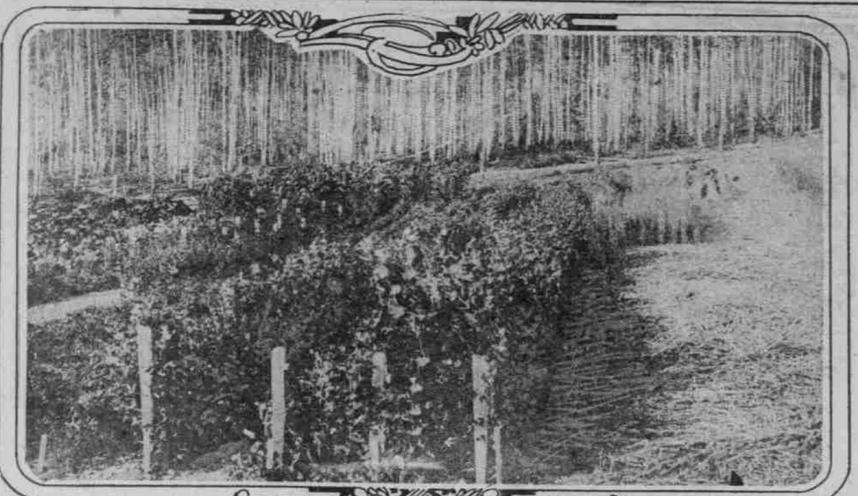


POSSIBILITIES FOR AGRICULTURE IN ALASKA ARE DESCRIBED BY EXPERTS

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. 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 big, motherly sow whose home is on an Oak Creek farm, of the Willamette Valley, Western Oregon. She is much like any other full-grown Poland China sow, with the exception of the stars on her back.

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 silt, and shape, with indented edges which interlock like the fingers of clasped hands.

High Society Tea. Washington (D. C.) Star. A well-known essayist and connoisseur, even in front of a group of artists 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.

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; spermaceti, 3 tons 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.

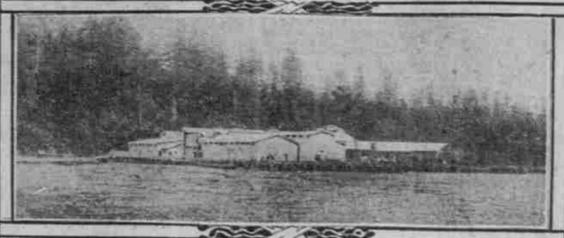
No Female Sperm Caught. It is interesting to note that among all the sperm that have been brought to the station there has not been a single "female of the species," so it has been impossible to compare them with the males.

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.

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

Oil Is Lubricant. The crude whale oil is used as a lubricant, as a signal oil on railways and in soap making. One of the largest soap manufacturers in the United States uses a tank car load of the oil every month and it is to this whale oil that his soap is said to owe its ability to float.

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



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.

Ducks Starve to Death. Their distressed cries and calls brought others of their kind, who naturally settled down beside them and were soon in the same predicament. Hunters shot some of the birds, but found their flesh so impregnated with the oil as to be unfit for food.

No Address for Him. Saturday Evening Post. A prominent New York business man, who declines the use of his name for reasons most obvious, is telling this one on his wife.

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