

TRADE SHOWS BIG GROWTH

Rich Silver Deposit Discovered Near Boundary.

JUNEAU SWELLS OUTPUT

Lumber Mills in Southeastern Alaska Run to Full Capacity; Fox Farming Is Growing Industry.

SEATTLE, Wash., Dec. 27.—(Special.)—In a resume of the past year's business and development of Alaska, J. L. McPherson, manager of the Alaska bureau of the Seattle chamber of commerce and Commercial club, who is perhaps in as close touch with affairs in the north as anybody in the country, declares that it has been one of the most substantial progress of any of its history.

Mr. McPherson in tabulating his resume deals with the various industries of the northern country in detail, embracing reports on mining, timber, agriculture, furs and fisheries, and gives a brief summary of the outlook for the big northern territory for the year 1920.

The big discovery of the year is the remarkably rich deposit of silver opened at the Premier mine near the head of Portland canal, Mr. McPherson shows. This mine is located in British Columbia, about a mile from the Alaska boundary. The natural outlet, however, is across American territory. The town of Ryder has been established on the shore of Portland canal, in Alaska, and is Alaska's new town of 1919.

Large Deposits Disclosed.
The discoveries of the past year have disclosed that this district also contains very large deposits of high-grade silver ore. It is reliably stated that development work on the Premier mine this year has exposed ore estimated to approximate in value \$30,000,000.

Another important mining development of the past year is the gold quartz discoveries on Nixon's Fork, a tributary of the Takotna river, which cuts the Kusokwim river at McGrath, 500 miles above its mouth. The mines, which give every promise of becoming rich producers, are situated about 45 miles northwest of McGrath.

The candle creek gold placer mines, situated about ten miles from McGrath, had a most successful season. These two new mining camps are widely separated, McGrath being about 1000 miles northwest of Ryder.

At Juneau, the Alaska-Juneau Mining company has increased its output, and by the end of the year it was expected the company would be milling 8000 tons a day. The Alaska-Gastineau Mining company increased its working force during the latter part of the year and has averaged an output of about 5400 tons of ore per day. These two great properties, which are famous in amount of output and in their exceptionally low mining and milling costs, have been operating under the greatest possible handicaps, and at a loss during the past two years, owing to the great increase in the cost of labor and material. The profitable operation of these properties is dependent upon more normal cost conditions.

An interesting deposit of flint pebbles has been discovered on Lituya bay, which are believed to be suitable for use in the tube mills at Juneau. The supply of these pebbles has heretofore been brought from Denmark and Norway.

Platinum Discovery Made.
The discovery of platinum, about eight miles from Valdez, has resulted in considerable activity and development work in this region. The La Touche copper mine has increased its force of workers, and shipments of ore will be considerably enlarged during the coming year.

In the Fairbanks district development has been curtailed now for a number of years, awaiting cheaper fuel. Wood in this district costs from \$15 to \$18 a cord. The completion of the government railroad from Fairbanks to the Nenana coal field will give an immediate impetus to mining in this district.

Oil Claim Developed.
Oil development has continued in the vicinity of Katalpa, on the one claim upon which no oil has been secured. The company operating this property has a local market for all of their output, and the early enactment of the oil lease bill now before congress will greatly stimulate oil development in Alaska. Where there are five known fields: the Kakatag, Katalpa, Cook's Inlet, Cold Bay and Point Barrow.

The output of fishing products for the year 1919 will be less than in 1918, due to shortage of the run of salmon in the southwestern and Bristol bay regions. Those interested in the salmon industry are now engaged in devising means of conserving this most valuable industry by closed seasons and other restrictive measures.

New industries for the year included the installation of a clam cannery at Seldovia, which is tributary to a razor back clam field of large extent. At Petersburg two new firms engaged in the business of canning crab meat.

Timber Season Success.
The timber industry in southeastern Alaska had a most successful season, the mills in most instances running to full capacity. The feature of the year was the contract secured by the Petersburg mill, to furnish between 40,000,000 and 70,000,000 feet of lumber for shipment to Australia, 3,000,000 feet being delivered during the past season, 5,000,000 feet to be delivered in 1920, and 10,000,000 feet a year after that date. This lumber is being shipped in the rough for manufacture in Australia into butter boxes.

Fox farming increased greatly during the past year. It is estimated that there are now 45 of these farms in Alaska. One of these farms is estimated to have a value of \$150,000. The government shipment of seal-skins from the Pribilof islands totaled 35,186 skins, with a value in excess of \$2,500,000. The government also shipped out 45 tons of bones for fertilizer.

The erection of a by-products plant on the St. Paul Island by the government marks the beginning of a new and valuable industry. This plant will utilize the carcasses of seals in the production of oil, fuel and fertilizer.

The fur trade at Nome with the coast of Siberia showed a large increase over previous years.

Wheat Production High.
Two thousand bushels of wheat are reported to have been produced in the Fairbanks region during the past year. Two small wheat farms have been established, one with a capacity of 30 barrels per day, and for the first time the people of Fairbanks have been able to make use of home-produced flour. The Tanana Agriculture

association has incorporated a company to build storage warehouses in which to store and grade products. A shipment of 800 pounds of turnip seed has been made to a Seattle dealer and the growing of seeds in the Tanana district is promising to become an important industry. The government farm has been offered a seed contract to cover a large acreage. On the farms in the Fairbanks region there are now four self-hinders and one threshing machine, while the work on the government farm is done by a tractor.

Conditions were never more promising for Alaskan development. The mining development near the head of Portland canal promises for the new year a most active development that will probably equal, if not exceed, in importance and value that of the Klondike.

The Alaskan railroad is now assured sufficient funds to actively push the construction of this road to an early completion. This work alone will employ about 4000 men during the coming year.

The year 1920 is confidently expected to see the start of Alaska's Great paper pulp industry, the value of which cannot be measured from the output of timber or paper products, for its greatest value will come in the building of allied industries, permanent communities, and through the marketing of tonnage for Alaskan steamers, a more balanced traffic. This will permit of more economical operation and lower tariffs, the result of which will be beneficially and immediately reflected in all phases of Alaskan development.

AID TO FIREMEN URGED

ACCIDENT COMPENSATION FOR VOLUNTEERS RECOMMENDED.

Chief of Tillamook Department Suggests That Legislature Make Provision for Fighters.

TILLAMOOK, Dec. 26.—(To the Editor.)—While the legislature is amending the state industrial accident commission act, why not provide for the volunteer firemen? Nearly every community in the state depends on a volunteer fire company for its fire protection. No matter how perfect the fire fighting apparatus may be, its value lies wholly in the efficiency of the men.

Another of the volunteer fire companies are filled, not with men who have property at stake, but with men who can least afford to be laid up on account of injury. Would it not be possible for the accident commission or other experts to figure out an equitable rate to be paid, either by the community protected, or by the company itself for the protection of its own members, and provide suitable benefits in case of accident?

Not only would this be a simple act of justice to the men who, without expectation of reward or compensation, stand ready night and day to go out and protect the lives and property of their neighbors, but in a material way would be of benefit to the state at large. With the men properly protected, it would be far less difficult to maintain volunteer organizations and tend to increase their efficiency.

This in itself would materially decrease the fire losses. Accidents would call for investigation as soon as there was a bill attached, and perhaps the industrial accident commission would lend a kick to the recommendations of the fire marshals' office and the firemen which, in many cases, appear to be honored, more in the breach than in the observance. Property can be protected by insurance. Insurance companies are protected by fire prevention and arson laws, but when the fire bell rings they all pin their faith on the unselfish, happy-go-lucky volunteer fireman, who cannot receive any benefits from the state industrial accident commission because there is no payroll on which to base his compensation.

THOS. COATES,
Chief Tillamook Fire Department.

J. S. SMITH GETS POSITION

CHOICE AS PROHIBITION DIRECTOR CONFIRMED.

Deputy Revenue Collector to Resign to Begin New Duties as Enforcement Officer.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.—Johnson S. Smith of Portland was appointed today federal prohibition director for Oregon.

Johnson S. Smith, deputy collector of internal revenue, yesterday received telegraphic advice from Washington, D. C., that his appointment as federal prohibition director for Oregon had been confirmed and his commission mailed at Washington yesterday.

Mr. Smith will submit his resignation to Milton A. Miller, revenue collector, during the latter part of the week and will open his prohibition enforcement offices in the custom-house building immediately after the first of the year.

Although definite and complete instructions regarding the office have not yet been received by Mr. Smith, the law creating the office specifies that the prohibition enforcement director shall have full charge of enforcing all federal prohibition laws as well as the statutes pertaining to narcotics. Under this latter head, he will have charge of the force of workers seeking out violations of the Harrison drug act.

Mr. Smith announced yesterday he expected to take over the force of about ten revenue inspectors now under the department of Mr. Miller. These inspectors are now engaged in running down moonshiners and other prohibition and drug violators.

Mr. Smith for several years was chief deputy collector of customs. He resigned two years ago when he became the democratic candidate for congress in this district. After the political campaign he again became identified with that office.

Under the federal law creating the offices of federal prohibition directors, the salary is placed at not less than \$1000 and not more than \$2000, depending largely on the size of the states. Mr. Smith has not yet received definite information as to what his salary will be.

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COOK SHACKS EXEMPTED

Attorney-General Says Employment Hours Are Not Regulated.

SALEM, Or., Dec. 27.—(Special.)—Private cook shacks operated by logging camps or their employees cannot be classed as housekeeping establishments, even though occasionally they entertain, at a fixed compensation, transient passing through, according to a legal opinion given by Attorney-General Brown today. The opinion was requested by Mrs. Miss R. Trumbull, secretary of the state industrial welfare commission.

FARMERS IN IDAHO TO JOIN FEDERATION

New Organization to Be Rival of Non-Partisan League.

PROTECTION IS KEYNOTE

Prominent Producers Back Movement to Unify Factions and Win Justice in Commerce.

BOISE, Idaho, Dec. 27.—(Special.)—The announcement that the United States American Federation of Farmers will invade the state of Idaho, organizing in each county a working unit to join in a complete state organization to have representation in the national body, has created widespread interest in Idaho, due to the fact the Nonpartisan league already is entrenched here and has for the past two or three years been very active. The league, while claiming to be nonpartisan as to politics, has been very active politically. It has attempted to gain control of the state government, of the legislature and county officers to further its own interests. There has been much bitterness and the league leaders have been the center of fire.

The United States American Federation appears to have entirely opposite ambitions. Its purpose is to organize the farmers into an active body which will see to and take care of the farmers' marketing interests. It proposes not to play the political game and it has no ambitions to gain high places in politics, its leaders assert.

Organizations to Be Rivals.
The advent of the federation means that there will be two rival organizations of farmers in this state. The entrance of the federation into Idaho at this time is viewed as a most significant move. W. W. Bates, prominent farmer of southwestern Idaho, has taken the initiative in advancing its interests. He has behind him a large number of very influential farmers who believe that the time has come for the farmers to organize for their own protection. They are taking steps first to organize the farmers in the 44 counties in the state. Then a state organization is to be perfected with representative farmers from each of the counties. The state organization will become part of the national organization. A state convention is planned to be held in Boise in the spring at which the state organization will be perfected and delegates will be elected to the national convention to be held in March of next year. The preliminary steps to perfect the movement to hold county and state conventions will be taken in Boise next week, when the leaders in the movement will meet here for a general conference.

Co-operation is Keynote.
A statement issued today says: "The underlying principle of this federation shall be co-operation, not with a view to nullifying efforts already under way for the betterment of the farmer's condition, but an aggressive active movement intended to sweep over the entire United States in a few months and unify the different factions now existing among the farmers, and to enroll as far as possible every patriotic American farmer into one practical, harmonious organization."

"The federation will carefully guard against the use of methods that have the tendency to cause bitterness among classes, but to meet all classes of industry and commerce on a fair, friendly basis and as far as possible maintain harmony and healthy co-operation in settling all industrial and economic questions."

"The United States American Federation of Farmers is opposed to class political parties or to the enactment of laws giving undue advantage to any particular class of citizens, but the purpose and effort of the federation shall be to establish the government by all the people, for all the people with equal rights to all and special privileges to none."

Choctaw Chief Dies.
TALIPINA, Okla., Dec. 27.—Glibert W. Dukies, former principal chief of the Choctaw Indian nation and regarded as one of the most distinguished members of his race in America died near here Friday. He was 71 years old.

Floods Damage Nancy.
NANCY, France, Dec. 27.—The floods are subsiding as rapidly as they rose. The damage is estimated at more than 10,000,000 francs. Most of the metal and other industrial plants ceased operations.

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Ira Davis, Avery, Texas, writes: "I had a chronic sore on my foot for years and doctors said it would never heal without scraping the bone. One box of Allen's Ulcerin Salve drew out pieces of bone and bits of pus, and it healed up permanently."—Adv.