

Democratic Watchman

Bellefonte, Pa., December 23, 1921.

A GREAT RIVER, LITTLE KNOWN.

To those who read Dr. Eloise Meek's description of her trip up the Yukon, the following from the National Geographic Magazine may be of interest:

The closing of the Yukon River to navigation because of ice, which occurred in late October, serves the double purpose of bringing annually to the attention of stay-at-home Americans one of the greatest of their rivers, which to the majority is probably little more than a name, and of warning of the southward thrust of the icy fingers of winter which will soon grasp the shores and straits of the Great Lakes.

The Yukon, despite the general failure to recognize it as such, is one of the greatest rivers in the world, says a bulletin from the National Geographic Society. It is more than 2300 miles long and is both the longest and the largest river flowing into Pacific waters in the Western Hemisphere, surpassing by a considerable margin its nearest competitor, the Colorado. Among all the rivers of North America the Yukon is surpassed in length only by the Mississippi system and the Mackenzie. It is longer than the St. Lawrence, as well as all the other rivers, except the Mississippi system, which flow into the Gulf of Mexico or the Atlantic.

Though the discharge of the Yukon has not been accurately measured, it is its tremendous volume of water rather than its length that causes it to be ranked as a great river. It is, of course, far outdistanced by the vast Amazon, greatest of rivers, and the Congo, which probably ranks second. But the Yukon has been estimated to have three-fourths of the volume of discharge of the Mississippi, and if this estimate be accurate the stream which it pours into the sea is probably among the half-dozen greatest in the world.

To Alaska, heretofore having no highway of steel into its interior, the Yukon has been indispensable. Because of the shallow bars at its mouth, ocean steamers cannot enter the river; but at the harbor of St. Michael, just north of the mouth, freight is transferred to shallow-draught, stern-wheel river steamers, which ascend the stream not only throughout the breadth of Alaska, but for several hundred miles into Canada.

The Yukon, flowing through Alaska roughly from east to west, divides the territory into northern and southern halves. Large areas along the banks of the river and its tributaries, as well as at considerable distances from the stream, can thus be served by freight boats. The principal objectives of the river steamers, however, are Dawson, on the Yukon, about sixty miles in Canada, and more than 1300 miles from the mouth, and Fairbanks, the "metropolis" of interior Alaska, near the head of navigation on the Tanana, a tributary of the Yukon.

The Yukon is an international river, rising nearly 500 miles within Canadian territory, and sweeping in a great arc to the north and east. Although the river is over 2000 miles long, one of its sources, a small lake, is within twenty-five miles of the salt water to which it makes such a round-about journey.

The existence of such a large river as the Yukon in the Far North was long unsuspected. A Russian lieutenant, Zagoskin, entered its mouth by boat in 1842 and traced it for several hundred miles. The Hudson Bay company had discovered its headwaters in Canada, but the two bits of information were not pieced together. The existence of the river as a stream of great magnitude and length first became really known through the daring and romantic project of installing land telegraph wires between America and Europe across Alaska, Bering Strait and the wastes of Siberia. Robert Kennicott, in connection with this enterprise, blazed the Yukon trail by descending the river in 1865. The first trading steamer ascended the stream in 1869. The Yukon really came into its own with the discovery of gold in the Klondike in 1896.

The Yukon is not alone in being a great river which has remained in comparative obscurity because of its far northern situation. Just to the east the Mackenzie, a brother stream of hardly less magnitude, which is now also beginning to feel the throbbing grip of frost, flowed almost unnoticed through a little known wilderness until the discovery of oil along its banks brought it into the limelight. And in the Eastern Hemisphere three rivers, worthy to be classed among the mightiest streams of the earth—the Ob, the Yenisei and the Lena—pour hundreds of thousands of gallons of water into the Arctic each second in a mighty but losing battle against the congealing power of cold.

BIRTHS.

Whitman.—On November 23, to Mr. and Mrs. Boyd C. Whitman, of Hubersburg, a daughter, Ruth Beatrice.

White.—On November 30, to Mr. and Mrs. Roy Ellsworth White, of Bellefonte, a daughter, Edna Jean.

Dorward.—On November 29, to Mr. and Mrs. Wesley C. Dorward, of Bellefonte, a daughter, Miriam Adeline.

Witmer.—On November 12, to Mr. and Mrs. Lester Witmer, of Bellefonte, a daughter.

Klinger.—On November 17, to Mr. and Mrs. William Klinger, of Bellefonte, a daughter, Pauline Mary.

Fultz.—On November 24, to Mr. and Mrs. George Fultz, of Spring township, a daughter, Hazel Ellen.

Breon.—On November 29, to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Breon, of Marion township, a daughter, Marie.

Calderwood.—On December 14, to Mr. and Mrs. M. G. Calderwood, of Bellefonte, a daughter, Sara Annabel.

The best job work can be had at the "Watchman" office.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

DAILY THOUGHT.

SANTA CLAUS

If a body hears a prancing
On the snowy roof—
While she's hanging Christmas stockings
As of reindeer hoofs—
If they're coming near, and nearer,
She won't run, because
She will know, this little lassie—
That it's Santa Claus!
If a body meets a body
With a jolly face,
While he's stuffing Christmas stockings
In the chimney place;
If he's short, and stout, and rosy,
She won't run, because
She will know, this little lassie—
That he's Santa Claus.

Santa in the Kitchen.—Maybe you have never thought of kitchen things as making very Christmassy presents, but they impart the holiday spirit quite as well as more poetic things, and make jolly and acceptable gifts.

You can combine several in a comical way to hang on a tree, like Miss Dolly Mopsy or, on the other hand, you can tie each one up separately in gay paper and ribbon, so that the lady who has six shining new patty-pans handed down off the tree separately throughout the evening will become the center of a heap of fun.

An amusing way to give a number of household things, which was practiced by one family of boys and their father, was to put each object in its native habitat, so that when the lady of the house went trotting about her household duties, the gifts burst gradually on her vision, and it was Christmas night before her presents came to an end.

Another entertaining way of giving kitchen things would be to fasten to the gift a little picture, possibly cut from a magazine, with the explanation that it was promissory of next month's gift, and that a different present for the house would surprise the recipient on the first day of every month throughout the coming year.

For the young housekeeper, or the little girl who is just getting old enough to help with the dishes, create a mopsy doll. A dish mop forms the head; a painted wooden mixing spoon, the face; a dish towel, the body; a dustless duster, a skirt; and a woven dishcloth, a shawl. A ribbon tied around the neck of the doll in front forms a collar and holds the whole thing together firmly.

For the housekeeper who has difficulty with her baking get a reliable oven thermometer. This may be dressed up in one or two oven cloths, to which you have sewed a brass ring so that the cloth will always be on hand close to the stove for immediate use just when it is needed.

There's the five-inch spatula with flexible blade for frosting little cakes and scraping out small bowls and cups; the broad spatula for flapping griddle cakes, eggs, and fish, or for slipping under corn bread or cookies; the six-inch spatula for scraping out sauce pans and mixing bowls, and creaming and spreading butter for sandwiches. A knife of all work is the general utility knife with blade slightly tapering to a rounded end, which, among its other accomplishments, cuts shortening into pastry; the cold-meat slicer, a narrow knife with a straight ten-inch blade; a small cleaver convenient for breaking up a shin bone or chicken for soup stock; for steak, a carving knife with a six-inch blade and sharp pointed end; a small knife with a three-inch blade for paring oranges and grape fruit and removing sections whole for salads and desserts; and the French knife, which is excellent for chopping small portions of food.

Stainless steel knives for cutting fruits and paring potatoes are a boon; a fluted knife is desirable for cutting potatoes, cucumbers, and other vegetables; a first-class knife sharpener will not come in amiss. And speaking of vegetables, why not select a set of attractive cutters for shaping vegetables to be used in soups and stews and salads?

Mashed potato, whipped cream, frostings, mayonnaise dressing, cream puffs, and lady fingers can be attractively shaped if you own a pastry bag and rose and plain tubes.

Nothing could be nicer for the housekeeper, if she hasn't one already, than an electric waffle iron; if electricity is not available, an ordinary waffle iron, or one of those made up of five small hearts, is fine to use on Sunday morning and for emergency desserts.

A heavy piece of canvas twenty-eight by nineteen inches, and a knitted cover to go over the rolling pin, once used will always be used for rolling out doughnuts, cookies and pastry, and for kneading bread. A pastry jagger for cutting pie crust and turnovers with fancy edges, and a rubber set pastry brush for greasing pans may go with the cover, also a glass pie plate or little patty-pans such as you use in making lemon tartlets.

For the candy maker—a candy recipe book, a thermometer, candy dipper, nickel bars for cooling fudge, a broad spatula, boxes of color paste, bottles of flavoring.

Does anybody ever have an egg-beater that works? If you have one now it may not last. A set of three—the baby size, the medium size, and the large double egg beater—would make a splendid present. If you include with this a wire whisk for making smooth white sauce and batters, it cannot be but popular. A set of glass shakers to put on the shelf immediately above the stove, to hold cayenne, paprika, salt, and pepper will be of assistance in making every day dishes more palatable. A set of glass kitchen bowls makes cooking processes attractive, and the glass baking dishes, including a casserole, custard cups and ramekin dishes, might be added.

If your friend does not like to buy ice cream, you might send an ice cream freezer, an ice bag, and mallet or ice pick, and one or more fancy molds. If she entertains, she will appreciate some new sandwich cutters, or an angel-cake pan, timbale molds, a ring mold, a charlotte russe mold, and jelly molds of various kinds.

A jar of silver polish with squares of cheesecloth, canton flannel, and a piece of chamois skin makes a good present.

200,000 WORKERS TO BE EMPLOYED IN STATE HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION UNDER FEDERAL HIGHWAY ACT.

Construction of highways to the total value of \$76,400,000, covering 6,261 miles and employing more than 150,000 workers, is about to be undertaken by 30 States, as the direct result of the recent passage of the Federal Highway Act. This is the act which was recommended by the President's Conference on Unemployment as an emergency measure to provide jobs for the nation's unemployed.

The figures as to the amount of work which could be undertaken by the States in the construction of highways were supplied by the Governors in response to letters sent them by Secretary Hoover. The letters asked what amount of work they could get under way within a period of 90 days after the passage of the act.

According to the act, which created a fund of \$75,000,000 to be apportioned among States taking advantage of the 90 days' period, each State will be entitled to receive, on the basis of the value of its work, its specified Federal allotment. Part of this allotment is available now and part will be available January 1st. These amounts are of course in addition to the allotments received by States under the provisions of former Federal Aid acts. Estimates show that \$40,000 will be the average amount per mile expended by the States. When the work is completed and approved by the Federal inspector, the State will receive back from the government about \$20,000 per mile.

How this State undertaking will affect the general condition of unemployment can be estimated from the replies received from Governors. Texas can employ 13,500 workers on a \$8,000,000 road-building job, covering 700 miles within the 90 days required. Georgia can provide 9,000 men with jobs on a \$5,000,000 undertaking, covering 360 miles of roads. Indiana can use 5,800 men; Michigan, 5,600; Ohio, 5,300; North Carolina, 5,000; Minne-

sota, 4,350; Louisiana, North Dakota, South Dakota and Mississippi, 4,000 each.

Directly and indirectly, probably 200,000 workers will be employed in state highway construction. This means that in addition to those directly engaged in road building, there will be a large number indirectly set to work providing material for the builders. These will be employed in quarries, cement mills, sand-banks, asphalt plants, gravel-pits and shops manufacturing road-building materials and tools.—The American City.

THE BUSY BEE.

Few people realize the enormous effort required to make a single pound of honey. In a pound jar, the Manchester Guardian tells us, there is the concentrated essence of sixty thousand flowers.

To make a pound of clover honey the bees must take nectar from sixty-two thousand blossoms and make two million seven hundred thousand visits in getting it. Often the journey from the hive to the flower and back is as much as two miles, so that the making of a pound of honey requires journeys that may aggregate more than five million miles. When we know these facts, we realize that the bee is indeed "busy."

State College Outing Club to Build Cabins.

The Pennsylvania State College student Outing Club is planning for the building of several cabins in the Seven Mountains and other points in the vicinity of the college campus as objectives for week-end hiking trips. The club, which was organized for the promotion of all outdoor sports and activities, already has one cabin in Huntingdon county, and despite winter weather, it is being put to good use. Members last week entered a photographic contest for outdoor life activities of the club.

—Subscribe for the "Watchman."

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rather than fewer abandoned farms in the State and we will face rural decadence rather than rural progress."

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