

RESOURCES OF ALASKA.

It is not Simply a Land of Gold and Glaciers.

(From the St. Louis Globe-Democrat.)

"Man's greed for gold has opened the way for the tramp of civilization in practically unknown quarters of the globe when otherwise those quarters would have remained a howling wilderness," said S. B. Branson, of San Francisco, who was at the St. Nicholas yesterday. "This is now true of Alaska. While hundreds upon hundreds of men are now rushing to the Yukon country along the arctic circle, with the mad desire to find a fortune in gold nuggets, many will return penniless and disgusted and a few will return as Klondyke bonanza kings. But, perhaps this gold excitement will, in the end, serve a greater purpose than many now dream of. I refer to the fact that the attention of the people of the United States will be centered on this wonderful country of Alaska, and in time its manifold resources and picturesque scenery will be known.

"And let me say that Alaska is a wonderful country. Even the sleepy United States Senate has awakened to the fact, and Congress will provide means for a military post in Uncle Sam's northernmost Territory. Alaska has been looked upon too long as a country of icebergs and glaciers, and a source of diplomatic trouble with England on account of pelagic stealing. But the people of the country are now learning something about Alaska. Why, even the elite 400 of New York society has already decreed that the fashionable outing for the next summer season will be an Alaska trip. McK. Twombly, who married a member of the Vanderbilt family, is the one who set the pace by taking a small party of New York society people to Alaska last month, and now a trip to Uncle Sam's own 'Land of the Midnight Sun' will be all the rage next season. Americans, whose hardest work is spending their money, have for years been going to the Alps of Switzerland to see the scenery and the glaciers, while, as a matter of fact, the glaciers and mountain scenery of Alaska are surpassed nowhere. The great Muir glacier of Alaska, is surpassed by none other. People have been rushing off in the summer to Norway, and at no spot does the aurora borealis present a more beautiful pyrotechnic display than at Fort Yukon, which is directly on the arctic circle in Alaska, and is the northernmost point inhabited by white men in Uncle Sam's domain.

"Uncle Sam built better than he knew when he bought Alaska for \$7,200,000 from Russia in 1866. The commerce of Alaska for that year was officially reported to be \$2,500,000. And now it is \$20,000,000, and the gold output may run it up to immense figures. This country has taken \$35,000,000 worth of seals from Alaska, and that industry alone has paid for the country five times over. Another big industry is the shipment of preserved salmon, exported in tins and barrels, and the fish-canning establishments are increasing rapidly. Whale fishery is not to be forgotten, for a single whale on the coast of Alaska is worth \$4,000 to \$5,000. We have been hearing much recently about the destruction of forests in this country, and when Mr. Francis was Secretary of the Interior he made a long re-

port on the subject, I believe. It is estimated that the available timber now standing in the Territory of Alaska might alone meet the ordinary demands of this Continent for half a century. Though the extreme northern part of Alaska is treeless, its southern shores, both of the islands and the mainlands, are covered with a dense forest growth, the Aleutian group excepted. Yellow cedar trees, eight feet in diameter, have been cut in the southeastern portion of Alaska. It must certainly be a cedar of magnificent proportions out of which the native Haidas can hew and construct a canoe seventy feet long, capable of carrying 100 men. These virgin forests, which have never felt the stroke of a white man's axe, are truly magnificent. They present a growth exceedingly dense and peculiar, the branches of the tall trees being often draped with long black and white moss, dry and fine as hair, which it resembles. This characteristic is similar to the effect produced by the Spanish moss in the thick woods of Louisiana. The fallen trees and stumps in these Alaskan forests are covered with a bright green moss ten inches in thickness, and in the tangle of creeping vines are seen the deep red clusters of the bunchberry. Good judges say the timber is as fine in quality as that of Oregon and Washington. A large portion of the Alaskan timber grows at a convenient point for shipment. The white spruce, or Sitka pine, grows to a height of from 150 to 280 feet, and measures from 3 to 6 feet in diameter. The lumber from Sitka pine resembles the pitch pine of the Southern States. Many varieties of cedar, fir, ash, maple and birch grow there. The yellow cedar is fine for ship-building, and is torpedo-proof; that is, it is impervious to that marine pest known as the boring worm. The Alaska cedar is fine for cabinet work also. There are many fine harbors along the thousands of miles of coast line, where ships could be loaded. The day is not far distant when the Alaskan lumber regions will be famous.

"The animal life of Alaska is of no small consequence, of course. The rivers, inlets, bays and lakes teem with fish. The eastern part of Behring's Sea is a cod reserve, whose area within the limits of fifty fathoms of water is said to be not less than 18,000 miles. So Massachusetts and Newfoundland will have to look well to their laurels some. The coast of Alaska abounds in oysters, clams, mussels and crabs. The oysters have a fine flavor and could be made an article of commerce by proper cultivation. Bears, wolves, beavers, deer, foxes, caribou, martens, mountain goats, moose and musk oxen are found in Alaska. Then the herds of walrus still furnish ivory. Curiously enough, no reptile, toad, lizard or similar animal is to be found anywhere in Alaska.

"Perhaps few persons not in the trade know that a more valuable fur than seal comes from Alaska, and that is the pelt of the sea otter. It is a large animal, having fine, close, black fur, sprinkled with long, white-tipped hairs, which add much to its beauty. The pelt of the sea otter is used mostly in trimming, as it is too heavy and too expensive for making up into entire garments. A full-grown skin is about 4 feet in length and 2 feet 6 inches wide, and the Indian hunters receive from the local traders all the way from \$10 to

\$100 for a skin. Of all animals hunted by man the sea otter is the hardest to catch. The Aleutians do most of this hunting, and as it is done in canoes out in the ocean, it is quite dangerous. The world's supply of otter fur as well as sealskin comes from Alaska.

"Perhaps few of the thousands rushing to Alaska for gold know the magnitude of the Yukon River," said Mr. Branson, in conclusion. "It is the Mississippi of Alaska, and is one of the twelve longest rivers in the world. Some explorers even claim that the volume of water emptied by the Yukon River is greater than that of the Mississippi, but I can hardly believe that assertion. But the Yukon, besides being navigable for 2,000 miles, is, on the average, five miles wide for almost half the distance from its mouth. This river really has five mouths at Norton Sound, and it is seventy-five miles across these mouths and the deltas. But this great river freezes to a depth of five or six feet in winter. In the summer the banks of the Yukon furnish the breeding places for the canvas-back ducks of America, and up to a few years ago the breeding place of those wild fowls was a mystery. Millions of geese, ducks and swans nest there and live on the wild salmon berries, red and black currants, cranberries, blackberries and bilberries in the summer. By the way, the wild strawberries of the Yukon are the sweetest known. Altogether, it can be said that Alaska is a wonderful country, with many things other than gold and glaciers."

CASTORIA.
The fam- ible signature of *Chas. H. Fletcher* is on every wrapper.

PRECIOUS PEARLS.

Rare Gems Found in a Lake in Arkansas.

Little Rock, Ark., Aug 10.—For a month or more the people living near Bald Knob have been finding valuable pearls in a lake near that place. Hundreds of people have been opening mussel shells in search of the pearls, and some rare gems have been found, some being sold for as much as \$300. A special from Bald Knob says a syndicate of Memphis parties have leased the lake for a term of five years for \$10,000. They will build a fence around the lake and begin work with a steam dredger. The lake is said to be the richest pearl producer in the United States.

Her Composition on Temperance.

A little schoolgirl in the rural districts was assigned a composition on "Temperance," and the following is the result:

"Temperance is more better than whiskey. Whiskey is 10 cent a drink, and lots of it. My pa drinks whiskey. He has been full 113 times this year. One night he came in late and my ma went out and cut some hickories and waloped him good. Then she ducked his head in a tub of soapsuds and locked him up in the barn, and the next morning my pa said he reckoned he'd swear off."—Atlanta Constitution.

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THE CONDITION OF COTTON CROP.

Marked Improvements in Carolinas and Georgia—Generally Better Than July 1.

Washington, Aug. 10.—The returns for cotton to the department of agriculture indicates an average condition of 86.9 on Aug. 1 as compared with 86.0 on July 1, an increase of nine tenths of one point. The average condition Aug. 1, 1896, was 80.1 and the average condition on Aug. 1 for the last ten years is 86.1

There has been a decided improvement in Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina. The conditions have advanced ten, seven and six points respectively. In the lower Mississippi valley the improvements is much less marked and in Texas there is a decline of 10 points.

The average of the States are as follows:

Virginia, 99; North Carolina, 97; South Carolina, 92; Georgia, 95; Florida, 88; Alabama, 88; Mississippi, 85; Louisiana, 90; Texas, 78; Arkansas, 90; Tennessee, 84; Missouri, 85; Indian Territory, 85; Oklahoma, 86.

THE STATE CAMPAIGN.

A Long And Tiresome Itinerary Decided Upon, to Begin at Summer.

The sub-committee of the State Democratic Executive Committee, appointed to arrange a schedule for the Senatorial primary, have decided upon the following order:

Williamsburg, Thursday, August 26th.
Manning, Friday, August 27th.
Florence, Saturday, August 28th.

A Remarkable Cure of Chronic Diarrhea.

In 1862, when I served my country as a private in Company A, 167th Pennsylvania Volunteers, I contracted chronic diarrhea. It has given me a great deal of trouble ever since. I have tried a dozen different medicines and several prominent doctors without any permanent relief. Not long ago a friend sent me a sample bottle of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhea Remedy, and after that I bought and took a 50 cent bottle; and now I can say that I am entirely cured. I cannot be thankful enough to you for this great Remedy, and recommend it to all suffering veterans. If in doubt write me. Yours gratefully, Henry Steinberger, Allentown, Pa. Sold by J. F. Mackey & Co. and B. C. Hough & Co., Lancaster, S. C.

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For further information, address the President.
F. C. WOODWARD.

WINTHROP COLLEGE

SCHOLARSHIPS AND ENTRANCE EXAMINATION.

THE EXAMINATIONS for the award of vacant Scholarships in Winthrop College and for the admission of new students will be held at the County Court House on August 13th at 9 A. M.
Applicants must not be less than 15 years of age. When scholarships are vacated after August 15th they will be awarded to those making the highest average at this examination.
The cost of attending, including board, furnished room, heat, light and washing is only \$3.50 per month.
For further information and a catalogue address President,
D. B. Johnson,
Rock Hill, S. C.

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