

IN ALASKA.

Facts Contained in Secretary Noble's Annual Report.

ALASKA'S FORESTS AND MINES.

Condition of the Natives - A Lack of Education - New Laws Slightly Needed in the Territory.

Secretary Noble, in his annual report, devotes considerable space to Alaska. He says: The governor of Alaska states that since his arrival within the district, on June 1, he has, so far as possible with the limited means of communication afforded, inspected the towns, villages and business enterprises that were within his reach in southeastern Alaska, and inquired into the efficiency of the officers and employees of the government and the pressing needs of the territory for the protection of its people, its various industries, and for the elevation and civilization of the natives.

He estimates the population at about 35,500, of which number 3,500 are whites. He does not credit the reports in circulation as to the approaching annihilation of the native population by wasting diseases but believes that the next census will disclose a larger number of natives than the last. He refers to the difficulty of reaching even an approximate estimate of the value of taxable property, growing out of the fact that, with the exception of the twenty-one fee-simple titles given by the Russian-American Company to its employees, and afterwards confirmed at the time of the transfer of the territory to the United States there are no valid titles to lands excepting mines and mill-sites; and also to the fact that the principal business enterprises are carried on by foreign corporations, whose products are shipped immediately to market or stored in the states. Taking these matters into consideration he regards an estimate of \$5,000,000 as above rather than below the value of the taxable property in the territory.

The natives of Alaska are self-supporting. The United States realizes an income of \$317,500 from its contract with the Alaska Commercial Company alone, besides something from other sources. The annual expenses of the civil government amount to \$37,350 and the appropriations for the support of schools vary from \$25,000 to \$50,000, leaving a handsome net profit to the credit of the territory.

In directing attention to the fact that titles to lands cannot now be acquired within the territory, the governor strongly urges that congress should afford relief by legislation from the difficulties now experienced. The town-site law as now in force elsewhere, would, in his opinion, reach and remedy a large number of cases of real hardship, and a law giving some method of acquiring homesteads and fields for cultivation, which, owing to the limited extent of arable land, should not be in excess of twenty acres to each individual, would seem only just, and would do much toward substantial progress and improvement.

The immense forests of Alaska, consisting mainly of spruce, hemlock and red cedar, are of excellent quality for economic purposes, and the milling facilities for its manufacture into lumber are ample for supplying the present demand. Much embarrassment is occasioned by the present timber law, which forbids any white person to use timber from the public lands even for domestic or local purposes.

The exports of Alaska consist mainly of furs, ivory, Indian curiosities, and the products of the fisheries and mines. Cranberries of a superior flavor grow without cultivation, and one firm during the present season shipped some 2,000 gallons to San Francisco. The following figures show the value of exports during the past year: Fish, oil, bone and ivory, \$3,225,000; furs, \$1,750,000; gold, (bullion, ore and dust), \$2,000,000 and silver, \$50,000; a total of \$7,025,000.

Scarcely any progress was made during the year in the development of the agricultural resources of the territory. No sufficient experiments have been made with grain, but the inference is that there is too much wet weather for wheat and too little warm weather for corn. Grasses of all kinds grow luxuriantly where ever the sun can penetrate the thick timber and brush. Vegetables, root crops and all the small fruits, such as currants and berries, will grow luxuriantly, mature with certainty, and produce abundant crops for the harvest.

CONDITION OF THE NATIVES.

The governor refers to the conflicting reports as to the natives, and says that they present great contradictions of character, habit, and custom. As a rule they are deceitful, and there are those who do not hesitate to repeat sensational stories, without foundation, and these tales are sometimes published to the world, with additions, as established facts. Under the Russian occupation but little attempt was made to elevate the natives, while under the following ten or twelve years of "no government and military occupation" under the American flag, there was little else but "ruin and ruin". Though the improvement in the moral condition of these people during the last ten years has been marked, it must be admitted that they have not yet attained to anything like perfection.

Physically their manner of living has improved on the whole, but consumption and pneumonia prevail to an alarming extent. The governor suggests hospital treatment as the only way of providing proper treatment, and at the same time educating them in the care of themselves and the correct method

of living. He believes this to be due to them, and due to the protection of the whites - MINING.

Gold, silver, lead, zinc and other minerals are found in the territory, and many deposits of coal. The coal fields of the Kenai peninsula are very extensive and convenient of access. Coal from them can be delivered in San Francisco, it is estimated, at \$3.50 a ton. Its quality has been tested, and it is pronounced a canal of coal of great value. A large quantity has been taken out this year, and claims have been filed on 3,200 acres of land.

FISHERIES. The development of the immense resources of Alaska in respect to its fisheries has reached only its initial stage. The total pack of the present season at the salmon fisheries will not much exceed 400,000 cases of four-dozen pound cans. This is a falling off in the catch, although the last year's run was an exceptionally large one.

EDUCATION. The difficulties surrounding the education of the Indians in Alaska are even greater than those connected with the Indians who are under the supervision of the Indian bureau. The great distance from the seat of government, and the difficulty of communication between one part of the country and the other, and with the islands, which compose a large part of the territory, upon which many of the Indians reside, cause much trouble, to say nothing of the climate and the long seasons of winter and darkness that rest upon that portion of our republic. A commission has visited Alaska during the past summer, and in their report, no doubt, will deal with the subject with an intelligence gained from actual observation, and make many valuable suggestions as results of their experience there.

LIFE IN A HAREM.

A Detroit Girl Tells Her Experience - Married to the Sultan.

Among the passengers on the steamer City of New York, which foundered a few days ago, was Josephine Coplan, a pretty Jewess, whose strange experience on the continent was the subject of much newspaper gossip a few months ago. Miss Coplan was on her way home to Detroit, Mich., where, it is said, she was formerly a leader in Hebrew society.

A reporter called on her at the American hotel a few days before her departure for Detroit. She is very pretty, and talked merrily of her trip abroad.

"Yes," she replied, to an interrogation, "the stories published in the American papers about my experience in the Turkish harem are all true excepting in one particular. For the first time in my recollection there was an evident spirit not to exaggerate." "It was three years ago last May that I left Detroit in company with a young man whom I supposed to be a true gentleman. Yes, we eloped. Well, we came to this city, where we parted a few weeks after our marriage. He went to Philadelphia, while I soon afterward took my departure for Europe. I landed in London, July 4, following, and endeavored to get a situation as a private tutor. I had acquired experience in that line in Cleveland, Ohio. My advertisement attracted the attention of a clerk in the Turkish embassy, who, anticipating a call to Washington, wanted to have his children instructed in the English language. Soon after I entered his household as instructress he was recalled to Constantinople. At first I was not much taken up with the idea of accompanying him to the continent, but after great persuasion I finally consented.

"I think it was in the middle of October that we arrived at the Turkish capital. I soon found that life there was a dream of pleasure and when my master took sick and died I regretted that I would have to return to London. In the meantime I had been to all the court balls, and on more than one occasion I had met the Sultan. He sent one of his officers to me when my master died, and I was informed that I might enter the harem - become one of the Sultan's 501 wives.

"I didn't know exactly what the harem meant, so I consented to enter it. A week later I was brought before the Sultan in infantile costume. There were two English girls admitted at the same time, and, as I was examined with them I did not mind the necessity of more apparel. The ordeal was a rigid one, however, and we were compelled to submit to all sorts of exposures at the hands of the Sultan. I passed a favorable examination before the Sultan and one of his high officials. The same afternoon I was placed in charge of one of the most gorgeous chambers in the palace. It was to be mine until I agreed to become one of the Sultan's wives. I agreed as soon as I could, and when the Grecian ceremony was performed I was removed to a still grander chamber, where I was to remain for good should I become a favorite of the King.

"Two days after the marriage ceremony was performed I was made the recipient of a second bridal costume, which I was to wear on the occasion of the Sultan's first visit to my chamber, which event was to occur on the seventh day of my confinement in the harem. Of course I dreaded the event. I had heard something about it and knew a little of what I was to expect. If I could charm his majesty I was to remain one of his privileged wives. If, on the other hand, I failed to entrance him, I was to be relegated to the innermost circle of the harem's there to live the rest of my life without as much as seeing my husband.

"Well, the day came. It would not do to tell you all that happened. I was in my second bridal costume,

which consisted of lace drapery, a garland crown of flowers, and Turkish sandals - nothing more. When the Sultan entered he folded his arms, and, assuming a dignified position, stared right at me. He seemed to look clear through me. Goodness, how I shuddered! Finally he smiled and approached me. Lifting the drapery from me he planted a kiss on my right cheek and then another on my left. Then he kissed my lips. He next threw the lace drapery aside and throwing himself down on his couch, pretended to have been captivated.

"The following day I was told that I might remain in the privileged circle, and so I lived for two years until my escape, the story of which has been told in the papers several months ago.

"Oh, yes, I learned a great many things while in the harem. One thing there struck me above all others. It was the large number of American girls and women who enter the harem. I cannot recall the name, but I can recall an instance where an American heiress entered the harem. She remained there for three months and then bought her way out. She broke her secret to me, and told me that she only did it that she might have to say that the King had worshipped at the shrine of her loveliness. There are numbers of such instances.

"Yes, they often go to the innermost circle. That is a place to dread. To my positive knowledge there are fourteen American girls there now. They are compelled to submit to the lustful desires of the favored members of the Sultan's court, and life with them is a dream of horror.

THE GREAT EASTERN.

Last of the Largest Vessel Ever Constructed.

We have so often been called upon in the past years to announce the last and the very last and positively the last of this magnificent but generally useless ship, which has lingered on through an obscure and profitless existence, since her single voyage to New York, New Orleans and Melbourne proved a commercial failure, that the stranded hull on the Jersey shore, ready to be broken up for a few thousand pounds' worth of old iron, may seem but a reminiscence of the fate repeatedly declared to be imminent and commonly believed to be past.

It is thirty years since she first put to sea from the Thames, and her passage down the channel was marred by a shocking disaster - from the blow-up of her steam apparatus, which cost ten lives; but the laborious efforts to launch this "Leviathan" as she was at first called, in 1857, from Mr. Scott-Russell's building yard at Millwall, had been ominous of ill success. Men were killed by the breaking of the gear attached to hydraulic engines that slowly pushed her, broadside on, into the comparatively narrow river, and Mr. Brunel, the eminent engineer, dying a few days afterward, was thought to be a victim of sore anxiety and severe disappointment.

One serviceable and honorable performance, the laying of an Atlantic telegraph cable in 1865, is set down to the credit of the Great Eastern; but experience has shown that vessels of moderate size can do such work as well. It is a sad chapter in the history of marine architecture, and some people must have lost at one time and another nearly \$1,000,000 together by this one mistake. The Great Eastern might perhaps have been converted into a very commodious floating hotel, moored in some tranquil bay. She could never have been a good sea-going ship, or competed in speed, comfort or safety with the admirable "liners" of modern construction. Her engines, indeed, were manifestly of insufficient power, and she rolled grievously for want of a keel. The dimensions of the big ship were: Length, 691 feet; width, 83 feet; depth, 60 feet; capacity, 22,500 tons burden. - London Graphic.

Science and the Spade.

Assyria, Palestine, and Egypt are yielding their buried treasures to the magicians of civilization, and reporting facts of startling significance to scientists and religionists. The recent discovery of the palace of Amenophis III. of Babylon, with the great library of the period, consisting chiefly of cuneiform tablets, carries us back thirty-five hundred years before the Exodus, when the Babylonian power was supreme in the world. Preserved on clay tablets in the archives of the palace are the records of the wars of the great kings, with Babylonian names, dates, and other events that confirm the primitive history of the Pentateuch, so far as the Babylonians were related to Palestine, both before and after the Israelitish conquest. Professor Sayce completely vindicates the archaeological evidence of Assyria in support of credibility of the Old Testament in its historical revelations, and answers higher criticism and infidel science with the unimpeachable facts of history. He also is of the opinion that Palestine will reward the archaeologist with unexpected proofs of the accuracy of the Old Testament in underground libraries and in various symbolical and monumental resources that the future will appropriate to the discomfiture of the critic and unbeliever. Already Egypt is yielding up her historical insides into the lap of the antiquarian, establishing that Rameses II. was the Pharaoh of the oppressor, and that the route of the Israelites to the Red Sea, as detailed in the Bible, is exactly correct, with telluric confirmation of all that it records regarding the life of Israel in Egypt. It is a gratifying coincidence that just now, when the attempt is being made to discredit the history in the

Old Testament, and to reduce some portions of it to myths, the antiquarian reopens the palace doors of Babylon, knocks at the gates of royal tombs in Egypt, uncovers the graves of Moab and Philistia, and exhumes the treasures of Phoenician glory from their long-forgotten hiding-places, to find records that repeat in part the story of the patriarchs, and in a hundred ways confirm the genealogies, the wars, the customs, and laws of Israel from Abraham to Solomon. This is more than an illustration of literary enterprise; it is proof that the foundation of civilization stand ethereal, and that the divine history knows how to take care of itself. Archaeology, the latest born of the sciences, is contributing quite as much to the first principles of religion as any of the older sciences, with their boasted age and achievements. - The Methodist Review.

LIVED LIKE A MAN.

A Woman Who for Forty-two Years Dressed in Male Attire.

Dundee News.

On the arrival of a passenger steamer from St. Briene the commander informed the police that a woman attired as a man was on board. She had, it appeared, taken a passage for St. Briene, but the captain, having noticed certain peculiarities about the passenger, on reaching that port summoned a medical man, and he declared that the pseudo man was really a woman. He further certified that she was suffering from slight concussion of the brain, and the French authorities, in view of her mysterious conduct, refused to allow her to land.

On the steamer entering the harbor of St. Helier the woman took a cab and proceeded to a boarding house where she had previously lodged for some time under the name of Louis Hermann. She had every appearance of manhood, and from her easy deportment it was evident that male attire was no novelty to her. She wore a fur waistcoat, a long overcoat, a hat, a turned down collar. She smoked a long pipe or a cigar with an air of one accustomed to the habit. Left an orphan at the age of 13, she then resolved to adopt male attire. She has now reached the age of 55, so that forty-two years she has been traveling the world and has been known as a man.

Her calling has been that of a courier, and in that capacity she has traveled widely. She has a knowledge of continental languages, and is otherwise well informed. The name by which she was generally known was Louis Hermann Tobesh, but in some cases she dropped the last name and simply called herself Louis Hermann. During the last year she had a balance of £150 to her credit in a banking firm, but it is not known whether this has been drawn upon. When arrested by the Jersey police at the boarding-house she had only 1s. 6d. in her possession, and she is indebted to the host to the extent of £3 and 10s. A number of the papers found at her lodgings have been taken possession of by the police.

A POPULAR ESTABLISHMENT.

New Julius Gradwohl's Golden Rule Bazaar Meets the Public Want.

One of the most extensive and elegantly stocked establishments in the Willamette valley is to be found in the Golden Rule Bazaar store of Julius Gradwohl in this city. In order to accommodate his many customers he is in the field early this year, and has already commenced receiving his immense line of beautiful goods for the fall and winter and for the holidays, and has one of the most gorgeous and dazzling displays to be seen in any Golden Rule Bazaar in Oregon.

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