

Southern End of Alaskan Railroad Opens 400,000 Acres of Rich Land

BY Frank G. Carpenter

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Grazing and Dairying Possibilities of Alaska Being Realized and Homesteads Are Rapidly Being Taken Up by American Homeseekers.

A Song of Songs

It's Called: "ARE YOU HALF THE MAN YOUR MOTHER THOUGHT YOU'D BE?"

By NELL BRINKLEY

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The girl of the dream and prayer for, all other things and wealth and power! - Are you half the man your mother thought you'd be?

SUNRISE, Kenai Peninsula, Alaska April 22—This letter is about the Kenai peninsula and the short valleys just north of it, through which Uncle Sam is now building the first section of the railroad from Seward to Fairbanks. I am writing at Sunrise, on the northern end of the peninsula, on the shore of Turnagain Arm. I am within a few miles of the end of the Alaska Northern railway, which Uncle Sam bought of the builders, and, as the crow flies, within 20 or 30 miles of Anchorage, the present headquarters of the railroad construction.

ing to the farming experts, this is the destiny of much of the region. They figure that the territory I have described will support 150,000 stock, and allow eight acres per animal. They say the country should be devoted also to dairying, and that properly used it should produce something like 25,000,000 pounds of butter or 55,000,000 pounds of cheese a year. It is at the same latitude as the parts of Finland and Scandinavian peninsula, which are celebrated for their butter and cheese, and the climate falls in this connection the island of Kodiak, about 100 miles or so west of Seward, also raised an excellent dairying and stock-raising center. The government has an experimental farm there. I shall write of it in the future.

The people add to the growing season by covering their vegetables in hot beds and hothouses and many of their potatoes indoors, putting down a layer of potatoes, then a layer of earth, and a layer of straw or sawdust. When the weather warms up they set out the sprouts, and thus gain several weeks on Jack Frost.

The Department of Agriculture has just completed a soil survey of the country. Two of its experts, Hugh H. Bennett and Thomas H. Rice, have recently traveled over it to estimate its farming possibilities, and their work will be accessible to the public through the department at Washington.

So far we have had no experiment stations on the Kenai peninsula, although there will be established to show what can be done. The experts of the department of agriculture say that early varieties of grain will mature, and that barley and oats will produce excellent crops. According to them 250 bushels of potatoes to the acre can be grown on the good soils without fertilization, and cabbage, lettuce, beets, turnip, garden peas and carrots can be raised without trouble. Strawberries have been grown in places, and there are wild raspberries almost everywhere. I have seen wild currants and blueberries in the woods. There is a low bush cranberry that makes very good jam, and a high bush cranberry that makes excellent jelly. There are also salmonberries and squawberries.

The best trees are on the best lands and near everywhere trees large enough for log cabins are to be had. So far much of the timber is protected by the government reservations, and in Seward they are highly valued for pulp, which has been brought from Puget sound, a distance as great as being between Cape Cod and the Mississippi. There is no reason that there is fairly good timber ten or 15 miles away. Indeed most people in Alaska think the country is overstocked. Uncle Sam's fears for posterity hanging, like Simbad's 'Old Man of the Sea', are not unfounded.

First Country Opened by Railway. And now let us take a look at the first country to be opened by the government railroad. It will be the Kenai peninsula and the Matanuska and Susitna valleys just north of it. Within a year from now there will be regular trains running across the peninsula from Seward to Anchorage, and the road should be completed from the latter town up the Matanuska valley to the coal fields.

The climate of the Kenai peninsula is far different from what one would expect from its place on the map. It is temperate rather than frigid, and it compares favorably with that of our north central states. The Japanese current which flows along the southern shores of Alaska makes it so warm that the sea never freezes at Seward. The greater part of Cook Inlet is open throughout the winter, and the warm coastal waters give the country a temperate summer and a winter that is only moderately cold. Here at Sunrise they have kept records for eight or nine years, and the winter temperature averages about 12 degrees above zero, rising to 17 above in December and falling to 7 below in January. The average spring temperature is about 21 degrees and in the summer the thermometer has an average of 51, although it goes up to 73 and down to 30 at some times.

The peninsula about as far north as Stockholm or Petrograd. This gives a long day during the summer, and in parts of June and July there is practically no night at all. The growth of crops is produced by the amount of sunlight they get, and for this reason the people claim that they have a growing season quite as long as that in the northern parts of the states. This being some time of the year continues until about in September.

Many Mining Camps. On the Kenai peninsula the only large center of population is Seward. The other settlements are mining camps or little collections of log cabins occupied by prospectors who are traveling over the peninsula, looking for gold. There are two such camps on Turnagain Arm. One is at Sunrise, where I am now writing, and another is at Hope, a few miles to the westward. Both camps have altogether not over two hundred inhabitants.

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Woman Saves France

Joan of Arc, Greatest of Women Patriots, is Burned at Stake As a Witch.

BY MADISON G. PETERS.

JOAN OF ARC, or more properly Jeanette d'Arc, afterwards known in France as Jeanne d'Arc, the maid of Orleans, was born about January 6, 1412, in Domremy, France, a town which she never learned to read or write, and through her mother's influence who made a pilgrimage to Rome, she spent much of her time in solitude and prayer.

When 12 she constantly talked of seeing visions and hearing angelic voices which told her to restore happiness to France and give aid to Charles VII, the weak-hearted Dauphin whose place was in jeopardy. These visions, together with the prophecy current in Lorraine that the kingdom lost by a woman (queen Isabella) should be saved by a virgin, helped to define her mission.

Abounding physical energy, intense mental activity and an abnormal sensitivity, nervous temperament characterized her youth. She was an amply daughter, charmingly unselfish, especially proficient in household work, and skilled in the use of the needle. She decisively repelled all advances made by young men and while performing the usual round of her duties was inwardly increased with thoughts far beyond the circle of her daily routine.

Undergone Severe Tests. She sympathized with the Orleans party in the divisions which rent the kingdom of France and was obsessed by the idea that she was called to deliver her country and crown her king. Her first her pretensions were laughed to scorn, but her persistence at last bore down all opposition. Her claims were submitted to several tribunals and after a final examination by the several faculties of the university at Poitiers, finding no evidence against her, she was declared a dealer in the black art, and her virgility removing all suspicion of being under the influence, her wish to lead the army of her king was granted.

Joan put on a male dress, a suit of armor, mounted a black charger bearing a banner of her own device, white, embroidered with lilies, on one side a picture of God, enthroned on clouds, on the other the shield of France, supported by two angels, together with a banner, representing the Holy Spirit. Her sword she declared would be found in the church of St. Catherine at her own village. Thus equipped she set her face toward the aid of Orleans. In the relief of hard-pressed Orleans, she drew the hearts of the English and the French with a new enthusiasm, the hardened soldiers quit their swearing, the French spirit again awoke, the enemy swept from the principal positions on the Loire, the village girl urged on the Dauphin to his coronation and three months later she stood beside Charles at Rheims, saluting him as king.

It is burned at the stake. Du Bois prevailed upon her to remain with the army, but her victories were followed by her capture. She was carried to carry Paris to the English, heavily fettered and flung into a gloomy prison, the tale of terror at the strange, white-clothed figure which they thought they saw. Joan was tried, now had their turn. The verdict of the University of Paris was unanimous that she was a heretic, and she was burned at the stake and her ashes scattered in the sea.

Mystery and Romance of the Zodiac

That Row of Starry Animals in the Sky Is One of the Most Ancient Inventions of Man's Imagination; The Moon Had Her Own Zodiac Once.

By GABRIEL P. ZODIAC.

By GABRIEL P. ZODIAC. It is a strange, old story, and astronomy? How did the ancient people calculate the months? It seems to me that the moon is the truest to the months and the sun to the days and the years. Mrs. B. G. Z.

The Zodiac is an imaginary band, or belt, encircling the heavens, marked out to the eye by a series of twelve constellations, and having the ecliptic or annual path of the sun for its central line. The Zodiac is usually said to have a breadth of 16 degrees, and is divided into 12 signs, and the paths of the moon, and the sun, and all the principal planets lie within its borders.

Many of its constellations, however, overlap the Zodiac on one side, or on both sides. Its precise time and place of origin are not known, but it is believed to have been invented by the star-gazers of the Euphrates valley several thousand years before Christ. It is probable that the name Zodiac, for thinking there were only 12 signs of the Zodiac; afterward they were increased to 13, and finally to 12. These original divisions were called Signs, and when the system had settled into complete form the Signs were named. In their order, beginning at the Vernal Equinox, or place where the sun crosses the Equator when coming northward in the spring, and running eastward around the sky: Aries (the Ram), Taurus (the Bull), Gemini (the Twins), Cancer (the Crab), Leo (the Lion), Virgo (the Virgin), Libra (the Balance), Scorpio (the Scorpion), Sagittarius (the Archer), Capricornus (the Goat), Aquarius (the Water Bearer) and Pisces (the Fishes).

With one exception these all represent animals, whence the name Zodiac, from the Greek word zoon, meaning animal. About 2000 years ago the constellation of the Zodiac, which bear the same name as the Signs and run in the same order, coincided in position with the Signs; but now, in consequence of the gradual shifting backward of the equinoctial points, toward the Precession of the Equinoxes, the Signs, which retain their original relation to the Vernal Equinox as a starting point, have retreated each into

Horoscope

Naturday, April 22, 1913.

VENUS gives promise of new activities for American women. They appear to be of a public character and may be advantageous in unforeseen ways. Theoretical matters come under influence apparently contradictory. Increased interest in the stage is predicted, but professionals may suffer from amateur or semi-amateur enterprises.

Women should be more industrious today, which promises great benefits. Hotel proprietors, restaurant keepers and all who make appeal to love of comfort are subject to a beneficial rule. According to ancient lore the giving of presents and the wearing of new clothing should be lucky today. Publicity, advance notices and what-ever tends to personal glorification should be exceedingly successful while this configuration prevails.

Political candidates and all who desire preferment are likely to find this government of the stars helpful. The good aspects of the sun tend to give loyalty, ambition, energy and popularity and this way is held most beneficial to the spiritual as well as material aspirant. Danger in agriculture through heavy rains and wind is indicated.

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Have you ever stopped to think of how you sat at another's knee

While she planned your future with you, pictured what a man you'd be? And you threw your arms around her, promised all you'd do some day—The happiness you'd bring to her when she was old and gray?

CHORUS.

Have you kept your promise to her? That you made while on her knee? Can you truly say? You're half the man today? That she always thought you'd be? Is she proud to be your Mother—Is it joy or sorrow in her eyes you see? Are you all she planned and prayed for—All she talked and scold'd and saved for? Are you Half the Man Your Mother Thought You'd Be?

ever, if no steps toward initiative are taken under this configuration. Lawyers and merchants, bankers and brokers have the anxiety of a week of delay and disappointment. The rule is a sinister one for the aged who may feel depressed and irritable, especially if they have any heavy responsibilities. Writing is subject to a fairly fortunate rule and love letters have a good omen. Preachers and teachers should find conditions rather favorable for the acceptance of theories regarding spiritual matters. The rise to prominence of leaders in occult thought is again prognosticated. Among these men and women who receive what are called old superstitions one or two great minds may be discovered. The western coast of the United States has a rule that presages unity in some issue of national moment that arouses antagonism. The United States Senate is subject to planetary influences making for scenes that are sensational some time in May. Rise in food prices is predicted in the summer and Venus' freshadows increase in the cost of all sorts of clothing the next few years. New aspects of the servant problem will develop, the seers forecast, but living problems will be simplified within the next few years. Persons whose birthdate it is may sustain heavy losses in money or business prestige, but they will not suffer severely if they avoid speculation. Children born on the day are likely to be exceedingly bright and clever. These subjects of Saturn usually are careless in money matters Venus is their principal ruling planet. Copyright, 1916, by the McClure Newspaper Syndicate.

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