

as much in mystery now as when first noticed.

That a people existed at some remote period in this section whose center of population is represented by eastern Wisconsin, who used copper articles of utility, and of ornament to a limited degree only, is established by the indisputable evidence of the articles themselves, mostly surface finds it is true. While the graves of more southern districts may show a preponderance of articles for ornament, the fact must be taken into consideration that the contents of graves, as a general rule, are not a true guide to the economic life of a people.

In a careful examination of a large assortment of copper implements numbering many hundreds, gathered from the farms of eastern Wisconsin, I find about 98 per cent constructed for utility, and 2 per cent for ornamental purposes. Fish hooks constitute about 10 per cent; awls and needles in various forms and sizes, 37 per cent; spears, 30 per cent; chisels, 5 per cent; knives, 8 per cent; axes, 3 per cent; spuds, 1 per cent; various bent and odd shapes, 4 per cent. I believe this proportion will hold pretty true for all the thousands of implements in copper recovered in the district mentioned. Thousands of implements are yet to be found, but it is doubtful if further light will ever be thrown on this subject to relieve the mysteriousness which surrounds them. They come to light from their earthly bed green, rust eaten and reduced in size by corrosion, but they shed no light on their past history. Many of them have already been entirely reduced and have left but a greenish blotch in the brown earth, and the ashes of the dead mingle with the ashes of their handiwork, and the problem of their existence is in the keeping of the Creator, where the ken of man reacheth not.—The Antiquarian.

## ISLANDS OWNED BY UNITED STATES

[Washington Post.]

Distributed over the mid-Pacific, in the neighborhood of the equator, are quite a number of small islands that belong to the United States. Most of them are from 1,000 to 2,000 miles to the south and southwest of Hawaii. Some of them are near the Gilbert archipelago, and there is a considerable cluster just about the lesser distance mentioned and directly south of the Hawaiian group, including, Ameica, Christmas, Palmyros and other islands of large size.

Christmas island is about thirty-five miles long. It got its name originally from the fact that the famous Captain Cook stopped there on Christmas day for the purpose of observing an eclipse. It is an atoll, or ring, or coral formation, inclosing a lagoon of water that has become so salty through evaporation as to be a veritable brine. Fishes thrown over the reef by storms are pickled in it, and remain perfectly preserved and good to eat for months.

These isles of the Pacific belong to Uncle Sam and number sixty in all. They have all been annexed to the United States under an act of Congress, which became a law August 18, 1856. The law, which remains in force today, declares that whenever any citizen of the United States shall discover a deposit of guano on any island, rock or key, not within the lawful jurisdiction of any other government, he shall be at liberty to take peaceable possession thereof, and such island, rock or key, may, at the discretion of the President, be considered as appertaining to the United States.

The discoverer is required to give

due notice to the department of state, with affidavits, describing the island and showing that possession of the same has been taken in the name of this country. He is obliged at the same time to give a bond, which is filed in the treasury.

The discoverer, at the pleasure of Congress, enjoys the exclusive right to occupy his land for the purpose of obtaining guano, and for this product he is allowed to charge only a certain fixed price, namely, \$3 a ton for guano delivered at the ship's side, or \$4 a ton for the privilege of digging it where it lies. Furthermore, he gives guarantee by his bond to deliver the guano only to citizens of the United States, and to be used in the United States.

The law also provides, curiously enough, that all offences and crimes on such islands by persons who may land thereon, or in waters adjacent, shall be deemed as committed on the high seas, on board a merchant ship of the United States, and shall be punished accordingly. The president is authorized to use the land and naval forces of the United States to protect the rights of the discoverer or his heirs.

But Uncle Sam's ocean empire includes a great many islands of far greater importance than the guano isles referred to. In Bering sea there are several very large islands, besides the little Pribylov group to which the fur seals resort.

This country owns the entire chain of Aleutian Islands, which separate Bering sea from the North Pacific. The inhabitants of these islands, called Aleuts, are particularly intelligent, much more civilized than the Eskimo, and bear a close resemblance physically to Japanese.

Off the coast of southern Alaska is a group of islands of great size, on some of which live the Thlinket Indians. These Indians are the most artistic savages in the world, being skillful wood carvers. Off the coast of southern California is the Santa Barbara group, comprising a number of large islands.

## OFFICIAL FACTS ABOUT ALASKA.

Prospective Alaskan gold-seekers and those interested in the territory will find a great deal of information in a pamphlet of 135 pages just issued by the bureau of American republics, Washington. Joseph P. Smith, director of the bureau, states in an explanatory note that the compilation was prepared as a part of the chapter on the United States for the commercial directory of the American republics, to be issued by his bureau during the current year, and was printed in separate form in response to the quickened interest in Alaska resulting from the late discoveries of gold in the Klondike region, and the demand for fresh and reliable information concerning the territory.

Chapter I deals with the location, area and population of Alaska; chapter II is devoted to the Indian tribes, chapter III to its geography and topography, chapter IV to climate, chapter VI to the forests and varieties of timber, chapter VII to its agricultural resources, chapter VIII to the fur seal and other fisheries (including treaties with Great Britain and the Paris award), chapter IX to its mineral resources and the Klondike region, chapter X to transportation facilities, and chapter XI to the territorial government. There is a comprehensive and careful index and an official map accompanying the publication, which is official in all that the word implies.

Chapters IV and IX are certain to have the greatest interest for those who contemplate a trip to the gold

fields the next spring. The former, which includes Chief Observer Moore's exhaustive report on temperatures in the Klondike district, concludes as follows:

There is a feature in this country which, though insignificant on paper, is to the traveler the most terrible and poignant infliction he can be called upon to bear in a new land. I refer to the clouds of bloodthirsty mosquitoes, accompanied by a vindictive ally in the shape of a small poisonous black fly, under the stress of whose persecution the strongest man with the firmest will must either feel depressed or succumb to low fever.

After reading this the thoughtful gold hunter will undoubtedly include several bolts of mosquito netting in his outfit. Chapter 9 describes in detail the various routes to the Klondike and the geological character of the Klondike district. A description of mining methods follows and the chapter closes with a complete transcription of the United States mining laws. All of the quartz through the gold producing region is so low in grade that only the most expensive machinery would insure a profit in mining it. There is nothing in the report to indicate that those who expect to find the mother lode from which the placer gold comes originally will meet with success, for in no instance thus far has rich quartz been found.

The pamphlet is particularly interesting from the fact that it presents so much information in a dispassionate manner that will commend it to the seeker after reliable data.

## DANGER OF THE LAW'S DELAY.

On Sunday, Aug. 8th, the anarchist Angiolillo murdered the prime minister of Spain. On Friday, Aug. 20th, he was executed. We do not know that even those malignant professors of his creed who exulted in his crime had complained that the legal processes in his case were conducted with indecent haste. Certainly the civilized world has not been shocked by the circumstances of his trial. The tribunal was a court-martial, but there was no lack of gravity and deliberation in its proceedings. He was not brought before it until the eighth day after the death of his victim, when the unreasoning passion and tumult of the populace had subsided. He was defended by an advocate who made a powerful plea for a benevolent judgment, and he was allowed not only to have a statement read in his name, but to speak in his own behalf so long as what he said was relevant to the issue. After suitable consideration the supreme council confirmed the sentence of the court-martial, but even then the final act was not immediately ordered. An interval of two full days was allowed for the settlement of his affairs and for the ministrations of religion, which he rejected. On the third day he paid the penalty of his hideous crime, and the record was closed.

On July 2, 1881, Guiteau shot the President of the United States. For many weeks Garfield lingered between life and death, but on September 19th the fact of murder was established. But not until October 14th did Guiteau plead to the indictment found against him. On November 14th his trial was begun and on January 25th he was convicted. On February 4th a motion for a new trial was denied and he was sentenced. During several days in May arguments on a bill of exceptions were heard by the court. On June 3rd a petition for a rehearing and on June 19th a writ of habeas corpus were denied. At last, on June 30th, two days less than a year after Garfield was shot and more than nine months