

THE COAL FIELDS OF ALASKA

BY ALFRED H. BROOKS

HERE are two known areas of high grade coal—the Bering river field, in the Controller bay region and the Matanuska field, north of Cook inlet. The Bering river field, lying about 25 miles from tidewater at Controller bay, embraces 26.4 square miles underlain by anthracite and 20.2 square miles underlain by bituminous coal. The coal bearing rocks trend to the northeast into the unsurveyed high ranges, and it is quite possible that there may be an extension of the coal fields in this direction.

Coal beds varying from 6 to 20 feet in thickness are exposed in this region, with some local swellings, giving a much higher maximum thickness. In quality the coals vary from an anthracite, with 84 per cent. of fixed carbon, to a semi-bituminous, with 74 per cent. of fixed carbon, and include some varieties that will coke. There has been much prospecting of these coals, but in the absence of railways no mines have been developed, though a small output from one bed has been taken to the coast in barges.

The Matanuska coal field lies about 25 miles from the tidewater, however, the a northerly embayment of Cook inlet. As Cook inlet is frozen during the winter, however the distance to an open seaport must be measured to Resurrection bay, on the east side of Kenai peninsula, about 150 miles from the coal fields.

The known commercially valuable coals of the Matanuska field vary in quality from a sub-bituminous to a semi-bituminous, with some anthracite, and are included in folded and faulted Tertiary (Eocene?) shales, sandstones, and some conglomerates, aggregating 3,000 feet in thickness.

The coal beds vary from 5 to 36 feet in thickness, and the total area known to be underlain by coal aggregates 46 1/2 square miles. However, as much of the field is covered by gravels and none of it has been surveyed in detail, the coal bearing area may be much larger. The total area of what may prove to be coal bearing rocks is approximately 900 square miles. Up to the present time there has been no means of transporting this coal to market, so that no mining has been done, but many beds have been opened in prospecting.

The anthracite from Matanuska and Bering rivers has no equivalent on the Pacific coast, and it compares favorably with the Pennsylvania anthracite. It ought to be put into the San Francisco and other Pacific coast markets at a cost far below that of eastern coal, in which case it should have no difficulty in entirely supplanting the latter.

The Bering river semi-anthracite and part of the semi-bituminous coal from Matanuska is also better than anything that is being mined in the west. These coals are the equivalent of the Pocahontas, New River, and Georges Creek coals of the east, and are eminently adapted for use on warships and for other purposes for which a high grade, pure, "smokeless" steaming coal is required, and for these purposes will command a considerably higher price than any coal now being mined on the Pacific coast, or if offered at equal prices, should readily drive the latter from the market.

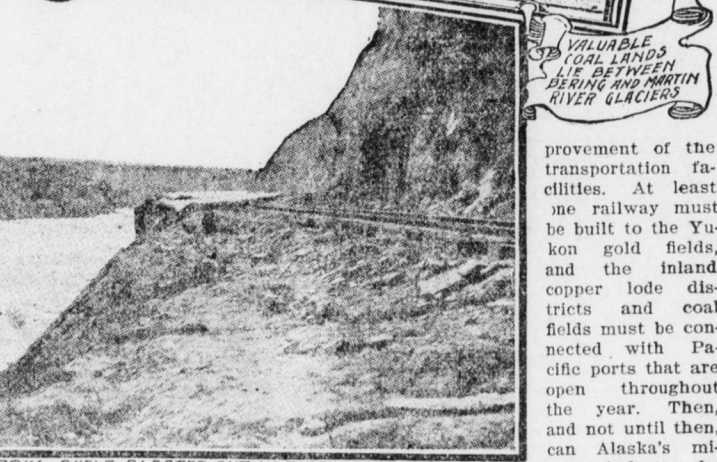
Part of these coals will produce an excellent quality of coke—better, in fact (except possibly in content of phosphorus, regarding which no data are available), than coke which can be produced from any of the Washington or Vancouver island coals, and equal to the coke from Crow's Nest pass. If an important smelter industry grows up in Alaska, as now seems possible, the Alaska coking coals should have the advantage, both of quality and of transportation.

Mining developments in the Bering river coal fields of the Controller bay region and in the Matanuska coal fields of the Cook inlet region have been practically confined to surveys for patents, assessment work, and trail building. The most important features are connected with the problem of railway construction.

No patents for coal land have yet been granted.

The value of these high grade fuels of Alaska probably exceeds that of the gold deposits, and the exploitation of these coal fields is of the greatest importance to the entire western seaboard of the continent. These coals will furnish not only the high grade steam coals needed for various industries, but also the coke for metallurgical enterprises. If the iron area of the territory prove valuable, the west coast may yet be supplied from this source with the raw materials for the manufacture of iron and steel. In any event, the copper smelters can be provided with coke of a high grade.

The coals from other known Alaska fields than these are so situated or are of such quality that they can find markets only where excessive rates



NARROW SHELF BLASTED OUT FOR RAILROAD

VALUABLE COAL LANDS ARE BETWEEN BERING AND MARTIN RIVER GLACIERS

improvement of the transportation facilities. At least one railway must be built to the Yukon gold fields, and the inland copper lode districts and coal fields must be connected with Pacific ports that are open throughout the year. Then, and not until then, can Alaska's mining industry be developed to the

extent warranted by her known mineral wealth. The total value of the mineral production of the territory since productive mining began, in 1880, exceeds \$147,000,000.

The known mineral wealth of inland Alaska is embraced in the two copper bearing belts of Copper river, lying 100 to 300 miles from tidewater; the Bering river coal fields, 25 miles from the coast of Controller bay and 100 miles from a good harbor on Prince William sound; the Matanuska coal fields, 150 miles from an ice-free port on the Pacific, and the Yukon placers, from 400 to 600 miles by feasible railway routes from the Pacific tidewater by high, snow-covered ranges, broken, however, by several river valleys.

The full development of the mineral wealth of inland Alaska must await improvement in means of communication, which will need to be of a very radical character.

Thanks to the Alaska road commission, and in a lesser degree to local enterprise, much has been accomplished in the way of road and trail building. Much, however, remains to be done, for in this territory, embracing nearly 600,000 square miles, there are only 542 miles of wagon road, 397 of sled road, and 255 of trail.

The coastal service of ocean vessels and the river transportation systems of the Yukon and its tributaries are being much improved. In addition to this, steamboats have been placed on Copper and Sushitna rivers. Local transportation facilities have also been greatly bothered by short lines of railway, such as those at the White Pass, at Fairbanks, in Seward peninsula, and the Copper River railway, which now extends from Cordova for about 70 miles inland.

All these improvements in means of communication, together with the military telegraph lines, wireless stations and long distance telephone systems, have done much to advance the mining industry. They can, however, be regarded only as supplementary to a system of railways, which alone can make available the mineral wealth of extensive areas. In fact, they serve to emphasize the inadequacy of the existing transportation systems. The industrial demands for better communication can be met only by railways which shall connect the mineral deposits with open ports on the Pacific seaboard.

The Mecca of the Fat. Marienbad is a place of special interest to English people, for King Edward had deserted Homburg, where for so many years he did his summer cure, and every August saw him installed in the Church square at Marienbad and prepared to follow out the somewhat severe regime of the place. Twenty years ago this famous watering place was scarcely known to foreign people, although it is nearly a century since it was visited by so great a man as Goethe. The springs are owned by the Abbey of Tepl, a large monastery some miles away, and the good brothers evidently did not understand the art of advertisement, for the place remained practically unknown outside German-speaking countries until recent times. But doctors began to find out how useful its waters were to the man who loved his dinner and to the lady whose figure had lost its line, and nowadays it has become the Mecca of the fat—Wide World Magazine

A full development of the mining industry is possible only by the im-

YOUNT UNIFORMITY BILL IS HIT BY EDUCATORS

Ohio Teachers' Association Adopts Strong Resolution Against State Uniformity of School Books.

Cedar Point, O., —Educators of Ohio to the number of 2,000 attended the annual meeting of the Ohio State Teachers' Association here. The session was marked by two important incidents—the teachers refused to listen to an address on equal suffrage and they took unanimous action against state uniformity of school books.

During the last session of the legislature the yount uniformity bill was passed by the senate and was lost in the house. The educators of Ohio do not want uniformity considered again and they voice their protest in the following strong resolution:

"We believe that the educational value of school processes and practices should be paramount to every other consideration. We are therefore opposed to all efforts which would aim to establish a system of State Uniformity in the selection of text-books, because we believe that such a system would be a hindrance to the present progress of our schools."

HE ENJOYED IT.



Mrs. Talkat—It's a wonder you wouldn't be careful about your own language. You make it a business to pick me up on little blunders.

Mr. Talkat—No, my dear. I make a recreation of it.

Controlled Newspapers. The Atchison Globe says that no advertiser has ever tried to control its editorial policy, the remark being occasioned by the charge often made nowadays, that the big advertisers direct the editorial policy of newspapers.

The experience of the Globe is the experience of most newspapers. The merchant who does a great deal of advertising is more interested in the circulation department of a newspaper than in the editorial department. If a daily paper goes to the homes of the people, and is read by them, he is satisfied, and it may chase after any theory or fad, for all he cares. He has troubles of his own, and he isn't trying to shoulder those of the editorial brethren.

There are newspapers controlled by people outside of the editorial rooms, and a good many of them, more's the pity; but the people exercising that control are not the business men who pay their money for advertising space. The newspapers which are established for political purposes are often controlled by chronic office-seekers, whose first concern is their own interests. There are newspapers controlled by great corporations, and the voice of such newspapers is always raised in protest against any genuine reform.

The average western newspaper usually is controlled by its owner, and he is supposed to be in duty bound to make all sorts of sacrifices at all sorts of times; there are people who consider it his duty to insult his advertisers, just to show that he is free and independent. If he shows a decent respect for his patrons, who pay him their money, and make it possible for him to carry on the business, he is "subsidized" or "controlled." The newspaper owner is a business man, like the dry goods man or the grocer. The merchants are expected to have consideration for their customers, and they are not supposed to be subsidized by the man who spends five dollars with them, but the publisher is expected to demonstrate his courage by showing that he is ungrateful for the patronage of his friends. It is a funny combination when you think it over.—Emporia Gazette.

Tactful. A woman with a pronounced sentiment went to a fashionable photographer. He looked at her and she looked at him and both were embarrassed.

He spoke first. "Won't you permit me," he said, "to take your portrait in profile? There is a certain shyness about one of your eyes which is as difficult in art as it is fascinating in nature." Beacon.

Watch Your Refrigerator. You'll save many a doctor's bill by watching your refrigerator. Keep it absolutely clean all the time. The best way to clean it is to take clean hot water, make a soda with Easy Task soap and wash every nook and corner in the ice box or refrigerator. Then the food doesn't get smelly and carry disease germs to the table. Easy Task soap, being made of pure coconut oil, borax, naphtha and clean tallow, is antiseptic as well as cleansing. It is a wonderful soap—and a nickel a cake.

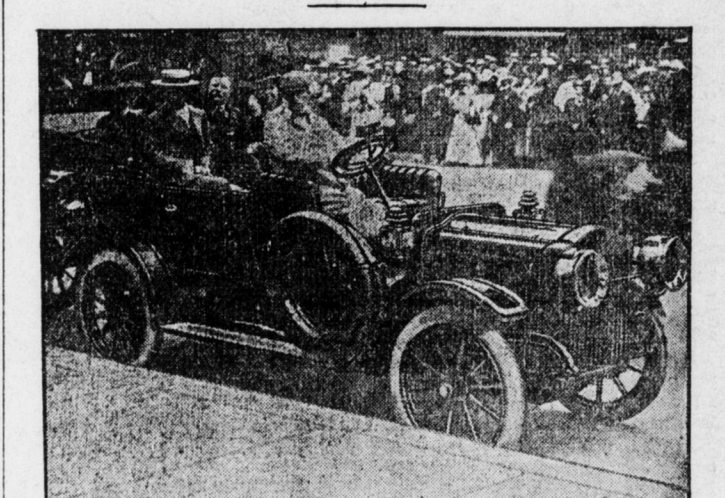
A widow may have words of praise for her late husband. But a sleepy wife, never!

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup. For children's teething, soothes the gums, reduces inflammation, cures colic, cures wind colic, cures diarrhea, cures all the ailments of infants.

ROOSEVELT RETURNS AND IS GIVEN AN OVATION SELDOM EQUALED

The Mighty Traveler Goes Buoyantly Through a Long and Trying Reception-Parade, Showing Lively Interest in Everything American

The White Company Receives Unique Compliment for the Sturdy Reliability of Its Steam Car From Mr. Roosevelt and Family



Theodore Roosevelt and Party in White Steamer.

After fifteen months absence, exactly as scheduled, Colonel Theodore Roosevelt disembarked from the Kaiserin Auguste Victoria, Saturday morning, June 18, at 11 a. m. To the keen disappointment of a large group of newspaper correspondents, Mr. Roosevelt absolutely refused, as heretofore, to be interviewed or to talk on political subjects, but his rapid fire of questions showed the same virile interest in public affairs as before.

If the welcome tendered by the vast throng may be considered a criterion upon which to base a "return from Elba," surely there was no discordant note in the immense reception-parade, nor in the wildly clamorous crowd which cheered at every glimpse and hung on his very word.

The incidents of the day in New York were many, but perhaps none better illustrated the nervous energy and vitality of the man, the near-mania to be up-and-doing, which he has brought back to us, than the discarding of horses and carriages for the swifter and more reliable automobiles. The moment the Roosevelt family and

immediate party landed, they were whisked away in White Steamers to the home of Mrs. Douglas Robinson at 433 Fifth avenue. A little later, when the procession reached the corner of Fifty-ninth street and Fifth avenue, Colonel Roosevelt again showed his preference for the motor car in general and the White cars in particular, when he, Cornelius Vanderbilt and Collector Loeb transferred from their carriage to White Steamers, which were in waiting for them.

After luncheon at Mr. Robinson's house, the entire party, including Colonel Roosevelt, again entered White cars and were driven to Long Island City, where they were to take a special train to the ex-President's home at Oyster Bay.

The supremacy of the White cars with the Roosevelt party was again demonstrated on Sunday, when the party was driven to church in the White Steamers, and a group of some forty prominent Rough Riders were taken in a White Gasoline Truck to a clam bake at the Travers Island clubhouse of the New York Athletic Club.

Cost of Spontaneity. "I want the office, of course," said the aspiring statesman, "but not unless I am the people's choice."

"We can fix that, too," said his campaign manager; "only you know it's a good deal more expensive to be the people's choice than it is to go in as the compromise candidate."

TAKE A FOOT-BATH TO-NIGHT. After dissolving one or two Allen's Foot-Tabs (Antiseptic tablets for the foot-bath) in the water. It will take out all soreness, smarting and tenderness, remove foot odors and freshen the feet. Allen's Foot-Tabs instantly relieve weariness and sweating or inflamed feet and hot nervousness of the feet at night. Then for comfort throughout the day shake Allen's Foot-Ease the antiseptic powder into your shoes. Sold everywhere 25c. Avoid substitutes. Samples of Allen's Foot-Tabs mailed FREE of our regular size sent by mail for 25c. Address: Allen S. Olmsted, LeRoy, N. Y.

"Foot-Tabs for Foot-Tubs." An Answer in Kind. "How did the trouble in the family start?" "The wife, it seems, got tired of her husband's heavy wit."

"Why didn't she simply make a light retort?" "She did. She threw the lamp at him."

For Red, Itching Eyelids, Cysts, Styes, Falling Eyelashes and All Eyes That Need Care Try Murine Eye Salve. Apply the Tubes—Trial Size—25c. Ask Your Druggist or Write Murine Eye Remedy Co., Chicago.

Theatrical expense accounts come under the head of play bills.

Advertisement for DODD'S KIDNEY PILLS, featuring a large image of the product box and text describing its benefits for kidney ailments.

Weak Women should heed such warnings as headache, nervousness, backache, depression and weariness and fortify the system with the aid of Beecham's Pills. Sold Everywhere. In boxes 10c. and 25c.

Advertisement for Carter's Little Liver Pills, featuring an image of the product box and text describing its benefits for liver ailments.

Advertisement for Daisy Fly Killer, featuring an image of the product box and text describing its benefits for pest control.

Advertisement for Sea Shells, featuring an image of the product box and text describing its benefits for shell collectors.

Advertisement for Stockers & Feeders, featuring an image of the product box and text describing its benefits for livestock feed.

Advertisement for Up-Set Sick Feeling, featuring an image of the product box and text describing its benefits for digestive ailments.

Patent Your Ideas. They may bring you wealth. Write to the Patent Office, Washington, D.C.