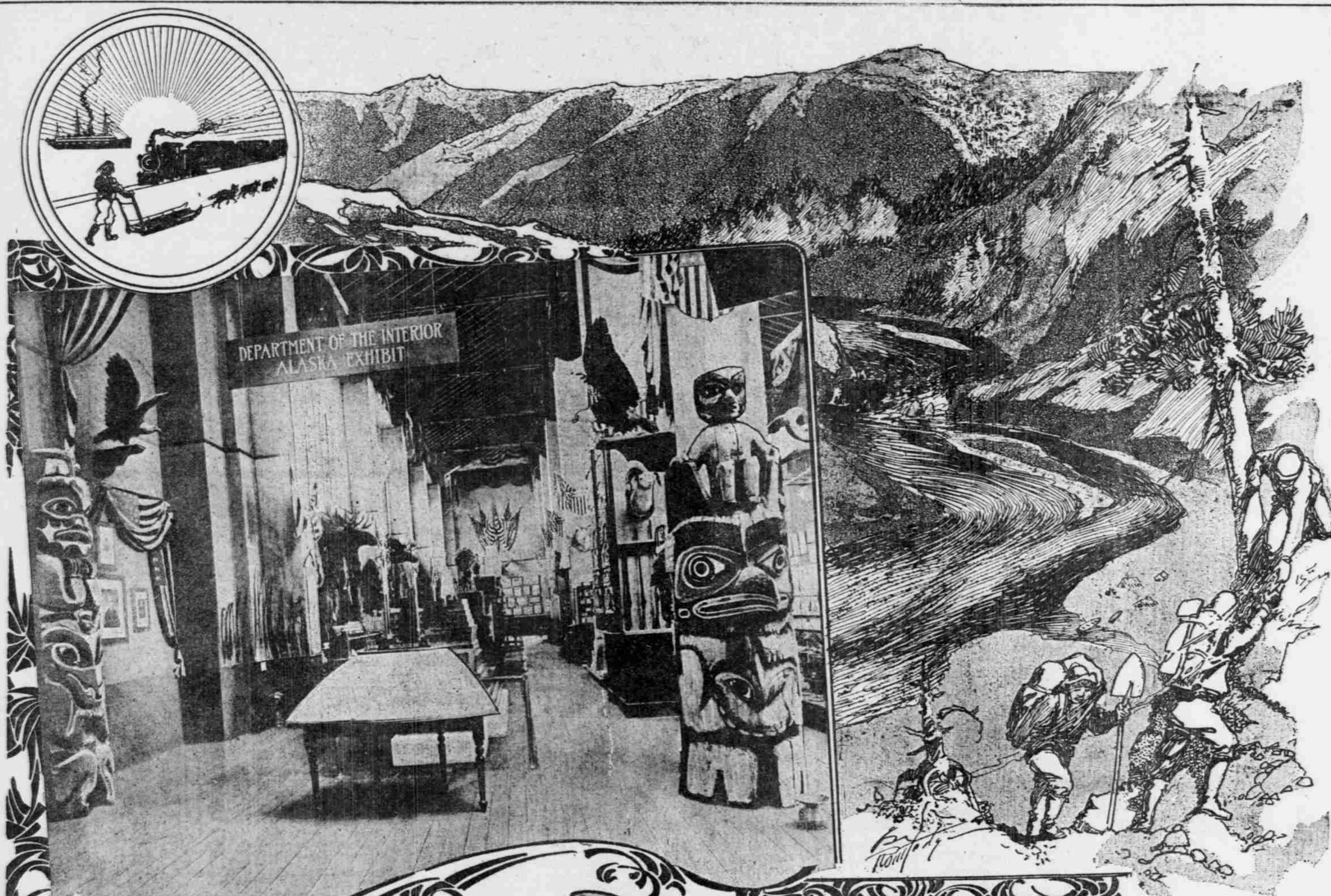


ALASKA, LAND OF VAST NATURAL WEALTH

Government Exhibit at Exposition Reveals Lavish Hand of Nature in the Far North



Dr. Joseph B. Marvin.

THE Alaska exhibit, in the east wing of the Government building, at the Lewis and Clark Exposition, forms an epitome of Alaska, and as these exhibits are expounded by attendants who are residents of Alaska and are familiar with its products, its value as an educational exhibit is increased many fold.

Prior to the recent Louisiana Purchase Exposition, Alaska was almost a terra incognita. Comparatively few people knew more of Alaska than that it was a region of cold weather and of gold mines. The exhibit at St. Louis was a surprise to these people because it made known to them interesting and surprising facts of which they were wholly ignorant. The fact that many thousands of eastern people have visited Alaska during the present summer, crowding the steamers to their full capacity, is evidence that the general public has been awakened to an interest and a desire to know more of that great region.

The Alaska exhibit at the Lewis and Clark Exposition is a compendium. There the intelligent visitor, observing the exhibits and listening to exposition of the same by the attendants, may derive more information regarding Alaska in an hour than he can obtain in any other way in weeks or even months.

Upon entering the section of the Government building in which the exhibit is displayed visitors will first be shown a relief map, from which, with the explanation of the attendant, they will learn about the topography of Alaska—the height of its mountains—one of which is the highest in the United States, the depth of the adjacent ocean waters, the length of its great rivers, the location of its cities and towns, the location of its gold and copper mines, the extent of its railroads already completed and of those surveyed, the location of its marble quarries and its coal mines, and of its petroleum wells and tin mines. Turning to a map displayed on the wall nearby they will learn that Alaska contains one-fourth the area of the whole United States, that its extent from east to west equals the distance from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and that its extent from north to south equals the distance from the Great Lakes to the Gulf—a region large enough to form seven states, equal in size to the average of states in the Union.

Vast Wealth Is Shown.

Proceeding in the company of an attendant, the visitor will be shown one of the most impressive and most significant exhibits, consisting of a gilded cube about three feet in diameter, representing the size of a block of gold worth \$7,000,000, which is the amount paid by the United States to Russia for Alaska, and beside it they will see a gilded pyramid of blocks representing the amount of gold taken out of the Treadwell mines in Alaska each year since 1882, aggregating in value \$21,800,000, a sum which is three times the amount paid for Alaska, taken from one mine. Next, in the main aisle,

MINERALS FROM NOME AND SEWARD PENINSULA. THE MAN IS HOLDING A \$3000 NUGGET.

the visitor will see several thousand dollars worth of furs brought out from Alaska, and representing an immense industry. He will be shown furs of the seal, bear, wolf, mountain sheep, skins of the white, red, blue and silver-gray foxes, badger, beaver, otter, mink, sable and ermine. Near this exhibit he will see a pyramid of cereals grown in Alaska, and this will give him his greatest surprise. He will be told by the attendant that the Department of Agriculture has grown, through its experimental stations in Alaska, that all of the cereals and many of the vegetables and fruits grown in the temperate regions may be grown successfully in Alaska. He will be told that Southern Alaska is warmed by the Japan currents, and that that region is as mild in temperature as is the temperature of the United States. The mine from which this quartz is brought has recently been bonded for \$5,000,000. It contains a solid ledge of ore of great extent.

Output of Alaskan Mines.

Proceeding, he will be shown a display of ores, including gold, copper and tin ores, arranged in geographical order, from Sitka to Nome. He will see a gilded pyramid illustrating the output of the gold mines of the Seward Peninsula during the past six years, aggregating in value \$23,000,000. Next comes a display of gold nuggets, including the largest nugget ever found in Alaska, weighing 132 ounces and valued at \$273. This nugget will be permitted to lift, and when he goes away he can say that he has hefted a fortune in one nugget. He will also see other nuggets, varying in value from \$9 to \$2000, and in an adjacent case he will be shown paydirt from the great mines of Alaska, from which the output varies from \$20,000 to \$200,000 each year. Looking at this dirt, he sees no gold, but a card displayed with each collection conveys

the information of its value. Near by there is shown stream tin and blocks of tin yielded by the same, and next to this is quartz tin ore brought from the most northerly part of Alaska, which equal in value the best tin ores in the world. These mines, it is believed by many, are yet to furnish all of the tin required by the United States. The mine from which this quartz is brought has recently been bonded for \$5,000,000. It contains a solid ledge of ore of great extent.

Copper ores are shown, some of them containing 80 per cent of copper, coming from various extensive mines in different parts of Alaska. The visitor will be shown specimens of coal, and he will be informed that the Geological Survey has recently published a statement, founded upon the investigations of that bureau, that the known coal fields of Alaska include about 16,000 square miles, and that, as less than one-fifth of the territory has been surveyed, it is fair to assume that they actually embrace several times this area. It is said the iron age is the greatest from a commercial standpoint. The same may better be said of the coal age, as coal is the one need above all others which will aid most in the development of Alaska. With coal, Alaska can have railroads, steamships and gold and copper mining facilities at reasonable cost. Almost the same may be said of the petroleum wells which are found in Alaska, from one of which a fine exhibit of petroleum has been brought to the Alaskan exhibit. At the present time petroleum is the fuel most available for the miners on the Seward Peninsula.

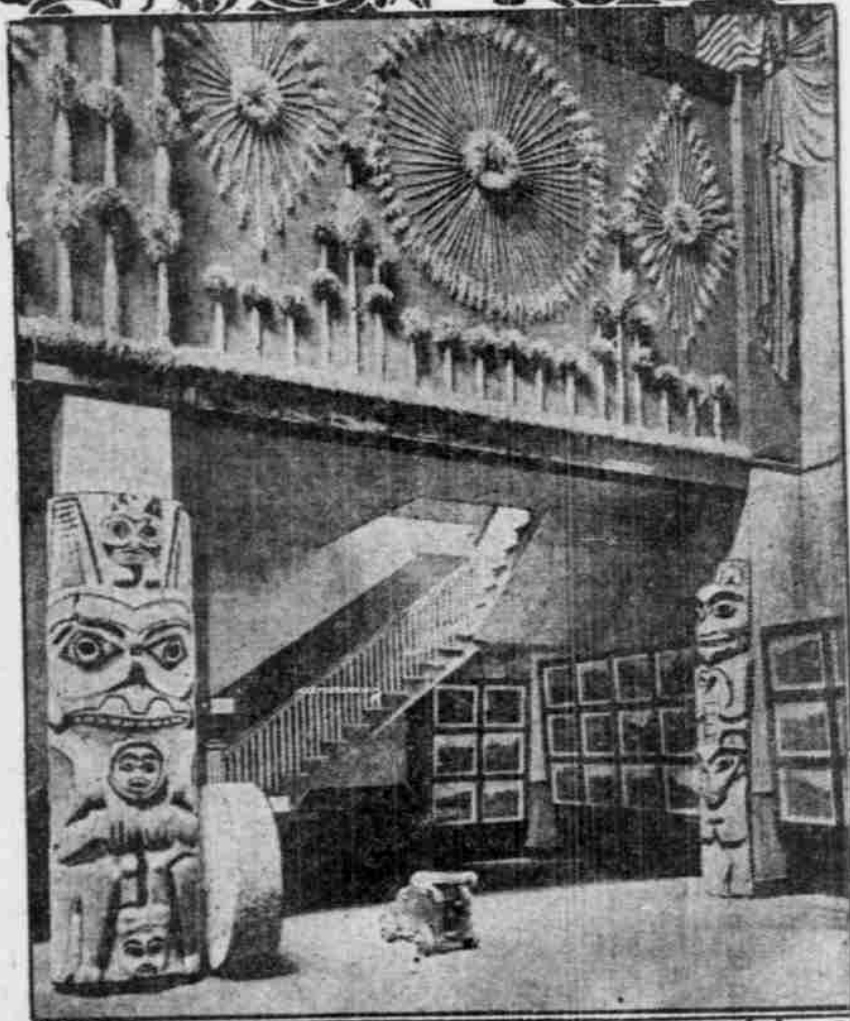
In addition to the ores above mentioned there is shown ore from which mercury is obtained, which is very valuable to the

miner, together with ores containing silver and platinum and specimens of jade. In fact, there is no known mineral which may not be found somewhere in the District of Alaska.

Work of Public Schools.

In proof that Alaska is progressive, there are shown in the Alaska exhibit specimens of school work from the public and high schools of Alaska, and from its industrial school and its schools for natives, which are a surprise to teachers of the most advanced and up-to-date schools of the states.

The most unique feature of the Alaska exhibit consists of Indian curios and totem poles. These constitute a most interesting display, and it may be added that they are, and probably will be for some time to come objects of commercial value. Governor Brady's collection of Indian curios which is on display, is valued at many thousands of dollars; and the totem poles which are on exhibit outside the building are of much greater commercial value than is commonly supposed, as they probably form the last



museums who wished to purchase other points at much greater prices. In this connection should be mentioned garments, which are on display in the Alaska exhibit, made by Indians of aquiline skins and seal-skins, together with waterproof coats made from the intestines of animals. There are also shown beautiful baskets woven by the natives and robes made of eagle down.

Typical Alaskan Jewelry.

In the case which contains the gold nuggets from Seward Peninsula, above mentioned, there is likewise shown a collection of most artistic jewelry made in Nome, Alaska. This collection includes watch-chains made of gold nuggets, and brooches and stickpins of fossil ivory rimmed with nuggets. This fossil ivory was cut from the tusks of the mastodon, and have lain buried deep in the earth in the far North for hundreds of years. The ivory during this time has changed to a beautiful brown or variegated tint, and is very rare and beautiful. Other exhibits from Nome consist of walrus tusks hand-carved into various designs by the natives. On one of these tusks there is a very lifelike head of President Roosevelt, etched by a native.

From other Alaskan towns have come fine needlework and interesting articles made in industrial schools. All of the cedar stools on which the birds are mounted were made by the native boys in the Industrial School of Juneau, Alaska. In charge of Professor W. A. Ketchum, in a case by themselves, carefully locked, are displayed rare volumes and maps of exploration and early discoveries, from Sitka, sent by Governor Brady as showing the beginning of the Alaska library.

Some four years ago a committee, consisting of Senators and members of the House of Representatives, was sent to Alaska by Congress to inspect that region and to ascertain its needs. Their reports were unanimous in expression of amazement at the great resources of that country, and since that time Congress has been most well disposed towards Alaska. President Roosevelt, who has kept fully advised as to the development of this territory, has said: "No country has a more valuable possession—in mineral wealth, fisheries, furs, forests, and also in land available for certain kinds of farming and stockraising. It is a territory of great size, of varied resources and well fitted to support a large population"; and he asked Congress to enact such legislation as would best further the development of that region. Congress has, since the report of its committee, been alive to the needs of Alaska, and it may truly be said that the United States Government could hardly have done more for the furtherance of the development of the great rich district of Alaska, with its untold wealth in minerals and its great possibilities in agriculture, than it has done by securing for the people of Alaska an opportunity to display their resources and products to the inspection of those who visit the Lewis and Clark Exposition. The exhibits shown at the Exposition have excited the utmost wonder and surprise in the minds of the many witnessing them who had been in ignorance of the resources of that country, and many thousands are being led by these exhibits to investigate and to seek further information. The effect of the Alaska exhibit will undoubtedly be far-reaching and permanent. Nor can it be doubted that Congress will, in the near future, supplement this great contribution to Alaska's welfare by legislation which shall secure the one great need of Alaska—inland transportation.



great collection that will ever be brought from Alaska. The City of Seattle paid the natives of Alaska \$1200 for one totem pole, which is displayed in one of the squares of that city, and the 13 large totem poles adjacent to the wing in which the Alaska exhibits are displayed may be