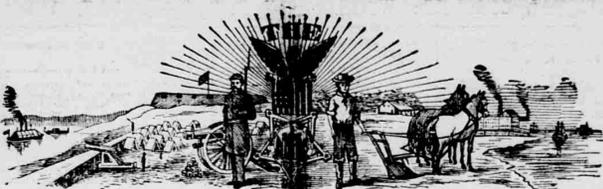


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ESTABLISHED 1877—NEW SERIES.

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ALASKAN RESOURCES

What Gold Seekers May Find to Live on and Work With.

FOOD, LUMBER, LIVESTOCK

Varieties of Vegetables Can Be Raised in Various Localities.

CATTLE, GOATS, AND REINDEER

Even, Mild Temperature on the Coast and Extremes Inland.

ILLUSTRATIONS OF ALASKAN LIFE.

WE PRESENT THIS WEEK a series of pictures illustrating life on the way to the Klondike gold fields by the

Chilcoot route. We believe they will be appreciated, because the scenes they show are from actual photographs taken on the road, and explain better than any verbal description could do the actual labor and trials to which the adventurers subject themselves in the rush to the Northern Golconda.

The Dyea Pass, which has become famous within the past few weeks as the gate to the Upper Yukon, is shown in the distance in one of the views, with the river in the foreground, across which a party of adventurers are making their way. Another cut shows two prospective miners who have already crossed the famous divide and are now engaged in the laborious task of whip-sawing spruce lumber to build a boat with which to go down the chain of lakes and the Lewes River to its junction with the Pelly, where the Yukon starts on its journey of 2,000 miles to the Siberian Sea, a good broad highway for ships, which has been described in previous articles in this paper.

Another view gives a glimpse of camp life, and still another shows a party of adventurers setting out across Lake Lindeman, the first of the lakes, upon a raft propelled by a mutton-leg sail. In another place several men may be seen busily engaged in putting the finishing touches upon a boat with which to run the rapids.

A team of cattle, queer looking to those coming from the United States, is shown in a separate picture below. They are a pair of domesticated reindeer, reared on American soil, but from the original herd brought from Siberia and trained to work by native Alaskans under the tutelage of their teachers from Lapland. Altogether we believe that in devoting so much space as we do this week to these views, we present something that will be appreciated by our readers more than anything else we could put in their place.

AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES.

Since the question of food in Alaska for civilized man has become a matter of vital consideration, Secretary Wilson, of the Department of Agriculture, has turned his attention to an investigation of the Territory from the farmer's standpoint. Since Scotland, the Scandinavian Peninsula and Iceland have been found capable of producing certain kinds of food from the ground, it is considered possible that something may be realized from Alaska, although there is no prospect, of course, that it will ever be regarded as an agricultural region. The only hope is to find some sections where certain vegetables, with possibly a few annual cereals, may be grown as a contribution to the food supply of the country and to afford a beautiful variety from the fish and meat diet to which the natives are restricted.

The country is so vast that it affords a great variety of climate. The islands of southern Alaska and a narrow strip along the coast between the ocean and the mountains are warm beyond what would be expected for the latitude, on account of the Japanese current which flows across the Northern Pacific Ocean, raising the temperature as does the Gulf Stream in the British Isles. On the other hand, the conditions are such that constant fogs and rains are produced, making the Summer wet and cool, and shutting off the sunshine, through the same causes which modify the rigors of a normal Winter in such latitudes. For example, the Summer heat along the southern coast rarely rises above 70, while the Winter scarcely ever has zero weather. On some of the islands potatoes, turnips, beets and onions have been grown. There is an abundance of grass, but great difficulty is experienced in making hay for Winter feeding, owing to the lack of sunshine to cure it. On Long Island, near Kadiak, for example, there is a herd of 25 or 30 head of cattle that has been successfully maintained and has thriven for the past 20 years, being housed a good deal in Winter in sleety and snowy weather. On Ukanok or Chirikoff Island, about 125 miles southwest of Kadiak, a herd of 28 Angora goats was placed about four years ago, and, according to the



WHIPSAWING LUMBER.



RAFT ON LAKE LINDEMAN.



BUILDING A BOAT TO RUN THE RAPIDS.



CAMP LIFE NEAR LAKE BENNETT.

last reports, the number has been maintained. On Marmot, a large, rocky island covered with spruce of stunted growth, about 40 miles east of Kadiak, a half dozen head of cattle were turned loose as an experiment four years ago, and, according to latest information, they have increased and managed to thrive without forage being provided for them beyond what the island affords, Summer and Winter. On these islands the stock raising operations alluded to have been simply experimental, the islands being leased by the Government for the breeding and domestication of foxes, which is the primary object of their occupancy by the lessees.

In the Yukon Valley conditions are entirely different. Here the climate is dry, the Winter is long and intensely cold, and the Summer only from 80 to 90 days in length and intensely hot. The ground is covered with reindeer moss and the subsoil never thaws out.

Secretary Wilson has sent a commission, consisting of Mr. Benton Killen, of

Yukon Valley, and he has been commissioned by the Secretary of Agriculture to perform a similar service for that region.

The Secretary has received from the Reverend Father P. Tosi, Superintendent of the Catholic Missions of Alaska, an interesting letter giving the result of experiments in agriculture made at their mission at various points in the Territory. Father P. Tosi's letter is as follows:

"During four months of Winter the temperature from the mouth of the Yukon to that of the Kuskokum ranges between 0 and 10 F.; for a few days it reaches 20. September and October are very stormy and rainy. April and May are months of fine, warm weather. The snow disappears in the end of May or the beginning of June. The ice usually breaks from the 20th to 25th of June. The average heat of Summer is between 45 and 60. The nights are cold and windy.

"Vegetation is generally very poor, except in a few sheltered places. There are no trees to speak of, and few bushes along the Yukon and Kuskokum and on the south side of the Koniavak Mountains. The ground is all covered with a heavy coat of moss 16 to 18 inches thick. Over the moss berries of different kinds grow in abundance. Occasional patches of huckleberries and salmonberries are seen.

"The woods begin from 150 to 200 miles inland. Birch is the first met with. Pine begins farther up and continues to the heads of the rivers. The tops of the highest mountains are without wood. The tallest trees grow in the gulches and on the islands of the rivers.

"Vegetation begins toward the end of May, and is luxuriant about the 10th of June. There is no frost from the time the ice begins to break on the Yukon and Kuskokum, which takes place about the



CROSSING THE DYEY RIVER.

middle of June, until the middle of September. About the 20th of May we begin to prepare the ground for gardening, and toward the end of May we plant. "In Nulato and farther up the Spring is earlier. At Forty-Mile Creek and beyond the ice breaks at the end of May. The climate there is mild and less changeable. The thermometer goes up to 80 or 90 degrees, sometimes to 110 degrees. At the lakes and at the mouth of Pelly River the snow begins to melt in April, and has disappeared at the beginning of May. At this place May and June are delightful months.

Dr. Sheldon Jackson, the Agent of the Bureau of Education, has gone up the

"From the mouth of the Pelly to the Coast Range southeast some 25 or 30 miles from the sea bunch grass grows everywhere except on the low ground. Aug. 22, 1887, I gathered at the south side of Lake La Barge about 10 heads of wheat nearly ripe—a place where some miners had camped the year before. There, as in Nulato, I found huckleberries, raspberries, chickenberries, cranberries, wild-rose-berries and black currants.

"In Nulato during five months the temperature averages 25 degrees, and on the coldest days 50 to 60 degrees. At Forty-Mile Creek and Stuart River the average is 30 to 35 degrees, the minimum 60 to 70 degrees. In the Winter of 1887 the temperature fell to 75 degrees, the mercury freezing Dec. 23 and remaining solid until March 21, 1888. The snow is from one to two feet deep; at the Coast Range it is four to six feet deep; on the lakes in 1888 it was only one foot deep.

"The first experiment undertaken by myself in plant-growing was at Nulato during the season of 1888. Here I cultivated a small piece of ground, and succeeded in raising some very fine turnips and lettuce; more, indeed, than one Father could consume, and the miners who occasionally passed the missions were glad to avail themselves of the cheerfully-accorded privilege of helping themselves to the mission vegetables.

"More extensive experiments were undertaken at the Holy Cross Mission, 250 miles from the mouth of the Yukon, as mentioned above. During the season of 1890, a variety of seeds was planted here, but the results were very poor. Cabbages grew well and gave large leaves, but none of them formed heads. The clearing away of the moss, however, a deep coat of which covers the soil and prevents it from thawing during the warm season, having exposed that portion cleared for garden purposes to the heat of the sun, the ground thawed deeper next season, 1891, and the results were very satisfactory. No fertilizer was used. That season there was raised in a garden of cabbage more than 2,000 very fine heads; of potatoes nearly 20 bushels from one-quarter of an acre plot; of turnips 70 bushels, some of them of extraordinary size, which were distributed as presents; radishes were very successful, while rutabagas, beets, carrots, and chicory were all very satisfactory; onions were much less so, while beans and corn proved a failure; of peas only the dwarf variety was a success, and a supply of seed was reserved and planted in 1892; flax was a successful crop.

"For the year 1892 the Fathers had four acres fenced in and cleared from moss. Of this half an acre has been sown to turnips and a quarter of an acre to peas. They have also planted 600 pounds of potatoes from the last year's crop; the rest is devoted to such vegetables as presents; radishes were very successful, while rutabagas, beets, carrots, and chicory were all very satisfactory; onions were much less so, while beans and corn proved a failure; of peas only the dwarf variety was a success, and a supply of seed was reserved and planted in 1892; flax was a successful crop.

patch. Their curiosity frequently led them to pull up turnips and note their growth, but they were always very careful to replace them in the ground. At this mission only turnips and radishes were successfully raised, enough so as to more than repay the trouble. The other vegetables, however, failed. An intelligent half-breed trader residing there has this year (1892) been furnished with seeds. "The Fathers are quite anxious to make some experiments in the small fruits and the Siberian crabapple. They would also like to experiment with the various grass seeds.

"In regard to live stock, our experience has been that they can be kept during the long Winter months, provided there is a good supply of roots. At Kozhyrevsky the Mission Fathers had eight head of cattle, and several calves were raised.

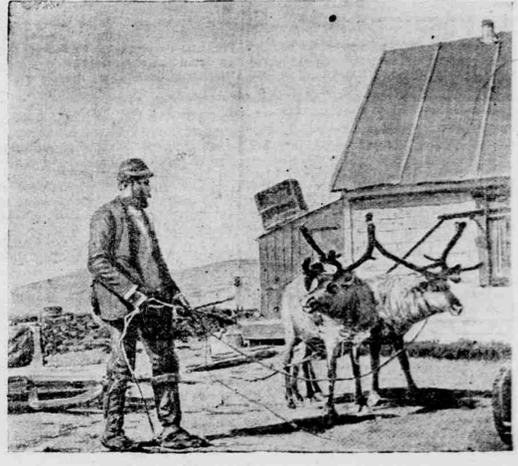
"During the Summer months these animals were in fine condition. They were, however, a very common stock, and had suffered many hardships during their long sea voyage. Native grass is luxuriant, but it affords a worthless hay, devoid of nutriment.

One of the most interesting and suc-

cessful enterprises prosecuted by the Government has been the importation of domesticated reindeer from Siberia. This effort, while scouted by those who were best acquainted with Alaska in the beginning, has won recently the commendation of the most skeptical. It was urged against the project in the first place that the Siberians would not sell their reindeer alive, owing to superstition. It was too far to bring them from Lapland. Again, it was declared that the improvident Alaskan native would kill and devour the animals when driven to extremity by the annual Winter famine, and what escaped the men it was claimed would fall a prey to the vicious Esquimo dogs, which are scarcely removed from wolves in point of domestication and disposition.

Dr. Sheldon Jackson has overcome these objections one by one, securing, after great difficulty, an original stock of more than a thousand deer, which have been safely transported to our side of the Bering Sea. Then, in order to place the industry under most favorable conditions, he sent an agent to Lapland, who, after great effort, secured a colony of Lapps, with their dogs, to teach the Alaskans how to breed and handle the animals. These Lapp dogs are large and powerful brutes, able to cope with the Esquimo dog and protect the deer from their rapacity. They are trained in Lapland to drive the herds as collies manage sheep, and the Siberian deer soon learn that these animals are different in their nature from the ravenous beasts which they had been taught to fear, and they have now learned to regard them as friends and protectors. The Lapp herders have trained the Esquimo to break, harness, drive and milk the deer, and after some five years' labor the enterprise may well be pronounced a success.

It is exceedingly fortunate at this juncture, when thousands of people are rush-



A REINDEER TEAM.

ing to the interior of Alaska, that we already have no less than five herds of these domesticated reindeer, numbering about 1,500, a large proportion of which have been bred on American soil. These reindeer solve the forage question, which seemed to be an insuperable difficulty in the interior of Alaska, because the region abounds in a luxuriant growth of reindeer moss—sufficient, it is estimated, to pasture a herd of millions. Some of these animals are to be put at once into the service to transport freight from the landing-places on the Yukon to the mining camps of the interior. The animal—being swift, powerful, sure-footed, and with a plentiful food supply everywhere—is certainly a godsend to the country under the new conditions in the interior.

MEMOIRS OF GEN.

WM. T. SHERMAN.

WRITTEN BY HIMSELF.

BATTLE OF BENTONVILLE

Sharp Conflict, After Which Joe Johnston Falls Back.

OPPOSITION BY HARDEE

Rebel Colonel Furnishes Amusement for Union Officers.

SOME FIGHTING AT AVERYSBORO

March From Savannah to Goldsboro at Last Completed.

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CHAPTER XXIII—(continued).

IN QUICK SUCCESSION I RECEIVED other messages from Gen. Terry, of older date, and therefore superseded by that brought by the tug Davidson, viz, by two naval officers, who had come up partly by canoe and partly by land; Gen. Terry had also sent the 13th Pa. Cav. to search for us, under Col. Kerwin, who had dispatched Maj. Berks with 50 men, who reached us at Fayetteville; so that, by March 12, I was in full communication with Gen. Terry and the outside world. Still, I was anxious to reach Goldsboro, there to make junction with Gen. Schofield, so as to be ready for the next and last stage of the war.

I then knew that my special antagonist, Gen. Jos. E. Johnston, was back, with part of his old army; that he would not be misled by feints and false reports, and would somehow compel me to exercise more caution than I had hitherto done. I then over-estimated his force at 37,000 infantry, supposed to be made up of S. D. Lee's Corps 4,000; Cheatham's, 5,000; Hoke's, 8,000; Hardee's, 10,000; and other detachments, 10,000; with Hampton's, Wheeler's, and Butler's cavalry, about eight thousand. Of these, only Hardee and the cavalry were immediately in our front, while the bulk of Johnston's army was supposed to be collecting at or near Raleigh.

I was determined, however, to give him as little time for organization as possible, and accordingly crossed Cape Fear River, with all the army, during the 13th and 14th, leaving one division as a rear-guard, until the arsenal could be completely destroyed. This was deliberately and completely leveled on the 14th, when fire was applied to the wreck. Little other damage was done at Fayetteville.

On the 14th the tug Davidson again arrived from Wilmington, with Gen. Dodge, Quartermaster, on board, reporting that there was no clothing to be had at Wilmington; but he brought up some sugar and coffee, which were most welcome, and some oats. He was followed by a couple of gunboats, under command of Capt. Young, United States Navy, who reached Fayetteville after I had left, and undertook to patrol the river as long as the stage of water would permit; and Gen. Dodge also promised to use the captured steambot for a like purpose. Meantime, also, I had sent orders to Gen. Schofield, at Newbern, and to Gen. Terry, at Wilmington, to move with their effective forces straight for Goldsboro, where I expected to meet them by the 20th of March.

FORWARD AGAIN.

On the 15th of March the whole army was across Cape Fear River, and at once began its march for Goldsboro; the Seventeenth Corps still on the right, the Fifteenth next in order, then the Fourteenth and Twentieth on the extreme left; the cavalry acting in close concert with the left flank. With almost a certainty of being attacked on this flank, I had instructed Gen. Slocum to send his corps trains under strong escort by an interior road, holding four divisions ready for immediate battle. Gen. Howard was in like manner ordered to keep his trains well to the right, and to have four divisions unencumbered, about six miles ahead of Gen. Slocum, within easy support.

In the meantime I had dispatched by land to Wilmington a train of refugees who had followed the army all the way from Columbia, S. C., under an escort of 200 men, commanded by Maj. John S. Windsor, 116th Ill., so that we were disencumbered, and prepared for instant battle on our left and exposed flank.

In person I accompanied Gen. Slocum, and during the night of March 15 was 13 miles out on the Raleigh road. This flank followed substantially a road along Cape Fear River north, encountered pretty stubborn resistance by Hardee's infantry, artillery and cavalry, and the ground favored our enemy; for the deep river, Cape Fear, was on his right, and North River on his left, forcing us to

(Continued on third page.)