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FROM ALASKA.

Presidents Woodruff, Cannon and Smith and party returned from Alaska at 9:30 this morning (Saturday). They left Salt Lake City on Tuesday, June 25, for Portland, Oregon. At that time they had no program laid out as to how they would spend their time while absent. The object of the trip was to benefit President Woodruff's health, who was suffering from insomnia. He received relief as soon as he began to reach a lower level and when the party reached Portland, although the weather was very hot, he enjoyed his sleep to a greater extent than he had previously done. From Portland the party proceeded to Tacoma and at Tacoma embarked on Puget sound for Victoria, Vancouver Island.

While the party was proceeding from this city to the north the First Presidency had a conversation with Senator Thurston, of Nebraska, who described the visit he had made to Alaska and how restful and beneficial it had been. President Woodruff had long had a desire to visit Alaska and this conversation revived the subject in his mind. But the day the party reached Portland the steamer which had been making regular trips sailed from Tacoma for Alaska. While on the steamer en route to Victoria the subject of visiting Alaska was brought up again by the general manager of the Alaska Steamship company, Mr. C. E. Peabody, and in an interview he proposed favorable terms on which he would take the entire party on the steamer Willapa to Alaska and return. This company is making every effort to secure patronage. The Willapa itself is a small vessel and can only carry a limited number of passengers, but it has for a commander Captain George Roberts, probably the most popular man in that line of business in that country, at least the First Presidency and party had reason to place the highest estimate upon him, for he left nothing undone that would contribute to their comfort and happiness and that would bring them in view of the grandest scenery and the most notable places in the whole Alaskan and British Columbian waters.

The party remained on Vancouver Island and made visits around for twelve days and the Willapa called for them at Victoria. The entire trip from Victoria to Alaska and back to Tacoma occupied fourteen days and the party cannot express themselves too strongly concerning the delightful character of the voyage. Great pains were taken to have a well

supplied table and every point was visited that had the least interest. The vessel was moored directly in front of the Muir glacier, one of the grandest spectacles that the human eye ever witnessed. One can imagine the grandeur of this scene when it is realized that the front of the glacier is two miles long and rises from the surface of the water over two hundred and fifty feet in height and extends below seven hundred and fifty feet. Its length is one hundred and fifty miles and it has numerous tributaries. It is estimated to be greater than the whole number of glaciers in Switzerland.

While in this position they had the opportunity of witnessing the formation of icebergs of which Glacier bay is full. Thousands upon thousands of tons of ice break off from the front of the glacier and fall with tremendous crash such as the discharge of many-cannon might produce. While the vessel lay in front of this glacier the young and active members of the party ventured to explore the sides and the surface of the glacier and they brought back thrilling accounts of the wonderful crevasses and caverns at the bottom of which were rushing torrents and waterfalls.

A visit was also made to the wonderful glacier at the head of Takou inlet and in reaching this glacier they had a very good idea given them of sailing in the arctic regions for the vessel had to work its way through the icebergs, as we read of arctic navigators doing with their vessels in the icy waters of the North. There was no opportunity to land at this point but the view in front of the glacier was superlatively grand. There was what is termed a dead glacier to this in Takou inlet but it furnishes no icebergs and is not approachable. It is gradually decaying. Many other large glaciers were seen by the party, fine views of which could be obtained from the deck of the vessel as Captain Roberts took every pains to go as near points of interest as possible.

While the vessel was on its way north the captain thought he would obtain a supply of ice, so he ran up close to a large iceberg and as the vessel struck it the top toppled over and gave some of the ladies quite a fright as they did not know but that the consequences might be disastrous, but Captain Roberts knew his business and the party had the pleasure of seeing the unique spectacle of a vessel supplying its ice chest in the ocean from an iceberg.

In order to show the party everything that could possibly be reached, the captain refused to take

the Willapa up Gardner's inlet, a detour of 125 miles out of the usual track, and a place never visited by tourist steamers. The scenery at the head of this inlet was most sublime and awe inspiring. At that point the vessel was drawn up at the foot of a waterfall 400 feet high of majestic size, which came tumbling down the side of the mountain. Standing upon the vessel's deck, close to where it fell into the inlet, and looking upward as it came rolling down, the effect overwhelmed the party with an indescribable feeling of admiration. On the return the captain drew the vessel up along the side of a precipice which rose abruptly and perpendicularly from the water, except in places where it overhung the vessel, to a height of 1,500 feet, and then receded a little to double that height. The water where the vessel rested was no less than 1,500 feet deep. While at this point the name of the vessel and the date, and also the captain's name were painted upon the rock just above high tide mark. These scenes aroused feelings of admiration and praise for the creator who had raised such monuments to his greatness and power.

Numerous porpoises and whales were seen during the voyage, some of them in very close proximity to the vessel. On several occasions schools of porpoises sported along the side of the steamer for quite a length of time. While taking on a cargo of salted and smoked salmon at Bartlett's bay, several of the passengers cast fishing lines over the side of the vessel with very good success. Several large halibut and two young sharks were caught at this point.

Taking all in all, the grandeur of the scenery and the wonderful natures of the channels and waters through which they passed are indescribable, but all expressed themselves as having had a time of unalloyed enjoyment. President Woodruff's health was very good. He enjoyed his sleep the most of the time and his appetite improved. Since leaving Portland, however, the heat and the dust have oppressed him and he has not felt so well as he did while on the water. The rest has been of great benefit to him. He has been free from care as none of the party have received a word from home since the 6th until this morning.

A MISSISSIPPI MOB.

The Elders of the Mississippi conference met at Hominy Ridge, in the northeastern part of Franklin county, April 13th and 14th. The Saints of the Franklin county branch had labored industriously to erect a meet-