

Inside History of Alaska in the February "Century"

The February "Century" contains a noteworthy addition to that magazine's "After-the-War" series. It is entitled "Alaska as a Territory of the United States," but its author, Alfred Holman, editor of the San Francisco "Argonaut," might have called it a secret history of that territory; for, in addition to a very candid review of Russia's motives in selling Alaska, and an equally frank and explicit statement of American shortcomings in Alaskan management, Mr. Holman reviews the present Alaskan situation with the utmost openness, and does not hesitate to call by name the financiers and statesmen who have been and are concerned.

The "After-the-War" series, as is now well known, is a successor to "The Century's" famous Civil-War series, and deals with great events of American progress occurring since the close of the great conflict. American editors of note have contributed, and will contribute, several articles in the series, and in every case the writer was a participant in, or personally observed, the great event he describes. The failure of Russia in America, says Mr. Holman, was due primarily to the inadequacy of the individual Russian to subdue a virgin world. The fact is emphasized by comparison of the promyshlenik (roving fur hunter) with the American pioneer, the man who at a later time established the dominion of civilized ideas and usages over the Western American world. The promyshlenik, if not a serf, was a retainer, a man in whom subordination was bred in the bone. Hardhood, patience, industry, loyalty—these he had; but he lacked the prowess of independent manhood, the breeding and training in initiative and individual self-control, the spirit and hope of the man who hopes and plans for himself. He lacked, too, the inspiration—most potent of all the forces in civilized life—of domestic surroundings and domestic ties. The American pioneer brought wife and children with him; the promyshlenik, when he sailed from his native shores, left behind him that which in the civilized sense might have made him a man.

Russia's retirement from the American continent emphasized the humiliating truth that in the competitions of empire she was no match for England. Her ambition in the direction of Constantinople and the Mediterranean had been baffled in the Crimea, and although the war between England and France had left the posture of affairs nominally as before, there had been imposed upon her a deep-seated hatred and an embittered sense of resentment. England came out of the Crimea relatively stronger than before; she might sail the seven seas undisturbed by any protest Russia could make. England might take possession of a country so remote and indefensible as Alaska. A single shot any day through Baranof Castle would have turned the trick. The prize was tempting, and Russia knew it.

Plainly every day of continued Russian possession of Alaska was a day of hazard. By what course could the interest of Russia best be served through its abandonment? Obviously the best chance of baffling British ambition on the American continent, and her hopes in the Pacific Ocean, was to enlarge the territorial strength and ambition of the United States. Here we have the secret, the whole

argument. Russia and the United States stood upon a friendly footing, and Russia had nothing to fear in yielding Alaska to the United States. On the other hand, she had much to gain through bridling the imperial spirit of her hated rival.

There is reason to believe that Secretary Seward, with whom national extension was a passion, was an eager listener to the suggestions of the Russian ambassador even during the period of the Civil War, and that he was entirely willing to keep alive the subject of Alaska. At St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1860, he declared in a public address that ultimately the American flag would supplant that of Russia on arctic shores. The subject was again and again taken up between Mr. Seward and Baron Stoeckl in informal but serious discussions, and somewhere in the course of these talks a compromise was struck between the \$5,000,000 suggested by Senator Gwin and the \$10,000,000 demanded by Prince Gortchakoff. Secretary Seward offered \$7,000,000, which was ultimately increased by the sum of \$200,000 to cover possible demands of individual Russians in Alaska, including the heirs to the moribund fur-trading monopoly, the privileges of which in recent years had not been renewed. These terms were accepted in so far as the authority of the Russian ambassador went. There still remained an essential to the bargain, the consent of the czar, Alexander II, and ratification by the American authorities, including an appropriation for the purchase price.

Frederick W. Seward, the secretary's son, has told a graphic story of the success of the negotiation. On the evening of Friday, March 29, 1867, the secretary was deep in a game of whist with his family and a few friends at his own house when at an unconventionally late hour Baron Stoeckl, the Russian ambassador, was announced. Upon entering, Baron Stoeckl said:

"I have a dispatch, Mr. Seward, from my Government by cable. The emperor gives his consent to the cession. Tomorrow, if you like, I will come to the department, and we can enter upon the treaty."

"Why wait till tomorrow, Mr. Stoeckl?" replied Secretary Seward. "Let us make the treaty tonight."

"But your department is closed," replied the Russian. "You have no clerks, and my secretaries are scattered about the town."

"Never mind that," responded Seward. "If you can muster your legation by midnight, you will find me awaiting you at the department, which will be open and ready for this business."

Two hours later the Department of State was ablaze with light and vibrant with energy, and by four o'clock on the morning of Saturday, March 30, the treaty was engrossed, signed, sealed, and ready for transmission to the Senate. There was need for haste, for Congress was in the final and hurried days of its session, and there was scant time for consideration of a matter which was certain to encounter differences of opinion and call alike for explanation and persuasion.

Hardly had the Stars and Stripes been raised above Baranof Castle when there began a veritable carnival of extravagance, extending over two full decades. Government there was none except within the narrow military jurisdiction of Sitka and even

that partook of the general license. Not all the officers or all the men of the little military establishment betook themselves to hilarities and vices; but enough of them did to give to the military occupation an ill repute, the stain of which has hardly been removed by subsequent good services on the part of the army. By all reports, avarice, whiskey, and lust were the dominating influences of Alaskan life at Sitka and elsewhere. The left-over Russians, released from the feudalistic supervision to which they were accustomed, gave vent to their passions, and the incoming American adventurers joined in a lively race. Sitka took on the character of an American boom town. A city charter was enacted, streets were laid out, and, as usual where speculation, license and scoundrelism pitch their tents, generous provision was made in theory for "education," "religion," and all the amenities which look well on a boom chart. Nobody planned to do anything in a productive way. The whole scheme was designed to make something out of somebody else.

It was at an early stage of this era—in the year 1869—while the country was still under military possession, that Secretary Seward paid his historic visit to Sitka. This visit is notable incidentally for its sentimental interest, but chiefly for an address presumed to have been given at a dinner on board a warship in Sitka harbor. This address in noble phrases lays down principles and declares prophecies which have become fixed in our patriotic literature. Curiously enough, as I have been told by Judge Currey, ex-Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of California, and still, at the great age of ninety-eight, in mental and bodily health, Secretary Seward never delivered this address at all. "Seward told me at San Francisco, upon his return from Alaska," says Judge Currey, "that there had been a little banquet on shipboard, and that he and other officers had exchanged some after dinner pleasantries. The setting being right, and having time on his hands, the secretary sat down in his cabin, and in the course of the next few days worked out the classic utterance which goes by the name of the 'Sitka address.'"

Lives of great men oft remind us that the devices of the polite fakery are not limited to quacks and frauds. Indeed, without the aid which polite fiction has rendered more than once to American statesmen, we should be without some of the most notable and indeed the noblest expressions of political philosophy.

After a lapse of forty-five years we can afford to smile at the higgling of the more foresighted statesmen who brought about the acquisition of Alaska, and at the little faith of those who opposed. For when we balance the account, we find that more than \$250,000,000 of concrete wealth has already been exported from this territory, approximately fifty times its purchase price, while the exploitation has only fairly begun.

The average yearly balance of trade to be charged to the credit account of Alaska is about fourteen million dollars. In round numbers, in the present state of production, Alaska has for a period of years been annually exporting about five times its purchase price. The ultimate wealth of Alaska is beyond calculation; the only

attempt to estimate it has been limited to a single item. Professor Brooks of the United States Geological Survey places a value of seventeen billions of dollars upon the mineral resources of the country alone, of which he sets down \$15,500,000,000 to the account of coal deposits.

The coal land controversy has now been running six years, and it stands precisely where it did when it began. In 1906, President Roosevelt, acting according to the theories of Mr. Gifford Pinchot, and by arbitrary act, withdrew all Alaskan coal lands from entry, on the belief that privileges of entry had been abused. This order had the effect of sealing up the Alaskan coal fields, involving practical nullification for the time being of one of the greatest resources with which nature has endowed the country. But for this order the Alaska syndicate (Morgan-Guggenheim) long before now, would have been operating the coal field upon a large scale.

President Roosevelt's act undoubtedly thwarted a large business project on the part of men of colossal wealth; likewise it thwarted and delayed the development of the country. Those who hold extreme views, believing it to be better to hold great resources in disuse rather than to permit capital to make large profits by their exploitation, approve this policy. Those who hold that the utilization of natural resources—the development of the country—is the all-important consideration, regard this policy as illogical, whimsical, and stupid.

In direct conflict with the Roosevelt policy stand the views of ex-Secretary Ballinger, a much criticized man, none the less a man of high intelligence and positive integrity. In 1909, Mr. Ballinger urged that "the most advantageous method for disposition of the coal lands will be found in a measure to authorize the sale of the deposits in the lands." This, in brief, is the traditional American policy.

In 1910, Mr. Jacob Schiff, not, I believe, a member of the Alaska Syndicate, but a typical master of "Big Business," after a visit to Alaska, surprised the country with a suggestion that Alaska's coal "could be developed under control of a United States commission, something like the Interstate Commerce Commission, a body which should determine how fast coal may be taken out and timber cut, what royalty should be paid to the Government, and perhaps what per cent of profits should be permitted to be made by the promoters and corporations who desire to work these resources." A suggestion so radical from a source so authoritative in the business world has had a marked effect upon public thought outside Alaska. It has indicated to many minds the practicability of a scheme of government ownership, with actual exploitation in private hands. The fact appears to have been overlooked that Mr. Schiff's plan simply substitutes lease rights for ownership rights, no great change except in theory.

The latest suggestion with respect to the development of Alaskan coal fields comes from Secretary Fisher, having in it elements novel and distinctly "progressive." In an official report of 1911, Mr. Fisher presents as a tentative suggestion a plan for governmental construction of railroads connecting the coal fields with tide water, leaving the development of individual mining properties to individual private capital, the whole to be under the leasing system. Whether or not this idea could be worked out in effective practice is a matter of opinion. Frankly, I doubt it. I hold to the old and tried theory that the best results in any business calling

for initiative, sustained energy, and the qualities which may be summarized in the word thrift, can best be secured under the principle of individual ownership or under long lease. * * * The effect of such supervision would be, I think, first to disgust and then eliminate bold operators, men like the late Collis P. Huntington and James J. Hill, men of a type which every new country unfailingly produces, men having the insight, the foresight, the hardihood, to take conditions in the rough, and mold them to the uses of society.

Two other plans of Alaskan development have been proposed, one by Mr. Gifford Pinchot for working the coal fields in five- and ten-acre tracts, with production limited to "say, a thousand or two thousand tons a year." Mr. Pinchot would have made his plan more complete by requiring that there should be precise harmony of color between the socks and neckties of the workmen employed, and that the tools be limited to oyster-forks and desert-spoons.

I believe that this generation, and half a dozen more, will be comfortably asleep in their graves before Japan will venture an aggressive course toward the United States. But I do see that Japan is expanding in population beyond the resources of her own territory—that, ultimately, in the phrase of the late Mr. Harriman, "Japan must go somewhere." I see, too, in Alaska a country precisely suited to Japan's national genius and to her national needs and ambitions. With Alaska, the United States is, and may remain, master in the Pacific Ocean. Japan with Alaska would be its master. I say "with Alaska," because in Alaska are to be found the timber, coal and food supplies essential to naval efficiency, even to naval supremacy. These facts write plainly on the wall of national prudence and caution. "Have a care!" If Alaska is to remain American territory under any condition which may arise, we must have a defensive policy, and we must sustain defensive forces adequate to any possible demand upon them. We must have a care.

"BETTER FARMS WILL BUILD THE STATE"

Portland, Ore., Feb. 3.—Further expression to the sentiment in favor of "earth education" that is so strong throughout Oregon today, will be given February 12, which has been made children's day in the Country Life movement. At that time schools of the state are expected to pay special attention to the subject of the development of Oregon's soil, the improvement of our farms and the betterment of country life generally.

Special programs will be arranged in the various schools, and in many towns and villages parades will be held by school children. The slogan decided on for the occasion will be: "Better Farms Will Build the State."

The idea to be worked out everywhere is that the movement to make better farms and to improve the farm homes of Oregon is a step that makes for the prosperity of all the people. Life on the farm, if made more profitable, will become more attractive and happier homes mean more contented people and an increased country population.

It is desired that senate bill 72, a measure before the legislature to provide for extension work by the Oregon Agricultural College, be discussed by the pupils of the schools on February 12, and teachers and school boards are urged to make the necessary preparations. A copy of this bill will be sent them in time for this event.

This measure plans to extend the benefits of the Oregon Agricultural College to every county in Oregon. Co-operative demonstration farms will be one of the chief means used. Each

county or district of the state will be supplied with these institutions and the experts of the O. A. C. in charge will go into partnership with the farmers in solving soil problems, and in exploiting agriculture to the limit of its possibilities.

Senate bill 72 asks that the state this year appropriate a sufficient amount to start this work on a satisfactory basis, the counties to share in the benefits, also being expected to set aside funds to carry the project along. The federal government, too, will be drawn upon for money, it having made provisions for extension work of the various states.

It is only by such an arrangement that the government funds can be obtained to further demonstrate farm work in this state. To get what it is entitled to in this direction, the state must show its interest by taking this movement up in earnest, and all those who favor the development of Oregon's agricultural possibilities, its biggest asset, are behind the proposed measure.

At a recent meeting held in Portland, the Central Oregon Development League, which drafted the bill, the Oregon Development League and the State Banker's Association, the superintendent of public instruction, the Oregon Agricultural College, the live stock interests, the railroads and the business men of Portland were all represented and agreed that the need of the hour is agricultural extension work that shall reach to every part of the state. All present pledged their support to the bill now before the legislature and pointed to the wide-spread benefits that will follow its passage.

DON'T KNOW THEY HAVE COST US \$600,000,000

San Francisco, Feb. 1.—Keep the American flag flying in the Philippines.

This is the stand taken here today by 365 tourists who have just ended a globe encircling cruise on the Hamburg-American line steamer Cleveland. Alleged plans of the Wilson administration to give up the islands was made the subject of an indignation meeting while the Cleveland was one day out from here, and resolutions signed by all the American citizens on board, both men and women, were adopted.

After commenting on the "astounding achievements attained in the islands under American occupation," and "their strategic position in the ocean," the resolutions say:

"Resolved, That the passengers of the Cleveland, irrespective of party affiliations, realizing that these islands are self-supporting, and in view of the naval obligation which circumstances have placed upon us, to aid in the promotion of civilization, do earnestly protest against the lowering of the American flag in the Philippines."

The tourists today viewed the sights of an Francisco, Oakland and Berkeley. An entertainment program has been arranged which will keep them busy until Monday, when most of the globe trotters will start overland for their homes.

NEW YORK GUNMEN GET ANOTHER VICTIM

Jersey City, Feb. 1.—Believed to have been shot by a New York gunman as the result of the mysterious labor row, Thomas Conroy, prominent in the Building Trades Council here, is dying at his home today. Ernest Willhaber, arrested after the shooting stated that a New York gangster, known as "Kid Dynamite," was Conroy's assailant.

Willhaber declared he and "Big Slim," another New York gunman were hired on the Bowery by "Kid Dynamite" for \$50 each to come here for a "job," and the shooting of Conroy followed.

TONIGHT TAKE A "CASCARET" SURE

NO SICK HEADACHE, BILIOUS STOMACH, COATED TONGUE OR CONSTIPATED BOWELS BY MORNING.

Turn the rascals out—the headache, the biliousness, the indigestion, the sick, sour stomach and foul gases—turn them out tonight and keep them out with Cascarets.

Millions of men and women take a Cascaret now and then and never know the misery caused by a lazy liver, clogged bowels or an upset stomach.

Don't put in another day of distress. Let Cascarets cleanse and regulate your stomach; remove the sour, undigested and fermenting food and that misery-making gas; take the excess bile from your liver and carry out of the system all the constipated waste matter and poison in the intestines and bowels. Then you will feel great.

A Cascaret tonight will surely straighten you out by morning. They work while you sleep. A 10-cent box from any drug store means a clear head, sweet stomach and clean, healthy liver and bowel action for months. Children love to take Cascarets because they taste good—never gripe or sicken.

WEST VIRGINIA RATIFIES THE INCOME TAX

[UNITED PRESS LEARNED WIRE.] Washington, Feb. 1.—With West Virginia today ratifying the income tax constitutional amendment, the 35th state to fall in line, ratification by only one more state is necessary to make the amendment effective.

The states of Connecticut, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont turned down the proposition, while Delaware, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Utah, Florida, New Mexico, Virginia and Wyoming have not yet acted.

The state department will not formally announce its decision on the amendment until two more states have adopted the plan. Congress is then expected to enact the bill.

RYAN'S BONDS ACCEPTED WILL BE FREE TOMORROW

[UNITED PRESS LEARNED WIRE.] Chicago, Feb. 1.—The release of Frank M. Ryan, president of the International Association of Bridge and Structural Ironworkers, one of the 33 union men convicted of unlawfully transporting dynamite, was ordered this afternoon by the United States circuit court of appeals here today. United States District Attorney Chas. W. Miller, of Indianapolis, approved the \$50,000 bonds offered for the release of the labor leader. Ryan will be released from the government prison at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., tomorrow.

GRAND
Tuesday, Feb. 4th
Cohan and Harris present
Geo. M. Cohan's latest and smartest play
"Broadway Jones"
The play critics concede to be the best seen on tour in years.
San Francisco press endorsed this as the best play seen in years.
Prices—50c, \$1.00, \$1.50.

The Secret of Holding a Successful Auction Sale

The season of Auctions is now here (and during the next few months many thousands of dollars' worth of farm property will be sold at public sales in The Capital Journal territory. The prices at all of these sales will depend on various circumstances and conditions, but they will depend largely on how the sale is advertised. A sale insufficiently advertised cannot possibly produce the best results. A sale well advertised will always succeed unless weather prevents.

THE NEW AND THE OLD WAY.

In the old days when circulations were small, and it was impossible to reach all the people through the newspapers, it was necessary to use auction bills. But that day is gone by. Advertising is so cheap and so wonderfully effective, that the auction bill has become a back number.

In this territory the use of advertising space in The Capital Journal has superseded auction bills, just as it has altogether superseded the use of bills by merchants.

Why is this?

THE CAPITAL JOURNAL FIRST IN NEWS.

REASON WHY.

The Bill reaches only a few hundreds; the Capital Journal reaches thousands of readers.

The Bill covers only a limited section; the Capital Journal covers a large territory thoroughly.

The Bill is seen only by the people when they are away from home. The Capital Journal goes into their homes and finds them.

The Bill is not seen in bad weather, because the people stay at home; that is just the time The Capital Journal is more carefully read.

THE CAPITAL JOURNAL FIRST IN ADVERTISING.

The Bill makes the busy man stop when he is in a hurry, in the wind and cold, and maybe take out his spectacles. The Capital Journal finds him at home in a comfortable chair, leisurely reading his paper.

The Bill must be tacked up and distributed—a day or two of hard work for a man with a rig. The Capital Journal distributes the same information to nearly every house all at the same time, without trouble or extra cost.

THE GREAT AUCTION PAPER.

Remember, it is not enough to simply put your ad. in some newspaper. It must be in a paper that reaches the People You Wish to Interest in Your Sale, and

THE CAPITAL JOURNAL FIRST IN ENTERPRISE.

one which covers the Whole Territory. It is astonishing how far men will go to attend a sale and bid on some particular property advertised; these are the very men you want to reach, for they come to do business and not from curiosity.

YOU HAVE ONLY ONE CHANCE.

Bear in mind that all your goods are going to be sold in One day, and on that day depends whether you make or lose perhaps several hundred dollars. A few dollars' expense is absolutely nothing at all compared with the importance of advertising your sale Right.

You Cannot Take Chances on Scrimping on Your Advertising.

THE CAPITAL JOURNAL FIRST IN EVERY HOME.