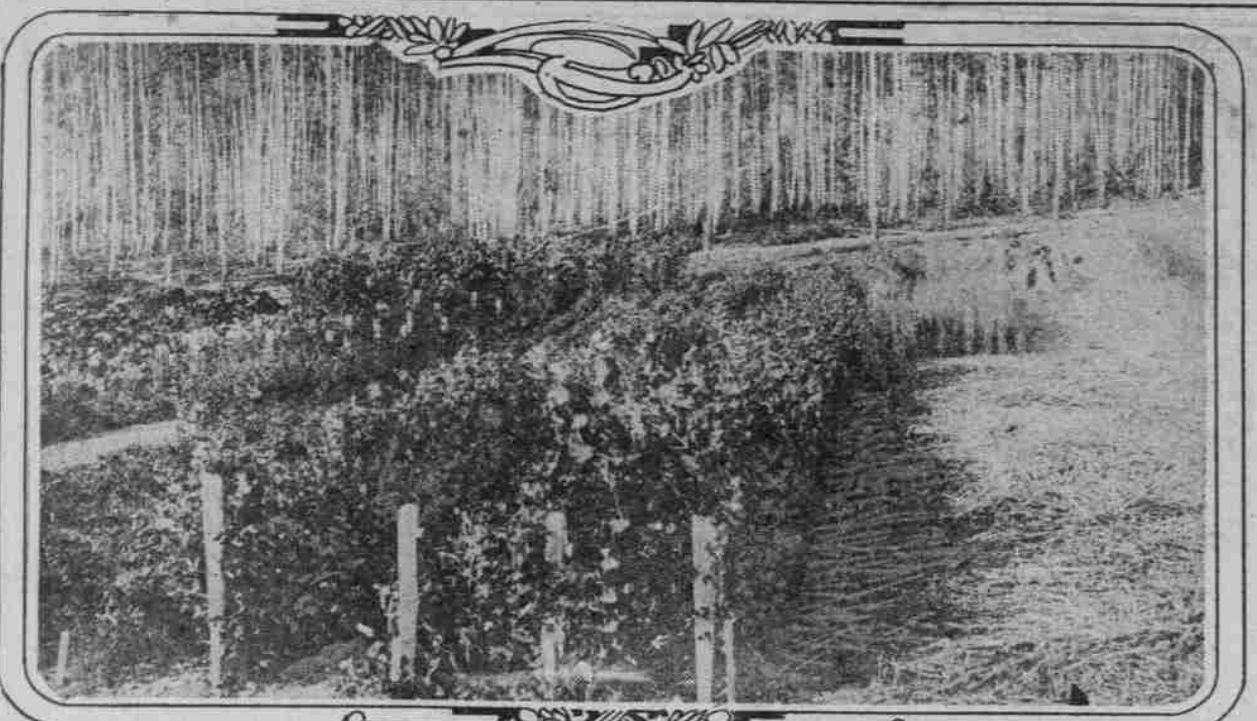


POSSIBILITIES FOR AGRICULTURE IN ALASKA ARE DESCRIBED BY EXPERTS

Government Investigators Find Thousands of Acres Suitable to Different Varieties of Farming, Though Warning as to Obstacles Is Sounded for Fear Stamped: Might Be Started With Disastrous Results.



A Section of the Fairbanks Experiment Station.



Tanana River Near Mouth of Shaw Creek, Showing Many Channels Through the Flats.



Vegetable Garden of Tanana Soils, Fairbanks in Background.

REGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Sept. 4.—The agricultural possibilities of Alaska are great, but agricultural development necessarily must be slow and must keep pace with the general settlement and development of the Territory, for Alaska farm products will have to be sold in the local market. Freight rates and the high cost of production for many years will prohibit exportation. Today, Alaska is no place for the farmer who hopes to "get rich quick."

This, briefly, summarizes an extensive report soon to be issued by the Department of Agriculture discussing the agricultural possibilities of Alaska. The report is the work of two scientists who spent last year studying the soils, climate, crops and other conditions bearing upon agricultural development of the territory.

It is the conclusion of the Government soil experts that more than 1,250,000 acres of valley lands along the line of the new Government railroad, can be brought under successful cultivation, this land lying in the Susitna and Matanuska valleys, and it is here that the first extensive farming is expected to be undertaken. A greater agricultural region lies in the Yukon-Tanana section, but because of its remote location and the lack of transportation facilities, it will probably be developed less rapidly. The third agricultural region studied was that in the Copper River country.

Warning Given Farmers. Sounding a warning against a stampede of farmers to Alaska, the Government investigators, in their publication, say: "While the development of a successful agriculture throughout an enormous area in Alaska is possible, it must be remembered that as yet strictly pioneer conditions obtain, that settlement is largely confined to communities in the vicinity of mining camps, that much of the country is inaccessible owing to the absence of roads and railroads, and that home markets are restricted by the present small population.

in the country between the Tanana and Yukon rivers. Other soils of agricultural possibilities are found in the bottoms of the small streams and on the bench lands of the region.

Copper River Region Extensive. The Copper River region, in the Copper River basin and the Copper River delta. "The Copper River basin, or Copper River plateau, is a broad expanse of plainlike country almost completely enclosed by mountains. It is bordered on the north by the Alaska range, on the west by the Talkeetna Mountains, on the south by the Chugach Mountains and on the east by the Wrangell Mountains.

Flood Danger Noted. "Practically the entire delta is unsuited to agriculture, owing to the poor drainage, the liability to disastrous floods, and the inferior character of the soil. Near the lower front of the delta, the land is covered with freshly discharged glacial debris, are mostly bare, with little or no vegetation, but farther away there is much alder and scrub willow and a variety of water-loving grasses.

Pig Stolen by Eagle Now Is Full Grown. "Betty" is a pampered pet of Oak Creek farm, but flees even from sparrows.

Alaska Range, Head of Rusty Creek, a Tributary of Valdez Creek. The building of a railroad through the Susitna and Matanuska valleys will make accessible a large area of good farming land, and, unquestionably, settlement will follow, probably at a rapid rate.

Indianapolis News. Inaccolumite is a peculiar stone which is found in Brazil. It is a flexible, columnar stone which is cut into plates and when examined with a microscope it is found to be composed almost entirely of fine grains of sand or of mica, with indented edges which interlock like the fingers of clasped hands.

High Society Tea. Washington (D. C.) Star. A well-known essayist and connoisseur of fine art, has recently given an artistic tea in Washington square.

Boy Entombed in Dead Whale. Several years ago a small Indian boy was amusing himself by running about on a huge whale which had drifted in while his parents were cutting off the blubber. Leviathan had been long

ONLY WHALING STATION IN UNITED STATES LOCATED AT BAY CITY, WASH.

Fleet of Four Vessels Is Kept Busy During Summer Season and Several Valuable Catches Have Been Made Along the Pacific Coast.

BY CAROLINE W. MCKINLAY. ESTPORT, Wash., Sept. 4.—(Special.)—Although there are 100 whaling stations in existence in the world, but one of these is situated in the United States, this distinction belonging to Bay City, on Grays Harbor, Wash.

This plant was built in 1911 and began its work the following year, being operated by the American-Pacific Whaling Company, with headquarters in Vancouver, B. C. This company owns and operates several stations in Southeastern Alaska, and on Vancouver Island, and has made a success of the business.

The Bay City station had such a successful first season that its fleet of two steel steamers was increased to four vessels after but four months of operation, and the entire fleet is now kept busy.

In the old days of the whaling industry the bones of its head were dusty when the oil of the sperm whale, the other whales of the family considered the only products worth being neglected, not being considered valuable enough to hunt. Then the meat, blood and carcass were thrown away after the blubber was taken.

Average Value Is \$810. It has been estimated that the value of the product obtained from the average Pacific Coast whale is about \$810.35, divided as follows: 25 barrels of oil at 30 cents a gallon, 50 gallons to the barrel, \$750.00; 3 tons of spermaceti at \$2.50 a ton, \$7.50; whale bone, 250 pounds at 12 1/2 cents a pound, \$31.25; stearin, 600 pounds at .043 cents a pound, \$25.80; total, \$810.35.

Of course, in the case of a sperm whale the value is much greater, sometimes running as high as \$6000. Six of these were taken by the Bay City crew last season, one of them producing from the great reservoir in its head 63 barrels of the precious sperm oil, which is so highly valued for its lubricating qualities. This whale is still talked of at the station, and the capture of one of this size is a occasion for a jubilee.

Another rare catch is the bottlenose whale, which is found only at intervals, and which is fully as much of a prize as the sperm whale, as its oil when refined is perfectly colorless.

This season has been an unusually fortunate one at the Bay City station, for with the season a little more than half over, 12 sperm whales and about 200 whales in all have been taken, against 102 for the entire season last year. This number of sperm whales is double that of any previous campaign, three or four being the usual number taken.

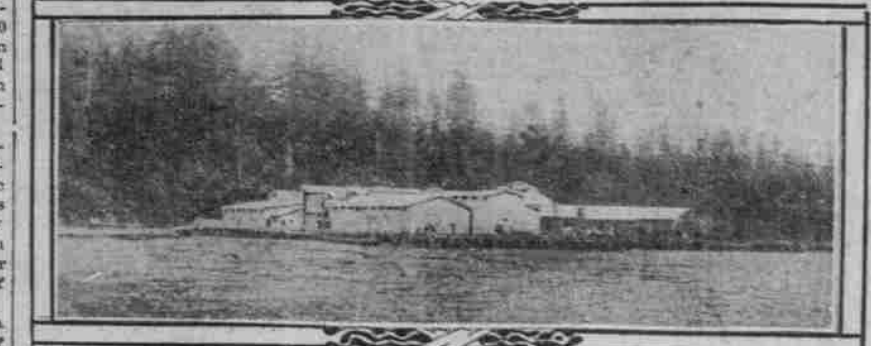
When the prey is sighted, the gunner makes a victim, and the shot is fired, and it is seldom that a second one is needed. At 30 yards distance it is not the easiest thing in the world to hit a whale, even though it is so big, as only a small part of the back usually is visible. Sometimes they will dive just as the gun is trained on them, and they were not expected to be so difficult.

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Whaling Station, Bay City, Wash.



Some of the Whales Captured This Summer



Bones Taken From Whales, Whaling Station, Bay City, Wash.



Loading 100-pound Gun For Second Shot

Wages are most comfortably housed and are given other advantages. Most of the whales taken are of the humpback and finback varieties. The spots often seen on the large humpback whale are barnacles, a sort of mollusk which attaches itself to objects that are stationary—or nearly so—in seawater. As the humpback is of a sedentary disposition and prefers to keep near shore, the barnacles can easily attach themselves to its body and it sometimes becomes as closely covered with them as the piles supporting the docks.

The finback whale, on the other hand, prefers deeper water for its feeding ground, so that when taken its skin is found to be as smooth and glistening as that of a trout.

Pioneer Whalers Norwegian. Norwegians were the pioneers in the whaling industry and were as successful in the business as the primitive methods of the early days allowed. It is a Norwegian accident that a large part of its present successful status.

Boys Sometimes Go Ashore. Occasionally it happens that a whale will be wounded, but later die from its injuries. In such a case the body often will drift ashore and be stranded high and dry on the beach.

In one of these instances an 80-foot black whale was stranded near a popular summer resort on the Washington coast. For three days the huge carcass was watched as it slowly drifted landward before it finally came to a resting place. It was first spotted by a party of boys, who were cutting the blubber, as many as 25 teams being on the scene at once.

The whalebone was appropriated by two white men, who, chances were, were interested spectators, and one of them was allowed to cut the first strip of blubber from the whale, which was carefully tried out.

As soon as all of the flesh was removed from the carcass, the skeleton was left on the beach, and the blubber remains were surrounded with driftwood and burned. This was done in self-defense, as the odor was unbearable.

Boy Entombed in Dead Whale. Several years ago a small Indian boy was amusing himself by running about on a huge whale which had drifted in while his parents were cutting off the blubber. Leviathan had been long

dead and was quite soft in spots. This did not bother the Indian and his kiootchin, who worked away busily until attracted by a cry from their offspring, whom they were amazed to see throw up his hands and disappear into the whale's body.

He had struck an unusually soft spot and sank into the soft carcass, disappearing at once from sight. It took hard and frantic efforts on the part of his parents and their friends to rescue the child before he was smothered to death in the unsavory mass.