

for the year was estimated as follows: Fur trade \$2,500,000; gold, (bullion and dust) \$1,350,000; fisheries, \$3,000,000; lumber and ivory, \$100,000; total, \$6,950,000. The United States census for 1890 gives Alaska a population of about 30,000; 5,000 whites and the rest natives. The next decennial statistics will show a large increase in commerce and in the number of white inhabitants.

The material resources and development of Alaska show to better advantage than does its moral status, yet the latter occupies a much higher plane than it did ten years ago. The territory was formally made over to a military force of the United States in 1867; provision was made only for the collection of revenue, the transmission of the mails, and the protection of public property. As late as 1880 the Secretary of the Navy mentioned in his report that there was no protection of personal property in the territory, except such as was afforded by the officers of the American ship *Jamestown*, which had been dispatched to Sitka, some time before, because of the fear that, without the immediate presence of the national authority, there was impending danger of anarchy. In 1884 an act of Congress was passed providing that Alaska should constitute a civil and judicial district, with a governor, judge and other officials to be appointed every four years by the President with the consent of the Senate; the same act appropriated \$25,000 for educational purposes.

Whilst the Czar held sway in Alaska his tender care would no doubt have been lavished upon that noxious plant, religious intolerance, had it had any but a theoretical chance of taking root. No one in those days undertook to share the direction in spirituals with the state-serving Græco-Russian bishop and his assistants; they attended to the whites, but seemed to have made little effort to enlighten the dusky sons of the forest. Time has worked changes; the Czar's bishop still officiates in his church at Sitka, but other places of worship have been opened in different parts of the territory. Juneau is the residence of a Catholic priest who also attends Sitka. Most gratifying to contemplate is the prospect that the great Indian tribes of Alaska -

will soon have all entered the fold of the Good Shepherd. Many readers will recall the tragic death of Archbishop Seghers in the wilds of Alaska, just nine years ago, whilst he was visiting that remote portion of his diocese to secure information regarding the Indians, and to choose sites for the first missions. A cowardly attendant, enraged at the preference wisely given to the opinions of native guides, aroused the good bishop early one morning, and, as he was in the act of rising, inhumanly fired upon him. The holy prelate's last words were to forgive his treacherous murderer. That noble life was not sacrificed in vain; the Almighty showered blessings upon the cherished work of his devoted servant. To-day about fifteen zealous Jesuit missionaries labor most successfully for the conversion of the Indians. A few months ago, Alaska was separated from the diocese of Vancouver Island, and formed into a vicariate-apostolic of which Rev. Father Tosi, S. J. was appointed first vicar. The Sisters of St. Anne have a school and hospital at Juneau, and a school for Indian children at Kossariffsky, on the Yukon River. It would hardly be just not to state here that the first Catholic missionaries to penetrate into the heart of Alaska were Bishop Clut, O.M.I., and Father Lecorre, O.M.I.; they visited the territory long years ago, but finding that it did not belong to the vicariate of Athabaska-Mackenzie, in which priests were already too few, they reluctantly left without establishing any permanent missions.

As you look at the map of North America, Canadian reader, a slight breath of annoyance perhaps crosses your mind as your eye falls on the great north-western corner of the continent indicated in the same color as the United States; but it is the narrow strip, about six hundred miles in length, extending south of this and bounding on the Pacific, that particularly spoils symmetry in the frontier of the Dominion of Canada. That strip separates a large portion of Canadian territory from the sea, and is the most valuable portion of Alaska. Why Britain did not secure it in the beginning, or later on, during the Crimean War, for example, matters little now; what is important, as every reader of the daily papers knows, is