LOOKING DOWN THE COURT OF HONOR ON THE OPENING DAY, JUNE 1, OF THE ALASKA-YUKON-PACIFIC EXPOSITION AT SEATTLE.

ALASKA A FARMING LAND.

Visitors to Exposition Will Get New Idea of Territory.

The Alaska-Yukon-Pacific exposition was announced as the exposition that would be ready on schedule time. When President Taft, on the afternoon of June 1, at Washington, pressed a telegraph key of Alaskan gold and a spark leaped across the continent to Seattle starting the machinery, releasing flags, sounding bells and discharging a mountain battery and curious Japanese fireworks, the huge fair was probably nearer to completion than has been any previous one of its magnitude when officially thrown open. Every exhibit except those from the Philippines and Hawaii was in place. The fountains played, the cascades sparkled and the lights gleamed upon the Alaska shaft as if the exhibition had been open for weeks.

That the exposition should be ready on time is the more remarkable when it is realized that the first conception was not that of a $10,000,000 international exhibition. Its inception was the suggestion of a Klondike pioneer, and it was to be the "Seattle fair," exhibiting the resources of Alaska. This idea developed into that of an exposition illustrating the progress of the Northwest in the course of its half century of history, and continued to grow until it became an international affair, including the countries bordering on the Pacific. Its name was transformed from Seattle Fair into Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition, the growing inclusiveness of the plan being indicated in the name.

"Most of the expositions of the past had an historic motive," said James J. Hill, in the course of his address at the opening ceremony. "It is a sign of development when we move away from dependence upon some past fact and celebrate instead the general sweep of such forces as make for future progress. The nation to-day faces forward, not backward. Such is the genius of the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition. It is expressed in its very name, beginning with the furthest, newest and least developed district of our national domain, covering a coast that reaches from well within the Arctic Circle to near the tropics, and embracing all the mystery and might that have been suggested by the word 'Pacific' for nearly four hundred years."

The Northwest has reached a point in its history where it has a representative in the President's Cabinet and experiments with the popular selection of United States Senators. Alaska used to be called the "Iceberg," and Seward in his time was styled a fool for bringing about its acquisition by the United States for $7,200,000. Only a few years ago lecturers all over the country were describing the terrors of the journey over the icy summit of White Pass to the Klondike. A railroad now operates over the pass, and the pictures of the route do not suggest the polar conditions which the early lecturers ascribed to it. There are railroads in Alaska much nearer the Arctic Circle than the White Pass road. Not only are mosquitoes, those pestiferous but certain signs that winter is dead, found in Alaska in the summer months, but it is said that those who visit the exposition will discover that the future of Alaska does not depend so much upon its gold mines and its deposits of iron and copper as it does upon its agriculture. Alaska has already yielded total products valued at more than $300,000,000.

JAMES J. HILL DELIVERING THE OPENING ADDRESS AT THE ALASKA-YUKON-PACIFIC EXPOSITION.

FLAG 132 YEARS OLD.

To-morrow National Ensign's Birthday—Freed from Commercial Uses.

Although nowhere is the day a legal holiday, to-morrow will be the 132d anniversary of the adoption of the Stars and Stripes as the flag of the United States. It will be celebrated in many states, including New York, as Flag Day. The national ensign will fly from public buildings, upon the staffs of schoolhouses and many homes.

The recognition of this anniversary and, in large part, the growing reverence for the flag which Flag Day exercises are intended to inspire are of recent birth. It was twelve years ago that the American Flag Association was formed for the purpose of repressing the many insulting uses to which commercialism had submitted the flag and to stimulate a greater respect for it. At that time the flag and pictures of it were employed to do duty as an advance agent for every conceivable kind of merchandise. It was used to advertise bicycles, bock beer, whiskey, cambric, sour mash, tar soap, chewing gum, theatres, tobacco, tea, awnings, breweries, cigars, charity balls, cuff buttons, dime museums, door mats, fireworks, furriers, living pictures, picnic grounds, patent medicines, pool rooms, prizefights, restaurants, roof gardens, real estate agencies, sample rooms, shoe stores, saloons, shooting galleries, variety shows and lemonade stands. It was printed on paper and used for wrapping lemons, oranges, cheeses, hams, spools of thread, soap, chewing gum and cigars. The words "Stands for the Best Beer" were printed upon the white stripes of a reproduction of the national ensign placed on the back of trolley transfer slips.

Representations of the flag have been imprinted upon confectionery boxes, pillow covers, paper napkins, handkerchiefs, blotting pads and porcelain and crockery bathroom furnishings. The design of the flag has appeared in the form of clouts of prizefighters and contestants in athletic events and as the garb of clowns. The flag itself has been used to make sacks for the transportation of coal and other merchandise.

As the result of the efforts of the American Flag Association, which is made up of committees representing many patriotic societies, and of the societies themselves, there are now laws intended to protect the flag from desecration on the statute books of thirty-two states and the territories of Arizona and Porto Rico. The federal government has also forbidden the use of the flag in registration of trademarks, and the United States Supreme Court has affirmed the constitutionality of flag legislation by the dif-

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