EXPLORING ALASKA.

THRILLING EXPERIENCES OF A PARTY OF SCIENTISTS.

The Strange Land of the Far Northwest Has Many Interesting Features—Gigantic Vegetation Where There Is No Rain—Ice Not a Volcano.

Mr. Israel C. Russell has returned to Washington from that region of eternal ice and snow in Alaska, where the highest peak in North America rises to an altitude of 19,000 feet from a glacier 1,800 square miles in area and as big as all those of the Alps put together.

Along the edge of the glacier, all the way from Icy bay to Yakutat bay, there extends a strip of green coast which is covered with luxurious vegetation. Strawberry vines cover the ground for miles, and the wanton fields are redened as far as the eye can reach with luscious fruit, which compares favorably in point of size and flavor with the finest grown in temperate latitudes. There are huckleberries, too, and "red moss berries," which are something between blackberries and cranberries, but of giant size, measuring nearly two inches in diameter. All the lowlands are carpeted with violets, buttercups, yellow avadrey flowers and clover will blossom. Here and there, in the midst of the vast ice fields, are the loveliest gardens wanted by the exciting scene.

There are plenty of grizzly bears in the region of Mount St. Elias, but Mr. Russell did not find them very dangerous. He says that his encounters with them reminded him of killing pigs. Of brown and black bears he saw and shot a great many. The expedition met with enough perils, however, to satisfy the most adventurous geographical explorers. Nearly all of the climbing had to be done up steep walls of ice and snow by cutting steps. At almost any time a slip would have precipitated the party down the frozen precipices thousands of feet. On one occasion they were descending when they found that an avalanche had carried away the steps which they had made in going up. The leader quite suddenly was swept off his feet, and they had to lower a man by a rope to step out another, there being no other way of getting down. Such incidents as this were not uncommon.

Avalanches were continually falling, rushing down the slopes with the speed of railway trains and with a roar like thunder that could be heard twenty miles away.

One night about 12 o'clock the party was passing over a bad place in the Agassiz glacier. Two men were in the lead, drawing a sled, suddenly they disappeared from sight, having fallen into a crevasse in the ice. Luckily they were caught upon a projecting ledge at the depth of about twenty feet, else they would never have been seen again. They were hauled out with ropes. The next day in the same neighborhood Mr. Russell descended to a depth of 1,000 feet and saw that the ice held over which he had just passed was gone, leaving an enormous hole of unknown depth. Another time one of his men tumbled into a crevasse, and was only saved by the pack (already described) which he had carried down through a chute in the frozen tunnel that had formed for him.

The Agassiz glacier is one of the four great glaciers which, together with a hundred small ones, flow out from the mountains at the north in the mighty Malaspina glacier, pouring their streams of ice gradually into the vast frozen sea. This glacier of Malaspina, from 1,500 to 2,000 feet thick, is interesting not merely because of its enormous size, but also by reason of the fact that it is the only one now in existence of the same type as the glacier which formerly covered all of this continent as far south as Philadelphia and St. Louis, leaving traces that are visible to this day in activities on the river.

A GLACIAL MELTING.

Where the land in that region is bare of ice the expedition settles on almost tropical luxuriance, and the Arctic jungles are well nigh impassable to the explorer. One of the chief obstacles encountered in threading there is a plant known as the "devil's club," which grows to a height of ten or fifteen feet, its stems running along the ground for some distance and then turning upward. Every part of its surface, even to the ribs of the leaves, is thickly set with spines, which inflict painful wounds, and bring off in the flesh cause festering sores. In the Lucia glacier occurs a most interesting feature in the shape of a glacial river which issues out from a mountain through an archway of ice. It is a mile and a half in plain view, and then is lost to sight in another tunnel. Where the stream emerges finally is unknown. No explorer has as yet been bold enough to enter the tunnel and drift through, after the fashion of Allan Quatermain and Umslopogaas. The greatest risk is such an undertaking would be from falling blocks of ice. At the mouth of the tunnel there are always enormous masses of ice detached and ready to be hazed from the dark recesses within. The air is filled with pulsations like deep organ notes, and it requires but little imagination to transform these strange sounds into the voices and songs of inhabitants of the icebox world. It would be supposed that Mount St. Elias was a volcano, and sea captains sailing on the Pacific have often beheld what they imagined to be smoke issuing from its summit, but this is a mistake, such is it probable that the alleged smoke was really snow lumbar that blown upward by the wind.—Washington Cor. New York Sun.

An Odd Bit of Wood.

In Galveston, in sinking an artesian well, which is now 2,000 feet in depth, gray and green clay, mixed with wood, lime concretions and pebbles, were found at a depth of 1,410 feet. The age of the wood is estimated at 40,000 years by Professor Shepley, and in the concretions which is 500 feet in thickness, he found seeds resembling apple and hackberry seeds.—Yonkers Herald.

A Famous Tree Destroyed.

The famous oak under which Tecumseh is supposed to have spent the night prior to the day during which he was killed in the battle, where he had retired to the mission of Fort Meldrin, was blown down, it is said, during a violent gale recently. The tree, which all writers in Michigan and Ohio was kept standing for years by supporters of stakes on all sides. The tree, it is reported, will be kept as a relic in the consent of Bear Orchids.—Philadelphia Ledger.

Love and Learning.

There is great satisfaction in believing that the educated girl is more affectionate than the uneducated, thinking from that proposition now seems would be because one of our more illustrious, wise lady of mature age who teaches the young idea, displaying the appetitively affection, all the great affection which had been distributing in her bosom during the years that she had been engaged with legislators and models of intellect. If education is a means of promotion with education, surely the young men who are out on moonlight nights seven decades hence will live in ecstasies.

That presupposes that education will continue to become more widespread. In the years to come there may be classes in emotional demonstrators of affection and instructors in the divine art of making love. Able professors will tell how and why the passage of the rose aromum will raise in each mother's breast a laughing, a yearning for she knows not what. Then she will reach the next class, and soon as she writes Q. E. D. after her first demonstration she will generously the will leave a sigh, scratch little her beautiful arms and cry for the sympathetic soul which signs and figures have shown her wants her.

And when, with all the education and refinement her instructors can give her, she leaves her alma mater, she will know more about the proper display of affection and lovemaking in a fine art than the girls of our day dream of. In my next incarnation I hope to be an instructor in a young ladies' seminary.—San Francisco News Letter.

Trials of an Undertaker.

"If I ever get back to London again," said a prominent undertaker, "I'll never go abroad as an undertaker, anyhow. You don't know what it means. Take a girl who has been used to doing something, who has been at the footlights with little impudence every night for months and years, who is considered pretty well up in her profession, who is all conditions, put her where she may be called upon any night to face a foreign public and never gets a chance to appear, and you have my situation.

"The salary? Of course the salary goes on, but no amount of money can satisfy me to work a life of unbroken disappointment. The strain of always being prepared for the unexpected is worse than that which comes from eight hours work. I would not accept a salary paid in the place, and here I am with nothing to do, on full pay, waiting for my chance. If that woman would speak her mind to—but it is too wicked to even think of getting by somebody's misfortune, but I am sick for the opportunity. An undertaker? Oh, how I wish, as I walk Broadway, that I was back in London!"—New York Herald.

American Butter in Europe.

Nicoll Anderson, undertaker, should at the Colorado agricultural experiment station, states with truth that American butter in Europe is depreciated, not because it cannot be made well in this country, but it lacks the uniformity, keeper qualities and flavor of the Danish or Goldenrod-Holstein export butter. The difference is caused, he says, in a large measure from improper treatment while ripening the cream. It has been shown by the Wisconsin and Texas stations that a yield of butter from ripened cream is 10 per cent larger than from sweet cream. H. W. Cass, of this country; V. Storck, of Denmark, and H. Weigmann, of Germany, hold that certain bacteria are an important part in the process of ripening, but we really know little or nothing of the changes that really take place in this process.

The professor hopes to find time in the near future to examine into this matter from an economic and sanitary standpoint and demonstrate: First, what happens when cream ripens? Second, how does the ripening of cream influence the quality of butter? Third, at what stage is cream ripe and by what every test shall this be ascertained? Fourth, a certain bacteria makes butter tallow, the butter principles oil, etc. This being the case the professor queries: Would a cream, separated by centrifugal, now from a new milked milk after pasteurizing (heated to 70 degs.), cooling and inoculation with a pure culture of the bacterian thought to produce the so called ripening, produce a better, more uniform butter than now obtained?—Field and Farm.

How rapidly the new United States navy is growing can be inferred from the number of first class new warships which this country could have ready for action in a month's time in case of war with Chili. Altogether there are five already in Pacific waters. They are the San Francisco, the Baltimore, the Yorktown, the Boston and the Charleston. The old wooden ships Yantic and Essex can be added, making seven in all. In two months this number could be increased by Admiral Walker's squadron of evolution, consisting of the flagship Chicago, the Newark, the Dessington and the Atlanta; and to addition Admiral Gherardi's squadron in the West Indies, the five cruisers Concord and Philadelphia, and the old wooden ship Kearsarge. All these vessels except the wooden ships named are of the approved new steel naval vessel pattern.

Islands of the Sea.

Some mathematicians of learn has been estimating the number of islands in the world, and has concluded in contradiction to hundreds of thousands. He says there are over 1,000 in the indian ocean of Japan. Strangely enough, he makes no reference to the Thousand Islands of the St. Lawrence or to the Thousands by our own Thousand bay, nor to the thousands of islands in the world. It was during these beautiful wooded little islands that the Indian Indian took refuge when they were scalped in fear by their barbarous foes, the Iroquois. Among the Scottishlike characters of the Iroquois could not successfully pursue them, and those who escaped in the islands saved themselves from the extermination which befell their friends.—Toronto Truth.

The Chicago Lake.

The Century declares scientifically that the time has come when all parts of the country should have lakes and help the managers of the World's fair from the work they are providing for them. It is not to be doubted that a great pride that this work should position of the exposition are the state exhibits and buildings. New York city has found back and shabby, managing of Chicago and doing all in her power opportunity to further and benefit the fair. This is especially true of the New York papers, moved by jealousy of the great city by the lake. New York city is so big and powerful that it does not need to be jealous of anything but the New York editors are laboring hard to create a different impression. At any rate it is not likely that Chicago would have to resort to during the fair in case New York had secured it.

The Century calls attention to the fact that the directors of the exposition have at their command a sum of money three times as large as was used at Paris in 1889. This sum is to be expended on the grounds and buildings. It is $10,000,000. Foreign countries are expecting to spend for the exposition $10,000,000. The world's fair ever yet had nearly so much money as this. The nations of the earth since historic times were never before so great, rich and well disposed to one another as they are now. Canada is going to aid generously with money and exhibits. Under these circumstances the states that are sending back empty handed will be ashamed of themselves.

The Century says of the Chicago grounds and buildings:

No attempt has has ever been held but had a site of such great natural attractiveness as that which has been selected for Chicago. It is not a mere matter of a few acres, but a tract of 1,000 acres in extent, with more than a mile and a half of lake front, and a depth of from one to two miles, with a variety of surface, from the lake to the city, which will enable the architects to produce a most beautiful and effective ensemble. The lake front is a mile and a half long, and the grounds are so arranged that the lake will be visible from the city, and the city will be visible from the lake. The lake will be used for boating, and the grounds will be laid out with a view of the lake. The lake will be used for boating, and the grounds will be laid out with a view of the lake. The lake will be used for boating, and the grounds will be laid out with a view of