



The American Woman in Alaska

By Mrs. A. W. Greely

Wife of Famous Explorer Tells of Her Experiences in the Far North—A City Where It is Nearly Always Raining—The Gateway to the Klondike—Hardships Endured by Army Officers' Wives and Other Women.

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(Mrs. Henrietta N. Greely, wife of Gen. A. W. Greely, the distinguished arctic explorer, has traveled widely and as a result of her observations has written for publication with considerable success.)

From the nation's capital to Alaska is a far reach. Crossing the Alleghenies through the mining regions of Pennsylvania, so picturesque except where defaced by man's grimy pursuits; through busy Chicago; rushing over the western plains; across the Rockies and we find ourselves on the evening of the fifth day at Seattle, embarking on the steamship Humboldt for the famous inland passage.

Here on the ship I am surprised to see how many women are traveling to Alaska. Of course, the inland passage has been a favorite trip for 15 years or more, but the large proportion of women among the excursionists, many of them in parties of two or three without escorts, indicates that conditions have materially improved in this part of the world.

On the third day we reach Juneau, opposite which is Douglas Island and the great Treadwell gold mine. It is remarkable that the largest stamp mill in the world should be found in this wild. An act of congress made Juneau the capital of Alaska. The town is built on the side of a hill so steep that the houses seem to be hanging from it.

As illustrating the weather of Juneau, it is said that an old Indian woman, on being asked if it always rained in Juneau, after a moment's hesitation, replied: "Sometimes it snows." It was raining as we entered the harbor, but we were not deterred from a stroll through the town.

The late Prof. Park, of Andover, Mass., always gave generously to charitable objects. Several years ago the Sunday school children were interested in getting funds for the "Thanksgiving dinner for the Little Wanderers' Home in Boston." A little boy who was soliciting for this dinner approached the professor's residence and found the venerable gentleman pacing to and fro on the board walk in front of his house.

The little fellow was quite bashful, but being anxious to obtain the professor's donation stated his errand. The reverend gentleman stopped in his walk, and as he looked down at the embarrassed lad a kindly twinkle crept into his eyes.

the vegetable dyes, which produce the tender, mellow tints for which Alaskan baskets were formerly noted, for the aniline dyes with their crude, bright colors. The supply of local baskets does not equal the demand and many are imported from the United States, to be brought back by travelers.

Skagway, the termination of the inland passage, was reached on a Sunday in August.

Skagway resembles Juneau in the character of its rough frame buildings, but there are fewer indications of woman's taste. One good stone building attracted our attention. We were particularly struck with the evidence of precaution against fire, of which there is a great dread in Alaskan towns. There is an army post here and the soldiers have acted as firemen very efficiently in many instances. We attended the Episcopal service, which was held in a small room over a store in one of the rough buildings peculiar to Alaska. There were about 30 persons in the congregation. A small parlor organ was very well played by a Minneapolis woman, a teacher of music in the town, and the choir consisted of four persons.

Such a wonderful trip as we had over the White pass! Skagway and Dyea, situated on either arm of Lynn canal, unheard of in June, 1897, were towns of some thousands of inhabitants the following October. They are the gateway respectively of the White pass and the Chilkoot pass. The only two convenient entrances to the Yukon country, these passes were made known to the world by the misery resulting from the rush through them when gold discoveries were first made in the Klondike region. As the White pass was selected for the railway, Skagway steadily grows.

My attention was attracted, on the passage up, to a family disembarking at Juneau. The man, the proprietor of a shop, after two years alone in Juneau, was returning with his family. The little wife appeared very much dissatisfied with the first view of her new home. I noted that it was the women of the middle class who seem to object most to life in these wilds. The poorer women accept the discomforts as pertaining to their life anywhere and the few women of the higher class who find themselves in this country rise superior to the small daily trials of life in a new and unformed community. The wife of an old army officer who surprised her son in Alaska by a visit found herself compelled to pass the winter in a log cabin 15 feet square, which was the best habitation her son and his two partners in the gold fields were able to offer her.

The wife of a river captain, who was also the daughter of a clergyman, was "coming out" after having passed the winter with her husband in his boat tied up at the mouth of Stewart river, which empties into the Yukon about 75 miles from Dawson. She seemed a very superior woman and her experiences were most interesting. She told me that she had absolutely enjoyed the winter, although she had not seen a human being but her husband and the five employees of the boat through the entire season. The captain and herself had read aloud to each other and played endless games of piquet and other games. They had walked regularly twice a day on land, although snowshoes were necessary. She had done a large amount of beautiful embroidery, necessarily by lamplight, and had busied herself in the care of house plants.

When she determined to pass the winter on Stewart river, finding a great demand for well-made dresses in Dawson, this lady disposed of the greater part of her wardrobe at prices far beyond cost. On her return to Dawson in the spring a luncheon was given her by a number of friends, and being asked what special delicacy they could provide, she expressed a wish for something fresh after her long season of canned goods. A watermelon was the result of the conference, which later she was startled to learn had cost \$7.50. This was not so bad, however, as \$25 had been paid in Dawson for a single melon.

The ever vexatious servant question is naturally more acute in Alaska than elsewhere. Wages vary with one's ability to pay. The wife of an army officer stationed at Fort Egbert, who had brought in a Japanese cook, under contract at \$75 a month, was forced to part with him at the end of a few weeks, as he was offered \$125 a month. The wives of the officers at Skagway were doing their own work, having also lost for higher wages the servants they had brought to Alaska with them. But no hardship or difficulties seem to deter the American woman, particularly of the army, from what seems to be her place and duty. There is scarcely a camp in Alaska, however remote or unpromising, that is not graced by the presence of refined women.

BOY WANTED THE MONEY

At Least He Was Truthful, if Somewhat Undiplomatic.

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TRADE AT HOME

Why Farmer Should Give His Support to the Local Merchant.

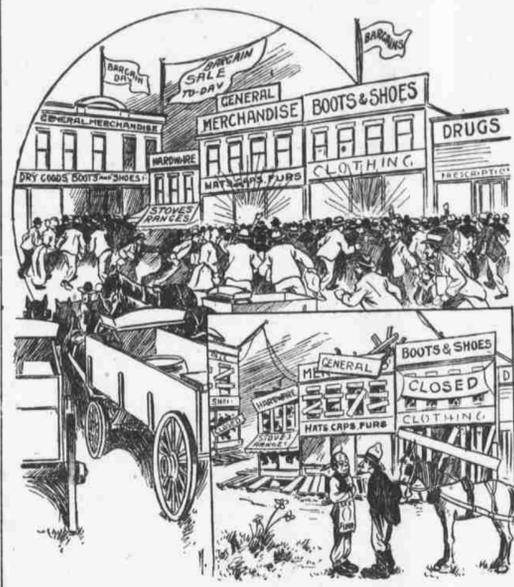
PRESERVES HIS OWN MARKET

Depreciation of Village Property Must Inevitably Mean Depreciation of Agricultural Property and Encouragement of Monopoly.

(Copyright, 1906, by Alfred C. Clark.) The most serious problem that confronts the rural towns and villages of this country is the competition of offered local enterprises by the catalogue houses of the large cities. It is a problem for which a solution must be found if the prosperity and stability of the nation is to stand.

And the solution of this great problem lies in the hands of the people of the towns and villages and the farms, especially the farms.

The people of the rural communities have everything to lose and nothing to gain by sending their money to the catalogue houses, by passing by their local merchants and sending their dollars to the concerns who have absolutely no interest in their communities.



Give your town a chance by patronizing your local merchants and you may confidently expect its growth in business and population and a raise in real estate valuation. Send your money to the catalogue houses and you may look for the reverse. The picture tells the story of the possibilities.

These catalogue houses do not pay taxes in your town; the local merchant does. They do not build sidewalks in your town; the local merchant does. They do not contribute to the building of roads over which the crops of the farms are hauled to market; the local merchant does. They do not help to build school houses for your children; the local merchant does. They do not assist in the support of your churches; the local merchant does.

Let us look at the subject from the standpoint of the farmer, for it is the farmer who is the greatest patron of the catalogue houses. The town or village one, two or three miles from his home is his market for the butter and eggs and other produce of his farm. The half dozen or more merchants of the town, each one a competitor that affords to the farmer at all times top prices for the products of his farm. It is these half dozen merchants that make farm profits possible; the profits are in no way due to the catalogue houses of the cities.

But the farmer persists in sending his dollars to the city. He wants a buggy, or a set of harness, or a pair of stockings, or any of the necessities or luxuries of life, and to get them he takes out his mail order catalogue and looks at the finely printed cuts, reads the well written description, and, passing the local merchant by, the merchant who has purchased his produce at the best market prices, the merchant who has helped to build the community, he sends his dollars to the catalogue house in the city and takes what they choose to send him.

What is the result? One after another the doors of the local stores are closed, and where at one time there were half a dozen merchants, each bidding for his share of patronage by offering fair prices for that which the farmer had to sell, there is now but one merchant who has a monopoly, not only of the selling, but of the buying as well, and he pays what he pleases for the farmer's produce. The farmer can continue to send his money to the catalogue house in the city for his supplies, but he cannot send his produce to the same place. In disposing of that he is absolutely dependent upon his local merchant, and by his patronage of the catalogue houses he has killed competition, and must now take whatever is offered for what he has to sell.

Mr. Farmer, are you helping to kill the goose that is laying your golden eggs? Are you sending your dollars to the catalogue houses and by so doing killing the local industries of your town? Are you putting your merchants out of business, and creating a monopoly that will pay you what it pleases for the products of your farm?

HAVE ODD BELIEFS

PET SUPERSTITIONS FOUND THE WORLD OVER.

Strange Remedies and Means of Warding Off Disease—Mystic Number Barred From Austro-Hungarian Hospitals.

"Pet superstitions and delusions can be found in every household. When there is a case of sickness in the house and some domestic animal dies you will find that some think the patient will surely recover. The most persistent superstitions in the world are those that are based upon the habits of animals," said Dr. J. Dudley Morgan, of Washington. "If one is walking at night and a spiderweb brushes the face it is supposed to mean that a ghost is following, but in daytime it tells that a stranger is coming. The neigh of a horse is a portent of death which will come from the quarter from which his head is pointing when he neighs."

"The hair of a dog, the skin of a snake and the pelt of a black cat are believed to possess medicinal qualities, while the handling of a toad is said to give warts. German Canadians are full of superstition. A white spider crawling toward one, the howling of a dog, the sight of a snake all foretell death. The killing of a toad or the crowing of a hen foretells rain. If the cat washes its face it means that visitors are coming. If a bee stings kill it and the wound will not swell. The black tooth of a hog and the blood of a black hen have curative powers."

"In a certain district in Germany the touch of a corpse's hand is still regarded as curative of many local ills. Less gruesome is the remedy for hernia still applied in the marsh country. On the night of St. John the Baptist's day, June 24, a patient must be dragged through the split of a cleft ash tree. Three men bearing the first name of John must perform the operation and it must be conducted in dead silence. For erysipelas a fire is lighted and a pinch of ashes from it is rubbed on the skin, to the accompaniment of a saying to the effect that the ashes and the sore went over the Red sea together, the ash came back but the sore never again."

"Recently in Georgetown a policeman was bitten by a supposed poisonous snake and the old remedy of killing chickens, cutting them open and applying them to the bite until the chickens were cold and did not turn black was tried. Twenty-six chickens were used on the policeman in extracting the poison. This remedy for cramps is used to-day in other places than Georgetown. 'On going to rest put your slippers under the bed and turn the soles upward.'"

"In the wards of Garfield hospital last fall there was a patient who insisted on keeping several apples under his bed to help the dropsy. The things that people will carry within their pockets, wear around their necks or bodies or put on their fingers are legion. Have a white potato in each pocket of your trousers and you will never be troubled with rheumatism or if you suffer with cough and cold exchange the potato for a lump of camphor. No doubt there are some of us who now have a horse chestnut in our pockets or are wearing a nickel ring. Several years ago the writer was induced by an intelligent and considerate friend to wear a nutmeg for obstinate boils."

"In no other western European country is superstition so prevalent as in Austria-Hungary. Quite recently the chamberlain's office changed the number of box 13 in the Imperial opera house and the Imperial Court theater because the public objected to sitting in a box bearing this unlucky number. But this superstition reaches its height in medicine. Speaking of the health exhibition, Dr. Heinrich Gran declared that in many instances superstition, and especially local superstition, was an absolute means to public health. In the Austrian hospitals one finds no ming or pavilion 13, no ward 13 or staircase 13. Very few patients will consent to be operated on on the thirteenth. And in that respect Friday, too, is considered just as unlucky."

Severe on Arabian Women.

In a recently published book on "Carthage and Tunis" the author gives the most unattractive pictures of Arabian women. The Arab himself he says, is generally "beautiful and romantic enough to turn the head of almost any woman," but the women seem to be dirty, fat, silly, idle and what we should really call vulgar in mind as well as in appearance. Obsequy seems to be a sine qua non of Arabian women, and figures have usually lost all their outline by the time they make a good marriage. Yet the craze for western clothes seems to be growing upon these Tunisian beauties. It seems they take a great interest in the blouses of English visitors, and when a harem can be penetrated it gives the occupants exquisite joy to finger and study the dress of their English sisters.

Contributory Negligence.

"The family far waxed fiercer. 'You may talk about my being to blame for our marrying,' shrilly exclaimed Mrs. Vick-Senn. 'John Henry, did I hunt you out and make love to you?' 'No!' he snorted. 'But you could have given me the glassy eye and sent me about my business, and you didn't do it, madam—you didn't do it!'"

Common Variety Here.

"Any big guns around here?" asked the stranger who was taking up subscriptions for a high-toned magazine. "No, neighbor," replied the postmaster of Bacon Ridge, "but we have plenty of old guns." "Old guns?" "Yes, you will find them behind the stove talking politics. They are out of date, rusty and always kicking."

No Smoke Nuisance.

"No," said the pessimist, dimly. "I don't expect to get to heaven. My luck 'll be the other place, 'll bet you." "Well," replied the optimist, "even if we do go there we may find that they use hard coal."—Philadelphia Press.

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STATE ODDS AND ENDS

REPORTER DETECTIVES.

Police Chief Recommends That They Be Given Police Power.

Cleveland, O.—The police reporter in his native state is a highly intelligent being and can give the best police department sleuths cards and spades and then beat them at their own game, in the opinion of Chief Kohler, who bosses the Cleveland bluecoats.

In his annual report to Mayor Johnson Kohler makes the recommendation that the police reporters employed by the various Cleveland dailies be given police powers.

"Because of their peculiar training the police reporters are best fitted to mingle in all classes of society. They are quick and decisive in thought and action. I wish to give the regular detectives full credit for their ability, but the nature of police work in a city of more than half a million population is undergoing changes to which the present detectives can not always adapt themselves."

"The force should be enabled to have police reporters at its command, men of sufficient training and ability to be able to mingle with any class of society, and who would not be known to the public as being in the employ of the city."

"IT WOULD KILL MOTHER

If I Married You To-Day," Said the Tearful Bride.

Marion, Ohio.—After six years of ardent courtships, during which time his marriage to Miss Mabelle Topfiff, aged 21, of La Rue, has twice been postponed, Correll Bell, aged 24, cashier of the Big Four Railroad at Union City, Ind., left Marion for Union City convinced that the third time charm is a humbug.

Bell, who is a son of School Superintendent R. M. Bell, of La Rue, arrived here Thursday. He procured a pig and drove to the home of his sweetheart. There he found the entire family in tears. The minister had come and gone.

"It would kill mother for me to marry you to-day," said the tearful bride. "Very well," shouted the would-be benedict, "I'll go back to Indiana, but it will be the last time I'll ever marry you."

The license was returned.

GEN. WARNER IN RACE.

Announces Candidacy For Insolvency Judgeship in Cincinnati.

Columbus, O.—Each succeeding day brings to light another candidate for the insolvency judgeship in Cincinnati. Gen. A. M. Warner, one of the old-school attorneys of the Queen City, called at the office of Gov. Harris to urge his own appointment to the vacancy.

Gen. Warner was formerly commander of the Grand Army of the Republic. He has a splendid war record, is widely known in Cincinnati and has the endorsement of many of the older members of the bar, as well as of veterans of the civil war.

Boy Blinded by Toy Cannon.

Hamilton, O.—Anthony Fuerst, 15, of 1067 South Second street, will be blinded for life as the result of a New Year accident. The boy was preparing to welcome the New Year with a toy cannon, when it exploded. His left eye was destroyed and the right one will probably be lost also.

Alkin Law Valid.

Cincinnati.—The Alkin liquor tax law, which increased the old Dow liquor tax, is a valid law. This is the decision of the superior court in general term. The per curiam opinion decides in favor of the law, as the burden of proof to show its invalidity has not been sustained.

Divorced Anyhow.

Upper Sandusky, O.—Herman E. Stutz was granted a divorce from Grace Stutz, of Toledo. The proceedings were the outcome of his damage suit for \$10,000 against former Prosecuting Attorney Benjamin Meek, which was decided in the defendant's favor.

Judge Banker Sued.

Findlay, O.—Probate Judge Gideon G. Banker was sued by his sister, Mrs. Flora McConea, for \$207, alleged to be due for boarding his daughter Mamie. Mrs. McConea is the wife of T. H. McConea, an attorney for the Standard Oil Co.

Critic Shoots Piano Player.

Springfield, O.—Not liking the tune that Mrs. Roma Young was playing on the piano, Henry Bowman, a laborer, boarding at the same house, drew a revolver and shot her. The wound is said to be developing dangerous symptoms.

Charmed Life, This.

Columbus, O.—Falling 400 feet in a mine cage did not result fatally to Edward Garightly, a miner, who was received at St. Francis hospital for treatment. An examination disclosed that bruises about his legs were the only injuries he sustained.

Books Show Discrepancy.

Dayton, O.—A gigantic discrepancy is said to exist in the affairs of the Dayton Gas Light and Coke Co. According to present figures, it amounts to \$200,000, with the possibility of its being increased to half a million.

Widow Mediums His Downfall.

Youngstown, O.—Widow mediums were the downfall of Leonard A. Ulle, according to the allegations of a petition for alimony filed by his wife, Jennie B. Ulle. She names two widows who she says, are Spiritualistic mediums.

Hamilton's Growth Shown.

Hamilton, O.—The growth of Hamilton was attested by the report of the Hamilton post office for December. The receipts for the month were \$7,279.47, an increase of \$1,075.92 over December of the previous year.

WAS MAKING UP TIME

When the Cleveland Street Car Struck a Trolley Pole.

Cleveland, O.—Eight persons were severely injured on a south-bound Euclid and West Fourteenth street car at the corner of West Fourteenth and Fairfield avenue, where a patent electric switch failed to work, throwing the car against a trolley pole.

The car was in charge of I. R. Peters, conductor, and Ed. L. Froby, motorman. There were about 30 passengers on board. The motorman was making up time. In some manner, which he is unable to explain, the front trucks turned, while the rear trucks kept on the straight track. Before the speed of the car could be slackened it described a perfect arc and struck an iron trolley pole.

Conductor Peters was hurled against the platform and received a broken arm. Two strangers who were standing by his side were painfully injured, but declined to receive medical attention. D. D. Jago was sitting on the rear seat and was pushed through the window, sustaining a serious cut below the knee.

NURSE GOES INSANE

As Result of Being Bitten By a Negro in Hospital.

Dayton, O.—A deplorable case has come to light at the Miami Valley hospital here, in which Miss Grace W. Merrill has lost her mind and had to be taken to her home in St. Johnsburg, Va.

Miss Merrill was bitten by a vicious negro in the hospital last October, while she was cleansing his mouth and caring for him in the regular course of her work while a nurse-student at the hospital.

All that medical skill could do for a patient was done for Miss Merrill, but no practical relief has been afforded her in her great affliction.

The condition of her insanity has now resolved itself into a fear of every one who approaches her.

Miss Ella P. Crandall, matron of the hospital, accompanied Miss Merrill to her home.

FORCED TO STEAL

Was the Child Wife, According to Her Confession.

Lima, Ohio.—Claiming her husband had coerced her into many thefts about the city, Nellie Doyle Davis, the child wife of William Davis, made a complete confession of a startling character. She was arrested a week ago, charged with robbing the cloakrooms at St. John's Catholic Church during Christmas services.

She alleges her husband made her drink a half pint of whisky, then escorted her to the church, and waited for her reappearance with the stolen garments. She further states that her husband made her choose between being a thief or receiving the attentions of other men.

Davis has left the city, but the grand jury will investigate the child wife's story.

WEBBER MARRIES.

Former Congressman and Bride Leave For Washington, D. C.

Medina, O.—Former Congressman Amos R. Webber, of Elyria, and Miss Nettie Finch, of Hineley, this county, were married by Rev. Charles Seales, of the Free Baptist church, Hineley Ridge, where Miss Finch had made her home. They left immediately for Washington, D. C., where Mr. Webber is working with leading ministers for the passage of a bill prohibiting the sale of liquor in the District of Columbia.

Two Codifiers Take Oath.

Columbus, O.—The oath of office was administered by Chief Justice Shauk, of the supreme court, to L. C. Laylin and H. L. Sibley, members of the state codifying commission, and they organized by electing Mr. Laylin chairman. Hon. James E. Campbell, the democratic member, was not present.

Attempt to Organize All Trades.

Cleveland, O.—Concerted effort is to be made by the American Federation of Labor to organize all the trades in the state of Ohio. This city will be the headquarters of the movement. T. F. Flynn, national organizer, will have direct charge of the work.

Drop in Marriage Licenses.

Findlay, O.—During the year 1906 341 marriage licenses were issued in Hancock county, against 374 for 1905. There were 75 divorce petitions filed, making one in every fourth couple agree that marriage was a failure.

Harris is Committed.

Toledo, O.—Lem P. Harris, former city clerk, was adjudged insane and committed to the state hospital. Harris was at one time one of the most prominent political lights in this section of the state and was republican candidate for mayor.

Waylaid and Stabbed.

Youngstown, O.—Waylaid in an alley in this city, Joseph Woodworth was stabbed in the groin, by Joe Saphor, he says. Both men are Slovaks. There was an old grudge between them.

To Form Aero Club.

Cincinnati.—Norman G. Kenna will urge the business men of this city to form an Aero club. Mr. Kenna invited the Aero Club of America to start the international balloon races from this city next October. The club, however, selected St. Louis.

Treat For the Commissioners.

Columbus, O.—Gov. Harris and Attorney General Wade H. Ellis have accepted invitations to address the annual meeting of the Ohio Association of County Commissioners to be held at Dayton January 8.