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Then a man sitting on the other side of me, whom I had not even noticed before, piped up. "Pardon me, Pardner," he said to the Texan. "I'm from little old Alaska. Youngest state in the Union, 588,400 square miles. One fifth the size of the whole United States, twice the size of Texas. Greatest state in the Union. Texas blinked at him and turned back to me. "As I was saying," he said, "You can't mention a thing that Texas ain't got. We got 400 miles of sea coast, you know it, man, and.. "Pardon me, pardner," Alaska said, "We got 4,750 miles of coast line; our shores are washed by two oceans, one sea, straits, gulf, and God knows how many bays. We got.."

land in the world that Matauska Valley land is.

"But what we are really noted for," Texas said, "is our men. Takes real men to live in Texas. You ever hear of them 'blue northers' that whip through the pan handle?" "Yeah," Alaska butted in again, "They're just baby williwaws sent down for seasoning. When they get where they can brean 100 miles an hour they come back to Alaska to work out on some real men."

Texas turned back to me again, "Now you take our mountains," he said, "there's Capitan in the Guadalupes, 9020 ft. That makes her about 4,000 ft. higher than anything you got in North Carolina and..."

After that Alaska got up and left. Then Texas turned to me and said, "Them Alaskans. If they ain't the biggest-mouthed, loudest bunch of braggarts I ever heard. Why we ever let 'em in the Union, I'll never know."

A more enjoyable experience than this, I am yet to know.

"Why son," Alaska said, "that's just a little old hill. If you want a he-mountain, why don't you take old McKinley, 20,300 ft. high. That makes her about 11,280 ft. higher than anything you got in....What's the name of that state again?" Then Texas said, "There's the old Rio Grande. What a river."



GALAX
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Alaska immediately said, "There's the old Yukan, 2,000 miles long, and you'll never see the day you can jump across it like you can some rivers I can mention but won't..." Well, by this time Texas was foaming at the mouth; he turned his back on Alaska and said, "and we got gas and oil, gold, silver, mercury and lead, and..."

Alaska said, "we got oil, gold, silver, copper, lead, tin, platinum, pella-cin, antimony, tungsten, coal, marble, glosum, sulphur, pitchblend, timber, and fish and..." Texas said, "There ain't anything we can't grow. You ever see a Texas watermelon? Biggest thing you ever saw."

"Yeah," Alaska said, "about half the size of a Matauska Valley cabbage. Richest

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