

UNDEVELOPED RESOURCES

Geographic Society Points Out
America's Opportunity



WITH the great nations of Europe wasting their wealth and resources with freehanded disregard, and this country being forced to depend more and more upon its own capital, agricultural and mineral resources, the question of our undeveloped stores takes on an interest such as it never before has had. In this connection the National Geographic Society has prepared a statement which says: "In addition to the wonderful agricultural and mineral development which already has taken place in the United States, and which makes this country outrank any other in the world in the value of her crops and the product of her mines, we have vast undeveloped resources. To have more coal, more petroleum, more phosphate and more copper than any other country. Our coal reserves reach such an overwhelming total as to make the combined coal reserves of the next six greatest producing nations—all of whom are at war—dwindle into insignificance. Zinc, lead, silver, timber, salt, iron ore and other staples of commerce are here in undeveloped abundance. Alaska is the greatest of our unexploited treasure troves. "The largest body of unused and neglected land in the United States is Alaska. It is now nearly a century since we purchased this territory, and it contains today less than 40,000 white inhabitants, less than 1,000 for each year it has been in our possession. The purchase was made as a means of protection against possible aggression of a foreign nation and without hope that it would be even self-supporting. In the intervening 46 years we have given it little more than the most casual concern; yet its mines, fisheries and furs alone have added to our wealth the grand sum of \$500,000,000. Individual fortunes have been made in that country larger than the price paid to Russia for the whole territory.

"Its waters are teeming rich with skins and fish. How rich we know, because they have been proved. But how rich its land are in gold and copper, coal and oil, iron and zinc, no one knows. The prospector has gone far enough, however, to tell us that no other section of our land today makes so rich a mineral promise. And in agriculture the Government itself has demonstrated that Alaska will produce in abundance all that can be raised in the Scandinavian countries. (Sitka has cooler summers and warmer winters than Washington, D. C.), the hardy cereals and vegetables, the meats and berries off which nine million people live in Norway, Sweden and Finland. It has been estimated that there are 50,000,000 acres of this land that will make homes for people as sturdy as those of New England. Alaska can be made self-sustaining agriculturally. "It is a territory one-fifth the size of the United

States containing less than 1,000 miles of anything that can be called a wagon road. It has a few inconsiderable stretches of railroad, which terminate either in the wilderness or at a private industry. "Alaska does not by any means comprise all of our undeveloped resources. Vast stretches of the Great American Desert still remain to be reclaimed for fruit, grain, vegetable and grazing land. Millions of acres of coal lands are in store ready to be opened as the need for their richness arises. Southwestern oil fields are storing vast quantities of petroleum for future use. Innumerable water-powers throughout the Middle West and West are waiting to be harnessed. Our vast deposits of phosphate rock, embracing millions of acres and containing billions of tons of phosphate, undoubtedly from the world's greatest supply. These deposits run for hundreds of miles through Wyoming, Utah, Montana and Idaho. In 1910 the United States produced 52 per cent of the world's phosphate output. "A discovery of a deposit of potash within the United States was made some time ago, though little has been done in the way of its development. The Department of the Interior has expressed the hope that this supply would for some time at least make the farmers of this country independent of foreign sources. It lies, however, still undeveloped. Germany, up to now, has had a world monopoly of potash."

HOW TO TELL THE TIME

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Get next to the telegraph operator along about noon if you want the exact time which begins to come in over the wire at 11:57. There are a lot of beats and pauses, some twelve of them, by way of preliminary to give warning, and last of all a pause of several seconds (three or four) on the open circuit, which closes with a pronounced click when the second hand strikes the meridian.

Wednesday, the Seventeenth

Wednesday, March seventeenth, is the date set for the annual masquerade of Carolina employees. "The invitation, to onlookers will be confined entirely to Carolina guests; will not be general as in years past.

House Guests of the Houstons

Messrs. Rufus Chapin, Frank Phelps and Eugene Lyman of the Mt. Tom Golf Club, Holyoke, Mass., are the house guests of Mr. and Mrs. Henry S. Houston at Fernleigh.

One of the Neutrals!

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