

# THE NEW EL Dorado

## THE GOLD FIELDS OF ALASKA AND THE YUKON.

Geography, Climate and Resources of the New Famous Region of the Far North—How Extensive of Ground to Be Prospected.

(Special Correspondence.)

Purchased from Russia in 1867 for \$7,200,000, Alaska was a portion of the United States for 30 years without attracting the attention its resources and wealth merit. Everywhere apathy and ignorance prevailed in regard to this latest territorial acquisition. Suddenly this was changed. In a single day the eyes of the entire world were turned to Klondike, and there they remain fixed. On the 17th of last July the steamer Portland sailed into port with \$800,000 of gold on board, and to the ends of the earth was telegraphed the story of the rich placer diggings discovered along the Klondike and its tributaries. Then began that rush to the new mines which has filled the news columns of the press with its varied experiences for four months. Ten thousand men joined in it. Some are now at the mines; others are scattered all along the trails from the coast to the Klondike; still others are at Juneau, Dyea and Skagway, awaiting a more favorable time for the journey, while not a few have returned to civilization, satisfied with their experience or to make a fresh start under better circumstances. Great and exciting as was this first rush, it was but the advance ripple of the great wave of gold hunters that will roll in upon the Alaskan coast the coming spring. Probably not less than 50,000 men will start for the Yukon next year, and possibly four times this number may go. For this reason a clear and succinct description of Alaska and its resources, with a brief review of its routes of travel must be of interest even to those who have no intention of seeking the northern wilderness.

In the first place, it must be understood that the Yukon flows partly through Canada and partly through the United States, and that the Klondike region is on the Canadian side of the boundary line, though good placers, possibly as good as those of the Klondike, exist on the American side of the line. Beginning at the Arctic ocean, the boundary line runs due south along the 141st meridian as far as Mt. St. Elias, 10 marine leagues from the Pacific, whence it follows the coast line, preserving a distance of 10 marine leagues from it, in a southeasterly direction to the latitude of 54 degrees and 40 minutes, which becomes the southern limit. All east of that line belongs to Canada, part being in the Northwest Territory and part in the province of British Columbia, the dividing line running east and west across both lakes Bennett and Teslin. The present gold discoveries are all north of the British Columbia line, but no one can tell what may be revealed in the future.

That portion west of the boundary line and belonging to the United States constitutes Alaska proper, and contains a total area of 617,703 square miles, of which 37,896 square miles consist of islands along the coast. It is only on these islands and a narrow strip of the adjacent mainland that settlements have been made and industries developed, except the gradual development of gold placers along the Yukon, ending with the recent startling discoveries. The towns of Alaska consist of but half a dozen of any prominence, besides the new places on the Yukon. They are Sitka, the capital, Juneau, Wrangle, New Metlakahla, Kodiak and Dutch Harbor. Sitka is on Baranoff island, off the southeast coast, and has a population of about 500. Juneau is on the mainland, about 100 miles further north. It is the chief commercial city and during the winter season its population exceeds 3,000. New Metlakahla is a mission and trading point near the southern extremity, and Wrangle is a trading point on the coast at the mouth of Stikine river. Kodiak is on the island of the same name south of the Alaskan peninsula, and is the seat of the salmon packing industry. Dutch Harbor is on the island of Unalaska, one of the Aleutian group, where vessels pass from the Pacific into Behring sea.

Alaska is a region of mountains, there being no great valleys nor plains. Along the coast a high range of mountains rises almost abruptly from the water's edge, deeply indented with long arms of the sea. These present a series of Alpine peaks of the most picturesque description, the highest being the Fairweather alps, exceeding 15,000 feet, St. Elias and Logan exceeding 18,000 feet, and Wrangle, further to the north-west, said to be still higher. Down the canyons of these coast mountains many tremendous living glaciers flow steadily to the ocean, filling the bays and inlets with great masses of floating ice. Beyond this coast range the mountains are lower, but almost continuous as far north as the Arctic, and as far east as the great plains of Mackenzie river region. Yet there are many fine mountain valleys, with occasional stretches of rolling table land, in summer time brilliant with a carpet of grass, mosses and flowers.

The coast mountains divide the climate of Alaska into two distinct classes. A branch of the warm Japan current skirts the coast, its influence modifying the climate of the islands and adjacent mainland. The average temperature for July at Sitka is but 55 degrees, while the mean winter temperature is as high as 32 degrees. This is the most equable climate in the United States. The same causes produce copious rains or continuous drizzles, there being but an average of 66 clear days in a year. Across the summit of the coast range conditions are very different. The rains are cut off by the high mountains, and the warm ocean air is not felt. From November to April the mean temperature remains continuously below the freezing point, often remaining for weeks at a time below zero and occasionally going

# THE FARM AND HOME

## MATTERS OF INTEREST TO FARMER AND HOUSEWIFE.

Discussion and Co-operation Aid in Attaining Profitable Results Keep the Implements in a Tool House—How to Destroy Alders—Poultry Notes

**Farmers' Clubs.**  
It has been clearly demonstrated the past few years that farming, above all other occupations, requires the exercise of intelligence on the part of those who follow it. An eminent agriculturist on being asked how he fertilized his fruitful acres, made the significant remark that he "used brains." Had his example been generally followed, there would have been less reason the past few years to complain of hard times and the effects of low prices for farm products. Those who farm intelligently may not succeed in every case, but nine times of every ten they have the advantage.

In order to keep pace with the march of progress, there should be an interchange of views and experiences among intelligent cultivators of the soil. There is no better way to secure this than through the medium of farmers' clubs, organized and conducted so as to accomplish the greatest possible amount of good. Every neighborhood should have one of these clubs. They are deservedly popular, and are destined to supersede the old-fashioned agricultural exhibitions where the monstrosities of the farm were shown to an admiring world. The aim to-day is to attain profitable results from the tillage of the soil, and not to win prizes for the fattest ox or the largest pumpkin.

Discussion and co-operation among farmers are undoubtedly aids in the direction. During the long winter evenings which will soon be at hand, an opportunity will be offered for these ideas will be obtained which can be put into practice next season. Suggestions as to the best paying crops and how to cultivate them are always in order at these gatherings. Evening lectures are different occupations from what it was a half century ago, and the agriculturist of the present must keep up with the progress of the age. Questions of transportation and the marketing of crops in competition with the great West are more important than ever. Every agency which will aid in solving the problems confronting farmers is valuable, and therefore it is to be believed that few exceed in value the neighborhood club—Norristown Herald.

**A Farm Toolhouse.**  
What a farmer's toolhouse should be, and the tools it should contain, depends altogether upon the ability of the farmer. It is not to be supposed that he would equip himself with a full set of blacksmith, wagon-maker, carpenter, harness or shoe tools, but a few of each comes handy every few days. Every farmer, large or small, needs a good hand saw, square, gage, auger, from two inches down to the size commonly used in the braces, etc.

When buying small bits, it pays to buy drill bits. They do not splin thin lumber in boring, and they pay for themselves the first job. A post maul, wire stretcher, planes, cold chisels, a drawing knife, copper rivet tools and a good claw hammer are essential and necessary tools. With proper care they need be but a few breakages that cannot be repaired at home. Having confidence in our own ability to do almost any kind of common repairing is half the job.

We small farmers are not all supposed to have a fine workshop or toolhouse with our work bench and vice, but we can have a shed to store our farm implements in, and while doing the work can make room for the few tools we possess. No man able to own farm machinery can afford to let it stand out and rust and rot away, just to try his hand at repairing. I have a rough shed 12x24, that sheds a binder, mower, sulky plow, riding cultivator, walking stirrup plow, steel harrow, buggy, a two-seated carriage, and there is room for room for all the small tools the average farmer needs. Go and build one likewise.—Colman's Rural World.

**Destroying Alders.**  
The common sweet alder often becomes a nuisance, as its seeds are left by birds in the corners of old rail fences, where a clump of them will soon grow. It is not a difficult shrub to uproot and destroy, as its root, like its top growth, is very soft, and easily cut. All that is necessary is to dig on the side of the clump next to the fence, and then hitch a span of horses to a chain board and tightly around the bushes close to the ground. As the horses pull, the roots will come into view and can be cut off with even a dull ax, and the strain on the roots will make them easily severed. It is only the work of two or three hours for two men and team to destroy a large clump. If the fence can be taken down and a new one put in, the alder will be a year hence in the space now occupied by worthless alders.

**Care of the Sheep.**  
Those who set out to feed sheep will do well to observe a few essentials. First among these is a dry yard. It need not be large, but must be dry and well bedded. Keep it fresh and clean. Next, insist on absolute quiet of the sheep. If necessary, keep everybody and everything out of the yard except the man who feeds them. Let nothing frighten or disturb them. Wild, restless sheep never fatten rapidly. Another essential is constant access to clean, wholesome water. Feed at regular intervals and at a uniform ration. Make all changes gradually. Sheep cannot be put on to fall feed in as short time as cattle. Feeding too heavily at the start is a very common mistake in all kinds of feeding. It is the most important to start right. An animal that is overfed at the start rarely does as well afterward.—Farm and Fireside.

**To Keep Fruit in Winter.**  
If fruit and vegetables must be kept in the house cellar, a room should be partitioned off in the coldest part, if the other is too warm, and made secure against rats and mice. This is best done by having the partition of brick and the floor of good cement, laid so that the rats cannot undermine it. No language can describe one's feelings on

# NEVER AWAKE.

Some people will never wake up till the last horn blows, and then they'll ask if that's the horn for dinner. Delays are dangerous and ruinous. Thousands can say if they hadn't put off an opportunity, they would have been rich and happy. Some never know they have rheumatism until crippled by it, and all the while in pain, thinking it will pass off. But St. Jacobs Oil never delays, and is always awake. It goes straight to its work—cure in a business way, and cures rheumatism in any form a day at its worst stage. It's a live remedy.

**Mid-Channel Mines a Failure.**  
The recent experiments made by a special commission to ascertain whether the mines laid in the Bardsenelles are capable of preventing the passage of ships have proved the utter uselessness of the present mines, and at the same time the extreme difficulty of laying down mines at all on account of the strong currents.

**A BIG REGULAR ARMY.**  
The mightiest host of this sort is the army of insects whose bowels, livers and stomachs have been regulated by Hostetter's Stomach Bitters. A regular habit of body is brought about by taking the Bitters, not by violently acting and griping the intestines, but by reinforcing their energy and causing a flow of the bile into its proper channel. Malaria, dyspepsia, and a tendency to inactivity of the kidneys, are conquered by the Bitters.

**Proposed Floating Tunnel.**  
In connection with the railway communication between Scotland and Ireland it is proposed to send trains through a tunnel which shall float at a depth of 60 feet below the surface, and which shall be kept steadily in its place by means of anchors.

**AN OPEN LETTER TO OTHERS.**  
We are asserting in the courts on right to the exclusive use of the word "CASTORIA," and "DR. SAMUEL PITCHER'S CASORIA," as our "Trade Mark." I, Dr. Samuel Pitcher, of Hyannis, Massachusetts, was the originator of "PITCHER'S CASORIA," the same that has borne and does now bear the fac-simile signature of CHAS. H. PITCHER on every wrapper. This is the original "PITCHER'S CASORIA," which has been used in the homes of the mothers of America for over thirty years. Look carefully at the wrapper and see that it is the kind you have always bought, and has the signature of CHAS. H. PITCHER on the wrapper. No one has authority from me to use my name except The Centaur Company of which CHAS. H. PITCHER is President.

**A False Prophet.**  
The reputation of a certain well-known "prophet" in London, who but lately announced positively the end of the world in 1900, has been seriously impaired by the fact that a fortnight ago it was discovered that he had since paid a high premium to secure the lease of business premises for 15 years.

**The Century Magazine for 1899.**  
The Century Magazine, with its November number, enters its twenty-seventh year. During its long existence, by reason of its many notable successes, it has won an assured and commanding position. During the coming year the Century will maintain its exceptional position as a magazine of entertainment and as a leader in art and thought.

**FREE TO OUR READERS.**  
Our readers will be pleased to learn that the great discovery, Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, has been so universally successful in quickly curing all forms of kidney and bladder troubles, that those who wish to prove for themselves its wonderful merit may have a sample bottle and a book of valuable information both sent absolutely free by mail. Nothing could be fairer or more generous than this liberal offer, and we advise our readers to write, mentioning this paper, and send their address to Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y.

**English Peers.**  
Of the entire number of English peers, only five go back as far as the 13th century. Of the 538 temporal peers, 350 have been created during the present century, 126 during the last century, and only 62 trace their titles beyond the year 1700.

**A HEALTHY WIFE**  
Is a Husband's Inspiration.  
A sickly, half-dead-and-alive woman, especially when she is the mother of a family, is a damper to all joyousness in the home.

**Poultry Notes.**  
Poultry requires salt the same as animals. Keep all laying hens quiet and comfortable. Generally fifty fowls is as many as should be kept together. Low-priced poultry must have plenty of opportunity for exercise. Fowls being fattened in confinement should have plenty of gravel. If the hens begin to eat feathers, feed them seasoned food, and give them a grassy run. Much of the diseases to which poultry are subject may be traced to a want of ventilation. Do not be guilty of selling only "fair specimens" for breeders; it will prove poor economy. Usually there is more profit in marketing poultry early than at any other time. Leg weakness in young fowls nearly always comes from high feeding and quick growth. Lime is a great purifier, and can be used to an advantage to wash the coops, perches and nest boxes. Ducks should always be allowed as much liberty as possible, as they do not bear confinement well. On many farms poultry keeping can be made auxiliary to the other farm work without infringing upon it, and be made to bring in good returns.—Grange Bulletin.

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There is comfort in the knowledge so often expressed, that Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, the great kidney remedy, fills every wish in relieving pain in the back, kidneys, liver, bladder and every part of the urinary passages. It corrects inability to hold urine and scalding pain in passing it, or bad effects following use of liquor, wine or beer, and overcomes that unpleasant necessity of being compelled to get up many times during the night to urinate. The mild and extraordinary effect of Swamp-Root is peculiarly beneficial in all cases of the most distressing cases. If you need a medicine you should have the best. Sold by druggists, price fifty cents and one dollar. So remarkably successful has Swamp-Root been that if you wish to prove its great merit, you may have a sample bottle and pamphlet both sent free by mail. Mention this paper and send your address to Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y. The proprietors of this paper guarantee the genuineness of this offer.

**Sensational Predictions.**  
Old Moore's almanac, which won notoriety the past year by predicting the Paris fire, predicts for 1898 a terrible civil war in the United States, the death of the czar and the kidnapping of the young king of Spain, and that about the second week of November of that year communication will be opened up with Mars.

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**WHEAT**  
Made money by successful speculation in Chicago at my feet; it would not bring success. "The Genesis of Wealth into my life." So writes a prominent man after extensive travel, the method of self-treatment that has cured his ailment, and who had been wrecked by excess, over-work or evil habits of youth. A little book that makes it all plain may be had without charge by writing THE ERIC MEDICAL CO., 65 Niagara St., Buffalo, N. Y. No C. O. D. scheme; no patent medicines; just the book under plain letter seal.

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