

SALMON'S WEALTH GREATER THAN GOLD

Fish Lead in Exports From Far Alaska.

Ketchikan, Alaska.—From the island-dotted waterways of Alaska's thousands of miles of coast has come a wealth more precious, more vital even than gold.

Since Alaska was purchased from Russia, sixty years ago, salmon has led the list of exports from the territory, with \$610,750,088 to its credit—a figure which multiplies nearly eighty-five fold the price which Uncle Sam paid for the territory.

The romance of the Klondike has not dimmed in the hearts of the Alaskans, nor has the gold fever of the late nineties, which sent thousands into the territory, been forgotten anywhere in the United States.

Best Source of Revenue. With agricultural production practically negligible, it is not for the Alaskan to gain his wealth—or even to earn his daily bread—through tilling the soil or trekking about on a sort of hill and valley hegra seeking "pay dirt."

Thousands of men, many of them native Alaskan Indians, are engaged in salmon fishing or canning and subsidiary industries. The number during 1925 was estimated at more than 26,000.

Salmon fishing is permissible in several ways. Legislation, of course, prevents taking salmon from the mouths of streams when they migrate each season to spawn, and recently, under the regulations perfected by the bureau of fisheries, closed seasons have been in effect at the height of the summer season in order to allow more salmon to get to the spawning grounds.

The most common form of fishing is the traps. These are built by various individuals and corporations at points approved by the government. Through a series of wire meshes migrating salmon are caught by the thousand.

Once and twice a day the traps are brailled (depending upon how the fish are "running") and the salmon taken to canneries in the vicinity. Another common form is trolling. Small boats manned by one or two men travel inside waters, allowing hooks and lines to drag behind. These are baited with "spoons" designed to represent herring.

Traps Largely Used. The operations of the seine boats largely have been displaced by the traps. Natives, however, in the southeastern section still operate their boats. Larger crews are required for these boats, which throw out huge nets, the edges of which have cork floaters. When the ends are joined the net is hauled in and—if good fortune has played its hand—hundreds or even thousands of salmon are taken in one haul.

Ketchikan offers an interesting sight for the tourist. The canneries, some of them located near the steamer landings, operate night and day during the season. Most of the work is done by machinery.

Salmon fishing, however, is not confined to the southeastern part of the territory, but is more or less common all along the coast. Due to the nature of the country, however, southeastern Alaska is more adaptable both to the salmon and the agencies which seek to can them.

In addition to canning, mild curing and the packing of fresh fish offer employment to hundreds the year around. During 1925 the value of these products was set at \$1,751,869.

The total number of salmon taken from Alaskan waters during 1925 was 79,477,600. In 1922 the number was only 72,370,400.

Military Barracks Now Used as Hospitals

Stockholm, Sweden.—Transformation of Sweden's empty military barracks into modern hospitals, historical museums and insane asylums has been recommended by a committee appointed by the government.

The problem of what to do with the buildings arose from the army reduction decided on two years ago. In Stockholm the collections of the state historical museum have long overcrowded the space hitherto available and the government antiquarian, Dr. Sigurd Curman, has found that the heavy artillery barracks can be reconstructed into display rooms.

In the provincial garrison towns use of the empty barracks as sanitariums or as regular hospitals is proposed and in Sala, Orebro, Venersborg and Jonkoping the committee favors the transformation of the barracks into institutions for the care of idiots, imbeciles and the insane.

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TWO DUKES HAVE KING AS LANDLORD

Make Annual Gift in Return for Estates.

Woodstock, England.—In spite of housing shortages and rising rents there are two persons in England who can live without fear of waking up some morning to find that their rents have been doubled. They are the duke of Marlborough and duke of Wellington and their landlord is the king of England.

Both noblemen hold their great estates as grants of royal favor from the crown. But the gift is not outright. Some return must be made and so it is that each of these noble lords must go once each year on a solemn pilgrimage to the king of England at Buckingham palace to make some gift which will insure his tenure for the following year.

The selection of the gift is by no means left to the personal fancy of the giver. It is carefully set down in Blackstone's "commentaries" that the two tenants must render to the king annually "some small implement of war as a bow, a sword, a lance, an arrow, or the like."

The duke of Marlborough's estate, Blenheim palace, at Woodstock, was given to the first duke of Marlborough as a reward for his victory at the battle of Blenheim in the War of the Spanish Succession in 1704. It was begun in 1704 and completed in 1722. The total cost of the palace was £300,000, of which £250,000 was defrayed by parliament.

Similarly, Stratford Saye house, near Reading, was presented to the first duke of Wellington by the nation, in 1815, following his victory over Napoleon at the battle of Waterloo.

Soviet to Preserve Chapel of Virgin

Moscow.—Cathedrals, churches, mosques and synagogues of definite historical or architectural interest are to be preserved intact by the Soviet government.

This was indicated by the commissariat of education in refusing the petition of a Moscow borough government seeking the demolition of the famous chapel of the Iberian Virgin, which the devout consider the most sacred spot in Russia. The borough claimed it impeded traffic.

"This precious Sixteenth century structure," said the commissariat, "has every claim to be preserved with the rest of Russia's monuments, because it represents a definite historical, artistic period in the life of the country."

Standing at the entrance to Red Square, the diminutive edifice was made famous by its ikon of the Iberian Virgin, reputed to have miraculous powers, and by the fact that all czars during the last 300 years invariably went there for inspiration and blessing before ascending the throne.

'Get Thee Gone,' Divorce Decree in Turkestan

Tashkent, U. S. S. R.—Turkestan is one of the few remaining Moslem countries where the system of temporary marriages prevails.

As in the new Turkey, a man may divorce his wife by saying in substance: "Get thee gone!" He is then free to try matrimony with another. But the woman, under Islamic law, cannot remarry until 100 days have elapsed after her divorce. If she does so, she is cast out from Mohammedan society as a sinner.

Among the natives of Turkestan the penalty for infidelity in a wife is both severe and humiliating. To show her guilt, her face is blackened and she is placed on a donkey, with her face to the rear, and led through the bazars of the town.

Judge Insists

White Plains, N. Y.—Would a wife refuse alimony? Asked by Justice Morschauer how much she wanted, Mrs. Wilhelmina Lechmann said: "I don't want any." "Oh, yes, you do," said the justice. "I will make your husband pay \$100 a month and you must take it."

Shoshones 'Bury' Beds of Dead Warriors

Fort Washakie, Wyo.—Modern customs and ancient beliefs have clashed with weird results in the Wind River burial ground near here.

The old idea that the Shoshone Indian should have his personal effects buried with him was workable in the days when he slept on a buffalo robe, but these modern beds present a problem which is generally solved by leaving the bed above ground.

The burial place was established 43 years ago by Rev. John Roberts adjoining his log mission, which still stands. At that time the funeral ceremony consisted of placing the body of the deceased on the back of a pony which was led, followed by a cortege, up long trails to a mountain top. There burial was made in the crevices of a rocky point.

A Shoshone legend says the tribe is descended from a big coyote.

Crude Water Heaters Used by Old Romans

Even so generally used and useful a thing as hot water in generous quantities is a development of very modern times. For thousands of years primitive, laborious methods were the only means for having hot water. This condition was but little improved up to less than a generation ago.

The first water heater known dates back some 2,000 years. This was the "athanum" of the Romans, a crude bronze kettle with a handle for swinging over an open fire. The "foculus," an apparently later device, was a metal container into which hot stones were put to heat the water surrounding them. This seems to have been the best water heater the early Roman were able to devise.

During the Elizabethan age in England the people were notoriously unwashed. Perhaps it was because the teakettle was their only source of hot water supply. In 1809, when gas for fuel and light became a public utility, the desire and need for hot water became easier to fill. With the development of the gas stove, hot water began to flow more freely.

East Credited With Idea of Gunpowder

Gunpowder was made in the Middle Ages much as it is now, except that the processes were not so refined, and the product cruder and weaker. Gunpowder is a mixture consisting of potassium nitrate, sulphur and charcoal. The origin of it is involved in considerable uncertainty, but it is believed to have been discovered in the ancient East.

As far as Europe is concerned, Roger Bacon, the Thirteenth-century alchemist and philosopher, is sometimes spoken of as its inventor. At any rate he set down the formula in this fashion in 1270:

"Mix together saltpetre with lura op cum ubre and sulphur, and you will make thunder and lightning, if you know the mode of mixing." The four seemingly meaningless words in the middle are simply a transposition of the letters of carbonum pulvere or charcoal.

Morocco a Safe Country

The days of roughing it, exploration, freedom of action, are gone—as far as Morocco is concerned. Fifteen years ago a man could take a pack outfit and a bunch of natives and go wherever fancy led. No more; the French and Spanish are in control, says Adventure Magazine.

Morocco is not, nor ever has been, dangerous to a foreigner who attends to his own business and doesn't act like a fool toward the natives. One can't insult a man in America without taking a chance of getting licked or killed for it. The same applies in Morocco and everywhere else. There has never been an "open season" on foreigners. All that wild news of the last 20 years has been European propaganda intended to warrant foreign control of the country.

Only a Dream

Hubby listened intently. His wife and her mother were talking. The latter was saying:

"You have indeed secured a splendid husband, and I think you ought to treat him with a little more tact and consideration. Don't always want to know where he is going, and if he comes home a little late be agreeable and wait until he explains before you begin asking a lot of awkward questions. He's just the sort to appreciate any generosity on your part. Be kind to him."

Hubby stirred uneasily, trying to hear more, when—he awoke.

Boo!

She had been turning over every article the weary salesman had placed before her on the counter, but nothing seemed to be exactly the thing she wanted.

"I am afraid there's nothing here to suit," she decided at last, and then, in a burst of confidence, whispered: "You see, tomorrow is my husband's birthday and I wanted to surprise him."

The weary man behind the counter gave her a scathing look. "Well," he suggested in icy tones, "why not hide behind the armchair and yell 'Boo' at him?"

Blaissful Beginning

Owing to the absence through illness of the woman who taught the senior girls' Bible class, the young assistant minister was asked to undertake the duties for the day.

He consented, but before beginning, he said, smilingly: "Now, girls, I want to conduct your class just as your teacher does, so you might tell me what she does first."

A short pause, then the answer from a pert miss of sixteen: "Well, she always kisses us all round!"

Mahomet's Career Short

Mahomet became a prophet and an international figure after he was forty years old, and finished his epoch-making career in 23 years. At the age of forty he began to get the "visions" which gave him the precepts for the Koran and commanded him to preach them to the world. "There is only one God, and Mahomet is his prophet" is the keynote he gave to the religion he founded—a religion whose adherents today number more than 220,000,000.

HISTORY OF TRIBES CARVED ON BLUFFS

Records Found on Sides of Guadalupe.

Carlsbad, N. M.—Pictographs of an aboriginal race that antedates all known southwestern tribes are mingled in the Guadalupe mountains near here with the more recent sketches and paintings of the Apache warriors who hid with the wily Geronimo, and with the initials of the pursuing soldiers under Gen. Nelson A. Miles.

The Guadalupe range is perhaps as little known as any in the United States, much of it never having been explored by white men. But the little that has been examined promises a field of archeological investigation for many years.

Carvings on Sides of Bluffs.

The hieroglyphics of the ancient tribe are carved and scratched on the bluffs and in the caves they inhabited in the mountains, and no attempt has been made to decipher their meaning. Unlike most Indian carvings and paintings the pictographs bear no resemblance to animal forms, but are in almost every case arrangements of geometric figures in friezes or panels, reaching in places to a height of eight feet. The friezes stretch to lengths of 100 feet or more horizontally until marred or broken up by the decay of rock strata into which they were cut.

In contrast to the maze of markings etched by the stone tools of the ancient race are the huge, gaudy drawings fashioned by the Indians during the last 150 years. One particularly brilliant painting is above a ledge high in the hills where, tradition has it, one of Geronimo's warriors fortified himself for a lone stand against the white troopers in the early eighties.

Liany Soldiers' Names.

The painting depicts a warrior pointing up the canyon. The faint outline of a horse is close beside him. The picture is translated as a warning to his tribesmen that mounted enemies are approaching through the canyon.

Indications of the passage of white soldiers through the mountains are plentiful. In many places initials and names of soldiers serving under General Miles are carved in the rock. In a cave in a remote section is carved the name of W. M. Bonney, better known as "Billy the Kid."

Incites "War" to Kill Pests Among Insects

Seattle, Wash.—Important to humans, although almost unnoticed by the general public, a war of extinction between mortal enemies in the insect world has been going on in the Pacific Northwest for four years and the end is not yet in sight.

The warfare was instigated by Prof. Trevor Kincaid, professor of biology at the University of Washington, in an attempt to control a serious infestation known as the earwig, a species of harmful insect, by importing parasitical tachnide flies from Europe.

The tachnide flies are natural enemies of the earwig. Both came from Europe originally. When poison bait and other weapons failed to check the encroachments of the earwig, the flies were pitted against them, first in a laboratory arena, where the earwig was victorious, and then in the fields at large. An omnivorous eater of all growing things, the earwig also ensconces itself snugly in clothing or shipments of goods and does considerable damage.

Offer Students Prizes for Best Safety Essays

New York.—In 1926, there were 5,921 highway grade-crossing accidents in which 2,492 persons were killed and 6,991 injured. In 1925, there were 5,479 accidents in which 2,206 persons were killed and 6,555 injured.

In an effort to interest the public and especially the younger generation, in preventing grade-crossing accidents, the railroads, through the American Railway association, have announced an offer of three prizes in a nationwide contest to be awarded to school and college students. The prizes are to be \$250 each, one for the best essay prepared by a grammar school student, one for the best, by a high school student, and one for the best, by a college student. The subject in all cases is to be "Cross Crossings Cautiously," and each essay must be not more than 250 words in length. Detailed plans for the contest have been arranged by J. C. Caviston, secretary of the safety section of the association, with headquarters at 30 Vesey street, New York. The contest closes on June 1.

200 Rattlesnakes Killed by Charge of Dynamite

Hot Springs, S. D.—Guy Keyes, a forest ranger whose station is near Keystone, in Harney national forest, forty miles from Hot Springs, saw a rattlesnake glide along ahead of him as he rode over his range, and disappear in a crevice of boulders a short distance away.

He followed in order to kill the reptile. On coming close to the rock he saw a great mass of slowly writhing snakes in a recess in the boulders. Realizing that he could not cope with such numbers, Keyes rode to his station and secured dynamite, which he used to blow up both rocks and snakes. As accurate a count as could be made afterward showed that there were about 200 snakes killed.

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