

**January**  
CONFEDERATION LIFE ASSOCIATION Cheque

**February**  
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**March**  
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**April**  
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**May**  
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**June**  
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**July**  
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**August**  
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**September**  
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**October**  
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**November**  
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**December**  
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## The Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes

"The Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes" is the title of a volume just issued by the National Geographic Society of the United States, the author being Dr. Robert F. Griggs, leader of an expedition fitted out by the Society to study the eruption of Mount Katmai in Alaska, and discoverer of the valley which furnishes a title to the volume.

Although unaware at the time of the mighty upheaval of Mount Katmai, almost every inhabitant of the continent of America felt its effect, one of which was the cold, damp summer of 1912, caused by the interception of so much sunlight by the dust from the eruption, which quickly was carried around the world. Even in cloudless Sahara the sky was overcast; and it is believed that a succession of such eruptions could plunge the earth into another ice age.

Katmai's explosion was unnoticed because it was so remote. Had the upheaval taken place in New York the sulphurous fumes would have polluted the air everywhere east of the Rocky Mountains, the noise would have reverberated like an artillery duel across the Central States, and the lower Hudson itself would have been a giant tomb with few ruins even to tell the story. At least, this is what Dr. Griggs believes.

Fortunately, Katmai's eruption provided geographers one of their greatest opportunities for studying volcanic phenomena without any human toll. Katmai Village, twenty miles from the crater, was deserted because all the natives had gone fishing, according to their summer custom. Kodiak, the nearest settlement of consequence, and the most important town in an area larger than Ohio, is a sleepy village of 400 people, where a mosquito-like Russian church

is a relic of the old-time Russian America.

**A Foot or More of Ash.**

An area around Katmai half again bigger than Delaware was covered with a foot or more of ash, enough to destroy all but the hardiest herbaceous plants. Before the explosion a sun-baked blanket of incandescent lava burst through orifices in the floor of the valley. When the explosion came two cubic miles of material was blown off the top of the volcanic mountains, and its present whereabouts still is a mystery to scientists.

The aftermath of this eruption promises to be one of the most interesting national heritages. Beyond Katmai lies a great valley, from the floor of which ascend countless columns of steam. These great, rolling clouds of vapour, which go billowing down the valley, sometimes trailing out before the wind a mile or more, have an uncanny fascination.

Fumaroles, or vents, through which the steam escapes, disclose encrustations of the greatest beauty, variety and color. There are masses of

## Corns



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bright yellow sulphur, chunks of ash turned red and blue, and white masses of siliceous material.

Bright colors are not limited to the large and vigorous fumaroles. Over many hundreds of acres in the valley, where steam is everywhere seeping up from beneath, the ground glows with the most brilliant colors imaginable. Sometimes it is black, with the character and consistency of asphalt. This grades through various shades of blue into delicate light green, or alternates as the chemical conditions change, with the various shades of red, and round about are the more ordinary yellows and browns.

After a trip across such an area one's shoes, covered with the particular muds, take on a resemblance to an artist's palette, daubed with all possible colors in a confused medley. The fine-grained mud is indeed so similar to artist's pigments, that it may be readily used as a substitute.

**Metals Melted in Hot Gases.**

The temperature of many of the fumaroles is very high. Lead and zinc were melted in the hot gases issuing from a number and aluminum utensils placed in them became soft. One was found to have a temperature of almost 1,200 degrees Fahrenheit. Although the emanations consisted almost entirely of superheated steam, the temperature was so high that a stick thrust into the fumes smoldered and burst into flame.

These fuming holes were harnessed by the party which discovered the valley, and made to serve as cook-stoves. By selecting holes of various temperatures it was possible to warm and boil, bake and fry food. There is a natural hot-and-cold bathing pool. At one end the water, fresh from snow banks, is ice cold, at the other, hot. Between, one may find water of almost any intermediate temperature.

It is hard to describe the Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes adequately, for there is no other region with which to compare it. Niagara finds a rival in Victoria Falls. The Rotorua district of New Zealand is a competitor of the Yellowstone. The crater of Katmai must stand comparison with Kilauea and Crater Lake. Not so with the Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes. It is unique. Nothing approaching it has ever been seen by the eye of man. To find a parallel we must search the records of geology, for here we have such a volcanic outburst as the geologist finds recorded in the rocks of the past, but never before has had an opportunity to observe in the world of the present.

**Beyond Comparison.**

In the size of the vents and the quantity of smoke given off the valley is so far beyond other volcanic districts that no other place can for a moment be compared with it. Well within truth, one might say that the sum total of the emanations from all the other volcanoes of the American Continent, from the Aleutians to Patagonia, except during rare periods of a dangerous eruption, is much less than given off within the radius of vision from the Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes.

Indeed, if one could pick up all the other volcanoes in the whole world and set them down together, side by side as close as they could stand, they would present much less of a spectacle, always excepting a period of dangerous eruption.

So remote are these that members of the National Geographic Society's expeditions are the only white men who have yet explored them; but they are not inaccessible. A broad, deep harbor renders a landing easy, and fifty miles of roadway will place this natural wonderland within the compass of a day's automobile trip from the harbor, named Geographic Harbor, in honor of the National Geographic Society, which discovered and explored the region.—Family Herald.

## SHELBY TOWN.



"I hear men talk of Shelby Town wherever I may go; the place has gained a great renown," I said to Richard Roe.

"Some Edison, you may suppose. In a sense, it has started business there; some man whose genius flares and glows like fireworks in the air. Perchance some Luther Burbank trains the vines of early peas, and with unceasing care and pains grows beets on turnip trees. When some great man his genius gives to an instructive game, the little burg in which he lives will share his lustrous fame. And so I wot that Shelby Town must harbor such a jay; perhaps a bard who's handing down an epoch-making lay. Perhaps a surgeon who has skill to make the ailing well, or a musician who can trill and like a seraph yell. Or peradventure Shelby Town is such a beautiful place, in loveliness it seems to drown, a spot of charm and grace. Or it may have a college great where learned professors stand, and teach the adolescent skate a culture truly grand." "Your guess is poor," said Richard Roe; "that town is on the map because a million chumps will go to see two bruisers scrap. A million chumps who make me grieve will watch two swatters swat, and say of Shelby when they leave, 'The village God forgot!'"

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Percy Noodles says that when he asked the capitalist's daughter if her mother ever spoke a kind word for him, she said, Oh, yes, mamma said last night he would make good veal.

## U.S. Facing Another Coal Strike.

WASHINGTON, June 18.—(By Canadian Press)—Recent disclosure that the country is facing the danger of another anthracite coal strike, which would be harmful to Canada as well as to the United States, has served to stir new interest among members of Congress and officials in the question of what the government is going to do about regulations of the coal industry or dealing with that industry in some fashion. A large share of the public, especially in New England and the Southern States, has not forgotten the hardship which it suffered last winter; what it had to go through both as to lack of coal and high prices, to say nothing of inferior coal. It was hoped there would not be a repetition of that sort of thing next winter, but the best-advised authorities here say the danger of it is real. If another strike develops, it will doubtless be in September. The contract between coal miners and operators in the anthracite fields ends August 31. A strike would be a grave

thing because it would break right at the time when cool weather and autumn would be coming on. Moreover, there is no surplus worth while stored up. Feeling of the public in New England, New York and northern states over another strike would intensify it.

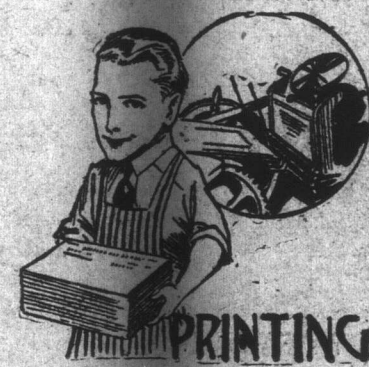
## GOVT. WILL TAKE COMMAND IN CASE OF STRIKE.

It is believed here to be almost inevitable that if there is another serious strike by the anthracite coal miners, there will be such demand by the public and in Congress that the Government take over the mines as to be almost irresistible. At the least, it will result in legislation for the drastic regulation of the coal industry, including both anthracite and bituminous. Members of Congress generally would have to be legislation for regulation of the coal industry. They recognize that if there is another strike, they will be under tremendous public pressure for drastic action, and that the people are rapidly losing patience with the fuel situation and its uncertainties. No doubt is entertained, moreover, that Canada, which

has been giving attention to solution of its coal situation recently, will feel impelled to take vigorous action to assure fuel to its people if there is another strike. The government commission which is investigating the coal industry by direction of Congress will make a report July 1 on anthracite coal, and is expected in September to make a final report embodying its recommendations for legislation on the coal industry. It is well-known that the coal interests have been doing their utmost to make a showing to the commission which would lead that body to make a mild report. However, if there is another strike, Congress will not be satisfied with any mild report from the coal commission or recommendation for gentle and innocuous regulation of the coal industry and will apply either stringent regulations or go to government ownership outright. It is true that there is much opposition in Congress to government ownership, but it is also true that there is more public sentiment for radical government action as to the country's fuel supply than as to anything else.

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—By Bud Fisher.

