

THE NEW ELDORADO

THE GOLD FIELDS OF ALASKA AND THE YUKON.

Geography, Climate and Resources of the New Famous Region of the Far North—Great Extent 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 trail from the coast to the Klondike; still others are at Juneau, Dyea and Skaguay, 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 river 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 37,596 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, Wrangell, New Metlakatla, Kodiak and Dutch Harbor. Sitka is on Baranof 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 Metlakatla is a mission and trading point near the southern extremity, and Wrangell 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 Wrangell, further to the northwest, 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 as low as 60 or 70 degrees below zero. It snows about one-third of the time in winter, but the snow does not become excessively deep, though frequently the storms are very severe.

The mean temperature of the interior during the summer months is 60 to 70 degrees, there being many very warm days. The Yukon region, being so far north, has the long summer days and long winter nights of that latitude, though, being south of the Arctic circle, it just misses the continuous day and continuous night of the Arctic summer and winter.

Aside from gold, the chief resources of Alaska are timber, fish and fur-bearing animals, including the famous fur seals which are giving the United States, Great Britain, Russia and Japan so much trouble. Salmon are plentiful in all the streams of the islands and mainland, and millions are annually packed for market. Halibut and cod, herring and smelt, or oolichon, abound and have become of great commercial importance. The seal and sea otter in the water, and the fox, bear, lynx, otter, beaver, etc., on land, contribute thousands of their skins annually to the world's fur supply. The fur trade is handled by the Alaska Commercial Company and the Northwest Trading and Transportation Company, both of which have headquarters on St. Michaels island, near the mouth of the Yukon, while the Hudson's Bay Company operates on the Canadian side of the line.

Coal and coal oil have both been discovered and may be of future value. The timber of the coast and islands grows very large, owing to the humid atmosphere. It is chiefly cedar, spruce and hemlock. It has been little used thus far, though several small mills have cut it for local purposes. The timber of the interior is much smaller, and is found only along the lakes and water courses. It is chiefly spruce, alder, cottonwood and willow. Several small mills have been taken in for cutting this timber. Agriculture is as yet an experiment, but little having been attempted. Conditions on the islands are favorable for grass and such vegetables and cereals as mature quickly. Even along the Yukon region summer vegetables may be grown and possibly wheat. A few years will show what can be done in agriculture and stock raising.

The great interest in Alaska at the present time centers in the Yukon placers on both sides of the boundary line. Prospecting on the Yukon began in 1881. In the fall of 1883 the first gold was brought to Juneau from the interior. The next year 300 men crossed the mountains and the number of miners steadily increased each year. The first work was on Stewart river and then Big Salmon, both in Canada. In 1886 the Forty-Mile creek placers, also in Canada, were discovered, and the next year the famous Franklin gulch, on the same stream. In 1892 the Miller creek diggings were found, also a tributary of Forty-Mile, and on the Canadian side of the line. The next year there was a large influx of miners, fully 300 working in the Forty-Mile district.

In 1893 the first important discoveries on the American side of the line were made on Birch creek, and the town of Circle City, now having 500 log houses, was started on the Yukon as a supply point. The next year over \$400,000 were taken out along Birch creek and Forty-Mile. In 1895 Eagle and Porcupine creeks began to produce in the Birch creek district. The total output of that year exceeded \$700,000. In August, 1896, it was reported at Forty-Mile and Circle City that wonderfully rich placers had been discovered on the Klondike, a small tributary of the Yukon entering that river about 50 miles southeast of the international boundary and on Canadian territory. There was a great rush to the new diggings, the older ones being nearly deserted. In a few days \$1,000 were taken out on Bonanza creek, a tributary of the Klondike. By January 1, 1897, 400 claims had been located on Bonanza and Eldorado creeks, and 200 on Hunker creek, and later many others on Bear, Gold Bottom and Too-Much-Gold creeks and their tributaries. Fully \$1,400,000 were taken from the Yukon placers in 1896.

It was not so much the amount of gold brought out by the first steamer to come down last summer, as the news that this was the result of but a little work in a few claims only, and that there would have been many times as much had the hundreds of other claims been worked in time to send the gold out, which caused the excitement. The method of working these mines is to sink a shaft into the frozen ground in winter, taking out the rich gravel near bed-rock and piling it up to be washed out when the water runs in summer time. For this reason the gold washed out last summer could not be sent away, and will not be brought down until next July, when it is expected that several millions of dollars will come out as the result of the first year's work along the Klondike. The commercial point for the Klondike district is the new town of Dawson City, situated on the Yukon just below the mouth of the Klondike and reached by river steamers.

The Yukon gold fields extend for a thousand miles along the stream, with a width of 500 miles. In this vast area there are hundreds of streams and gulches, offering ample room for the thousands of gold seekers to prospect for new diggings. The new discoveries reported this year are on Dominion creek and on the tributaries of the Stewart river, on the Canadian side, and on Munook creek and its tributaries on the Alaska side, near the mouth of the latter the new town of Rampart City having sprung up.

BRIEF PACIFIC COAST NEWS

A Resume of Events in the Northwest.

EVIDENCE OF STEADY GROWTH

News Gathered in All the Towns of Our Neighboring States—Improvement in All Industries—Oregon.

Willamette valley fall-sown grain is looking fine.

Several Oregon towns report "not a vacant house."

The late storm was the severest known in many years in Clatsop county.

Last week five carloads of wheat and five carloads of wood were shipped from Sheridan, in Yamhill county.

A Medford man has sold 10 carloads of Ben Davis apples to a New York firm for 75 cents a box, f. o. b.

A Buck Hollow rancher raised \$300 worth of silver-skin onions on one acre of land in Sherman county this year, and sold the crop for cash.

The run of steelhead salmon in Coos bay has commenced. Quite a number were brought from Coos river to Marshfield last week, and were sold for 50 cents each.

Three steamers now ply between Yaquina and San Francisco, the President, Truckee and Scotia. The latter carries only stone, while the others carry all kinds of freight.

The financial condition of Grant county shows some improvement. Treasurer Hazeltine has funds on hand for the redemption of outstanding warrants bearing date of registration prior to January 24, 1891.

State Treasurer Metchan's account with the several counties of the state shows that Baker, Benton, Columbia, Coos, Curry, Grant, Jackson, Klamath, Lincoln, Umatilla and Wallawa have paid their taxes and interest in full for 1896.

A Grant county paper says more wheat has been threshed in the surrounding country this year than ever before, and that enough of it will be ground into flour to supply Grant county with flour until next season. Usually it has been necessary to bring in flour.

The apple crop on Burnt river is reported to be three times that of last year and of good quality. The price, also, shows a very material advance over last year's. Last season's yield brought 40 cents a box, which this year has advanced to 75 cents, nearly double.

Both dwelling and business houses are needed in Vale, Malheur county, says the Advocate. Every available room in town is occupied, and the great demand for more is increasing daily. Little three and four room cottages that can be built at a cost not to exceed \$200 each will bring from \$5 to \$8 a month rent.

Samples of Eastern oysters that were planted in Yaquina bay have been on exhibition in Newport. The oysters have increased very much in size, and have improved much in flavor, oyster experts say, but whether or not spawn discovered on mussel shells and other objects near them is the product of the foreign or native oyster cannot yet be determined. Samples were sent East two weeks ago for settling this point, but no report has yet been received.

Washington.

There is a good demand for logs on Gray's harbor.

The lumber shipments from Washington in October by rail were 750 cars.

The shingle shipments from Washington in October were 1,866 cars, or 298,560,000 shingles, notwithstanding the car shortage and drop in prices.

A Gray's harbor fisherman says that the falling-off of the catch in silverside salmon there this season is fully 50 per cent. The pack of the cannery at Aberdeen is only 10,000 cases, against 21,000 last year. The new hatchery on the Chehalis river will, it is expected, check this diminution in supply and restore the industry.

Washington has a law against alien ownership of land in that state. A Scotch company is desirous of building a beet-sugar factory near Spokane, and this law stands in the way. There is a case in the supreme court of Washington at the present time which will determine whether the law is constitutional or not, or whether aliens can own land in the state or not.

By the breaking of a sheer boom at Stanwood, in Snohomish county, the other day, between 5,000,000 and 6,000,000 feet of logs went out into the Sound, and that of this amount probably 500,000 feet will go out to sea through Deception pass. The boom company expects to be able to save all except those carried out to sea by the tides.

The state auditor has had printed in pamphlet form the opinions of the attorney-general relative to revenue and taxation. These pamphlets will be forwarded to the different county treasurers throughout the state. So many inquiries were received by the state auditor relative to the construction of the revenue law that this step was deemed advisable.

The famous Ruby creek, over which there was so much excitement 15 years ago, promises to furnish the state with another rich district. A resident of Burlington in Mount Vernon last week and brought with him and sold to the bank a little over \$1,000 in coarse gold taken out of placer claims on Canyon creek, a branch of Ruby creek.

W. A. Woodin and others, who were contemplating building a shingle mill in Fairhaven, have changed their minds, and will put up a salmon cannery with a capacity of 20,000 cases.

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 wide awake. It goes straight to its work of cure in a business way, and cures rheumatism in any form and 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 Dardanelles 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 current.

A BIG REGULAR ARMY.

The mightiest host of this sort is the army of invalids whose bowels, livers and stomachs have been regulated by Hostetter's Stomach Bitters. A regular habit of body is brought about through using the Bitters, not by violently agitating and griping the intestines, but by reinforcing their energy and causing a flow of the bile into its proper channel. Malaria, griping, 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 MOTHERS.

We are asserting in the courts our right to the exclusive use of the word "CASTORIA," and "PITCHER'S CASTORIA," as our Trade Mark. I. Dr. Samuel Pitcher, of Hyannis, Massachusetts, was the originator of "PITCHER'S CASTORIA," the name that has borne and does now bear the fac-simile signature of CHAS. H. FLETCHER on every wrapper. This is the original "PITCHER'S CASTORIA," 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. FLETCHER on the wrapper. No one has authority from me to use my name except The Centaur Company of which Chas. H. Fletcher is President.

March 8, 1897. SAMUEL PITCHER, M.D.

Giraffes are from 15 to 16 feet from the ground to the tip of their horns. Specimens from 18 to 23 feet have been known.

If you look at the map you will find that the mountain chains of the Old World lie east and west, while those of the New World lie north and south.

Benjamin Bissell, who lives near Ballston Spa, N. Y., says he has voted for 18 presidential candidates, not one of whom was elected.

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. Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root is the discovery of a great physician, and as such is not recommended for everything, but will be found just what is needed in cases of kidney and bladder disorders—or troubles arising from weak kidneys, such as gravel, rheumatism, pain or dull ache in the back, too frequent desire to pass water, scanty supply, smarting or burning in passing it. Swamp-Root stands the highest for its wonderful cures. The regular sizes are sold by druggists, price 50 cents and one dollar.

English Peers.

Of the entire number of English peerages, 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.

If a woman finds that her energies are flagging and that everything tires her, her sleep is disturbed by horrible dreams, and that she often wakes suddenly in the night with a feeling of suffocation and alarm, she must at once regain her strength.

The following from Mrs. F. S. BENNETT, Westphalia, Kans., shows the power of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, and a letter of advice:

"Dear Mrs. Pinkham—I have suffered for over two years with falling, enlargement and ulceration of the womb, and this spring, being in such a weakened condition, caused me to flow for nearly six months.

Some time ago, urged by friends, I wrote to you for advice. The treatment advised for a short time, that terrible flow stopped. I am now gaining strength and flesh and have better health than I have had for the past ten years."

CHAS. H. FLETCHER, President of The Centaur Company, Binghamton, N. Y.

After using this treatment you will find it a short time, that terrible flow stopped. I am now gaining strength and flesh and have better health than I have had for the past ten years."

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THE SOUTH POLAR EXPEDITION.

The commercial and scientific expedition to the South Pole, under Herr Borchgrevink, will start from England next July. Inquiries are now being made for a suitable ship in Scotland and Norway. The object will be to reach Cape Adair and proceed to the South Pole on Snowshoes. The party will include several scientific men. Herr Borchgrevink will go to Norway at Christmas, and, with some Norwegian friends, practice snow-shoe running.

HOW TO FIND OUT.

Fill a bottle or common glass with urine and let it stand 24 hours; a sediment or settling indicates an unhealthy condition of the kidneys. When urine stains linen it is evidence of kidney trouble. Too frequent desire to urinate or pain in the back is also convincing proof that the kidneys and bladder are out of order.

WHAT TO DO.

There is comfort in the knowledge so often expressed, that Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, the great kidney remedy, fulfills 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 the extraordinary effect of Swamp-Root is soon realized. It stands the highest for its wonderful cures 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.

"King Solomon's Treasure," only Aphrodisiac Tonic known. (See Dictionary.) \$3.50 a box, 3 weeks' treatment. Mason Chemical Co., P. O. Box 747, Philadelphia, Pa.

The Century Magazine for 1898.

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.

Its pictorial features will be notable, and it will command the services of the foremost artists, illustrators and engravers of this country and of Europe.

Nothing like a complete announcement of its literary features can be attempted now. Dr. Weir Mitchell, whose novel of the American Revolution, "Hugh Wynne," is the great success of the year, has written a new story for the present volume. It bears the piquant title: "The Adventures of Francois: Foundling, Adventurer, Juggler and Fencing-Master during the French Revolution." The tale is full of romance and adventure. Mrs. Burton Harrison contributes a new novel of New York life, called "Good Americans," in which contemporaneous social types and tendencies are brightly mirrored and described.

There will be a group of clever stories about horses and people who like horses, under the general title of "Gallops." "A Woman's Reminiscences of the French Intervention in Mexico" will be given in a series of graphic and highly picturesque papers by Mrs. Cornelius Stevenson. Further contributions to the interesting series of "Heroes of Peace" will be made by Jacob A. Riis, Gustav Kobbe, Elizabeth Stuart Phelps Ward, and others.

For the benefit of readers of The Century an unusual combination offer is made for this year. There has been issued "The Century Gallery of One Hundred Portraits," made up of the finest engravings that have appeared in the magazine, and representing a total expenditure of nearly \$30,000. These are printed on heavy plate paper, with wide margins, like proofs. The retail price of the gallery is \$7.50, but this year it will be sold only in connection with a subscription to The Century, the price of the two together being \$6.50.

Piso's Cure for Consumption is our only medicine for coughs and colds.—Mrs. C. Belz, 459 5th Ave., Denver, Col., Nov. 8, '96.

The earth probably receives about one two-thousandth-millionth part of the total radiation of the sun's rays.

Try Schilling's Best tea and baking powder.

The production of India rubber in Mexico is attracting attention, and the samples which have been exhibited are said to be of fine quality.

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West & Trix.

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Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, O.

Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Testimonials free. Price 75c. per bottle. Sold by all druggists.

Hall's Family Pills are the best.

The United States has 70,000,000 population, Europe has 380,000,000. But the United States postoffice handles about as much mail matter as all Europe put together.

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All Eastern Syrup, so-called, usually very light colored and of heavy body, is made from glucose. "Trix Garden Syrup" is made from Sugar Cane and is strictly pure. It is for sale by first-class grocers, in cans only. Manufactured by the Pacific Coast Syrup Co. All genuine "Trix Garden Syrup" have the manufacturer's name lithographed on every can.



When you feel that soreness in your back, that dull pain near your kidneys, it is time to do something for yourself, for these symptoms are serious indications of a growing disease in the most vital functions. Get Dr. Sanden's Electric Belt at once. It will cure you.

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