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Wrangell, Alaska. Board of Trade.

A PROSPECTUS

OF

WRANGEL, ALASKA $\frac{596}{752}$

Giving Statistics and General Information Relative to the Resources
and Industries of the Wrangel District.

Published by
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Fort Wrangel, showing Town and Bay.



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... Introductory ...

More than half as large as the entire United States east of the Mississippi, eleven times the size of the Empire state with its seven millions of people, three-fourths as large as the Republic of Mexico, with thousands of acres of virgin forests of spruce, cedar and hemlock, with an inexhaustible supply of salmon, halibut and herring, with fabulously rich mineral deposits, with water power to run thousands of factories, and all practically untouched—such is today the Alaska of which the world has heard so much and knows so little.

The census of 1880 showed a population of 293 whites, 230 halfbreeds and 7225 Indians for all that section of the district south of Mt. St. Elias and commonly known as Southeastern Alaska, which has always, because of its salubrious climate been the most thickly settled portion. The census of 1900 should show a population of 15,000 whites.

In the very center of this most populous section, situated on the northern end of Wrangel Island on a beautiful bay called Etolin, with anchorage for the fleet of the Pacific Coast, is the town of Fort Wrangel, as the name originally was. It lies about six miles from the mouth of the Stickeen River, Alaska's largest navigable stream south of Behring Sea, and the natural gateway into northern British Columbia and the once famous Cassiar gold fields.

At a very early date a Russian trading post was located on the present site of the town, where they gathered large quantities of furs, and later leased it to the Hudsons' Bay Company whose occupancy lasted until the purchase of Alaska by the United States in 1867, when a stockade was built and a company of troops stationed here—hence the name Fort Wrangel.

As early as the year 1872, very rich discoveries of gold were made in the Cassiar country beyond the divide separating the waters that flow toward the Pacific Coast from those that seek their outlet north through the McKenzie River. For several years succeeding this discovery the miners from the interior wintered at Wrangel, which with the trade of the natives made it the most populous and prosperous settlement in the vast territory. After several years of profitable operations and when the cream of the known diggings had been skimmed, the population and with it the trade of Wrangel declined for some years.

But since the opening of the mines on the Yukon which are located in the same mineral belt as those of the Cassiar, further explorations made quite recently have developed the fact that the Cassiar mines are by no means exhausted, and large capital is now being invested by the Thibert Creek Mining Co., and hydraulic machinery installed for work on a large scale; and these mines being of a more permanent character than those first discovered will materially affect the prospects of Wrangel as all the supplies and travel must go by way of the Stickeen.

The country is known to be rich in minerals, but freight rates and the difficulties to be encountered in prospecting have prevented development. Mines that on salt water would be considered a store-house of wealth are hardly worth recording in the vast interior. Should the Canadian Government build a railway through the country, a not unlikely reality in the near future, Canada's gold production would be immensely increased.

After the immense gold fields in the Yukon were an assured success, there was a mistaken effort to get into the country over the ice on the Stickeen in the spring of 1898. There was a great rush to the town, an inflation of prices, the reaction and accompanying disappointments of which were believed to be a serious setback to the natural and steady growth; but, fortunately, her local industries had passed the experimental stage and Wrangel was able to quickly recover and again forge ahead.

Today, Wrangel is a town of 830 white and native population, with five large general merchandise stores, six saloons, a drug store, sheet metal works, brewery, two restaurants, barber shop, news-stand, U. S. Court House and Marshall's office, Custom House, Post-office, church and Mission, two schools supported by the federal government,



Wrangel from Mount Dewey.





Fort Wrangel Hotel.

three wharves, the largest and finest hotel in Alaska, the largest saw mill in the district and six canneries, two of which are practically in the town.

She has five regular mail steamers from Puget Sound points giving a three day service, in addition to the many vessels that touch here going north and south.

The only steamer line running to the west coast of the Prince of Wales Island and carrying the U. S. mail to Klawack, Shakau, Howkan, the Copper Mt. and other mining camps in that important and rapidly growing section, operates alone from Wrangel and all freight and passengers for these points must be transferred here. The Canadian mails for northern British Columbia points also go through the local office.

The climate of Wrangel is conceded to be the best in all Alaska. In winter the thermometer rarely falls below zero, while the summers are delightful, the average temperature for several months being about 70 deg. above. All the hardier vegetables attain their perfection and flowers grow luxuriantly.

Here the people are contented and prosperous; their homes are comfortable and commodious and the social life compares favorably with that of any town of similar size in the United States. Her schools are good, and unlike many Alaska towns, her people neither have to flee from the severity of the winter nor send their children south for proper schooling.





The Stickeen Fleet in Winter Quarters.

The Stickeen

To those who travel for pleasure only, Alaska presents greater attractions than any other country on earth, not excepting the world-famed Switzerland. And to those experiencing an Alaskan trip, there remains life-long impressions of the matchless grandeur of the scenery, of the gorgeous sunsets, of the placid waters, of the thousands of islands grouped by the hand of the heavenly artist, of the aurora borealis, of the majestic mountains with their white summits, of the inland seas, of the mighty glaciers with thundering icebergs breaking from them, plunging into the sea and floating off in their glory of inimitable splendor, of the vast wealth of fish, mineral and timber, and of the curious customs of the natives.

But for wild, rugged and almost appalling scenic beauty, the Stickeen river is unsurpassed on this planet. Finding its source in the western foothills of the great Rockies, and cutting through the jumble of peaks, pinnacles, hog backs and saw teeth (commonly called the Coast Range), this mighty river has after years of grinding and washing away, secured an outlet for its enormous volume of water some six miles from Wrangel.

On the 160 mile trip from Wrangel to Telegraph Creek, B. C., at the head of navigation, four glaciers are passed, the first or little glacier being 8 miles from the mouth. The Great Glacier, commonly called Ice Mountain, about 25 miles beyond, is of such immense size that no one has ever been to its head; but many have viewed it from the high mountains on either side, as far as the eye can reach up the great valley or canyon, down whose bed its snaky form creeps and grinds at the rate of about four inches per day.

The Indians have a tradition that years ago (date isah ancuttie) it reached across the river, their ancestors passing under it with their canoes through a sub-glacial channel.

On the south side of the river and directly opposite the Great Glacier are a number of hot springs boiling out

from the very base of a towering mountain. Two of these springs are slightly tainted with iron and sulphur, the others being pure fresh water. Three hundred yards from the steamer landing a boat can be rowed into one of these pools, about two feet deep and of the temperature of blood heat. The Indians attribute curative properties to the waters and frequent them for that purpose.

The Mud Glacier, so called for the reason that its surface is covered with a thick layer of dust deposited through the ages by wind, is about ten miles above the hot springs.

About fifteen miles beyond the Mud Glacier is the boundary between Canada and the United States, as established by the joint commission of engineers in 1893. It was established by Joseph Hunter, a Dominion Government engineer who made the survey in 1876 and is supposed to be ten marine leagues from the mouth of the river, at right angles from the general trend of the coast; but by the river with its winding channel it is nearly twice as far. A provisional boundary line, however, has been established much nearer the coast where the Canadian Government maintains a post with a detachment of Mounted Police, who collect customs duties and exercise control over a large area of U. S. territory to the detriment of our prospectors.

Nearly opposite the actual boundary post is a great un-explored glacier that can be viewed from the deck of steamers. It is one of the most beautiful glaciers on the river and the only one on the south bank.

Some twenty miles above this is the Flood Glacier which has a periodical habit of discharging in the fall a volume of water sufficient to raise the Stickeen several feet.

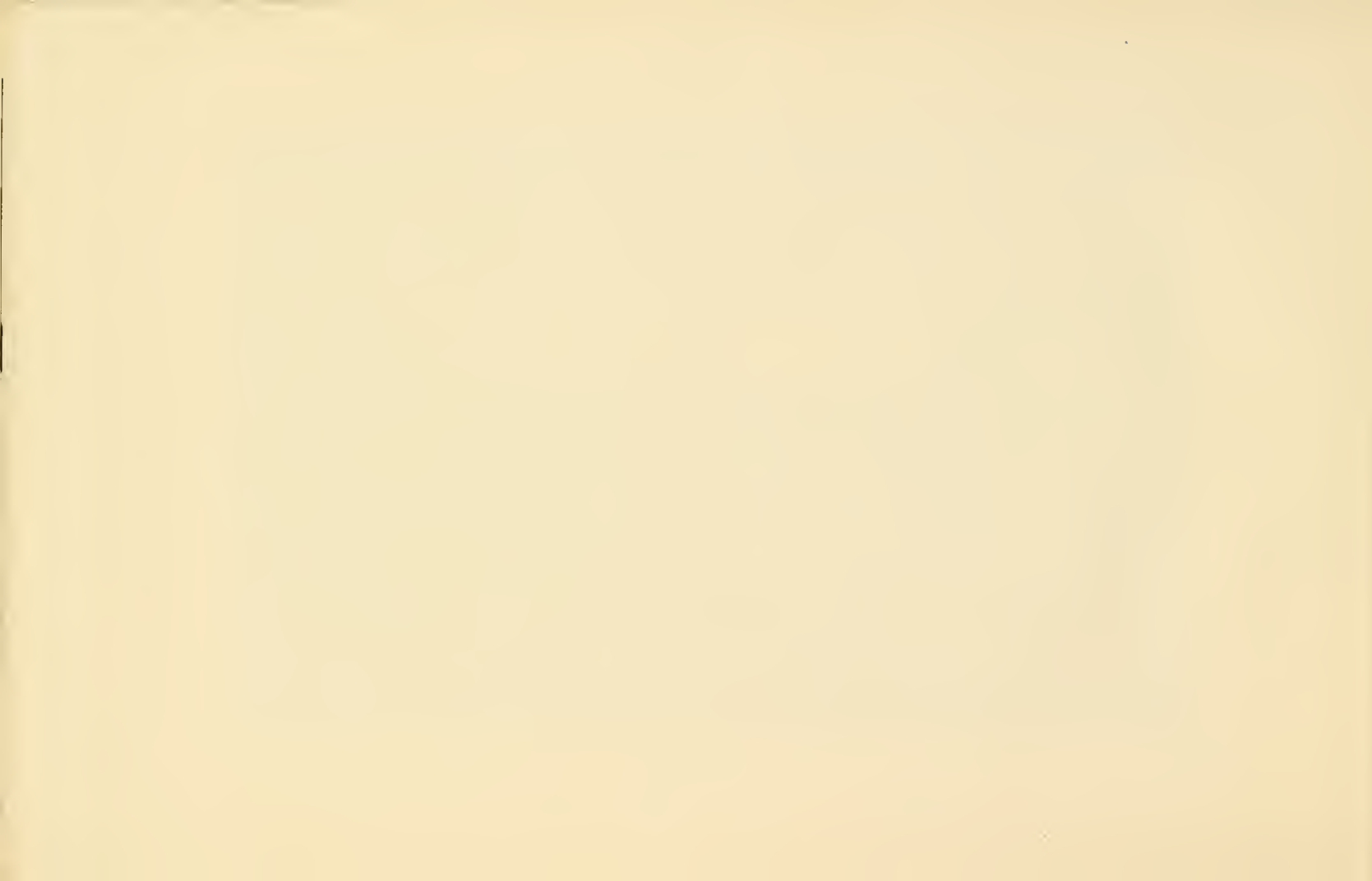
Forty miles beyond one reaches the most interesting part of the entire river—the Little Canyon, about a mile long and barely two hundred feet wide with perpendicular rock walls on either side, down which channel when the river is high the water rushes with frightful velocity forming great whirlpools and carrying tons upon tons of drift



Indian Canoe starting up River with Freight and Passengers.



Sawback Range on Stickeen.



wood, forbidding at times for days the passage of the most powerful steamer. At high water it is a grand sight and one needs to summon all his courage to stand upon the deck and witness the passage.

A short distance above the canyon and the great saw tooth range, a grand succession of sharp peaks, resembling giant saw teeth is seen in the northwest.

About ten miles on is the Kloochman's (woman) canyon, a beautiful sheet of deep smooth water, half a mile long and three hundred feet wide with nearly perpendicular walls. This canyon is doubtless so named from its scenic and physical semblance to its namesake, by reason of its beauty, gentle, placid and never-varying disposition, always calm and unruffled; never lashed into fury like its sister ten miles below. Some however, assume that its name is taken from the fact that a Kloochman can steer a canoe through it, whereas the strongest and most experienced canoeeman always takes the helm in passing the more dangerous canyon below.

The whole character of the country changes rapidly after leaving the canyon. The hemlock and cottonwood grow thinner and soon disappear altogether and in their place appear the black pine, spruce, balsam, poplar, and birch; there are few extensive flats; the river is more confined between its banks; there are few sloughs and a more rapid current.

Bears are frequently seen on the treeless side hills, on the sand bars or swimming the river. Mountain goats are also frequently seen far up the mountain sides, appearing like white specks that would not be noticeable to the unpracticed eye. Porcupine are plentiful all along the banks and blue grouse and ptarmigan abound on the upper edge of the timber line and their ruffled foot is continually sounding in the ear; while the ruff grouse or drummer beats his tattoo on the low bottoms and the wild goose and duck rise from their quiet feeding grounds to join in the salute.

Save for this all is silence and solitude.

For two days entirely surrounded with wild towering mountains, seldom able to see more than a half mile of the river either ahead or astern, with the water rushing and boiling around the vessel, and but for those aboard

not a living soul within sixty miles, is it any wonder that we silently sit there terrified, yet rapt in admiration at the wondrous work of our Maker?

Navigable 160 miles for light draft steamers from about May 10 to October 10, the Stickeen river is the great artery of commerce for the vast Cassiar country and Northwest British Columbia.

Telegraph Creek at the head of navigation, is a thriving little town with three general merchandise houses, two hotels, two restaurants, a blacksmith shop, a post-office, etc. The merchants all maintain pack trains for carrying their goods to the various mining camps, about 150 horses and mules being wintered at Telegraph.

An extensive fur trade is carried on with the Taltan Indians and from this source the natives have an annual income of over \$25,000. The chief furs taken are the black, silver, cross and red fox, marten, beaver, lynx, mink, land otter, wolf, wolverine, black, brown and grizzly bear.

At Telegraph Creek, as well as at all points on the river, turnips, carrots, cabbages, potatoes, lettuce, parsnips, beets, radishes, strawberries, raspberries, cranberries and other of the hardier vegetables and small fruits grow to perfection.

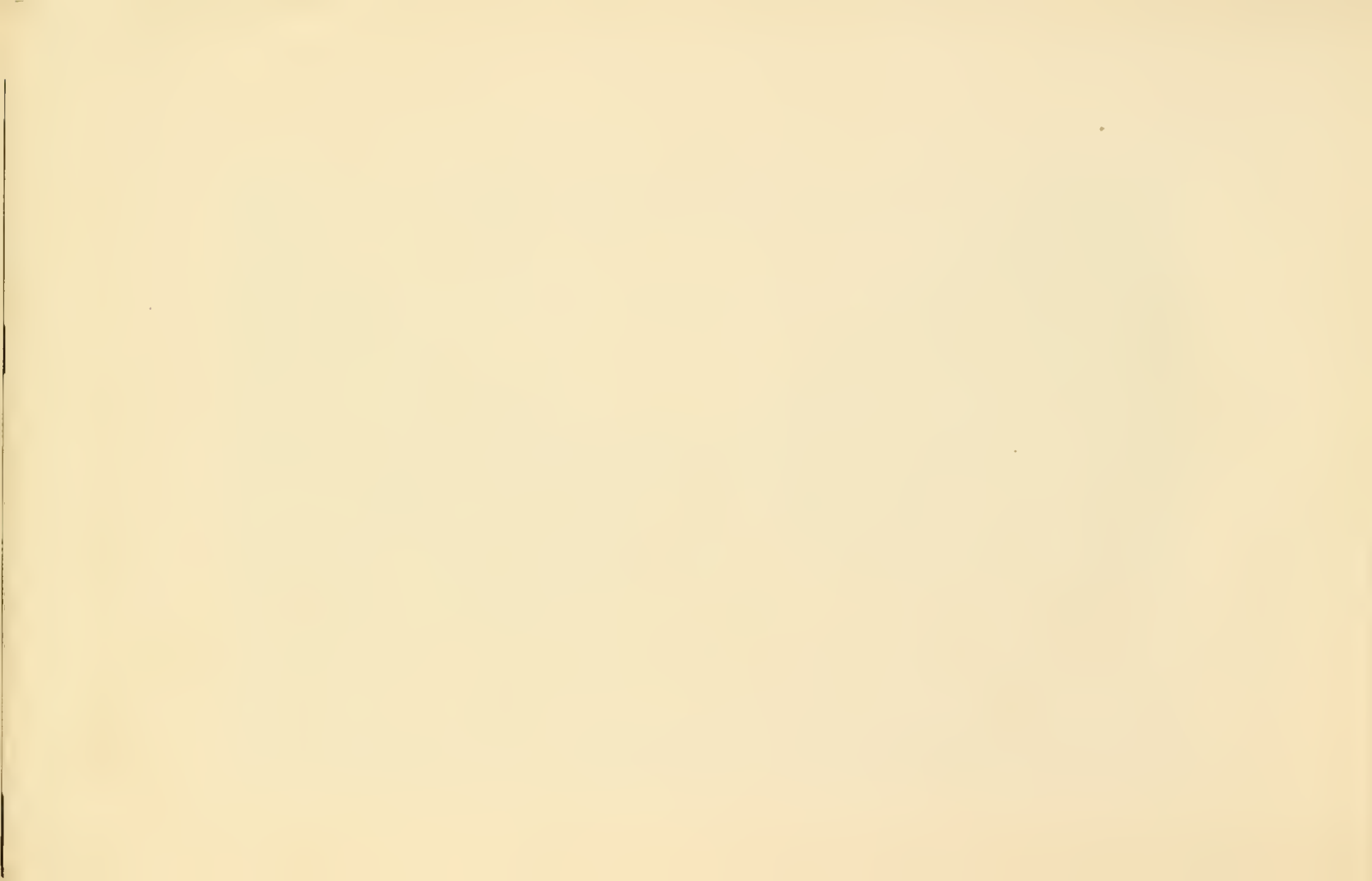
About 15 miles below Telegraph Creek, Captain John F. Callbreath, one of the pioneers of the country has a farm, producing annually about 150 tons of oats, barley and timothy hay.

To the true sportsman and especially to him who seeks big game, the country back of Telegraph Creek presents a field with but few equals and no superior. The mountain sheep are found in large lands within ten miles of town, the best season for hunting them being the late summer and early fall. Cariboo and moose are plentiful at all seasons within about thirty miles. The black bear is found in all directions, but Eskoot River, a branch of the Stickeen, about forty miles from Wrangel, is the home of the grizzly.

Complete outfits can be secured in either Wrangel, Telegraph Creek or Glenora, the latter place being the distributing post of the Hudsons' Bay Company for the interior country. Pack animals can be had at Telegraph



The Stickeen Canyon.





The Stickeen Glacier, or Ice Mountain.

Creek for two dollars per day and competent guides at from two to three dollars per day. The hotel accommodations are fairly good and rates reasonable.

The Canadian Government has extended its telegraph line from Atlin and Dawson so that Telegraph Creek now has communication with the outside world.

Steamers run regularly during the navigation season from Wrangel to Telegraph Creek, usually going up in three days and returning in about ten hours. The fare for the round trip is fifteen dollars, meals and birth being extra.

After navigation is closed in the fall for steamers, the up-river freight and passenger traffic is carried on by Indians with canoes of several tons capacity.

During the winter months, communication is maintained over the ice by the Canadian postal authorities.





Cone Mountain on Stickeen River.



Disputed Boundary Line between United States and Canada on the Stickeen River.

Fisheries

Being at the mouth of the Stickeen, up which millions of salmon go annually to their spawning grounds, Wrangel has for years been the center of the fishing industry of Southeastern Alaska, and as the rapidly advancing market increases, so will the prosperity of the town increase.

Prior to 1900, three canneries with a total capacity of 110,000 cases were in operation in this vicinity but encouraged with the bright outlook for a good market and an unlimited supply of raw material, three new canneries were built this year.

The combined output of the six canneries for 1900 was 67,500 cases of red and 133,150 cases of Alaska pink, for which use 645,000 king, red, and silver, and 2,443,000 humpbacks were taken. 97 whites, 266 natives, 12 Japs, 21 Italians, and 232 Chinese were employed with a total pay-roll for the season of about \$200,000, one-fourth of which was received by the Chinese. 11 steamers of from five to thirty tons each, 6 lighters and 120 fishing boats were engaged. Fishermen received \$60 per month and board, or if independent nine to ten cents each for cohoes, seven to eight cents each for red, and three-fourths to one cent each for humpbacks. When compared with Columbia River, Fraser River and Puget Sound prices of from twenty to thirty cents each for fish, the immense advantages Alaska cannerymen have over all competitors is immediately apparent.

Though millions of salmon ascend the Stickeen River the supply of fish in the small streams in this vicinity has been so far in excess of all demands that no serious efforts have ever been put forth to overcome the difficulties to be encountered in fishing the larger stream.

The immediate vicinity of Wrangel offers enough excellent sites with an ample supply of fish to increase the present output four fold, and that without touching the inexhaustible supply of the great river.

The expense of a vast fishing fleet and the enormous outlay for traps, so necessary to success on Puget Sound and the surrounding country, is totally unnecessary in Alaska, hence the explanation of the magnificent success of companies with small capital in this district. Competently handled, twenty thousand dollars invested in a salmon cannery in Southeastern Alaska, will clear itself the first season. This has been done, is being done now and there is no adequate reason why it cannot be done again.

Canneries to the south through the failure of an anticipated run of fish have often been compelled to pay large sums guaranteed to the Chinese contractors upon the opening of the season, but Alaska knows no "off" years, and statistics of the U. S. Government will show that there has never been a failure of the salmon pack in Southeastern Alaska.

The season just closed shows a shortage of at least fifty per cent. on Puget Sound, the Columbia and Fraser rivers, while the Alaska pack is something over 1,100,000 cases, exceeding by about ten per cent. the pack of 1,041,316 cases in 1899 (U. S. Treasury Statistics) which was considered unparalleled.

In addition to her canneries, Wrangel is the supply station for eight salteries, employing 39 whites and 80 natives, with a combined production for 1900 of 6000 barrels. The output of salted salmon, however, is very uncertain as most of the owners of sites prefer selling their fish to the canneries; and as a rule only make a business of salting the surplus to prevent waste.

Wrangel is surrounded with the world-famed halibut banks of Alaska, but for convenience in quick shipment and securing ice for packing, the vessels during active operations make temporary headquarters in Wrangel Narrows, coming here for supplies. During the winter of 1899-1900, 21 sailing vessels of from 12 to 22 tons each and three steamers with 110 men were engaged in this business, their total catch aggregating 1500 tons. Ice for packing is had at the glacier at the north end of the narrows for the mere taking.



Salmon Cannery, operated by Alaska Packers' Association.

Mining

Prior to 1897, when the amazing wealth of the Klondike was first made known to the world, Alaska was universally believed to be a vast expanse of unproductive land covered with glaciers, and totally unsuited to the habitation of the white man, and that world-famed quarry, the Treadwell mine on Douglass Island, paying annual dividends of more than half a million dollars, was merely an oasis in the great desert of ice and snow. But the mad rush of gold seekers in that year opened the eyes of the world to the enormous possibilities of Alaska, and the past three years has demonstrated that our Government drew a valuable prize in its purchase of the territory from Russia.

The difficulties of transportation, the vastness and ruggedness of the country, the hardships to be encountered in prospecting, the enticing encouragement for quickly acquired wealth in the placers a few miles further north, and the time and money required to develop quartz properties, were, for a time, effectual bars to work in this section. But in the face of these drawbacks and in a period of time insufficient to open to any appreciable extent the properties of Southeastern Alaska, the most skeptical have been convinced that the country is immensely rich in gold, silver, lead, copper and coal.

The most attractive features of the mining of this section and the ones that appeal most promptly and surely to the judgment of mining men, are the unusually large ore bodies, the unlimited supply of excellent timber, the numerous great water powers to be depended upon during the entire year, and the ready accessibility of most properties. It is only such natural advantages as these that permit the Treadwell mine, already referred to, to operate

During the past summer considerable development work has been done with flattering results and it is generally advantageously with ore that scarcely averages \$2.50 per ton.

believed that before the first year of the twentieth century has passed away a large number of present prospects will be handsomely paying mines and the future of Wrangel as a mining center established for all time.

Among the many wealthy and prominent men who are investing in this locality might be mentioned Congressman Wm. Sulzer, W. R. Hearst of the New York Journal, and Senator J. P. Jones of Nevada, who head a syndicate of New York capitalists under the name of the Alaska Industrial Company, and are at present employing a force of men developing a copper property on the west coast of the Prince of Wales Island. J. E. Cronan of Fargo, N. D., is representing a Dakota syndicate in a marble quarry venture at Shakan, the product of which is said to be suitable for statuary and in every respect equal to the famous Italian marble. The value of this property has already been established and it is expected shipments will begin in the early spring. The Pacific Coast Mining, Milling and Development Co. with California capital, and the Alaska Copper Co. are also employing a number of men at Copper Mountain. In the vicinity of Duncan Canal to the north of Wrangel, considerable prospecting and development work has been done during the past six months, the Sundum Mining Co. of Sundum and the Olympic Mining Co. of Seattle having erected winter camps on their properties.

It has often been asserted that this is not a poor man's country, and as a refutation of this theory the case of E. E. Wyman is cited, who, during the winter of 1899 without capital and single handed, worked his quartz claim about four miles from Copper Mt. sacking and shipping his ore to Puget Sound for smelting and netting himself \$8.50 per day for the entire time employed.

In every direction from the town the country is found to be heavily mineralized and though several thousand claims have been filed in the recorder's office at Wrangel, which embraces all of Southeastern Alaska south of Cape Fanshaw, so vast is the district that it has hardly been touched, and there will be plenty of opportunities for the prospector for many years.

To those men who have learned that Alaska's sands of gold are a myth and are willing to abandon rainbow chasing as an unprofitable calling, the Wrangel Board of Trade will say that Southeastern Alaska offers to the

truly industrious man, greater opportunities for the acquirement of legitimate wealth in a reasonable time than any other part of the north.

As all travel for the Copper Mountain and vicinity must go by way of Wrangel, and the prospecting boats make it their headquarters for outfitting, the merchants carry a full stock of suitable supplies and by purchasing in large quantities can furnish everything needed at a price well beneath what individuals can bring them in for.



Lumbering

The United States Statute prohibiting the exportation of lumber from Alaska has greatly retarded the development of what would become under favorable conditions one of the district's most valuable industries. All the islands as well as the mainland are heavily timbered with gigantic spruce, cedar and hemlock, many of them six to eight feet in diameter without a limb for a hundred feet, and the loggers have never found it necessary to leave the beach to secure suitable logs.

At Wrangel is located the largest saw mill in the territory with a capacity of thirty thousand feet per day and employing twenty-five men. It is worked for nine months in the year, the lumber going to Ketchikan, Juneau, the mining camps and canneries. A large business is done in cutting boxes for salmon canning.

Wages are from \$35 and board, up, logs are paid for at the rate of from \$3.50 to \$4.50 per thousand, and lumber is in good demand at from \$12 per thousand for rough spruce to \$40 per thousand for clear cedar.

It is believed that the restrictions already referred to will in a few years be removed and the most sanguine would hardly dare predict the extent to which lumbering will then be carried on.

At present logging is principally carried on by hand and although the price of logs, as compared with other places, is extremely low, they are secured with such ease as to make the business exceedingly lucrative. For instance, during the past summer, Messrs. Card and Parrish, local men, made over and above all expenses \$200 each per month. Can any other camp in the country make a similar showing?



Fort Wrangel Saw Mills.

Furs

Since the advent of the white man the natives have been too prosperous to trap with the same energy and perseverance exhibited a few years ago, and the production of furs has become somewhat uncertain.

The total value of those annually marketed at Wrangel is about \$20,000 of which the black bear, beaver, land otter, mink and martin form the bulk. The wolf, hair-seal, lynx, wolverine, brown and grizzly bear are also taken in small numbers.

More than 5000 deer skins were brought in during the winter of 1899-1900, this valuable animal being usually killed for its hide alone which sells for about fifty cents each, the meat being left to decay.

It is hoped that Congress will soon pass a law prohibiting the indiscriminate slaughter, for it is universally admitted that though deer are as plentiful on the islands as the buffalo were a few years ago on the plains, it is only a question of time when they will practically become extinct.

On the headwaters of the Stickeen River about \$25,000 worth of furs, including the black, silver and cross fox, are taken annually, but the entire output goes to Victoria, B. C., and does not in any way figure in the local market.



Fish and Game

Alaska, and particularly the Wrangel district, offers greater encouragement to the sportsman than any other section on this continent. It is naturally a fish and game country, and as it is sparsely settled it is necessary to go but a short distance from town for good sport. It is common for a market hunter to bring in more than a hundred ducks and geese from a day's trip to the mouth of the Stickeen, six miles from Wrangel.

As elsewhere stated, deer are indiscriminately slaughtered for their hides. So plentiful are the deer on all the islands, as well as on the mainland, that it is an easy task for two natives to round up a score in a couple of days.

All the small streams in this vicinity are teeming with trout, the largest day's catch, so far recorded, being 124 pounds, averaging in size twenty ounces. The trout are so destructive to the salmon eggs and young salmon that cannerymen and fishermen encourage in every way the killing of them. Dynamite is often used for this purpose.

The blue grouse and ptarmigan can be found on all the neighboring islands.

The black bear is often met with during the run of salmon within ten miles of town. The bear is fond of salmon, and it is a pretty sight to see him in a shallow stream picking up the fish and tossing them on the bank.

The grizzly is found in great numbers on the Iscoot River, a branch of the Stickeen, forty miles from Wrangel.

As elsewhere stated, the country about the headwaters of the Stickeen is a hunter's paradise where no costly outfits, nor caravan of pack animals or guides are needed.

As an encouragement to sportsmen generally, we quote the following market quotations: mallards, 20c; teal, 10c; geese, 75c; venison, 7c per lb.; trout, 10c per lb.



One hundred and eighty-seven Deer in Warehouse.

Natives

In that portion of Alaska South of Farragut Bay, which is known as the Wrangel District, there are twenty-two villages, with a larger native population than all the remainder of the Territory South of Bering Sea.

During the summer they are employed in the fisheries, saw mills and logging camps, and in the early fall in canoe freighting on the Stickeen, and in winter in trapping. Their condition is prosperous, and many have acquired a fair competency. They are as a rule an industrious, and in a certain sense a frugal people, the logical result of the climate in which they live, the long winters making it imperative upon them to provide in summer for their wants during the cold period.

Before the day of the white man, their main food supply was salmon, but for many years they have grown potatoes, turnips, carrots and some of the hardier vegetables for which they have to provide cellar storage and this fact gives them some slight appreciation of the rights of property.

Acquisitiveness, which is one of the first steps towards civilization, they have in a very large degree; and that which they acquire, naturally, they want to keep; hence they are very responsive to the outward and visible sign of authority. For instance, a native may be engaged in flagrant wrong doing and should a white man that he knows (and he generally does know) who has no authority, remonstrate with him, he does not hesitate to say "*ichta miika business*" (what is it your business); but should a man connected in any way with the Government check them at any time no such response is made.

There can be but little doubt but for the ignorant and mistaken teachings of a certain class of fanatical educators who attempt to accomplish in a single generation that which all history tells us it takes ages to accomplish, the natives would be better off physically and morally than they are now.

There can be no more mistaken policy than to attempt to force a barbarous or semi-barbarous people to take learning from the books. In a few years they would find out that the man who knew his arithmetic and could make calculations had much the advantage of his ignorant fellows in all matters of trade and naturally they would seek knowledge of themselves.

Contact with the fisheries, the trading posts, the saw mills, mines and other industries springing up in the territory would have afforded them an opportunity for gradual and permanent improvement.

At present the majority of the natives are ambitious to live in houses built and furnished after the fashion of the white man, and the saw mills that have been established in the territory give them an opportunity to indulge this taste.

Heretofore, the dwellings which were their winter homes (for during the open months they were abroad in the land fishing and trapping) were not palaces, very imposing in appearance, although they were by no means hovels. They were usually built of hewn logs and often quite commodious—as much as forty feet square—with a platform surrounding the fire which was always built in the center, making the house comparatively comfortable. In the larger houses there were often small rooms built on these platform elevations, these to some extent segregating the sexes.

During the winter, in the olden times, and even yet, they have their so-called dances, which are a curious mixture of dance and theatricals, which have a certain significance to the natives; and here it is well to remark that there have been many and futile attempts to break up these gatherings that are harmless in themselves and no doubt often keep the natives from less innocent employment. The crusade against the Indian dance reminds one of the strenuous opposition among civilized people always given by the ignorant and uncultivated to theatrical performances of all kinds.

The totem poles or family trees so interesting to tourists are here in large numbers, Wrangel having sixteen of the handsomest ones to be found in all Alaska.



Typical Indian Faces.

The native population of Southeastern Alaska has always been and will continue to be self-sustaining if let alone. They have no desire to be charges upon the Government and have constantly entered their protest against being segregated into reservations. They are gradually dropping their own customs and adopting those of the white man whose good and bad qualities they will in a comparatively short time take to themselves. The motto should be—let them alone, give them employment, pay them fairly for it, and teach them rather by example than precept to obey the golden rule “Do unto others as you would they should do unto you.”



---Conclusion---

The future of Southeastern Alaska is but little appreciated by the thoughtless and uninformed. They do not realize the fact that while the world, as it did in the olden times, is turning on its axis but once in twenty-four hours, still, scientifically and materially, it is moving at a rate a hundred fold accelerated since the day when Rome was in her glory, when one could amuse himself, in the language of the modern boy, by joshing his fellow citizen or soldier who had ventured so far as the British Isles—the *ultima thule* of the world.

The returning soldier was looked upon as some of our Eastern friends look upon a monstrous Alaskan curio. They little thought, as has been said, "to boast of being a British subject" would be as proud a boast as the Roman's *civis romanus sum*. In that age of the world it took a thousand years to accomplish what a few decades of steam, telegraphy, photography, etc., will in our day accomplish, and it will be comparatively a few years when the citizens of the great state or states of Alaska will be as proud of their birth-right as the citizen of any country in the world.

This, too, will be the land of true patriotism, that patriotism born of a marriage with the soil—a land where the home of the citizen has been made and improved by his ancestors.

This is no ready-made country and in the future is destined to be as great as all countries are where art is the biggest factor in the co-partnership with nature in building up a country. It will be the mountain, the streamlet and the hill to enlear to a man this home of his childhood, and there'll be that individuality in each home that never belongs to the home of the man brought up on the plains where all the farms remind one of dresses torn from the same piece of calico and where you see men often standing upon the platform of a train counting the mile posts to see when they get home. In such countries men have to approach their homes with few joyful emotions, and leave them without regret.

The Pioneer Saloon

E. P. LYNCH, Proprietor

The Business Men's Resort

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Deposits July 12, 1899	-	-	-	2,210,012 19
Deposits Sept. 7, 1899	-	-	-	2,499,827.90
Deposits Dec. 2, 1899	-	-	-	2,906,569 50
Deposits May 30, 1900	-	-	-	3,020,179.10
Deposits Sept. 5, 1900	-	-	-	3,303,086.71

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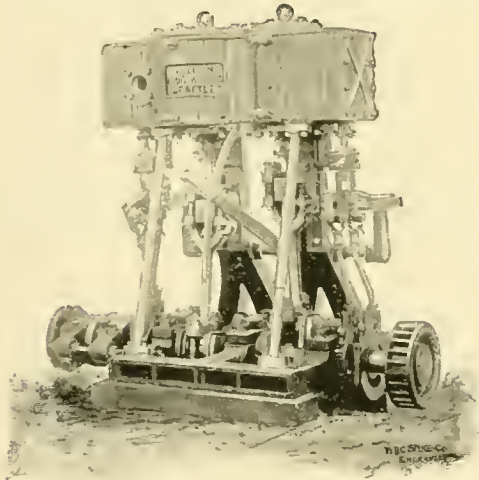
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