

A SECOND LETTER FROM COL. HOFER

Interesting Facts Gathered on His Summer Trip to and Through Alaska

Sitka, Alaska, July 8.
Editor Statesman:
It was hard to pull away from Port Wrangell, a Russian outpost established by Baron Wrangell, who was governor of Alaska in 1830. He built a fort, but it was not easy to get the Episcopal mis-

ionary to admit that a Russian ever set foot in Alaska. We found the remains of the old American fort and the ruins of the Russian. Wrangell boasts more totem poles than any Alaskan town. Some have been repainted in gay colors. But groups stand on the hillsides, gray and hoary with age. The celebration crowded the streets. There was a tug-of-war, dog-team races, and a dance that was kept up till 2 a. m.
Our ship laid over till morning to catch a more favorable tide in the winding Wrangell narrows that for 26 miles thread their way through the islands and mountains, with some very dangerous passages. The captain takes charge of the pilot house and never leaves it for three hours.

Deer and deer are often seen from the steamer. The shores are a stone's throw on either side and in dangerous places we travel on half speed. We passed the game without murder and anchored at Petersburg. The wife of the principal merchant and dock owner, a woman of Indian blood, is a great lover of sport, and shoots deer, bear and water fowl in season. Her husband, Mr. Hogue, is a bear hunter of some note, having killed a large black bear last fall with an automatic. The firm has a department store, docks and power boats. A department store in Alaska must be able to outfit a sawmill or cannery, a sealing or deep sea fishing boat, fishermen, loggers, hunters, trappers or miners. The canneries in the Petersburg district put up large packs. Halibut and salmon are sent out iced from glaciers, several large ice flows pouring into the channel near by. Nine-tenths of the population of Petersburg are Norwegians. At Petersburg we met John F. Hume, well known cannery operator at Scow Bay, and son of one of the Hume Bros., who originated salmon canneries on the Pacific coast. R. D. Hume established the Rogue river salmon industry in Oregon. He has his own power yacht and has been entertaining the government commission making a tour around the world for the department of commerce. Assistant Secretary of Commerce Huston, Dr. Steinger, curator of the national museum; Dr. Brooks, chief geologist, and Ward Bowers, chief of bureau of fisheries, all of Washington, D. C.

Fox Farming Region
All the islands from Wrangell north are leased for fox farming—black, silver and blue foxes. Those who have been at it five or six years have made fortunes and now deal in the furry livestock. Skins sell for \$200 to \$300. Foxes are held only by a channel of water a quarter of a mile wide or more. They learn to cross rivers when low and then swim when they flood. They are fed raw fish and become quite tame; and in time fox farming will displace the cruelties and barbarisms of trapping, and those who must have furs will wear them without being haunted by memories of horrors.

A Thinket Village
Kake is a Thinket town with native village, school and store, about 100 houses belonging to Indians. A ball game was on, as the tide was out. School children and population pour out on steamer day, but there is no stopping a ball game by rival Indian bush league teams. There are many half breeds and fine looking children. Two islands in the channel are covered with little toy houses, some neatly painted, where the bodies of dead are laid away. Besides the body each house contains those personal belongings of the departed that he or she loved.

Visit a Glacier
July 7 we met the first ice bergs floating out from the great Taku glacier. Before reaching it we pass a dead or receding glacier. Its front is slowly melting off, like a great snowbank, three miles across and hundreds of feet high. It no longer travels like the living glacier. Taku is alive—forming out eight to 20 feet of its two-mile-wide solid wall of ice, which melts and is rent with crevasses. The icebergs are masses that crack and fall into the sea with a roar like thunder. The Spokane noses her way up slowly until you could almost make a running leap and land on the ice. The Taku glacier is one of a group of seven glaciers, all heading toward the inlet, and all but one inactive. The Taku river heads in British Columbia. The word means "Big Wind." During the night we entered Lynn canal, passing Haines, which is the entrance to the Porcupine placer district on Porcupine creek. Skagway is reached at 4 a. m. We no longer say daylight, for night and day are not far apart. Eastern tourists were reading newspapers on the upper deck by full moonlight. We passed another glacier after midnight, and Lynn canal is discolored by the streams of milky yellow liquid paint that flow from the glaciers. It is pure rock grindings, which are crushed to powder, in the bed of the ice masses.

Point of the Yukon
Skagway, the adventure city, port of entry into Yukon territory, gate way to Dawson, where one of the Dalton gang opened the Chilkat pass to the White Horse country, only trail over which livestock could be driven into the Yukon country—famous for Soapy Smith—is the home today of the loveliest woman in Alaska, the brilliant hostess of the Pullen hotel. Mrs. Pullen is known to prominent people and officials of every western state. Her beautiful home and grounds are open to tourists and she has the largest collection of curios, relics, antiques, old ivory, native works of art—a collection the future state of Alaska will be proud to acquire some day as an ethnological museum.

White Horse Pass
Before taking the train at Skagway for the White Horse pass visitors are shown Dyed canyon, across the canal, the old trail to Dawson via the Chilkat pass to the Yukon. At noon we are on top of the White Pass and cross into Canada, both flags flying apparently on top of the world. Below were indications of the trail

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Great big assortment including broken lines of Crepe de Chine, Georgette and Pongee Waists and Overblouses in a good variety of styles and nearly all sizes.

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Tough Run of Luck
Alaska business men will tell you of the territory's tough run of luck, the war taking their men out, the ruin of the canneries by food administration policies, dismantling of the Gastineau channel and Treadwell mines, depletion of the fisheries, etc. At one cannery they had the first run of fish in several years. Launches brought crowds and a band from nearby towns. They played and had a ball game on the tide flat and a dance at night. Some of the canneries run only 30 days in the year. The boom in lumbering has not hit Alaska. Efforts were made to form a syndicate, put all six sawmills under one financial control and saw to load ships for export. The timber is here, but the plan failed. Ship loads of timber products could go out of here as well as out of British Columbia. American capital goes into the latter country freely and seems to be shunning Alaska. Too much regulation from departments five or six thousand miles away. Judge John Winn of Juneau, in his Fourth of July address aboard, deplored the prevailing conditions in Alaska and blamed it on too much long distance paternalism. The two hundred passengers applauded. The land of the free is still the home of the brave, but it has too much officialism for the bravest citizen to cope with.

Capital of Alaska
Juneau society people retire at 2 a. m. and get up at noon. Our ship landed at 4 a. m. in a sleeping and deserted city. Early-habit tourists were up and made the 16-mile side trip to Mendenhall glacier. Juneau is recovering from the slump. The Juneau Alaska Gold Mining Co. is working mill and mine with 200 men. The Buglion mine across the channel works 60 men—wages of miners \$5 to \$6 a day. Common labor \$3 to \$4. Treadwell, across the channel is a deserted, dying or dead city. Miners say the great Treadwell mine caved because the seven columns of rich ore that supported the roof were cut away. It fell and the water rushed in.

Forty Mile Wonder
The trip up the White Pass and down to Lake Bennett surpasses any 40 miles of wonderful scenery on the continent. The canyon has walls of clear granite thousands of feet high, with little parklike places set to evergreen trees, with patches of snow on the grayish-pink walls beribboned with cascades of foaming water. Half way up the train stops at Pitchfork falls, wilder than Multnomah and falling from a glacier. Below is the old trail and remains of a wagon road at the end of which is an abandoned group of houses built to accommodate the gold rush to Dawson in 1897 to 1910. Pathetic landmarks are scattered bones of horses left to die, or mercifully shot by more humane prospectors. Occasional crosses show where gold seekers fell by the wayside. The great plateau above the timber line extends for miles; above the timber line a waste of granite boulders, with pools of snow water and not a sign of bird or animal life, but an occasional ptarmigan, or Alaska pheasant. You see the raven along the salt water, the allegorical bird of totemism.

Saturday morning we leave Skagway for Sitka, 150 miles southwest and near the Pacific ocean, where we arrived Saturday noon. —Col. E. Hofer.

INCOME TAX PUT UP TO ELECTORATE

Argument for Measure is Filed—Relief Proposed For Farm Owners

A statement, declaring that the income tax amendment initiated by the State Taxpayers League of Oregon, will relieve the present "onerous tax on real estate," and that it will "equalize the burden of taxation without increasing taxes," was filed with the secretary of state, for publication in the voters' pamphlet, by the legislative committee of the league yesterday.

Parts of the statement are as follows:

"Our general property taxes have risen to such a point that many owners are obliged to dispose of their holdings. This measure will relieve the property owner and to just the extent that it furnishes such relief the tax will be levied against incomes and taken off real estate.

"A man's income is an exact measure of his ability to pay. Many citizens who now have substantial incomes do not pay taxes. The property owner pays all.

"It is a legitimate, fair means of raising necessary taxes without unjustly penalizing any class of citizens, or having a tendency to drive from Oregon capital so much needed for the state's development.

"It does not in any way increase public expenditure in any state department nor increase the tax levy as now existing. If this measure is passed it will bring onto the tax rolls millions in incomes that now escape taxation and thus materially lower the taxes of every present taxpayer in Oregon."

Suhr and Griffin Win Way to Finals

PORTLAND, July 14.—Herbert Suhr and Elmer Griffin, both of San Francisco, won their way here to the finals in the men's singles of the Oregon State tennis championship. They will play for the title tomorrow.

In the semi-final, Suhr defeated Roger MacVeagh of Portland, 11-9, 6-2, 4-6, 6-4, and Griffith won from Henry Gray, also of Portland in straight sets 6-1, 6-2, 6-0.

In the finals of the men's doubles today Elmer Griffith teamed with Henry Stevens of Portland, won the doubles title from Cattlin Wolfard and Roger MacVeagh, both of Portland. The scores were 7-5, 4-6, 6-2 and 7-5.

Classified Ads. in The Statesman Bring Results

LOCAL WOMEN TO CLIMB HOOD

Mrs. Newcomb Will Again Attempt Ascent—Governor Unable to Go

Salem will be well represented in the Hood River American Legion party which will climb Mt. Hood Sunday, Mrs. Beatrice Crawford Newcomb, who became ill last year and was forced to remain over night at the forest rangers' station will not climb to the top but will accompany the Salem party to the camp Saturday night. Miss Myra Wohrer of Cleveland, Ohio, a guest of Mrs. Newcomb's, will be one of the climbing party. Miss Fay Hendrickson of Salem will also be a member of the party.

Secretary of State Sam Kozier will be among those making the ascent. Governor Ben W. Olcott was to have been a member of the party, but is attending a meeting of the highway commission in Bend.

WATER IS SOUGHT FOR IRRIGATION

Douglas County Men Ask To Use Moisture From Umpqua River

Ten applications for permit to appropriate water from Oregon streams have been received by Percy A. Cupper, state engineer. The applications are as follows:

By Enoch Huff and others of Junction City, covering the appropriation of water from Ferguson creek for irrigation purposes and for running a ram in Lane county.

By J. W. Bush of La Grande, covering the appropriation of water from Rock creek for irrigation of 120 acres in Union county at a cost of approximately \$300.

By Lillian B. Smith of Huntington, covering the appropriation of water from an unnamed spring for irrigation of one acre in Baker county.

By A. W. and Bert C. Grater of Prineville, covering the appropriation of water from Allen creek for irrigation of 20 acres in Crook county.

By Donker Brothers of Aumsville, covering the appropriation of water from Mill and Porter creeks for irrigation of 20 acres

in Marion county, at a cost of approximately \$250.

By Mary W. Ruth, guardian for Robert Street of Baker, covering the appropriation of water from Pine creek for domestic supply and for irrigation of 40 acres in Baker county.

By John H. White of Freewater, covering the appropriation of water from wells and from seepage, for irrigation of a 10-acre tract in Umatilla county.

By J. E. Lovell of Aurora, Marion county, covering the appropriation of water from Pudding river for irrigation of a three-acre tract.

By R. F. Frey of Ash, Or., covering the appropriation of water from an unnamed spring for domestic water supply in Douglas county.

By H. Wollenberg and A. Wollenberg of Roseburg, covering the appropriation of water from South Umpqua river for irrigation of 40 acres in Douglas county at an estimated cost of \$1000.

Gas Tank Explosion Causes Shop Fire
DALLAS, Ore., July 14.—(Special.)—The explosion of a tank of acetylene gas used in the welding department of the Dallas Machine & Locomotive Works this afternoon started a fire in the building which necessitated the calling out of the fire department. The blaze, however, was extinguished by equipment for fighting fires from the sawmill before the arrival of the department. Fortunately no one was injured when the tank exploded, although there were several workmen nearby at the time.

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