

# ALASKA AND THE SEAL.

## EPOCHS LEADING TO THE BEHRING SEA MIDDLE.

Uncle Sam's Northernmost Possession—Its Discovery by Russia and Subsequent Purchase by the United States—The Trouble with England.

### A Prehistoric Land.

HERE is the most profound ignorance prevalent regarding Alaska generally. The territory is the ultima thule of northern travel upon the American continent. It is a land of furs and fish, of gold and silver, of mist and mystery. The summer seasons of recent years have brought thousands of tourists to its beautiful waterways, and it is difficult to believe it is still a terra incognita to the great majority of our countrymen. But somehow the very name is so suggestive of wintry wastes and arctic silences, of great ice-floes and towering icebergs floating upon lonely seas, that even among persons of great information it is only a geographical expression, bestowed upon an isolated domain, and covering but little space upon the extreme northwest portion of the maps of North America, without any regard to the seals by which the other States and Territories are delineated.

In reality it is a colossal domain, nearly as large as all of the United States lying east of the Mississippi River, or three times as large as France. So vast is it, so varied its climate, its productions, and its native people, that the description of portions of it as compared with others is like telling of countries widely separated. Here is a giant territory belonging to the United States, extending more than 1,000 miles from north to south, whose area embraces nearly 600,000 square miles, whose coast line, washed by the waters of the Pacific Ocean, stretches from latitude 54 degrees 40 minutes to Point Barrow in the Arctic, which holds within its boundaries probably the mightiest river in the world, for it is entirely within the bounds of honest statement to say that

and with it the main land of Alaska, were discovered.

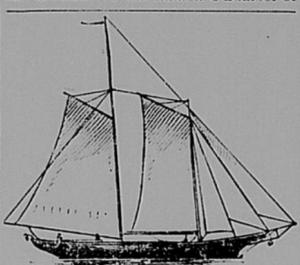
In 1781 two captains of the imperial navy, Krenitzin and Leva-hoff, sailed from Kamchatka in two government

vessels. The former passed the succeeding winter at Kodiak, the latter at Unalaska. The land and the sea were alike the habitats of an immense number of



A DRIVE ON THE ISLAND.

costs of this corporation, a law was enacted by Congress in 1868 prohibiting the killing of any mink, sea otter, sable, fur seal, or any other fur-bearing animal within the territory of Alaska or the waters thereof.



SEALING S. HOOPER UNDER SAIL.

valuable fur-bearing animals, and stimulated by the great profits to be derived by a traffic in skins, expeditions were constantly fitted out at the ports along

the shores of the Sea of Okotsk and the mouth of the Anoor River, for voyages of trade and exploration in the new country. It has been estimated that no less than twenty-five different companies with quite a fleet of small vessels were thus employed as early as 1772.

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that more seals were caught in 1891 than during any previous summer called for prompt action on the part of the President of the United States.

It is undoubtedly true that a continuance of pelagic hunting adjacent to the islands will, within a short time, either exterminate the seal or intimidate them so that they will seek other breeding places. Testimony of officers of sealing vessels, as given before the Alaskan court, is to the effect that they do not secure more than one-third of the seals killed on their hunting expeditions. The method of slaughter pursued on the islands by the company is as follows: From the herded animals, who gather in great numbers on the rocks, a selection is made of such as are valuable and can legally be killed. These are driven inland for some distance, when they are clubbed to death and immediately skinned. The Aleutian natives, who are employed by the company to do this work, are very expert, and accomplish the killing and skinning with great rapidity. The skins are counted, salted and baled, ready for shipment.

All this is done under the eyes of a special agent of the United States Treasury, who is appointed expressly for the purpose. The skins go to London, where at the annual sales the market price is established. They also go there to be cleaned and dyed, the latter process being a trade secret which has been retained inviolate by one firm for many years. An abandonment on our part of jurisdiction over the entire waters of Behring Sea, as determined in the case cited, means the ultimate extinction of the industry, and any concession proscribing this area is a virtual abandonment of our original claims.

### MURPHY FAILED TO DIE.

And Spartacus was Bullied by a Red-Headed Irishman.

It was at a certain East Side theater recently that a tragic story of medium standing produced in the course of his repertory the well-worn tragedy of "Spartacus," says the New York Commercial Advertiser.

Late in the afternoon the management was notified that the gentleman who had been accustomed to portray the fighting Gaul in the arena scene had succumbed to the grip and wouldn't be around that evening. After an hour or so of sharp hustling for a substitute a Milesian of diminutive proportions was secured, and there being no opportunity for a rehearsal he was told in a general way what to do and informed that he was to give up the ghost when the star told him to do so.

When the evening came the stage manager and his assistant rigged up the volunteer in breastplate and helmet, gave him his little tin sword, and at the proper moment turned him loose in the arena.

The star opened the combat by giving his antagonist a lively crack in the ribs. This roused the latter's Celtic blood and he retaliated by whacking the star's helmet in good gladiatorial fashion. Pleased by this display of enthusiasm on the part of a tyro, Spartacus smote the fighting Gaul in the neck by way of encouraging the same and received a sharp jab in return.

For two minutes the battle was a sharp one, when the star, who is a stout man and not much given to exercise, began to retreat.

"Die, Murphy, die!" he hissed between his teeth, as he vainly tried to dodge the trip-hammer blows the Gaul aimed at him.

"Divil a bit," hissed the fighting Gaul in reply. "O'bye just clapped me eyes on the tarrier that's runnin' agin me for sargent-av-arums in our society an' it'll never do for him to say me late!"

# AT THE WORLD'S FAIR.

## THE EDUCATIONAL EXHIBIT TO BE MADE.

Experienced and Enlightened Educators Have Been Put in Charge of the Department and a Good Showing Will Be Made.

### Will Show Our Progress.

One of the traditional ideas that Young America never fails to take in is that our free schools are superior to those of any nation of the whole world. It is too bad to break any idol so generally and so fondly worshipped or to smash our self-esteem too rudely. But those who have traveled in Germany and in Sweden and Norway and some other countries and have carefully examined the school appliances and educational systems, have usually come back with serious doubts, at least, whether our boasted free schools were equal to the systems of those countries.

Certainly those of our people who attended the Centennial Exposition at Philadelphia must have had their eyes opened on this matter. Our own exhibit did not compare favorably with that of Russia in some respects; for example, as to technical schools, manual training work and appliances for hygienic instructions. Sweden had erected a model school-house and it showed that that country was ahead of our own if this was to be taken as the average country school-house. It is pretty well understood that America has been behind Germany in kindergarten schools until within a few years. Even now little is done in the rural districts in this most successful method of teaching the youngest children.

At New Orleans the American exhibit was better than that at any previous World's Fair. But it would seem that Japan, so lately awakened from barbarism, showed more progress in some of the industrial departments and in kindergarten than most of her sister nations much older in civilization.

At Paris in 1889 the French had a model elementary school-house, and here again our average country school-house was put into the shade. In the manual-labor schools the French excel, as proved by the objects shown from the schools of wood and iron workers, dress and artificial-flower makers, designers of jewelry and bronze work.

"Yes," some one may say, "we can admit that in some specialties of schools for skilled industry those countries may excel our own; but in the advantages of common schools for all the people, the United States must be ahead." Are we quite certain of this? The fact that the pilgrims, in the sixteenth century, started their schools and higher schools and colleges, and that this might then have been an advance over what the common people enjoyed in Europe, does not prove that we have kept pace with all modern improvements.

Just here is where comes in the plea for the fullest and best possible educational exhibit at the Columbian World's Fair. First we wish to show the rest of the world what we have that is superior in furnishing and equipping the school-house and in the appliances of instruction. But it is far more important that we have there our best models from the different States in order that each State and our educators and all our people may see wherein improvements may be made, each in his own State and his own school district.

It is fortunate that an experienced and enlightened educator in the person of Dr. Selim H. Peabody, of Illinois, has been put in charge of the department including education. Hon. W. T. Harris, Commissioner of Education for the United States, has for a year past argued that this great matter have a systematic treatment; that ample space be allowed to have the educational exhibits all together. The effect and the practical results will be greatly heightened by carrying out this suggestion. Even if we must blush to find that frozen Sweden and Norway, or Germany with its oppression of militarism or Switzerland with its poverty of agricultural resources or tax-burdened France, each may excel us in some respects in their educational systems and appliances, yet if we gain information by the object lesson and are stimulated to adopt whatever is an improvement on our own we will not regret the comparison. In this way the educational exhibits of all nations, grouped together so grandly as is proposed, may prove of incalculable benefit to our country.—Western Rural.

### Hints for Teaching.

Written Work—Too much written work remains in many of our schools. The little pupils have to write words and sentences over and over too many times, and older ones too many pages of geography and history, instead of examining, thinking and comparing; work too many problems on slate or paper, rather than learn the reason, to explain and apply the few simple principles of the subject, in their varied applications, under the guidance and stimulating influence of a skillful teacher in oral recitation.

Few things are more painful to a thoughtful observer than to hear one or a dozen pupils glibly relating some event, in all its little details, in precisely the same words, as if written, rehearsed and committed to memory. As it seems to me, this does not make thinkers; does not cultivate the reasoning powers or make independent speakers.—Report.

### Educational Intelligence.

The 200 girls of the Woman's College, Baltimore, have decided to wear a uniform cap and gown.

SCOTIA SEMINARY in North Carolina, the fine seminary for colored girls, is achieving great success.

The pupils of the Doylestown, Pa., public schools have about \$1,400 to their credit in the National Bank.

The Tulane University at New Orleans has been presented with \$100,000 by Mrs. D. T. G. Richardson.

The Augustana University Association at Rock Island, Ill., has purchased ten acres of ground north of the college buildings for \$26,000.

A new educational magazine, having for its name Southern Education, and for its field what that name implies, has just come into existence.

The San Jose Normal School, Cal., is much excited over the abolishment of Bible reading at its morning exercises—a custom of thirty years' standing.

The young Emperor of China has begun to study English, being instructed by two of those connected with President Martin's Imperial College at Peking.

Miss Mary Mack, a teacher in the public schools of Nazareth, Pa., has

been appointed by the Provincial Elders' Conference of the Moravian Church at Bethlehem as a teacher in the native school of the Moravian mission, at Bethel, Alaska.

ON account of the breaking out of scarlet fever among the students, the Wyoming Seminary at Kingston, has been closed. There were 400 students in the institution.

EX-PRESIDENT HAYES is giving much of his time to educational matters. He is a strong advocate of a proposed manual training department at the Ohio State University.

A PSYCHIC congress will be one of the features of the Columbian Exposition, which will be attended by theosophists, spiritualists and believers in occult science generally.

THE English governess who has been selected to teach the children of the King of Spain will have a salary of \$3,500, a residence in the palace and as many servants as she may desire.

THE teachers in the public schools of Baltimore have opened war on the cigarette. The teachers say that smoking cigarettes causes boys to become nervous, dwarfs their growth and inflames, poisons their lungs and blood, and unfit them for their daily duties in the school-room.

### THE COST OF ARMED PEACE.

Europe is Poorer by at Least \$1,000,000,000 a Year by It.

In Europe to-day 3,000,000 men, the physical flower of the continent, have been drilling, marching, and countermarching, practicing at targets, learning the use of bayonet and saber and performing as neatly as is possible in sham fights the evolutions of actual war. It was so yesterday and last year and through all the yesterdays of twenty years. Seven times during this period has the personnel of this vast host been renewed; consequently there are now about 20,000,000 Europeans not yet beyond middle life who have been trained to the fighter's profession and who could at briefest notice take their places in the active army or in the reserve.

Every city has its barracks and parade ground, says a writer in the Forum; every frontier frowns with a double row of fortifications. At the end of the nineteenth century Europe, from the Douro to the Don, is a camp wherein ten times 300,000 of her able-bodied men are bivouacking, ready at a sign to spring to arms and slay each other. The spectacle is without parallel in the history of the world. Even in the boisterous days of antiquity, when wars were frequent, fighting was the business of comparatively few. Alexander's phalanx and Caesar's legions were composed of picked men who adopted the soldier's career and followed it until they were retired or killed.

So, too, the armies of Charles V. and Philip II., of Gustavus Adolphus, and Turenne, varied in numbers from year to year. The majority of Napoleon's old guard and of many of his regiments of the line fought through a dozen campaigns, and he regulated the quota of each year's conscription according to each year's needs. But our generation has witnessed the expansion in Europe of a military system as severe in time of peace as the old systems were in war-time, a sort of perpetual levy en masse.

Measures which once have been deemed unjustifiable, except in the most threatening emergency, are now employed every day, and what was the standard of war has been fixed as the standard of peace. Under the new system every eligible man is, at given ages, withdrawn from his trade or occupation and converted for three or five years into a soldier, till he becomes proficient in firing a breech-loader and in the appropriately named goose-step, after which he may go back to his civilian calling, but with the liability of being summoned to fight at any time until he is 45 or 50 years old.

The economic waste which is due to this system needs no comment. To estimate the sum we must reckon in not only the money actually spent on food, clothes, lodging, arms, and ammunition, the salaries of officers and the stipend of common soldiers, besides the building and repairing of fortifications, but also the wealth which these idle multitudes could produce, were they profitably employed. This computed, Europe is poorer by not less than \$1,000,000,000 a year. Her armed peace during the last twenty years has cost her as much as she paid for all Napoleon's terrific campaigns from Lodi to Waterloo.

### A Scotch Recipe for Orange Marmalade.

Before the orange season wanes wise housewives will lay in a stock of orange marmalade for late spring and early fall breakfasts. Here is a genuine Scotch recipe for it: Pare the oranges as thin as possible, and cut the rind into tiny strips. Cut the oranges into four pieces, and put them in the jelly pan with water enough to cover them. Squeeze them the while with the hand until you can bear the heat no longer, and then press the pulp through a clean hair sieve. Add the chips of rind, and to every English pint of juice allow one pound of sugar. Add the juice and grated rind of one lemon to every four pounds of oranges, and the juice of two sweet oranges to every pound of bitter oranges. For jelly, proceed as above, omitting skins and chips. While the jelly is boiling throw in the rind of a couple of sweet oranges and of two lemons, but remove them when the jelly is turned out.

NOW that the largest private yacht in the world has been built for the Count Stroganoff there is another opportunity for some pure-proud American billionaire to justify his existence by having one built which shall be larger yet.

A COAL dealer can't be a musician. He can never learn to run the scale accurately.—Pineblanton Republican.



CLUBBING.

the Yukon River, the vast deltaic mouth of which opens into Norton Sound of Behring Sea, discharges every hour one-third more water than the Mississippi. Also Mount St. Elias, whose estimated altitude, 19,500 feet, makes it the monarch of all mountains on this continent. Vitus Behring was a native of Denmark, who entered as a Captain the newly formed navy of Peter the Great. His known ability and daring displayed in the wars with Sweden led to his being appointed to conduct a voyage of discovery in the Sea of Kamchatka. He crossed the continent from St. Petersburg to Kamchatka, where he superintended the construction of a vessel which was named the Gabriel. In July, 1788, he sailed in this vessel to the north and east, discovering the Island of St. Lawrence, which he named in honor of the saint on whose day it was discovered. He continued northward until he reached what he supposed was the northern extremity of Asia, and was satisfied that the two continents were separated by the sea. Returning to St. Petersburg after passing through the sea and straits which bear his name, with the fixed opinion that there was a large body of land to the eastward, he aroused the spirit of discovery and induced his government to continue the explorations. Again in 1793, with a commission of Admiral and under the auspices of the Russian government, he repeated the journey across the desolated wastes of Siberia, and in June, 1741, set sail upon the voyage fatal to him, but fruitful with great future results. In July of that year he sighted the American Continent at 50 degrees north latitude. Some authorities claim at 58 degrees, but the former rests upon the statement of Stellar, who accompanied the expedition, and is probably correct. He discovered several of the Aleutian Islands, which our government claims form the chain which bound Behring Sea to Russia, and, since the

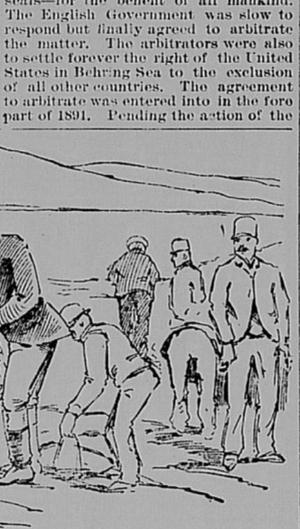
many of the inlets and islands and much of the main land were explored and settlements established. In 1786, a Russian named Gorbman Pribylov, sailing from Unalaska in a small sloop called the "St. George," discovered the islands which bear his name, located in the heart of the Behring Sea, and now far famed as the only seal rookeries in the known world.



SKINNING SEALS.

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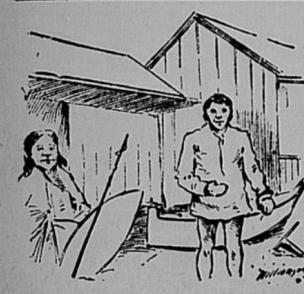
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BEHRING SEA AND PRIBYLOV ISLANDS.

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AN INDIAN SEAL HUNTER.

transfer of Alaska, the possessions of the United States. On this voyage he also discovered the Komandorski group or couplet. On the largest of these, now bearing his name, he was shipwrecked and died Dec. 19, 1741. But an indomitable spirit of enterprise and discovery had been awakened among the Russian people, and almost immediately traders, hunters, and adventurers made their way from island to island, until the whole Aleutian chain,