

# ALL ABOUT ALASKA.

## OUR "COLLECTION OF ICEBERGS" A RICH POSSESSION.

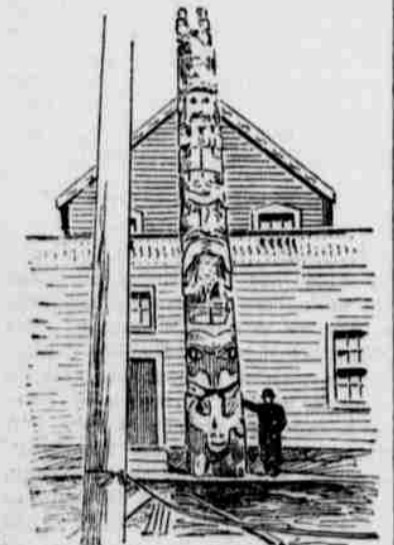
### What the Census Has to Say About the Territory, Its Population and Resources—Peopled by Queer Races.



IN many respects an important work is the "Report on the Population and Resources of Alaska," just issued by the Government from the Census Office. Alaska, says the New York Press, has long been looked on as a semi-unknown country—a polar wilderness of ice and savages. Its native population were considered but a degree above the Digger Indians in intelligence—a cross between Greenland Eskimos and Patagonians. When Secretary Seward purchased Alaska from Russia for \$7,000,000 twenty-two years ago, the newspapers called it a foolish transaction; a waste of money for a collection of icebergs not worth accepting as a gift. By the census report the great value of Alaska appears, and yet, according to all accounts, the mineral and other resources of that vast domain are scarcely begun to be developed. New ideas of its value are now seen. According to a special agent's report to the Treasury during the Forty-first Congress the price paid for the Territory, \$7,200,000, was but a small item of its cost to the United States. Provided the public debt be paid within twenty-five years, annual interest on the purchase money, at the rate of six per cent., would in that period amount to \$23,711,792.14, which added to the principal would make the total cost of the Territory \$30,911,792.14. To this sum must be added the expense of the military and naval establishments, say \$500,000 per annum, or \$12,500,000 in twenty-five years, which is a much smaller estimate than can be predicted on the expenditures of the last two years, resulting in a grand total cost on the above basis of \$43,411,792.14. In return for this expenditure we may hope to derive from the seal fisheries, if properly conducted, from \$75,000 to \$100,000, and from customs \$5000 to \$10,000 per annum, a sum insufficient to support the present expensive cutter service attached to the district; nor can we look for any material increase of revenue for many years, except in the event of extraordinary circumstances, such as the discovery of so large deposits of minerals as would produce an influx of population.

Now we are informed that notwithstanding the above predictions the management of the seal islands alone paid into the United States Treasury between \$6,000,000 and \$7,000,000 in rental and royalties within twenty years, independent of the "extraordinary circumstances" referred to by this special agent. It is safe to assert that since the system of leasing the Pribilof Islands was inaugurated the revenues turned into our Treasury from Alaska have always exceeded the expenditure.

During the period of twenty-two years, from 1868 to 1890, the value of the products—fur, fish, ivory and silver and gold—reached \$51,156,511. The whaling industry yielded \$11,057,418, making the total value of Alaska products for those years \$75,213,418. In commenting the report says: "This valuable addition to the Nation's resources would more than com-



A TOTEM, OR ALASKA MASCOT.

pen- sate us, even for an expenditure such as the special agent quoted above, figured out so ingeniously by means of compound interest at six per cent. on a cash payment. The decline of the fur seal industry, owing to the reckless encroachments of irresponsible and foreign sealers, has prevented the further collection of revenue in excess of expenditures since the year 1890. But even if this valuable factor in Alaska's resources be wiped out of existence our vast Northwestern Territory will have amply paid for itself and be well worth preserving and fostering for good, sound, commercial reasons.

The intervals between the Tenth and Eleventh Censuses was one of the most important periods in the history of the far Northwest. In this period Alaska emerged from a mere customs district into a preliminary phase of local organization. The same period has witnessed the marvelous development of Alaska's mines and fisheries. In 1890 both these industries were insignificant and overshadowed by the fur trade, then practically controlled by a single firm; but in 1890 the mines and salmon canneries had shipped products to the value of \$15,000,000, or

more than twice the purchase price of Alaska. The water ways of Alaska are an important feature of that country—vast and nearly inaccessible in almost all parts except by water. From the mouth of the Kuskokwim around Cape Rumiantszof to the numerous mouths of the Yukon River the coast is exceedingly dangerous and almost unsurveyed. Shoals make off from the east to such an extent that an approaching vessel can find soundings of three fathoms before the low land is sighted. The great interior artery of Alaska is the Yukon River, which, rising in foreign territory, traverses the width of the continental portion of Alaska between the 141st and 164th degrees of longitude, describing in its passage a line over 1200 miles in length. The Yukon is navigable for stern wheel steamers of 250 tons for 1600 miles to Fort Selkirk, at the mouth of Pelly River, in the Dominion of Canada. Only at three points rapids exist in the Yukon, but even there the current is easily stemmed by the powerful boats now used on the river. The steamer Arctic, belonging to the Alaska Commercial Company, is said to average from seven to eight miles an hour, going up stream, between Norton Sound and the head of navigation. The first attempt to use steam craft on the waters of the Yukon was made under the auspices of the Western Union Telegraph Company at the time of their vast and costly experiment in the years 1866-1867.

It may be news to many persons that commerce, both intertribal and intercontinental, was carried on in what is now known as Alaska in times prior to the explorations of Cabot, Hudson and Raleigh on the Atlantic coast. The commercial instinct seems to be deeply rooted in all our hyperborean tribes, predominating with the Eskimo, but existing also to a more limited extent among the Athapascans inhabiting the higher latitudes.

No sooner had the Cossack adventurers of Russia, endeavoring to escape from the tightening yoke of the Czar, entered Siberia and advanced in their

official reports show only a substantial and steady increase of production. Henry Boursin makes a special report on the mines. Gold was first



AN ALASKAN TYPE OF BEAUTY.

discovered at Sitka, at Silver Bay, ten miles northeast of the town, by Frank Mahoney, prospector; Edward Doyle, a discharged soldier, and William Dunlayo. While prospecting for placers, these men found (in June, 1873) a gold bearing quartz vein, and took samples of the ore to Sitka. One of the men to whom they showed the samples was Nicholas Haley, at that time a private in the United States service. Haley, who had mined in California and Nevada, thought the rock good, and, being informed as to the location of the vein, went to Silver Bay, and, after prospecting a few days, discovered and located the Stewart claim. Some years after, through Haley's untiring efforts, a company was formed at Portland, Ore., for the purpose of developing the vein, and, in 1879, a ten stamp steam and water power mill was built. The total yield of the mines from 1880 to 1890 is \$4,631,840. This is chiefly of gold, there being only \$27,340 worth of silver mined.

The account of life in Northern Alaska is interesting. At Cape Smythe and along the Ikpikpun and Kugaru



ALASKAN ARCHITECTURE—MODERN THLINGIT HOUSE.

eastern course from one great river system to the other than the primitive articles of Muscovite manufacture found their way to the utmost confines of Arctic Asia. Here the pieces of metal, the glass beads, rough cutlery, axes and knives were eagerly seized upon by the ancestors of the present coast Chukche and bartered again for skin boots and products of America with the Eskimo navigators, who in each season crossed the narrow strait dividing America from Asia.

In time the Asiatics, being superior to their eastern neighbors, with whom they intermarried freely, acquired the art of navigation and took the intercontinental traffic into their own hands, as they hold it to-day. For several centuries the interchange of commodities took place on neutral ground, the Diomed Islands, situated in the Strait of Bering.

Some idea of the vast extent of the Alaska coast may be had from the following figures, showing it to be more than twelve times as great as the entire Atlantic coast. The report says that the length of coast line of Alaska's mainland and islands is nearly four times that of all other parts of the United States combined, as exemplified in the subjoined statement furnished by the United States coast and geological survey: California, including islands, 1290 statute miles; Oregon, 382; Washington, including islands, 2028; Alaska, including islands, 26,364; Atlantic coast, including islands, 2043; Gulf coast, 1810; Total, 33,907.

The Alaska range of mountains extends along the southern coast of the peninsula, varying in height between 5000 and 8000 feet. Great progress has been made of late years in ascertaining the geographic outlines and topographic features of the vast extent of country lying within the boundaries of Alaska.

The United States coast and geodetic survey has made a systematic survey of the islands, coasts and waters of the Alexander Archipelago, publishing from time to time revised maps of all Alaska whenever additional information is obtained by the office from reliable sources.

The glacier region situated to the northward of Cross Sound and Icy Strait, unknown in its contours ten years ago, is now a place of call and one of the greatest attractions for the thousands of tourists who visit South-eastern Alaska every summer.

The Alpine coast region, rising abruptly from the shores of the North Pacific between Cape Spencer on the east and Mount St. Elias on the west, has been the objective point of several exploring expeditions. It is now known definitely that Mount St. Elias is more than 18,000 feet high.

Much has been printed in the newspapers regarding the mineral deposits of Alaska. Rumors of fabulous gold diggings have been circulated, but

Rivers dandelions and buttercups blossom in July and August, to appear but a few hours or a few days at the most. Mosquitoes, however, revel and make a harvest during their short life. No sooner has the snow left the ground than these torments appear in large swarms, disappearing for shelter beneath the blades of grass when a north-west or west wind blows cold. They are the most bloodthirsty insects of their kind.



AN ESKIMO BELLE.

To understand the Eskimos of Alaska requires years of study in their homes. Mr. Henry D. Wood, writing of the upper district, says: "The family law of the Eskimo race bears a marked resemblance to the Roman law of paternal succession. Children acquire their family rights by either birth or adoption. The desire to possess male children is prominent. By custom, if a son be born he is regarded as the inheritor of the property; should there be no male child borne by the mother adoption either of an orphan by purchase or in some other manner is arranged, and this child becomes and remains a member of the family and inheritor of the property of his adoption. Generally I have found that one wife is maintained among these tribes, but instances have come to my knowledge where worthy individuals have from two to five wives.

There are instances where the mother's will is paramount in a family; that is, where she is in the position of the superior or first wife. Eskimo home life has many instances of 'henpecked husbands,' but the Eskimo's remedy when he tires of the continuous tirades and talk of his wife is to administer a thrashing with his hands or a stick. Where a woman is believed to have the powers of a shaman, or medicine woman, she generally possesses control over a household."

The bright side of the life of these people is their invariably cheerful disposition. No matter how severely hunger or privation may afflict them they still hope for the best. When once a marriage is completed the man is the ruler. His word, his fist and his club are law. The demand for soap is growing.

The report says "there are two or three young men and their wives who invariably wash their faces and hands daily and indulge in entire ablation whenever they have a supply of water. Among the native women living with white men at the stations cleanliness prevails to a marked degree. I have no hesitation in stating that the primary reason for the lack of ablutionary practices is owing to a want of water and a place where privacy can be obtained for the purpose.

"At times of idleness the women avail themselves of the opportunity of visiting from house to house in the village to call upon their female friends, the men doing likewise with their acquaintances. The man who talks the least is thought to be the wisest, but generally he is the greatest rogue in the community. At the women's gatherings scandal and innuendos are vigorously discussed, and as many characters are torn to pieces by the Eskimo tatters as are demolished at a civilized afternoon tea."

### Sailing on a Bicycle.

The expert bicyclist often finds a stiff breeze upon his back sufficiently powerful to keep him in motion with-



out his applying any power on the pedals, and even enough to carry him up hill. If one may trust a story in the San Francisco Examiner, this force is sometimes utilized by Charles D. White, of San Bernardino, in the manner indicated by our diagram. A light sail, made of sheeting and carried by a bamboo mast, has been placed on his wheel; and when the wind is in the right quarter he uses this instead of muscle, and is said to have thus made a speed of fifteen miles an hour.

In several respects such a mode of navigation differs considerably from yachting. You can't beat or even sail with a beam wind on a bicycle. You can only run straight before the wind. And there is room for doubt whether enough is gained, traveling in one direction, to pay for the bother of carrying the furled sail back home. Mr. White's rigging, however, adds only about seven pounds to the weight of his wheel.

The mast, which is set in a hard-pine block clamped to the tubing, is ten feet high, and the boom is eight feet long. If these dimensions were reduced to six and four feet respectively, Mr. White's imitators would probably find them adequate to their needs. It is also to be remembered that the "sheet" or cord controlling the outer end of the boom ought not to be tied fast to the machine, but run through a small pulley under the seat and kept in the hand. A sudden gust of wind is liable to lift the hind wheel off the ground unless the sheet is promptly eased off.—New York Tribune.

### Bonnets of Steel.

The unique bonnet is the bonnet of the moment. Steel is at present in high favor. It is used as a glittering crown, framed by a puffing of crepe de Chine, and steel brims are also seen, faced with some filmy shirred material.

One of these "late creations" is odd enough to gain it fashionable favor. Wide-spreading hoops of forget-me-not blue velvet are arranged to form a crown. No actual brim is visible, but a lattice-work of cut steel is placed at both sides of the half hat and half bonnet. Toward the front three



A STEEL BONNET.

hoops of steel tower one above the other, showing off to great advantage the curls which rest upon the wearer's forehead. Two small pale blue tips, sprayed with silver tinsel, curl themselves into a fluffy ball above the steel hoops in front.—New York World.

# SOLDIERS' COLUMN

AT NASHVILLE.

How Cooper's Brigade Won a Victory Not Intended by Their Commander.



AN IMAGINATION has often been made in regard to the command which connected with Wilson's Cav., or the right of the Federal line at Nashville on the afternoon of Dec 15, 1861. I was there, and talked over and over with the dismounted cavalrymen in taking a redoubt, capturing three cannons and 70 or 80 prisoners. I never served an hour in A. J. Smith's or any other command except J. E. Cooper's Brigade.

Cooper's (Second) Division, Twenty-third Corps. They were in it at that point about 2:30 to 3 p. m., and stayed long enough to break the rebel line on their left, without orders which brought about a complete victory, with a slight loss about 3 p. m. on the 15th.

It was then reported that Gen. Couch made a verbal complaint to Schofield, censuring Cooper's Brigade for disobeying orders by charging the enemy's fortified line, while we could hear him shouting "Halt" for all he was worth; all of which are literal facts.

It was also reported next day that Schofield asked Couch if the aforementioned brigade (Cooper's) accomplished what they undertook. Couch answered "Yes."

"Well," said Schofield, "that is all right, as that is what we are here for—to fight and whip those rebels."

Couch then closed his mouth. I give this as I heard it repeated broadcast at the time.

However, Couch left us in North Carolina the following March, and Ruser succeeded him. I presume Couch became disgusted with our capers, and asked to be transferred or relieved, as our style was not according to West Point and his idea of military machinery which he undertook to carry out on the eve of Dec 15, 1861.

On this occasion he undertook to form his division with Cooper's Brigade on the left of the aforementioned three cannon redoubt on the very crown of the high ridge which ran southeast from the redoubt, said redoubt being in the rear of what Cox calls Mrs. Bradford's house. This house was a hewn log house, at least, it was the only house I saw in the vicinity and I take it for granted that it was Mrs. Bradford's.

As to Couch's intended division formation on crown of the open ridge within musket range of the enemy's fortified line, with his artillery and musketry playing on us, he could just as well have formed 50 yards more or less, in rear, and we would have had shelter while waiting for the remaining brigades to come up and form on our right, but no, we must be a target for rebel artillery in order to gratify a West Point whim and for no other reasonable or imaginable cause whatever. And what his intention was after he would have completed the formation parade formation no man has ever attempted to explain; I seriously doubt that he could explain it himself.

Col. Cross, of the 3rd Tenn., as well as every officer and enlisted man in the brigade saw the absurdity of such a measure. He stepped a few paces in front of the few remaining men of his regiment, and, with a wave of his old regimental glove, every man with a sudden impulse, charged the redoubt and all would not have halted them. Cooper's Brigade was then composed as follows: 3d and 6th Tenn., 23rd Me., 3rd Ohio, either the 14th or 20th Ky. and the Perimeter Knuckers, 130th Ind.—FRANCIS O'LEARY in National Tribune.

### CAVALRY LOSSES.

Interesting Figures Regarding the Men on Horseback of the Civil War.

From "Fox's Regimental Losses," some figures relating to the battle losses of the Union cavalry are herewith presented. At one time Gen. Hooker was credited with the question, "Who ever saw a dead cavalryman?" During the earlier stages of the rebellion our cavalry were not efficiently organized or commanded; but when such men as Sheridan, Custer, Gregg, Torbett, Buford, Cameron and a score of others rose to command the Union squadrons rode, daringly and well on many a bloody field.

Let us look below at the lists of killed and mortally wounded. Pennsylvania's cavalry force of 23 commands stands first in numerical losses, showing 4,499 dead troops. New York with 27 commands, shows up with a battle loss of 1,357. Missouri with 34 commands sustained a loss of 1,024. These losses, in the following order are: Michigan, 11 commands loss 729; Ohio, 19 loss 625; Illinois, 17 loss 620; Indiana, 13 loss 573; Kansas, 9 loss 453; Iowa, 9 loss 399; West Virginia, 8 loss 374; U. S., 6 loss 373; Tennessee, 10 loss 319; Massachusetts 5, loss 354; New Jersey 3, loss 226; Maine 2, loss 184; Wisconsin 3, loss 161; Vermont 1, loss 134; Maryland 1, loss 134; U. S. C. C., 3 loss 91; Connecticut 1, loss 80; Rhode Island 3, loss 39; New Hampshire 1, loss 33; Delaware 1, loss 2.

The losses in the Nebraska, Colorado, California and Dakota cavalry were not given by Fox, hence the above is incomplete.

However, the data shows a loss of over 10,000 cavalrymen who fell in battle or died of wounds. It is somewhat remarkable that the death by disease in cavalry command exceeds greatly the battle losses in every regiment, company, or command in the service with the exception of one or two. In the list as given the aggregate is 23 commands.

The regiments incurring the heaviest losses in battle are the following, including all that lost over 100 in battle: 1st Me. 174; 1st Mich. 164; 8th Ind. 147; 5th Mich. 141; 9th Mich. 135; 1st Va. 134; 19th N. Y. 130; 1st N. J. 128; 11th Pa. 119; 34th N. Y. 114; 2d N. Y. 121; 3d Mass. 106; 19th Pa. 105; 8th N. Y. 105; 17th Pa. 104; 11th N. Y. 102; 7th Pa. 102.

Included in this list is the 8th Ind., which served as infantry. Nearly all of the regiments fought principally in Virginia—in fact all, with the exception of the 8th Ind. and 7th Pa.

These figures show a terrific loss in battle and the loss by diseases in the cavalry. If compiled would show an awful mortality—much greater than the average infantry regiments sustained. They show that the cavalry were effective and contributed largely to the successful suppression of the most gigantic rebellion known in history. All honor, then, to the gallant boys who "rode boldly and well into the mouth of hell."—PHIL. K. FAULK, Co. F, 11th Pa.

THE New York State Federation of Labor in session at Albany, by a vote of twenty-three to seventeen, adopted a resolution thanking Governor Altgeld, of Illinois, for declining the three Anarchists—Noebe, Fielden and Schwab, imprisoned for complicity in the Haymarket dynamite massacre.

STATISTICS made up from returns to the health office of Cincinnati, Ohio, show that the recent smallpox scare cost the people of Hamilton County \$270,000 for vaccination.

# HOUSEHOLD AFFAIRS.

GERMAN HOLIDAY BREAD.

The author of a celebrated cook book sends to the American Agriculturist this recipe. In the evening set a sponge as usual for bread, in quantity enough for three loaves. In the morning, when fully risen, add one pound of brown sugar, one pint of dried apples, or pears, minced fine, one pint of broken hickory or walnut meats, three tablespoonfuls of caraway and one of coriander seeds. Mix thoroughly, mold into loaves and bake when light. Wrap each loaf in a towel and put in a cool place. It will keep for several weeks.

### OLD-FASHIONED CURRANT DUMPLINGS.

Old-fashioned currant dumpling, boiled in a cloth, is seldom seen on our tables, and yet it is generally a favorite, and will be found just the thing to vary the desserts. It is made thus: Into a pint of flour, sifted, with a heaping teaspoonful of baking powder and half a teaspoonful of salt, rub a large teaspoonful of finely chopped beef suet and the same of currants, washed thoroughly and dried in a cloth; mix with a fork stir into this enough very cold water (about a third of a cupful) to make a rather soft biscuit-like dough. Put this into a floured cotton-flannel cloth, rough side out, allowing room to swell; tie closely with a stout string and pop it into a potful of boiling water; cook for three hours and do not let the water stop boiling for a moment; replenish from the hot teakettle. It should turn out a light, appetizing ball. Half a cupful of granulated sugar may be rubbed through the flour if liked; if not, the soft white sauce should be well sweetened. Flavor the latter with nutmeg or vanilla.—New York World.

PAN DOWDY.

Julian Hawthorne and his sister Rose Hawthorne Lathrop, from different sections of the country each sent us a recipe for this dish, from which we infer that it was a double favorite in the Hawthorne family. We give that of Mrs. Lathrop as being the most lucid: Cook a quantity of apples with a little sugar as for apple sauce until half done; take off the range, and season with cinnamon, molasses, lemon and a large proportion of butter. Put this into a deep earthen dish and cover with a raised dough made with plenty of butter and rolled out two inches thick. Cook in a slow oven until the crust is done. When cold, break the crust into the sauce in pieces the size of an egg and cook again in a very slow oven for an hour. Put away for a day, and the flavor will be much improved. This homely dish usually impresses husbands and brothers as delicious, provided only the apple and crust mingle their flavors in a happy moment and the cook hits the proportions of seasoning to perfection. Mr. Hawthorne says a section of it looks like African marble, and that he used to be able to eat a whole pan dowdy three inches deep and ten across, and a pile of buckwheat cakes afterward.—American Agriculturist.

### HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

A whisk broom is the best clothes sprinkler and the water should be hot.

The thorough heating of the teapot is the first step towards making a nice cup of tea.

Sassafras oil is excellent for darkening the hair. It should be applied with a small brush.

When milk is used in tumblers wash them first in cold water, afterward rinse in hot water.

Weak spots in a black silk waist may be strengthened by sticking court plaster underneath.

To prevent clinkers, put oyster shells, one at a time, in the stove when the fire is burning brightly.

A feather bed which has done service for a generation or two is hardly a desirable thing upon which to sleep.

A roasted or boiled lemon, filled while hot with sugar and eaten, still hot, just before retiring will often break up a cold.

Salt will curdle new milk; therefore, in preparing milk porridge, gravies, etc., do not add the salt until the dish is prepared.

Bread and cake bowls, or any dishes in which flour and eggs have been used, are more easily cleaned if placed in cold water after using.

If a bottle or fruit jar is placed on a towel well soaked in hot water, there is little danger of its being cracked by the introduction of a hot liquid.

It is said that chocolate cake can be kept fresh by wrapping it tightly in buttered paper and putting it in a tin box away from all other substances.

The simplest way to keep an oiled table "nice and new" is to wipe it over thoroughly once a week with a flannel cloth well wet in good kerosene oil.

For frying always put a pound or two of fat in the pan. This is no waste, as the same fat can be used over and over by pouring it through a strainer into a crock kept for the purpose.

The cardinal rule in a kitchen is to clean up as you go, and if attended to this saves half the labor and fatigue cooks suffer from who pursue the old method of having a grand and comprehensive "clean up."

Malachite, agate and azurine, when broken, may be cemented with sulphur, melted at low heat, so as not to change its color, in which different pigments are stirred to give it proper tints like the stones.

To bake bananas, strip from one side a piece of the skin. Then loosen the skin from the sides of the fruit, dust well with granulated sugar and bake in a moderate oven half an hour. Serve hot in the skins.