more often it is necessary to stop the train, call all the crew and organize as systematically as possible in order to save enough wood to carry them to the next station.

These conflagrations happen so frequently that they are no longer surprises. When they begin and the train stops, the passengers all get out and watch the fun, speculating on the prospect of saving some wood, and perhaps helping to fight the fire if there is any way to help. Almost every locomotive one sees has a scorched tender, with the fence half gone. I have known the fire to continue until it virtually burned itself out, leaving the engine dead between stations for want of fuel, until some one would walk to the nearest station or the nearest woodpile and bring enough on a hand-car to last until a supply point could be reached. As for the fires themselves, they are so common as to be no longer very interesting. Fortunately for the railway today, and for the passengers, the supply of birchwood along the line is enormous, and always accessible. At every station hundreds of cords of wood cut in readiness for the engines are heaped up near the tracks, and at many places between stations the same sort of supply is to be seen.

By this time it might be expected that the number of passengers traveling along the railway would be less, from the stooping of those journeying only to way stations. As a matter of fact, however, the trains here in Central Siberia, well on the way to Irkutsk, seem almost as crowded as those nearer the Ural Mountains, where the country is more thickly settled and immigration is more rapid. There is just about enough local travel along the line to make up for the ones who halt on the way. They are mostly Siberians, however, and not Russian immigrants into Siberia. Their ancestors for a half a dozen generations or more may have lived here, and the Siberians are just as proud of their descent from the first settlers or the conquering Cossacks, who came with Yermak, and soon after, as American families are of pilgrim ancestors. During the all-day ride from Taiga to this town, which is a place of 15,000, and the center of important gold mining, I have had for traveling companions two young Russian engineers, who are on their way to assist in the construction of the railway beyond Lake Baikal. One of them has been in that service for two years, and he expects to be assigned to the Manchurian extension, while the other, new in the field, will be at work in Transbaikalia. I call them Russians, but they are really Poles, fine young fellows, from Warsaw, and graduates of the university in that city. The one who has been here before "knows the ropes," is loaded with a formidable armament of sporting weapons, including a light fowling piece, a skeleton rifle, a heavy rifle and two revolvers. The latter and the skeleton rifle are American pieces, and the others English. He tells me that he has shot bears in the mountains beyond Lake Baikal, and that he is hoping to get some tigers in the Manchurian forest. Deer are plentiful, and small game of all sorts abundant. He has been giving me valuable advice, too, about the details of preparation for the long and tiresome journey by tarantas from Irkutsk eastward, so that it begins to seem as if that part of the trip were approaching. He has made the generous suggestion that I date my departure from Irkutsk in harmony with theirs, so that we may continue to be traveling companions.

TRUMBULL WHITE.

TYPICAL RAILWAY STATION OF LOGS IN CENTRAL SIBERIA.



STEAMERS ON THE TOM RIVER AT TOMSK.

DAILY CITY STATISTICS.

Real Estate Transfers.

Sarah M. Guthrie to George Goos, 1¼ acres, sections 8, 9, T. 1 S., R. 2 E.; April 17 ..... $ 20

W. L. Spicer and wife to Nettie E. Smith, lots 5, 6, and W. 33 1-3 feet lot 7, block 13, Taborside; December 9, 1899 400

Max B. Godfrey et ux. to Casper Weigant, lot 8, block 28, Albina Homestead; April 14 400

Building Permit.

J. C. Flanders, addition to Flanders' dock, $3000.

Births.

April 15, boy to the wife of B. Harsh, Center Addition.

April 7, boy to the wife of Richard Adams, East Stark and East Twenty-eighth streets.

April 17, girl to the wife of Rosser F. Jones, foot of Twenty-first street.

April 12, boy to the wife of Leonard Di Christofor, 669 Fifth street.

April 18, boy to the wife of Fred Arthur McCroskey, 79 North Ninth street.

April 8, girl to the wife of Victor P. Ritter, 129 Twelfth street.

April 18, boy and girl (twins) to the wife of William Green, 249½ Front street.

Contagious Diseases.

Mrs. William De Linn, 333 Sherman street; diphtheria.

Charles Newcastle, age 7 years, 402½ Third street; measles.

A. Nelson, Fifth and Burnside streets; typhoid fever.

Marriage Licenses.

John Benson Warner, aged 21, Minnie B. Warner, aged 21; P. H. Grulliam, 28, Helen Hull, 28.

Majority for the New Creed.

NEW YORK, April 19.—The Journal and Advertiser has polled as many of the Presbyterian clergymen of Greater New York as could be reached upon the subject of a change of creed. The result follows: For a new creed, 32; against revision, 14; noncommittal, 8.

OPPOSITION TO FUSION

POPULISTS WHO DO NOT WANT THE PARTY TO BE SWALLOWED.

The Position of the Middle-of-the-Roaders, as Stated by a Representative of the National Committee

J. B. Osborne, of Georgia, who is in Oregon as a representative of the National committee of the Middle-of-the-Roaders, in opposition to fusion of the Populists and Democrats, furnishes The Oregonian the following summary of his speech at Medford last Saturday evening:

"Many of our people were led astray by the promises and apparent reforms of the Democratic party. I do not wish it for myself, or for any one else, to have the power to say what political party any citizen shall support. But the time has come when men can no longer affiliate with the Populist and Democratic parties at the same time. Those of us who believe in the principles of Populism will stand for the party of Populism, and those who think the Democratic party good enough for them will have to announce that they are Democrats. The Democratic party has never stood for the principles of Populism, but until 1896 were its open, bitter opponents.

"They are to make a campaign this year on imperialism, trusts and money, and for the benefit of some Populists who still think that there is no difference between the Democrats and Populists on these questions, I will speak briefly of each of them.

"The talk about imperialism is all political claptrap, and the Democrats know it. There is more political imperialism in the Southern States, inaugurated and perpetuated by the Democratic party, than there is or could be in the Philippines. In South Carolina the Constitution makes a property or educational qualification of citizenship that disfranchises two-thirds of the voting population. In Georgia the Constitution makes a tax qualification that disfranchises over 125,000 voters. In Alabama they let them vote yet, but always count Democrats in. In Mississippi the Constitution makes an educational qualification so rigid that the whole state casts only 46,000 votes; still they have seven Congressmen. In Louisiana they have copied the South Carolina provision of educational and property qualification, with the difference that it shall not apply to white men. In North Carolina they are preparing to do the same thing this year. These Constitutions were all made by Democrats, entirely, and what Kentucky lacks in regard to Constitutional disqualification she seeks to accomplish through the most outrageous law ever enacted—the Goebel election law. Are Democrats in favor of political liberty? Not if judged by their acts.

"America will never be governed by an Emperor. We already have an empire of wealth that rules this country, and that is the imperialism the American people have to dread and want to get rid of. To talk of a political imperialism in distant islands is only to keep the people's attention away from the main question at home, as was done on the tariff question; and the leading Democrat of Nebraska did his part of it on the tariff question, as he is now doing on foreign imperialism. Mr. Bryan enlisted in the war, was ready to shoot men whom he never saw, used his influence to have the Paris treaty ratified, and now opposes the terms of the treaty.

"We are now preparing, without one word of protest, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Louisiana purchase, at St. Louis, in 1903. It was wrong to purchase the Philippines, why was it not wrong to purchase the vast domain from Louisiana to the Pacific Coast? But, as I said in the beginning, the only imperialism that we need to fear in America is industrial imperialism, that makes slaves out of the millions who work and produce the wealth of our country, and all other talk on that subject is simply to get the people chasing political rainbows, while the slave's chains become harder and harder to break from our own necks. What do they have to say about trusts? Mr. Bryan, some time ago, had a remedy. It was to license them. Does any Populist believe in that? No. The Chicago platform wanted the powers of the Interstate Commerce Commission enlarged, so they could more completely control the railroads of the country. Does any Populist believe in that? No. Populists know that it is just as impossible to stop the formation of trusts by law, by the appointment of any kind of a board of control, as it is to annul the principle of gravitation by the same agencies. Populists know that the only remedy for the trusts is for all the people to get into the trusts, by the public collective ownership of all public necessities and natural monopolies; hence no Populist can entertain for a moment the position of the Democratic party on trusts.

"But, now as to the money question. They claim they are squarely with us on that question. But now, before I go into detail on that question, I want to call your attention to the sudden conversion of the Democrats even to free silver. In 1892 the Democratic party stood for the repeal of the 10 per cent tax on state bank issues, which meant to supplant all kinds of United States money with state bank money. In 1893 Cleveland's administration repealed unconditionally the purchasing clause of the Sherman law that was putting $4,500,000 in circulation every month. In 1894 every state convention of the Democratic party in the South endorsed the administration of Cleveland as eminently wise, patriotic and statesmanlike, and where free-silver resolutions were offered they were overwhelmingly defeated. But in 1896, if you would meet a Southern Democrat in the road and ask him how was crops he would say, 'Free silver.' If you would ask him how was his family, he would say, '16 to 1.' Why this sudden change of front? The increase of the Populist vote in the South threatened to lose the political supremacy of Democracy in the South; therefore, the Populist party must be killed by the Democrats endorsing free silver at 16 to 1 and claiming to accept our position on finace, but the Chicago platform does not contain a single populist principle on finance, and to prove that I submit the following proposition:

"For the benefit of some populists who think the Democratic platform made at Chicago on which Bryan and Sewall were nominated is a Populist platform and good enough for them, I will throw out a few thoughts:

"1. I claim that Democratic free silver will ruin you and Populist free silver will do you good. 2. I claim that Democratic free silver is twice as bad as the gold standard. 3. I claim that their basis of a national currency, being gold and silver, is worse than the national banking system. 4. I claim that the Democratic party has never given the American people any legislation in favor of silver, and all the silver in circulation today came into existence by Republican legislation.

"Now, as to the first proposition, I submit the following: If a free-silver Democratic administration should succeed and redeem a pledge, which would be the reverse of all pledges made in the past, and pass a free-coinage law, the result would be that the owners of gold would withdraw it all, $612,000,000, from circulation banks would withdraw all their loans and contract the currency to the fullest extent, mortgage companies would foreclose all their claims, and in the midst of all this England would dump American securities on the American market, creating the greatest financial panic the American people ever saw.

"A Democratic administration would be powerless to help itself because they deny the government the right to make money, hence it would ruin you. Not so the Populist administration. If they should pass a free-coinage law, the gold men would withdraw their gold and the Populists would supplant it with the full legal-tender paper currency, not redeemable in any specific commodity. The charters of all the banks of issue would be repealed, the power of contracting currency taken out of their hands, and to save the homes of the people they would issue money directly to the people on their individual security. Hence Populist free silver would do you good.

"Now, as the second proposition: Everything that is bad about the gold standard is also bad about the Democratic free silver, only more so. The principal objection to the gold standard is that it puts the finances of the country in the control of a few thousand men, because under the gold standard, with all our money redeemable in gold, holders of government paper could withdraw the gold and the government would then be forced to get back the gold basis. But under the gold standard the government has a way to issue bonds to get hold of the gold by import duties. Under the Democratic free silver the government would have no way to get either gold or silver, as the paper money which they would issue, redeemable in coin, gold or silver, would be a full legal tender for all debts, public and private, and so people would pay import duties and other public dues in government paper.

"Consequently when Wall street got a lot of government paper they would take it to the government reasury to be redeemed, and the government, having no coin to redeem it, would be forced to issue bonds to get gold and silver, and they would have to issue twice the amount of bonds to get a double basis back. So it is twice as bad.

"Now, as to the third proposition: The objection to our national banking system is that your national currency, being based on bonds, the bondholders owning the basis, control your money completely. The Democratic platform proposes to take the basis off bonds and place it on gold and silver. There are about 4000 bondholders, but less than 400 men own and control the gold and silver properties of the country. If the bondholders can control your currency when it is based on bonds, then the gold and silver mineowners can control it when it is based on coin.

"The Populists want a national currency based on all the property of the people, so that all the people can control it. As there are fewer men controlling gold and silver than the number controlling bonds, it must be true that a gold and silver basis is worse than a bond basis. Coin redemption is the credit-strengthening act of 1869, the greatest financial conspiracy ever enacted against American liberty, and now a part of the Democratic platform.

"Fourth proposition: I challenge any Democrat to produce a law passed by a Democratic administration that gave the American people one silver dollar or any other kind of a dollar now in existence, or to deny the fact that the Democratic party repealed the law passed by Republicans that was giving us 50,000,000 silver dollars every year."

ALL AT THE FIRST RUSH.

Most of the Cape Nome Crowd Will Take Early Steamers.

J. Behrman, a Portland business man, who has just returned from Puget Sound, thinks 12,000 will cover the number of persons who will join in the Cape Nome rush this year. This figure, he said yesterday, at the Mineowners' Club, comprehends all that will leave Portland, Seattle, Vancouver and Victoria, as the first rush will take them all in. "There is no use in going unless one can go in the first trip of the steamers," he says, "as the season is too short at Cape Nome to permit of any delay. The distance to Nome is 2500 miles, and the first trip will consume fully 30 days, as all passengers and freight must be unloaded by lighters. As squalls are likely to intervene that would swamp these lighters, the work of unloading at Nome beach is liable to be hindered for an indefinite time. Cold weather returns in the latter part of July, and so those who go in after the first trip must get ready to come right out again, unless they make up their minds to stay all Winter, which very few will do.

In Mr. Behrman's opinion, a large number of claims will be held by a few persons at Cape Nome. He knows of one man who has 120 claims in the tundra, each claim calling for 20 acres. These have been secured by power of attorney, which the laws will sustain. Where $100 worth of work has been done on each of these claims within the year, he feels assured that jumpers can be expelled. These power-of-attorney claims have been recorded at Anvil City, and in most instances have been authorized by citizens who have not left the United States, but have given their agent power of attorney to use their rights. The late law doing away with power of attorney will not affect those recorded last year.

He says a schooner left Seattle for Nome, 10 days ago, with a vaudeville troupe of men and women and 500 barrels of whisky. A whisky man and two gamblers had chartered the vessel and fitted her out. She is expected to arrive at Nome about the time the first steamers reach there, and the company will make barrels of money.

Clark Elected a Director.

NEW YORK, April 19.—Wm. A. Clark, of Montana, has been elected to the Board of Directors of the Trust Company of America.

Attorney on Trial for Murder.

DENVER, April 19.—The trial of W. W. Anderson, the attorney who shot Tammen and Bonfils, the proprietors of the Denver Post, last January, began today.