

**INFORMATION ABOUT ALASKA**

**UNCLE SAM'S VALUABLE BUT NEGLECTED TERRITORY.**

Eight Times as Large as New England—Wrong Ideas as to Its Climate and Agricultural Possibilities—Going to be the Theater of Great Developments in the Near Future.

In view of the scant popular knowledge about Alaska some accurate information will be of value: Alaska is eight times as large as all of New England. Its coast line is 38,000 miles. It has the best yellow cedar in the world. It has the greatest salmon fisheries. It has coal banks that beat New Foundland. It has the second largest river in the world. The Yukon is twenty miles in length from its mouth. With its tributaries 2,500 miles. It discharges one-third more water than the Mississippi. Alaska has an area of 325,529,000 acres; 272,000,000 acres lie within the temperate zone. In 1867 the United States government paid for Alaska \$7,200,000. One Alaskan company alone has paid the United States government \$7,000,000 in rental and royalties. The value of Alaska salmon packed in 1901 was over \$7,000,000.

**Misconceptions.**  
There never could be a greater misconception in regard to a geographical fact than the popular idea that Alaska is a snow-covered waste. As a matter of fact, one can travel from one end of the Yukon to the other in summer and never see snow. On the contrary, one will see a tangle of luxuriant vegetation, large forests and such delicious wild raspberries, red currants, huckleberries and cranberries in profusion. In places the grass grows as high as a man's shoulders.

Hardy vegetables are grown with marked success all over Alaska south of the Arctic circle, except on the coast of Bering Sea. Fine potatoes, cauliflower, cabbage, pale peas, lettuce and radishes have been grown at the experimental stations at Sitka and Kenai. At Dawson the Chamber of Commerce rooms of that town display fine samples of barley, oats and wheat in many varieties, perfectly normal in all particulars, and grown there by a local experimenter. At Eagle a luxuriant growth of sweet peas, poppies, mignonette and a host of flowers in full bloom may be seen in every garden. Dawson truck growers now raise radishes, lettuce, turnips, celery, cauliflower, beets, parsnips and all such stocks in abundance and supply the market, and some have succeeded in maturing potatoes. The finest grapes ever marketed are finer than grown elsewhere in the world, because the twenty-four hours of sun in summer rushes the growth so that they have no time to harden or grow tough, and are sweet and delicious and almost melt in the mouth.

Alaska can furnish home lots of 200 acres each to 200,000 families. She has abundant resources to support a population of at least 3,000,000 people. The development of agriculture would reduce the cost of living, make labor more plentiful and give rise to better transportation facilities.

When the fishing industry of Alaska is developed it will engage the labors of hundreds of thousands of people who must be fed in a large measure from the farms. The salmon is not yet the only fish that has attracted attention. There are thousands of square miles of cod banks; the enormous halibut grounds have not been touched, and the myriad shoals of herring go unheeded. An oil and gas factory has been established at Killisnoo, a little village near Sitka, in which herring are used. There is room for fifty such enterprises. The guano sells readily for \$30 a ton.

With such facts as to resources, why is Alaska not settled? Simply because settlers cannot get title to land. To get title the settler must buy soldiers' additional homestead scrip, which can be located on unsurveyed lands. This will cost anywhere from \$5 to \$15 an acre. Then he must deposit in the surveyor general's office an amount which will cover the cost of survey. Deputy surveyor's charge \$15 to \$20 a day and traveling expenses in Alaska. The result of all this is that a piece of raw land in Alaska will cost him as much as a good improved home in the states. Such conditions are prohibitive and Alaska will not be settled as long as they prevail.

**One Congressman's Views.**  
Congressman Woolen, of Texas, who spent last summer in investigating Alaskan conditions, upon his return issued a statement from which we make the following extracts:

"The American people and the government at Washington are wonderfully ignorant of the actual character of that territory and of its almost unlimited possibilities. Ever since it was acquired in 1867 the prevalent conception of Alaska has been that it is a land of eternal winter, where perpetual gloom enshrouds a desolate landscape of snow and icebergs, peopled by a squalid and hopeless race of degraded Indians and Eskimo dogs, and possessing a limited supply of gold, fish and furs. It was and is still called by those who are too ignorant to be susceptible of intelligent opinion or too indolent to acquire accurate knowledge, 'Seward's Ice-Box,' and when Charles Sumner proposed its name, derived from the Indian words meaning Great Country, everybody sneered at the irony of the title.

"A distinguished United States senator ten years after the purchase described it as a place of nine months winter and three months damnation cold weather. Similar expressions were once current in regard to the great Louisiana Purchase and the magnificent domain acquired by the Mexican war, and they suffice to show the slow progress of intelligent knowledge even among those whose business it is to know and to promote the true interests of our great Republic.

"Few people know or will credit the fact that Alaska comprises a territory as large as all of the United States east of the Mississippi river; that it has a coast line of 26,000 miles, reaching with its outlying islands almost to Japan; that its great river—the Yukon—with its tributaries, furnishes three thousand miles of splendid navigation, watering a valley of surpassing beauty and fertility, whose lowlands produce in wild profusion every kind of fruit and berry and whose cultivation yields crops of vegetables the like of which for abundance, size and rapidity of growth cannot be found anywhere in the world; that its coasts and inland lakes and streams are swarming with salmon, halibut, cod-fish, trout and every valuable variety of fish, while all its mountains and waters contain today the principal world's supply of fur-producing animals; that its timber

output is almost inexhaustible; that it possesses the richest placer and quartz gold mines in all the world; and that on the lower Yukon and in that vast region that lies to the northwest and reaches the far Westward Islands, all capable of raising immense crops of wheat and oats and hillmalt ranges for cattle, horses and sheep. And yet all these are plain facts about Alaska, demonstrable by a visit there and verified by the recorded observations of perfectly candid and credible men. I myself have seen most of these things with my own eyes and the others have been vouched to me by those whose knowledge and veracity are beyond question. And these physical facts are in entire accord with natural conditions and with accredited achievements under similar conditions elsewhere.

**The Climate.**  
"The latitude of Juneau, Sitka, Skagway and Valdez is practically the same as that of Christiania and Copenhagen, and the well developed agricultural regions of Norway and Sweden. Finland is six degrees further north than Alaska, and its climatic conditions are far more favorable; and yet that little realm produces annually for export 300,000 head of horses, 3,000,000 cattle, 1,000,000 sheep, 2,000,000 hogs, and ducks, chickens and geese, innumerable. In the last five years it has exported 133,743,216 pounds of butter and 1,972,184 pounds of cheese. And Finland has no gold mines, no furs, no fisheries, no lumber, in all of which products Alaska is unequalled by any country. "I do not hesitate to declare that in Alaska the United States possess a storehouse of every form of material wealth that cannot be surpassed and hardly equaled by any like area of land and water on the face of the globe. The country has been neglected and misunderstood, its conditions have been misrepresented and disparaged, its sturdy pioneers and dauntless miners have been unjustly taxed and unnecessarily burdened by the government, and even its territory has been pilfered and its political integrity menaced by the aggressions of British greed and the ignorance or indifference of American diplomacy. The time has come when the facts should be known and justice should be done to this splendid country and its enterprising, intrepid, masterful pioneers.

**What Alaska Needs.**  
"Men and women who have the hardihood to travel to that far-off land and to endure the privations and perils of the struggle necessary to explore and develop such a vast and unknown region, certainly deserve to be treated justly and generously by their own government. They have enough to bear and to do without having the heavy hand of needless taxation laid upon them, and without being perpetually harassed by a pitiful system of official and legal disputes. All they ask, and it is as little as they deserve, is that they be allowed some voice in framing the legislation that is to govern them, that they be given a few wise and just laws—the fewer and simpler the better—and that they then be permitted to work out the destiny of their great country with as few restrictions and as little interference by tax-gatherers and legal functionaries as possible. That was the way the great West and Southwest were developed, and that is the way that Alaska can attain her true destiny.

**OXFORD UNIVERSITY.**

**How It Differs from and Compares with American Universities.**

From the Review of Reviews.  
The college enrolls the student; feeds him; provides his bed, his mess, his tutor as his special advisor; opens his gates for him in the morning and closes them for him at night; asks him to worship in its chapel, play in its cricket matches, wear its colors, and row in its boat; watches over him, receives most of his fees, and provides within its walls a considerable portion of his teaching.

The university assists in matriculating the student, provides part of his teaching, examines him, and graduates him. The facilities for study offered by it, as distinct from those offered by the colleges, are the lectures of its university professors, its galleries, museums, and libraries. To the student, however, it will be known mainly as a great, grand, and terrible examining board—for the university system of England differs from the American in that the student's scholarship, instead of being passed upon placement by half a hundred professors at the conclusion of as many courses, is determined by the result of three great examination tests. All the instruction given by the colleges, by private tutors, or by the university—leads toward these three examinations. They are the key to the whole educational system, and must be passed, in one or other of the authorized forms, before a degree can be had.

The examinations are held in the "Schools" building in which 1,500 students are examined at one time. There are no freshmen, sophomore, junior and senior classes, though some times a student who has not yet taken his second examination may be spoken of as a junior, and one who has taken it, but not the final, as a senior. Yet since students can enter college at the beginning of any term, and can be graduated at the close of any semester, there is in Oxford no ranking by years of residence. Students are grouped by colleges, and not by classes. The three sets of examinations roughly divide the student's educational life into three parts, and are taken, successively, at or near the beginning of his career, toward the middle, and at its close. The first, or entrance examination, corresponds quite closely with the entrance examination at an American college, with the exception that the candidate does not necessarily pass it before he is entered upon the books as a student. He very likely will not pass it till his fourth term. This is the ordeal known in college slang as "Snalls" and in official language as "Responsions." This examination may fairly be said to be about equal in severity to the white examination at Harvard or at Yale. As at American colleges, also, under some circumstances, certificates are accepted, and it is quite possible that the educational tests which may be instituted for the Rhodes scholarships by the trustees of the fund may be accepted as part, at least, of this examination requirement. The second examination may be passed by any student after his fourth term, or at the end of his first year; and usually is passed before he has completed his eighth term, or second year.

**WHAT THE BISHOP SAID.**  
The Episcopal cleric now in New York attending the services incident to the observance of Advent yesterday added another to the many stories told of that kindly man, the late Bishop Williams, who prior to his death in Middletown,

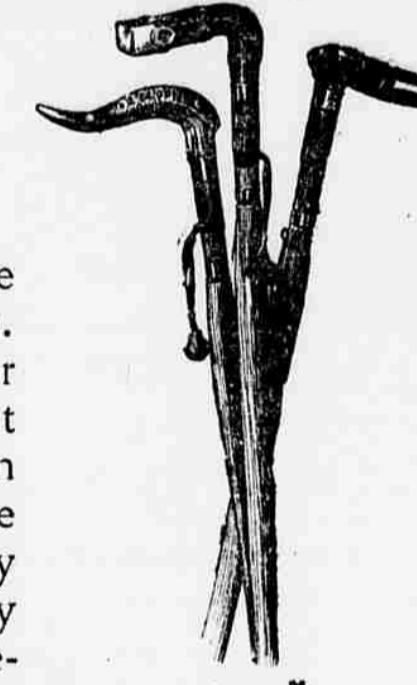


**\$7, \$8 and \$10 Lounge or Smoking Jackets at \$5. \* \* \***

Here's the opportunity for a handsome Xmas gift. \* \* \* You probably know that Smoking Jackets do not sell readily all the year 'round. We don't care to carry them over until next season, so we give you this opportunity for the next two days. There's many fine double-faced Vicunas among them, all trimmed with double-twist soutache silk cord. See them in our Lackawanna Avenue window. **\$7, \$8 and \$10 Jackets, now . . . \$5.00**

**UMBRELLAS**

Some beautiful handles in ivory, gold, silver or natural wood. \* \* \* Don't let the beautiful handle tempt you when buying Umbrellas. Examine the quality of "Taffeta" or "Gloria" Silk, that's where you want the value. We show this season some of the richest handles to be had, but we never slight the quality of cover—good qualities all the way through. It will please your gentleman friend to receive such an Umbrella. Prices are from . . . **\$2 to \$6**



**Here's some Ladies' Umbrellas at greatly reduced prices. \* \* \***  
There's about 150 altogether, many of them have Mother of Pearl handles, mounted with gold and silver, taffeta and gloria silks, plain black or colored. Original values up to \$8. Reduced prices from **\$2 to \$5**



**Mufflers and Neckwear**  
When buying presents of this kind it will certainly help you in your selection to look at the largest display in this city. You'll find the choicest of silk patterns here. **Mufflers and Neckties packed one in a box, for presentation, from . . . 50c to \$1.50**

**SAMTER BROTHERS, Complete Outfitters**

Conn., a year or two ago, was accorded the unwritten title of Prelate of America of the Protestant Episcopal church. "Bishop Williams, whose charities were as well known as his humor, loved a good dinner and was not adverse to a bottle of good wine for his stomach's sake as an accompaniment," said the clergyman.  
"On one occasion he was invited by a friend of similar tastes to go on a fishing trip. A single bottle of generous size was added to the luncheon hamper by the host. The clouds which covered the sky when the little fishing boat started were dispelled by the sun, which shone hotter and more hot by the time the fishing grounds were reached.  
"The bottle of wine, attached to a cord knotted about its neck, was suspended overboard in the water to cool. Now, as every skipper, great and small well knows, water is a great loosener of knots.  
"Luncheon time found a very thirsty bishop anticipating the cooling draughts from the suspended bottle. With ebbles spread upon the small deck the wine was sought but the host found nothing but the rope's end.  
"Bishop that bottle of wine has sunk to the bottom. If you will pardon me, I'll say damn! What do you say?"  
"Considering the provocation," said Bishop Williams with a smile, "I think I'll say Amen!"—New York Mail and Express.

**Have You ALL Your Christmas Presents.**

Isn't there some one you ought to remember? If so, here are a few things, just as suggestions, that would help solve the Christmas problem.  
Sheet Music or music books are very welcome to anyone who plays. We have the latest operatic pieces and popular successes and the standard works as well.  
Violins, Mandolins, Banjos and Guitars at prices from \$2.50 to \$50.00, and all the smaller musical instruments at all sorts of prices from five cents up. Some of these would please any boy. Come in and let us show you.

**N. A. HULBERT**  
117 Wyoming Avenue.

**Jonas Long's Sons**  
Don't Forget Toyland

**Christmas Is Very Near**  
Right now is the time to make up your mind what you're going to buy. At the Big Store is the place to carry out your conclusions.

**Furs** on the second floor. Practical and pretty presents for mother, sister and friend.  
Genuine Lynx Scarf, 6 tails, 2 1-2 yd long Sable Scarf, genuine tails, **\$55.00 \$25.00**  
Sable Fox Scarf, single skins, **\$6.68** Sable Fox Scarf, double skins, **\$12.50**  
Opposum Scarfs, 6 tails, **\$3.98** Long Martin Scarf, has 6 tails, **\$75.00**

**WOMEN'S WAISTS, COATS, SUITS AND SKIRTS**  
at prices that tell a convincing story. French Flannel Waists—all colors—24 rows of corduroy in front, 12 rows on the back, new sleeve and cuff trimmed with steel buttons, value \$3, special **\$2.55**  
**WALKING SKIRTS**  
\$6.50 and \$7.50 Melton Walking Skirts, pleated or slot seams, rows of stitching, black, blue, oxford and mixed novelties at . . . **\$4.90**  
**WOMEN'S SUITS**  
\$20.00 to \$30.00 Suits, made from Broadcloth, Chevots, Serges, Zibelines and Homespons, at . . . **\$15.00**  
\$10.00 to \$12.00 Women's Monte Carlo Coats and Box Coats at . . . **\$6.98**

**Handsomely Designed Furniture**

That will make beautiful and useful presents.  
**Rockers** All woods and finishes; also reed—from **\$1.89 to \$40.00**  
**Music Cabinets** Oak or Mahogany shaped tops, moveable shelves and drawers, **\$7.00 to \$22.50**  
**Chiffonieres** Oak, Mahogany, or birds-eye maple; very fine finish, at **\$5.90 to \$30.00**  
**Office Chairs** Rotary typewriter and stationary; cane, wood and leather seatings, **\$3.50 to \$27.00**  
**Upholstered Pieces** Odd and fancy upholstered pieces, in gilt, mahogany and oak, in choice silk coverings, **\$7.25 to \$18.75**  
**Hall Racks** An extensive line to make selections from **\$3.98 to \$38.00**  
**Parlor Mirrors** Gilt, Ebony and Spanish oak; select designs, at **\$3.75 to \$22.00**  
Mahogany parlor cabinets, **\$25.00 to \$37.50**  
**Morris Chairs** High grades, in French and Verona; velour cushions, oak or mahogany frames; all the cushions strictly hair filled. **\$9.00 to \$28.00**  
**Toilet Dressers** Oak, mahogany and birds-eye maple, **\$6.50 to \$40.00**  
**Couches and Divans** The finest collection in this city—upholstered in velours, panta-sote, caned and genuine leather **\$3.98 to \$50.00**

**JONAS LONG'S SONS**

**Sensible People Want Sensible Presents**

We have never been as well prepared for the holiday season as we are now. Our assortment of high class Morris Chairs, handsome Parlor Chairs, etc.; Joint Willow Chairs, in new and artistic designs; Jardinier Stands, etc., is matchless in its completeness.  
Parlor Rocker, Upholstered Seats . . . \$2.50 to \$10.00  
Large, Willow Rocking Chairs . . . 5.00 to 9.00  
Morris Chairs, Solid Oak, very heavy, hand carved, with hair cushions . . . 9.00 to 20.00  
Solid Oak Tables, highly finished . . . 65c. to 5.00  
Jardinier Stands, many styles, (to close) . . . 50c  
Hassocks, Carpet Sweepers, Rugs, Lace Curtains, Tapestry Portiers, etc., at specially low prices.

**FREE** With every \$20.00 purchase of Carpets, your choice of any Parlor Rocker in stock, marked at from \$9.00 to \$15.00 each. This offer closes on Wednesday evening.

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Carpets, Rugs, Mattings, Draperies, Window Shades, Wall Papers.  
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Oysters in Every Style. Game in Season.