

old military posts should be reoccupied or new ones established, each one should therefore be furnished with a steam launch swift enough to run down these canoes and large enough to carry a combating force equal to any village that it may be called upon to assail within the limits of its district. Tongas, Wrangel, and Sitka were the points within the Alexander Archipelago occupied by troops before it was ordered to be abandoned; but so many new industries have developed within that time, and other changes been made that vary their usefulness, that they should not be reoccupied or new posts established without a critical examination by the proper officers for such duty. The site personally selected at Killisnoo by the late Brevet Maj. Gen. Jefferson C. Davis, U. S. Army, at one time commander of the Alaskan Department, is well situated and constantly growing in importance.

The grasses of this country are in sufficient quantities to sustain the limited number of animals that would be required at a military station for police and post duty, and the fact that the character of the country makes it impracticable to use mounted troops effectively, if at all, makes the subject of small importance. Baled hay can be readily obtained for winter forage.

Water supplies for posts are unexcelled in the numerous mountain streams emanating directly from glaciers and snowbanks on the high hill-tops, and nearly all of these can be dammed at altitudes that would give ample reservoir for fire or sprinkling purposes or to conduct water through a post by a system of pipes. Such methods have already been used in the salmon canneries lately erected in this part of Alaska.

Wood is plentiful and fuel should be obtained as reasonable as at any post in the department proper. Yellow cedar and Sitka spruce, or balsam fir, is in ample quantities for timber, and a portable saw-mill would save considerable in the construction of a post in furnishing rough lumber, which is expensive from the high rates of freight to this part of the Territory. Coal has been found but not in proper quantity or quality.

While the hardier varieties of vegetables can be grown here with a little harder labor than in more temperate climates, I think that, in general, post gardens will be found to be failures, the limited areas of fertile soil, the ready access to Portland and Puget Sound markets, at much cheaper rates, and the uncertainty of success in a garden from year to year determining this. Such vegetables as can be grown here, and that would be more or less injured in their freshness by long transportation, would probably be raised in small gardens, while the standard varieties as potatoes, onions, &c., usually issued to troops, would be supplied by the proper department from the markets indicated, the ease with which they can be reached making the matter of post gardens of little importance compared with the isolated frontier forts.

The beef or fresh meat supply will be the hardest to meet, considering the well-known craving in the American soldier for good warm-blooded