

UNCLE SAM A CHEERFUL GIVER

Three Million Acres In the Far North Soon to Be Opened to Actual Settlers



Field of Alaskan Wild Cotton-Red Fox with Pramigan



Gustave Gervais



A Cape Nome Belle



Miner's Cabin in Bullion District



Specimens of Alaskan Wild Flowers

BY a recent order of the secretary of the interior about 3,000,000 acres of land in Alaska will be opened to settlers Sept. 30 next. This immense tract is at a distance of fifty miles from the arctic circle, and it has been held in reserve by the government for a national forest, but now that intention has been abandoned and the land has been made available for entry.

The reason Uncle Sam has been led to change his mind in regard to this tract is to be found in the demand which has arisen for land in Alaska suitable for settlement. Within a few years the popular notion in regard to his faraway northwestern portion of the national domain has undergone a complete revolution. During that period it has been demonstrated conclusively that Alaska can grow many other things besides icebergs.

Those who are engaged in preparing the exhibits for the Alaska-Yukon exposition, which is to be opened in 1909, have been both gratified and amazed at the evidences of natural productiveness which have come to light. The exhibit of the flora of the far north already on hand is a revelation to the botanist and the layman alike. It has been current in botanical tradition that

the whole number of examples of the vegetable kingdom to be found near the arctic circle did not exceed 500. Now comes a certain Gustave Gervais, a prospector of Whitehorse, not a botanist at all, who has promised to turn in to the commission a collection of 1,549 specimens of Alaska's wild growths, and he claims that there are at least fifty more which he expects to

show themselves at all. Thus it will be seen that plant collecting in the north country involves both time and patience.

A Picturesque Collector.

Gervais is a picturesque and interesting character. He is a native of Quebec and is about forty years of age. In 1897 he was carried north with the gold rush, but dropped off at Whitehorse, while his companions in the search for the seductive metal went on 480 miles farther. Gervais built a cabin by the headwaters of the Yukon and began to prospect leisurely. The life pleased him so well that he did not distress himself over the great finds which never came, but was content to experiment with his garden and small patches of grain. Two years ago he began to combine the occupation of prospecting with the collecting of floral specimens. Since that time whenever he meets a new specimen he carries it carefully to his cabin and mounts it.

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The collection now covers 400 feet of wall space in the cabin. Gervais has found only thirteen kinds of trees in the Yukon. A few hundred miles to the southward there are eight or ten times as many varieties. An interesting feature of the Canadian's collection is furnished by the mosses, of which there is a great variety, certain species being edible. Gervais finds also that the native grasses of the Yukon make excellent hay. There is a species of wild clover, too, which he believes to be equal to that raised in more temperate climes. In 1898 three horses went astray and were not retaken until three years later, when they had spent three winters in the open. They were in better condition than those that had spent the same time in the stable.

Gervais observed that as the great freight stages moved along the trail 500 miles in length, various cereals on route to the mining camps farther north fell from the bags. The next spring they sprouted and grew with

almost incredible rapidity, forming a head and ripening within a few weeks. Gervais has a large collection of these and he offers them as evidence that Alaska is destined to become a great wheat growing country.

Transportation Facilities Increase.

Most important of all to the development of the territory has been the marked improvement of transportation. The Alaska Central railroad now has about fifty miles of standard gauge track in operation north from Seward, and its roadbed will compare favorably with the roads further south. There are seven tunnels on this section, 3,800 feet in length, and they are ready to be opened to traffic. This line is reaching out for Fairbanks, 100 miles distant. Another railroad, the Copper River, had completed twenty miles of road from Cordova at the close of last season, and its grade will almost extend to Copper River. The strike has delayed this work in Alaska, but with the settlement of the difficulties will come the speedy extension of the roads. When the snow fall began last autumn the Tanana Mines railroad had thirty-six miles in operation. The Copper River and Northwestern railroad had completed about twenty miles of grading. To Nome and Arctic railroad is pushing its line northwestward, and the Alaska Short Line railroad with its southern terminus at Iliamna bay is about to push on to Nome. Some of these lines expect to reach the Kayak coal fields, in which coal is plentiful and of excellent quality for coking and general use.

All this sounds like business, and when it is remembered that the present permanent white population of the territory is now 33,000 it is not difficult to realize that things are being accomplished. The regular increase in the population now averages 3,550 a year, a figure which will be enlarged considerably by the opening of the government lands to settlers. Last year these dwellers in Uncle Sam's "new western refrigerator," as Alaska has been called by the skeptically inclined, shipped to the states nearly 500,000 worth of gold, silver, copper and fish products.

Not Too Cold For Politics.

In view of all this commercial activity it is no wonder that Alaska is ambitious to become a state and is already engaged deeply in the same of political extension. The low temperatures which are such a feature of this portion of the national domain do not interfere with the development of great political activity. "The territory already contains numerous citizens who expect to bear a hand in the transformation of Alaska into a statehood when it comes, and they are at present engaged in a laudable effort to bring it about as speedily as possible." In the less than two years that will intervene between now and the opening of the exposition great changes will be wrought in Alaska. Much that is now projected will be completed, or under way, and those who venture into this newest continental acquisition of the republic will be amazed at the extent of the earnest endeavor that has been made to disengage the popular notion that it was not designed for the permanent abode of man.

SILAS O. WOODSON.

Edward Robeson Taylor, New Mayor of San Francisco; Distinguished as Lawyer, Man of Affairs and Poet

PERHAPS poetic justice demands that San Francisco have a poet for mayor. At any rate, the new mayor, Dr. Edward Robeson Taylor, is a poet. He is likewise a scholar and a gentleman. One of his best known achievements is the translation into English verse of the sonnets of Jose de Heredia, the Cuban born, Spanish descended, French writing poet whose fame has come out from Paris to the ends of the earth. Dr. Taylor is also the author of many original poems. Four volumes of his own verses have been published. Fresh from the press comes a book of his "Selected Poems," all of his works in stock having been destroyed in the San Francisco fire. When his publishers brought out this edition rather than they not be entertained the remotest notion that the poet was to be mayor of San Francisco. Yet the author now enjoys the felicity of reading favorable reviews of his selected poems and also of the fourth edition of his translations from Heredia at the mayoralty desk—if he finds the time.

Dr. Taylor was selected by the reform dictatorship of San Francisco to succeed the convict mayor, Eugene E. Schmitz, not because he is a poet, but because he is a practical man of affairs, long distinguished as a lawyer, educator and administrator. However, the fact that he is a poet should increase his popularity as mayor, for San Francisco has more poets to the block than any city in America. The poet mayor for many years has been a prominent member of the group of verse makers at the Golden Gate. He is a many sided man, popular with the poets, the people, the politicians—everybody but the plugs. Being a man of high ideals, both civic and cultural, those who know him best are predicting that during his administration the plug only element will be eliminated from San Francisco politics. Half a century ago one of the earlier poets of the city, Bret Harte, wrote of the new city:

At Boonville, Mo., is the Kemper school, well known in the middle west, one of those institutions which are called "military schools." It is a school for boys, the students wearing uniforms and receiving instruction in military tactics along with the scholastic course. Young Taylor was sent to the Kemper school, from which he was graduated. He remained in Boonville for several years thereafter, working in the printing office of the Boonville Observer until January, 1862, when he removed to California.

Taylor studied medicine, taking his degree from Tolland Medical college, now the medical department of the University of California, in 1865. Apparently the practice of medicine was not to Dr. Taylor's liking, for he studied law and was admitted to the bar a few years later. In 1879 he was admitted to practice before the supreme court of the United States. Long before that, from 1867 to 1871, he was private secretary to the governor of California. That was his first official service. Since then Dr. Taylor has held several offices of public trust. He was a member of the San Francisco board of freeholders in 1886 and 1887, and again in 1898, when the board framed the existing charter for San Francisco. Since 1886 he has been a member of the board of trustees for the San Francisco Public Library, and for the past dozen years a member of the board of trustees for the San Francisco Law library.

Dr. Taylor has been vice president of the Cooper Medical college since its foundation in 1882. Twice he has served as president of the San Francisco Bar association. He is an honorary member of the Medical Society of the State of California. The doctor also belongs to the famous Bohemian club of his city, where he meets the poets. In that club all the literary lights and

artistic jewels which have dazzled the Golden Gate City for a generation past have fraternized with the city's new mayor as a brother bohemian. For the past eight years Dr. Taylor has been dean of the Hastings College of Law in San Francisco. The doctor was married in 1870 to Miss Agnes Stanford of that city.

From this record it will be seen that the new mayor has had ample experi-

ence in public affairs. For a poet he is truly a practical man, but let us not forget that he began his career as a practical printer.

Dr. Taylor's poetry is characterized by a philosophic insight into the meanings and mysteries of life and by a considerable degree of lyrical felicity. One of his most important works is a long poem in Omicron quatrains, entitled "Into the Light." Of this book George

Hamlin Fitch wrote, upon its publication in 1901:

"The poem treats of the great questions of life and death and immortality which Job discussed in the loftiest strain that has yet been reached by human writer and which Omar has embodied in his immortal quatrains. Dr. Taylor's philosophy, as pictured in his verse, has nothing of the softness of the epicurean or the sybarite. It is

ed in this light, how small and petty seem the strenuous attempts of those who seek notoriety in the brief day that is given before the night comes when no man can work; how mean the ambitions that spur on the multitude to eager rivalry in trade and pleasure! In that spiritual self culture which ends in the true philosophy no outside aid is of any avail. High aspiration, unselfish work, helpfulness to others,

best poetry. Here is no lascivious pleading of the lute, no linked sweet-ness to charm the ear, but in their stead we have much of the solemn melody of the greatest book of the Bible. At times the poet reaches a high level of impassioned verse, but in the main his words are even and measured as the tread of fate."

From this poem a few quatrains may be quoted as they appear in part the author's philosophy of life:

O garment of glory round us spread,
By beauty's crystal streams forever fed,
Divine expression of the mind divine,
Unchanging, changing, feeling, yet not

O music, thronged within the heart of things,
What tribute to thee every being brings!
What waves of thine through space's vastness roll!
What notes of thine great nature ever sing!

Man is not nourished on ambrosial food;
'Tis his to work and serve and not to brood.
And if the knife of suffering cut his heart,
The wound, it must be, carries with it good.

Though all the blossoms of thy heart be gone,
Though from thy bosom's bitter wells be drawn
But tears that hold the bodies of thy dead,
With freshened courage thou must still go on.

And should'st thou falter not thy keel may sweep
Serenity's unbounded, stormless deep.
Where mid its myriad islands of the blest
Thou may'st communion with the noblest keep.

Joachim Miller, Sierran seer, who lives up in the sunshine on the heights, a mile above a San Francisco suburb, once remarked to the present writer:

"I see no reason why a poet cannot be a practical business man. Why not?"

Well, why not? There is Joachim himself, who is said to have become rich from investments in Oregon gold mines, and there is his friend, Edward Robeson Taylor, brother poet, picked out by the benevolent dictators as the best available man for mayor of San Francisco.

ROBERT'S LOVE.

ANIMALS THAT FALL IN LOVE.

The passionate regard which pet animals and birds sometimes acquire for their owners is a striking illustration of what scientists have termed the higher sense of dumb creatures. Instances of dogs that, through grief caused by the death of their owners, have committed suicide by refusing food and drink and even by placing themselves on railway lines and in front of vehicles to be run over have been fairly common of late years.

The unique case, however, of a rabbit refusing food because its mistress had gone away came under the notice of the writer recently. The animal—a

beautiful Angora—had been presented to the lady by a friend and become attached to its new owner that it followed her about like a dog when out of the house. It refused to be fed by any other person.

The lady, who lived in the country, was ultimately obliged to stay in London for a few weeks, and because of the inconvenience of having such a companion in lodgings decided to leave her pet behind, but the latter was so obstinate that it made no attempt to return to save the life of the animal, which no sooner saw its mistress than it made a movement as though it would leap into her arms.

The case calls to mind that of a parrot belonging to a west of England family who became greatly attached to the young mistress of the house. The latter, a beautiful girl of eighteen, unfortunately died from pneumonia, and the parrot became as grief-stricken as the other members of the family—fact, the sad event would seem to have broken Polly's heart, for she never attempted to talk afterward and refused all her food. An attempt was made to force food down her throat, but the experiment was a failure, and four days after the death of her mistress the bird was found dead at the bottom of the cage.

Although cats may be said to be more domesticated than dogs, it will usually be found that they are more readily consoled themselves with a new mistress rather than grieve over the loss of an old one. Of course there are exceptions to the rule, and one of these proved that the affections of tabbies are not always of a flimsy nature.

A well known lady writer had a very pretty Persian kitten given to her years ago, and both became greatly attached to one another. Being compelled to go abroad in search of information for a book, the lady was obliged to leave her pet behind in the care of a lady companion who shared her flat and who was also attached to the puss.

Naturally one would have thought that the latter would not have taken much notice of the absence of its real owner under the circumstances, but a week after the lady had gone abroad it was noticed that her pet seemed ill. It refused its food, and an expert was called in who declared that there was nothing whatever the matter with the cat except that it was pining for its mistress.

The only thing which could save its life was her return, and as this was impossible the lady in whose charge the animal had been left was obliged to endure what she termed "a agonizing experience" of watching it slowly die of starvation because its mistress was not there to feed it.

THE ROUND WORLD.

German silver contains no silver, but is an alloy of copper, nickel and zinc. It is harder than silver. The best proportions of the alloy are 50 copper, 20 nickel, 30 zinc.

Pipes made of re-enforced concrete for transmitting water under pressure have been constructed. These pipes are really one continuous tube, each several hundred feet long. In diameter

they are from two feet to three feet, the longest single section being 500 feet. The inside is made smooth, planed lumber being used in the forms.

The Victoria Cross carries in England a pension of \$50 a year for private and noncommissioned officers. The cross is worn on the left breast, suspended by a red ribbon for the

army, a blue for the navy. It was instituted fifty-one years ago last Jan. 29. There are in New York city fifty-one blocks having more than 2,000 population each, and in many of the homes there are not the 400 cubic feet of space to an adult and 200 to each child, as the law requires.

The coronach, or mourning for the dead, is still heard in many parts of Scotland as well as Ireland. It is a weird chant, cries of lamentation being

mingled with remonstrances addressed to the departed for leaving friends and relatives.

The ancient city of Lyons, the third city of France, with a population of 500,000 vies with Milan in importance in the world's silk industry. No fewer than 40,000 people—men, women and children—are employed in the factories.

Dintulu, the Zulu chief once widely known and feared in war, has a

phophone with which he entertains his guests. He has also an organ, built in England, on which he plays himself.

The world's cocoa crop in 1906 was about 151,000 metric tons. Of this quantity Germany got over 25,000 tons.

Light haired people as a rule are longer lived than dark haired. The knighthood of Lieutenant Colonel Frederick Louis Nathan establishes a remarkable record, for this is the third

brother of one Jewish household who has earned knighthood in the service of England.

Electric furnaces at Notodden, Norway, are capable of producing about 1,000 tons of Chile saltpeter annually.

Police records show that there are twenty fewer women arrested in New York city each day than there were two years ago.

New York city as a whole can plead "not guilty" to the charge of race suicide, for an average of thirteen babies are born every hour in the twenty-four.

There are 161,127 persons in the Philippine Islands qualified to vote (500 pesos property qualification), and of this number 128,937 voted at the municipal election held there last year. During thirty days after a death in China the nearest relatives of the deceased do not shave or change their clothes.



EDWARD ROBESON TAYLOR.