

ALASKA GIVEN PUBLICITY BY BUREAU

The Alaska Publicity Bureau furnishes the following information in its monthly bulletin, just received:

The Alaska Sulphur Company, a Chicago concern, has started operations on its property on Akun island, one of the largest of the Aleutian group and lying about forty miles west of Unalaska and Dutch Harbor. The sulphur deposits to be developed are situated near Lost Harbor which is open all the year. Fourteen different drifts have been made and it is estimated that the sulphur now in sight amounts to 560,000 tons. The deposits are of unknown depth and the ore goes 50 per cent sulphur. The ore is soft, chalky substance and can be easily handled with pick and shovel although steam shovel will be used. It is very heavy, weighing from 55 to 60 pounds per cubic foot. The company owns 400 acres of land, and a tramway two miles long will be required to transport the ore from the mine to tidewater. A refinery will be built at the harbor this year and the product will be ready for marketing when it is loaded on the steamer for shipment south. The mine is expected to operate the year round and will employ from 80 to 100 men. The Akun property is said to be the only sulphur mine on the Pacific coast regions of the continent.

To Experiment With Fish Hatcheries

The recent legislature made an appropriation of \$80,000 for the purpose of experimenting in fish hatcheries with the view of perpetuating the stock of salmon in Alaskan waters. It is expected that work in that line will begin within the next three months.

Hail, Hail, the Gang's All Here!

For the past months every steamer from Seattle to Alaska has been sold out both in freight and passenger accommodations for weeks before sailing and the same conditions still prevail. The result is that Alaska is herself again and all lines and branches of business are taking on new life. In addition to the cannery contingent, hundreds of old timers who went outside last year, having bid Alaska goodbye forever, as they then asserted, are back to remain and many more are coming. Indications at present are that the northland will this year regain much of the population it lost during the two previous years and it is certain many who are now returning will carefully consider the matter before again giving up their homes in Alaska for the uncertainty of what is known as "the outside."

In the Shadow of Mt. McKinley

A letter to this bureau from the chamber of commerce of McGrath, Alaska, a thriving little community which nestles within the shadow of Mt. McKinley's majestic peak, says a dredge now in operation on Candle creek is demonstrating that great placer wealth exists there in addition to great bodies of gold, silver, and copper ore, the latter carrying as high as \$120 to the ton. A number of homesteads in the McGrath vicinity have been taken up and all kinds of crops are being cultivated successfully and with profit, garden truck being grown and matured to perfection. Like many other outlying districts in Alaska roads are the dying need of that locality. There are several canneries and other fishing industries in that part of the territory and prosperity and contentment stalk hand in hand.

Congress Is Memorialized

According to action taken by the late territorial legislature the congress of the United States will be asked to appropriate \$400,000 for the purpose of assisting Alaska in the great work of developing her vast resources, principally mining and agriculture, the two great industries which go toward securing a population that will be permanent, and at the same time prosperous and wealth producing. Millions of acres of waving grain and cattle on a thousand hills are not only possibilities but probabilities of Alaska in the not distant future.

Alaska's Great Wealth of Seals

That Alaska's seals are not diminishing in number is attested by the fact that only a few days ago a government launch carrying a large crew of men arrived in Alaska and proceeded to the Pribilof Islands in Bering sea where 30,000 male seals will be slaughtered "for the good of the order." And just here a short description of the sealing industry in Alaska under government control is opportune:

The surplus males can be selected for slaughter, as are domestic animals, and the taking of thousands of them

each year can be safely done without impairing in the slightest degree the birth rate.

Under the old leasing system, which lasted for 40 years until terminated by congress in 1910, young male seals to the number of 2,320,000 were taken by the lessees, who paid an annual rental and royalty on each skin. The skins were salted and shipped to London and there sold at public auction. After being dressed and dyed by a secret process, 70 to 80 per cent of the skins were imported into the United States and made into garments for the use of our people. But all this is now ancient history. Gone is the leasing system with its attendant objectionable features; gone is the shipping of Alaska skins to London; gone are the dressing and dyeing of such skins in London.

When the business history of America is written, one of the most noteworthy achievements recorded of the 20th century will be the part played in 1914 by the department of commerce, acting through and in behalf of the bureau of fisheries, in upsetting the unbroken practice of upward of two generations and decreeing that government-owned fur seal skins should no longer be sent abroad at increased expense and sold for the benefit of foreign merchants, but should be sold at home for the immediate benefit of American merchants and American trade. This decision, made at a time when the fur market was in a depressed condition, required strong administrative convictions, and was not only justified by the pecuniary results of the initial sales, but has been more than warranted by the impetus given to the whole American fur trade, by making America the great fur seal market of the world and by the establishment in America of a plant where raw seal skins may be dressed and dyed, thus putting an end to complete dependence on Europe which Americans heretofore have had for every prepared seal skin used in making garments. The effects of this new dispensation have been strikingly exhibited in the past year, following the resumption of commercial sealing, by greatly increased revenues to the government, increased trade and diminished cost to the public of the most serviceable of all aquatic furs. A logical outcome of this would be the adoption of the Alaskan seal as the national fur, a consummation that the bureau of fisheries is endeavoring to bring about.

To Young Men of America

If you are not subject to cold feet; if you do not become weary while making the grade; if you are not afraid to take a chance, come to Alaska. If you have a few thousand dollars with which to start something after your arrival, so much the better. This is a country of mighty possibilities. It offers unrivaled opportunities for mineral prospectors, fishermen, those seeking homes for purpose of agriculture, stock raising, hunting, trapping any many other pursuits. It is America's last frontier. Are you game to take a chance on it? Don't come expecting to find gold nuggets growing on trees or full larders with out exertion on your part. There are many positions here but employers are leary about contracting labor by mail. Those who apply in person are the ones who secure the positions. It is proverbial of Alaska that a deserving person, man or woman, can invariably secure honest employment at good wages here. Don't come if you are quitters.

Special Election June 3.

Owing to the death of Delegate-elect to Congress Charles A. Sulzer, a special election will be held on June 3 to fill the position. The late Mr. Sulzer had the respect and esteem of all regardless of party and his death was a serious blow to Alaska.

"Alaska Has Changed"

The Rochester, N. Y., Chronicle says: "Of a truth it is a far cry to the days, not so many years past, however, when it was literally true that 'There is no law of God or man runs north of '53.' Those were rough crude times, and the law of the gun and the strong arm prevailed. Now things are different. Alaska is a civilized country, and it has a bureau of publicity. From this we learn that this region of the supposedly frozen north is one of the most delightful places on earth. It is asserted that Alaska is dotted with churches and schools; her children are the most health and vigorous in the world, and that land may be secured in chunks of 160 acres by a residence of fourteen months and the payment of \$125 an acre. For several years we have received reports of certain elements of wealth which which Alaska is favored, but the real publicity 'stunt' is just nicely under way. After all is said and done, it would appear that the 'folly' of Seward was one of the wisest actions ever taken by the United States. Making all allowances for press agent hyperbole, there is

good reason to believe that Alaska has great possibilities, and that our last frontier is likely to become notable in the future."

Mines and Mills Working Full Time

The several big gold quartz mining industries of Alaska are now in a much more prosperous condition than at any time since the United States took a hand in making the world safe for democracy more than two years ago. During the greater part of 1917 and all of 1918 the mines and mills worked from half to two-thirds of their capacities but now they are all operating full time and the world's supply of gold will be materially increased in consequence.

No Stenographers Are Needed

At present the demand for stenographers in Alaska is inadequate to the supply and those engaged in that profession who have positions where they are should not leave them to come north. Verbum sat etc.

School Teachers Are Mostly Engaged

It is now rather late in the season for those desiring to teach school in Alaska to apply for positions for the coming school term as the majority of the positions have already been filled. As a rule the teachers employed in the Alaska schools are the very best that can be procured from the states and as a result the schools of this country are up to date and compare very favorably with those of the most progressive localities elsewhere.

Watchful Waiting.

The Alaskan Engineering Commission has well based hopes that the special term of congress soon to convene will vote the desired appropriation for continuing the work of pushing to completion the government railroad now under way from Seward to the Tanana valley. In the meantime, however, it will not be advisable for laborers to flock to the westward until congress comes across.

Is Very Extensively Circulated

The Monthly Bulletin of the Alaska Bureau of Publicity now has a mailing list comprising all the members of both houses of congress, the commercial bodies and all the newspapers of the United States. Write for further information on any and all subjects pertaining to Alaska.

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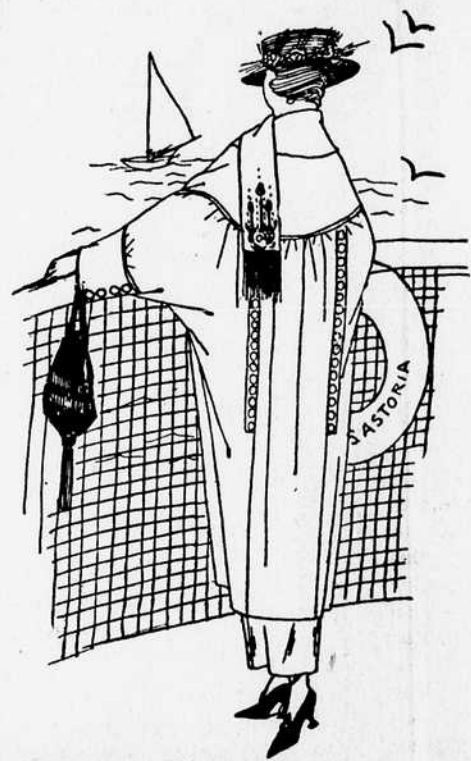
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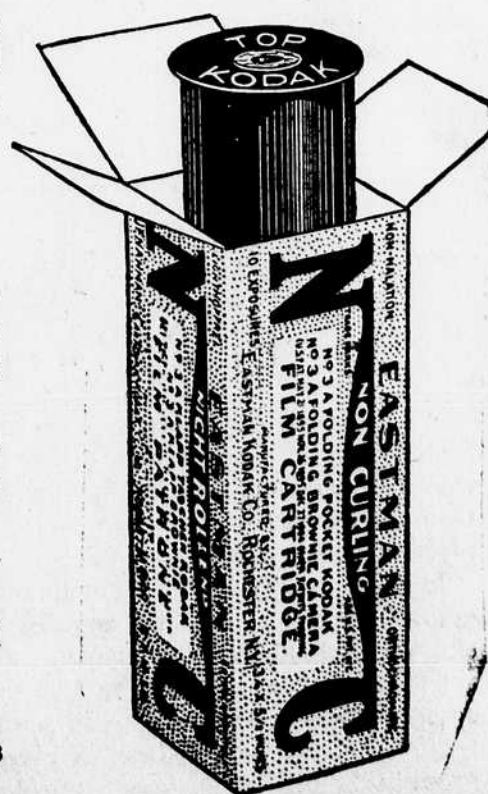


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