

# ALASKA: Land of Riches

Purchase Price, \$7,200,000  
Production, \$840,000,000



GOVERNMENT ALASKAN RAILWAY

The summer—no sweeter was ever:  
The sunshiny woods all athrill;  
The grayling asleep on the hill,  
The bighorn asleep on the hill,  
The strong life that never knows harness,  
The wilds where the caribou call;  
The freshness, the freedom, the farness—  
O God! how I'm stuck on it all.  
—The Spell of the Yukon (Service).

THE house of representatives the other day passed an amendment to the government Alaskan railroad act by which the additional sum of \$17,000,000 was appropriated for the completion of the road by December 31, 1922. The debate was presumably more or less tinged with partisan politics. Leaving out the politics many interesting facts of value were brought out concerning Alaska—Land of the Midnight Sun—which has proved a veritable treasure trove to the United States and is only at the beginning of its development. Some of these facts are here given, with credit to the various representatives.

Mr. Curry of California.—Mr. Chairman, in 1867 Alaska was purchased through the efforts of Secretary of State Seward from Russia for \$7,200,000, which was less than 2 cents an acre. The European nations poked fun at the United States, and the papers of the United States ridiculed Secretary Seward and referred to Alaska as "Seward's Iceberg."

The climate of the most of Alaska is better than that of Scandinavia and New Foundland. Vegetables and cereals can be and are raised there, and it is the richest undeveloped mineral section on the face of the earth.

There has justified Seward's purchase of Alaska for the United States. Since 1869 Alaska has produced over \$840,000,000 worth of wealth; \$300,000,000 of that from her fisheries, most of the rest from her mines and from her furs. In the same time Alaska has bought from the United States \$400,000,000 worth of property. It has done that under existing law that practically ties up the resources of Alaska and prohibits them from being developed.

In 1914 under these conditions, knowing that Alaska should be developed and that a railroad would not and would not be built by private enterprise, the congress of the United States enacted a law authorizing the president to construct a railroad or railroads in Alaska, not to exceed 1,000 miles in length, and authorized the expenditure by him of \$35,000,000 for that purpose. The president placed the construction of the road under the control of the secretary of the interior, and he in turn organized what is known as the Alaskan engineering commission to take practical charge of the work.

The original authorization of \$35,000,000 would have constructed this road under ordinary conditions and circumstances, but the war came along. Expenses increased 59 per cent, the cost of material increased up to 161 per cent and transportation up to 147 per cent. Under those circumstances the \$35,000,000 is not sufficient to complete the work. It is, therefore, absolutely necessary, unless we wish to sacrifice the \$35,000,000 already invested, that this \$17,000,000 authorization be allowed.

The road, when completed, will be 601 miles in length. The main line, from Seward to Fairbanks, will be 471 miles in length. The spurs and branches and side lines will make up the 601 miles. All of the road has been completed, with the exception of some work to be done to complete the first 71 miles from Seward north and a gap of 100 miles and another small gap of 25 miles. Most of the 100-mile gap has been surveyed and some of the 25-mile gap has been made.

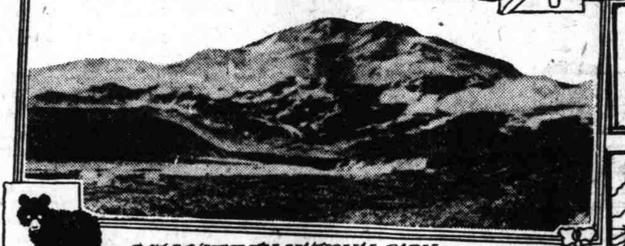
The road started from Seward on the southern point of Alaska, and went to Anchorage. Part of that road—71 miles—had been constructed. From Anchorage over to the northern terminal of the road, Fairbanks is located on the Tanana river. The Tanana river is a branch of the Yukon river, and the Yukon river and the Tanana river are navigable for 2,000 miles. The Alaskan railroad commission commenced building from the southern point north. They brought the material to Seward and Anchorage, and they commenced to build from the northern terminal south, so that they could save time and save money.

The road already reaches to the coal fields. There are 1,202 square miles of coal fields in Alaska that have been explored and experted by the coast and geodetic survey, the geological survey and by the Alaskan engineering commission. That is all on the line of this road. It is estimated that there are 30,000,000,000 tons of coal that will be opened to commerce by this road, and 15,000,000,000 tons of it will be high-grade coal which could be used for coking and smelting ore, and such purposes, and the rest of it for fuel and matters of that kind. In Alaska it has been estimated that there are 150,000,000,000 tons of coal. No person knows how much there is.

Mr. Strong of Kansas.—There has been discovered in Alaska not only gold, but silver, copper, lead, iron, antimony, tungsten and platinum in large quantities. In addition, there has been discovered large fields of oil. It has splendid agricultural advantages. It is estimated that it has over 100,000 square miles of tillable land. It has a growing season of 100 days, and because of the



PLACER MINING ON A STREAM



MT. MCKINLEY NATIONAL PARK



ALASKAN GOLD MINE

great length of the days, that growing season is worth about 200 of our days. So that they are enabled to grow crops suitable to take care of a large population and take care of the stock that they may produce. The crops are wheat, oats, rye, barley, hay, and they have produced an alfalfa which makes a good crop. Its vast forests of timber suitable for paper pulp are awaiting a ready market, while its fisheries are the greatest on this continent.

Mr. Miller of Washington.—I have been over nearly all of Alaska. I have gone into the hills with my pack on my back. I have teamed what few provisions I had 200 or 300 miles with a dog team out to my diggings. The greatest copper mines on the face of the earth are within the territory of Alaska. You know how we searched the world for metals during the war. We have 99 per cent of them in Alaska. They are there awaiting the hand that will develop them.

Something has been said here of the reindeer situation. There is no prettier sight in the world than to see a thousand head of reindeer grazing on a mountain side. The Aleutian islands are full of them. There are 150,000 or 160,000 reindeer in Alaska. They are a godsend to the natives. They go out with their little herds. An Indian or an Eskimo may not have over 25 or 30 reindeer, but he herds them as a careful husbandman takes care of his little flock of sheep. Incidentally they are cleaning out the wolves and lynxes and the other predatory animals that infest the country. The reindeer support the natives. And I truly believe that with the great grazing lands that there are in Alaska, the future development of the reindeer as a substantial source of meat supply for our country is one of the most promising that we have before us.

Now, the climate there is not bad. Over in the interior, in the Yukon valley, the atmosphere is dry, and with the temperature 25 degrees below zero, you can wear an ordinary hat all day long and your ears will not get cold. When you go out to the coast you get the moisture. Going away from the coast into the Yukon valley you go over a mountain chain some 4,000 feet high, and when you get over that chain you are in the great arctic slope. I have come out of that valley with the thermometer 42 degrees below zero, where I could stay out doors all day without discomfort, and have dropped over that mountain chain only 30 miles and come out to the coast where the thermometer was 8 degrees below zero and have nearly perished with the cold. The interior is a cold, dry climate. Animals can forage all winter in the interior country.

It would surprise some of you to know that in that country the ground is eternally frozen. No one has ever dug through the frost, and they have been down a thousand feet.

The fields of barley and rye and wheat are grown on the top of ground that is frozen for a thousand feet beneath. It thaws on the surface in the summer time. It gets very warm. There is daylight 16, 18 and 24 hours in the day, and crops mature quickly. They come right up overnight. Of course, in the winter the nights are long and dark and cold, but the summer seasons are delightful. The thermometer goes up to 80, 90 and 95 in summer, but in the winter it becomes exceedingly cold. The coldest weather I ever saw in the Yukon valley was 68 degrees below zero. That is cold weather, and it is dangerous weather; but as you go down the Yukon river, and perhaps 500 miles from the mouth, there is a Catholic mission, the Holy Cross mission. There is one of the most beautiful apple orchards I have ever seen, perhaps 80 acres of the most beautiful young apple trees just coming into bearing. And grazing over broad acres of clover was one of the finest herds of Jersey cattle I have ever seen. All that in a land that is frozen. It is a queer country. Every rule of the geologists is reversed when you get to Alaska.

And I tell you, gentlemen, just as sure as God, the future will unfold for Alaska and the Ameri-

can people the wealthiest possession held by any nation in the world. Mineral, agriculture, fisheries, stock raising—everything for future development. It is the golden land of promise for the coming generation. All they want is your help. Come and help them. Let us have 250,000 people in Alaska.

None of the speakers mentioned Mount McKinley. It will be noted that the small map suggesting the general course of the Alaskan railroad shows Mount McKinley. This great peak, with a surrounding area of 2,200 square miles, is now Mount McKinley National park. The government railroad runs close to one corner of the peak and will make it accessible.

Mount McKinley National park lies approximately in the center of Alaska, in the midst of the vast wilderness to the south of the Yukon and to the west of the Tanana. Here the Alaskan range, which forms a line of snow-capped summits 200 miles long, culminates in several gigantic peaks, the highest of which—Mount McKinley—towering 20,300 feet, is the highest mountain in the world above the line of perpetual snow, and one of the most impressive mountains of the earth. Seen from an altitude of 1,800 feet, Mount McKinley is stupendous; travelers say that there is nothing like it, even among the higher Andes or Himalayas.

The park area is in scenic keeping with forests, glaciers, lakes, streams and lofty peaks. So from a scenic viewpoint the new McKinley National park takes place in the front rank of our 17 national parks.

Mount McKinley is a natural big game refuge. It is the fountain-head of the big game supply south of the Yukon and west of the Tanana. It is the center of a region where big game abounds. Here can still be seen the wild game living in security, protected by the remoteness and ruggedness of the region. Great moose stalk through the valleys about timber line. Herds of caribou feed on the moss-covered hills. Bands of bighorns browse on the high mountain slopes. The grizzly, monarch of the American wilderness, gives the crowning touch to this picture of a wild game paradise.

But already is this big game paradise menaced. The prospector, miner and market hunter are closing in. The white man's civilization is drawing near. Already sledloads of wild game reach the Fairbanks market. With the completion of the government railroad New York will be but three weeks away. Our national expansion has always carried with it evils as well as good. Fires have swept away forests; dynamite and filth have killed off the fish; a leaden hail has exterminated the wild life. "Remember the buffalo!"

When this day comes the big game of the region will naturally gravitate to Mount McKinley. And there it will find sanctuary in the national park. So, aside from its scenic magnificence, the creation of Mount McKinley National park is well worth while as a game preserve.

On the other hand, so remote is this vast wilderness that the act contains a concession to the prospector and the miner in the matter of killing game for food. The act establishes the park as a game refuge and provides a heavy punishment for the killing of game. There is, however, this proviso:

"Provided, That prospectors and miners engaged in prospecting or mining in said park may take and kill there so much game or birds as may be needed for their actual necessities when short of food; but in no case shall animals or birds be killed in said park for sale or removal therefrom or wantonly."

It is obvious that inasmuch as the passing of the park act does not modify or affect the mineral laws now applicable to the area and hence does not exclude prospectors and miners, it would not do to prohibit the killing of game for food by them in case of necessity.

## THE KITCHEN CABINET

"The anxiety of some people to make new friends is so intense that they never have time to have old ones."

### HOT SOUPS FOR COOL EVENINGS.

The expert soup-maker will obtain delicious flavors by using leftover meats and vegetables. After cooking the soup should be strained and thickened as usual with a binding of butter and flour cooked together.

**Corn Chowder.**—Take about four teaspoonfuls of fat salt pork cubes and try them out; add one sliced onion and cook five minutes, stirring often to keep the onion from burning. Parboil four cupfuls of potato slices in water to cover, drain and add the potatoes to the fat and onion, with two cupfuls of boiling water; cook until the potatoes are soft, add a can of corn, a quart of milk, salt, pepper and buttered crackers. Serve with the buttered crackers on top. This recipe will serve six.

**Cream Soup.**—Put thin slices of bread as thin as shavings with a small amount of butter in a saucepan and brown; pour over enough boiling water to make the soup needed, add salt to taste and let the mixture boil up; then remove the saucepan and stir in a large cupful of cream, the thicker the better. Be sure to have it well salted or the soup will taste flat.

**Cream of Peanut Soup.**—Put a cupful of peanut butter into a quart of milk, add salt, cayenne, a tablespoonful of grated onion, a bay leaf, celery salt, and cook ten minutes in a double boiler. Moisten a tablespoonful of cornstarch with cold milk and stir until smooth, add to the soup and cook ten minutes. Strain and serve with cubes of toasted bread.

**Quick Egg Soup.**—Stir a teaspoonful of beef extract into a quart of boiling water, add a grated onion, celery salt, salt and pepper to taste. Pour boiling hot into a tureen with four tablespoonfuls of boiled rice and two well beaten eggs.

**Split Pea Soup.**—Pick over, wash and put to soak in plenty of cold water one cupful of split peas. In the morning cook in two quarts of water, add a two-inch cube of salt pork and one sliced onion. Cook and stir often until the peas are soft, rub through a sieve, thicken with two tablespoonfuls of flour and butter, add milk to thin the puree to the desired consistency. Season well and serve very hot.

Ordinarily we find in people the qualities we are mostly looking for or the qualities that our prevailing characteristics call forth. The larger the nature the less critical and cynical it is, the more it is given to looking for the best in others.—Trine.

### CHEESE DISHES.

Cheese naturally suggests itself as a substitute for meat, since it is rich in the same kind of nutrients which meat supplies; it is also a food which is staple and may be used in a variety of ways.

**Stuffed Potatoes With Cheese.**—Split hot baked potatoes lengthwise, remove contents without injuring the skin of the potato. Mash the potato, add seasoning and enough hot milk and butter to season well; beat until light, then refill the skin, piling it up lightly; do not smooth the top. Sprinkle with grated cheese and reheat in oven until cheese is melted and a delicate brown.

**Rice Baked With Cheese.**—Cook a cupful of rice in a large amount of boiling water, at least three quarts, adding a teaspoonful of salt. When tender drain and cover the bottom of a buttered baking dish with a layer of the rice; sprinkle with grated cheese, a dash of cayenne pepper and add milk to half fill the dish; cover with crumbs and bake until the milk is absorbed and crumbs brown.

**Pittsburgh Potatoes.**—Cook one quart of diced potato cubes with a small minced onion until the potatoes are nearly tender; add a teaspoonful of salt and half a can of minced red peppers and cook until the potatoes are done. Drain and put into a baking dish. Make a sauce of two tablespoonfuls of butter and flour, one teaspoonful of salt and a pint of milk, then add one-half pound of grated cheese. Pour this over the potatoes and bake until a golden brown.

**Baked Fish with Piquant Stuffing.**—Bass or any firm-fleshed fish of moderate size may be used for baking. If the fish lacks fat insert strips of pork in gashes along each side of the fish.

**Baked Eggs With Cheese.**—Break four eggs into a buttered baking dish and cook in a hot oven until they begin to turn white around the edge. Cover the eggs with a white sauce and over this a cupful of cheese and bread crumbs well mixed. Season and brown the crumbs in a hot oven.

Egg shells should be carefully scraped out with a teaspoon; someone who has tried it says that the bulk of one egg is saved in the scraping of a dozen shells, and with eggs worth four or five cents apiece, it is worth while.

Nellie Maxwell

## BOY SCOUTS

(Conducted by National Council of Boy Scouts of America)

### EVER ON "BAD INDIAN"

The boys of Jamestown, N. Y., in camp this season on Champlain lake, at Sylvan park, and the camp director was appointed "Bad Indian," who, with four other boys, made a successful raid on the camp. On an appointed morning at 10 o'clock to hide somewhere in the vicinity. They were to be given the "Redskins" name.

At one o'clock five scouting parties started out from camp to hunt for "Bad Indian" and his followers. One of the conditions of the game was that these Indians should place to camp, and must build a fire and keep it burning until six in the evening, unless they were found by a scouting party.

The fleeing "Redskins" camp site and masked it on the one of the conditions being that should be open on the fourth day of that way. Then they cut the camp but about eight inches in length, regular Indian fire was built.

Another condition of the game was that the Indians should not be placed where they selected a camp, but must stay there until the afternoon.

During the day one scouting party passed within 25 feet of the "Bad Indian" camp, and on the spot their fire, but so intense was the what was in front of them and they did not see the "Indians."

### ALL SCOUTS KNOW THE



When He Can Put the Right on Anything He is Preparing for Future as a Scout.

### SCOUTS HAVE A MODEL

Glen Everman, commenting on the big scout encampment at Cherokee, Tex., said some fine things about scouts who attended this remarkable powwow.

"We had a uniform going-to-the-getting-up time as well as regarding and drilling hours. There was a single fight during the entire encampment, and every lad behaved like a man. We had boys from New Mexico, Arizona, California, Maine.

We had Jews, Catholics and Protestants. The son of a millionaire and son of a very poor man bunked in the same tent. The largest member of the camping party tipped the scales at 150 pounds, while many of the boys weighed between 65 and 90 pounds. "The entire encampment was a level the most successful ever in the Southwest."

### IRVIN COBB A SCOUT OFFICER

So far as can be ascertained, Irvin Cobb, the world-famed humorist, recently became an official of the scout council in Westchester county, New York, has not given an answer to the question put to him by the New York Telegraph as to whether he would make any public appearance in the abbreviated knickerbockers which form so distinctive a part of every boy scout's attire.

### WHAT THE SCOUTS DO.

On leaving Halifax, N. S., the prince of Wales sent back a radio message which he said: "I wish again to congratulate the Veterans' Club and the boy scouts on their splendid parade." When the scouts of Bristol, England, learned that the town was to have a "Welcome Home" parade in honor of its returning soldiers, they shifted their camping plans and moved to it that they were on the job when the boys came home.