

Barrow in the Arctic Ocean. The area of land comprised within the limits of Alaska has been estimated at 531,000 square miles, one-sixth of the total area of the United States.

The south-eastern part of Alaska, the narrow strip already mentioned, and which at the present time most interests us on account of its undefined boundary, is shielded from the open sea by a vast archipelago of islands, large and small, 1,100 in round numbers, most of these being mountainous throughout, and all covered with a dense growth of spruce, hemlock and cedar.

The islands vary in size from 125 miles in length to mere definitions. Beside the channels, straits, bays, inlets and canals found here, the fiords of Norway and scheres of Finland sink into insignificance.

As we proceed northwesterly along the coast, the mountains increase in height culminating in the lofty St. Elias on or near the international boundary. His foot is laved by the Pacific, while his snowy head is wrapped in clouds. Mont Blanc, the giant of European mountains, would need a pedestal 3,000 feet high to bring it to the height of our international landmark.

The highly mountainous character of the coast line continues to the extremity of the Alaskan peninsula.

On rounding the peninsula and following the shore line, a total change of the aspect of the coast can be observed. Low, sandy reaches and slightly elevated moorland cover the wide interval between the mountains and the shores of Bering Sea. Similar it is along the Arctic Ocean with occasional rocky spurs and steep cliffs.

The great highway of the interior of Alaska is the Yukon, one of the large rivers of the world. In some parts of its course, through the tundra regions, it is several miles in width. Its vast unsurveyed deltoid mouth makes navigation, with anything but light-draught vessels, impossible.

The length of coast line of Alaska's mainland and islands is nearly four times that of all other parts of the United States combined, being over 26,000 miles, while that of the rest of the United States, from Maine to California, is only about 7,000 miles.

The climate of the Alaskan coast regions is much milder, even in