

DR. STUCK'S DEATH LOSS TO ALASKANS

Archdeacon Their Indefatigable Defender

Explorer and Missionary
Ranked High Both as Clergyman and as Scientist.

With the passing of the Rev. Hudson Stuck, D. D., F. R. G. S., Archdeacon of the Yukon, who died at Fort Yukon, Alaska, on Sunday after a short illness, an Alaskan people, the Episcopal church at large, and the fields of geographical exploration and letters suffer great loss. Dr. Stuck was known on continents as a scientist and a man of letters, but most of all as an indefatigable missionary, a man who dared the most rigorous climates and underwent extreme privation and hardship. He was a man who could have secured easy living elsewhere, but the love of North and the humanity that peopled Alaska was in his blood and, feeling that he was of greatest service there, he refused all offers of other places. Only a few years ago he was offered an extremely attractive parish in England. His answer was, "I cannot leave my Indians." Several times he was called to his alma mater, the University of the South, at Sewanee, Tenn., and he refused it for the same reason. His work for the Alaskan Indians was thoroughly recognized and along the Arctic coast, even to the Koyukuk River, nearly 600 miles above its confluence with the Yukon, are scattered his dark parishioners.

First to Climb McKinley.
Dr. Stuck was the first white man to climb Denali, known to us as Mt. McKinley. Word that he had succeeded in reaching the summit of this mountain came in a dispatch from Fairbanks, Alaska, on June 21, 1913. With a guide Harry P. Carstens, his faithful Indian comrade, Walter Harper, who was with Dr. Stuck on most of his long journeys,

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and R. G. Tatum, a mission helper, the Archdeacon successfully accomplished the trip, a feat that Dr. Cook claimed to have made and which many others have tried and failed in. Dr. Stuck's book, "The Ascent of Denali," gives a complete account of the achievement. Hudson Stuck was born in London, Eng., in 1868, and came to the United States as a very young man. He was an alumnus of the University of the South, at Sewanee, Tenn., where he was graduated in 1892. At the time of his appointment to Alaska he was serving as dean of St. Matthew's Cathedral, Dallas, Tex.

In a "History of the Alaskan Missions," just published by the Domestic and Foreign Mission Society, 281 Fourth avenue, he describes his charge as "Archdeacon of the Yukon and Innuit Valleys and of the Arctic regions to the north of the same"—a sufficiently wide scope for any man's wanderings and charge.

Through this region—by dog-sled in winter and on the launch Polaris in summer—he went back and forth for sixteen years, with brief intervals of rest in the States, looking after the welfare of the Indians and Eskimos. He fought through fierce blizzards, endured the suffering of freezing, lost his food at times and at other times lost his way, but kept doggedly to his task and loved his work, his hardship and all.

During the winter of 1918 he made a circuit of the Arctic coast from Point Hope to Herschel Island, returning to Fort Yukon through the interior of Alaska. His books, "Ten Thousand Miles With a Dog-Sled," "The Ascent of Denali," "Voyages on the Yukon and Its Tributaries," and "A Winter Circuit of Our Arctic Coast," have made his name widely known beyond church circles. He had the faculty of making the commonplace interesting. Almost any one probably could write well about the ascent of an unknown peak, but the man who makes a story of fascinating interest about his journeys through snow-muffled lands peopled only by Indians must be credited with literary as well as explorative achievement.

The last year of Archdeacon Stuck's life was saddened by a failure in the

run of salmon on the Yukon and its tributaries, a failure which he attributed to the operations of a cannery factory at the mouth of the Yukon, and which threatened starvation to thousands of natives throughout the interior. His vacation this past year was largely spent in Washington making efforts to secure legislation for the protection of the Indians and in making addresses to arouse the interest of the church throughout the country.

He loved his Indian people, and their helplessness in contact with the advancing white men who flock to a frontier country aroused his chivalry. When he first went to Fairbanks in 1904 it was a town "wide open," with dozens of saloons, gambling halls, and hordes of human parasites—men and women—that follow prospectors in a gold rush. It was due to his efforts that Fairbanks was redeemed. His last published words were:

"The present writer, on the point of returning to Alaska, solemnly commits this cause to the people of the church."

Dr. Stuck received a number of honors during his lifetime. He was awarded the Back Grant of the Royal Geographical Society, London, in 1919, for travels in Alaska and the ascent of Mt. McKinley. He was also a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society and the American Geographical Society and a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity.

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The end of a perfect shave



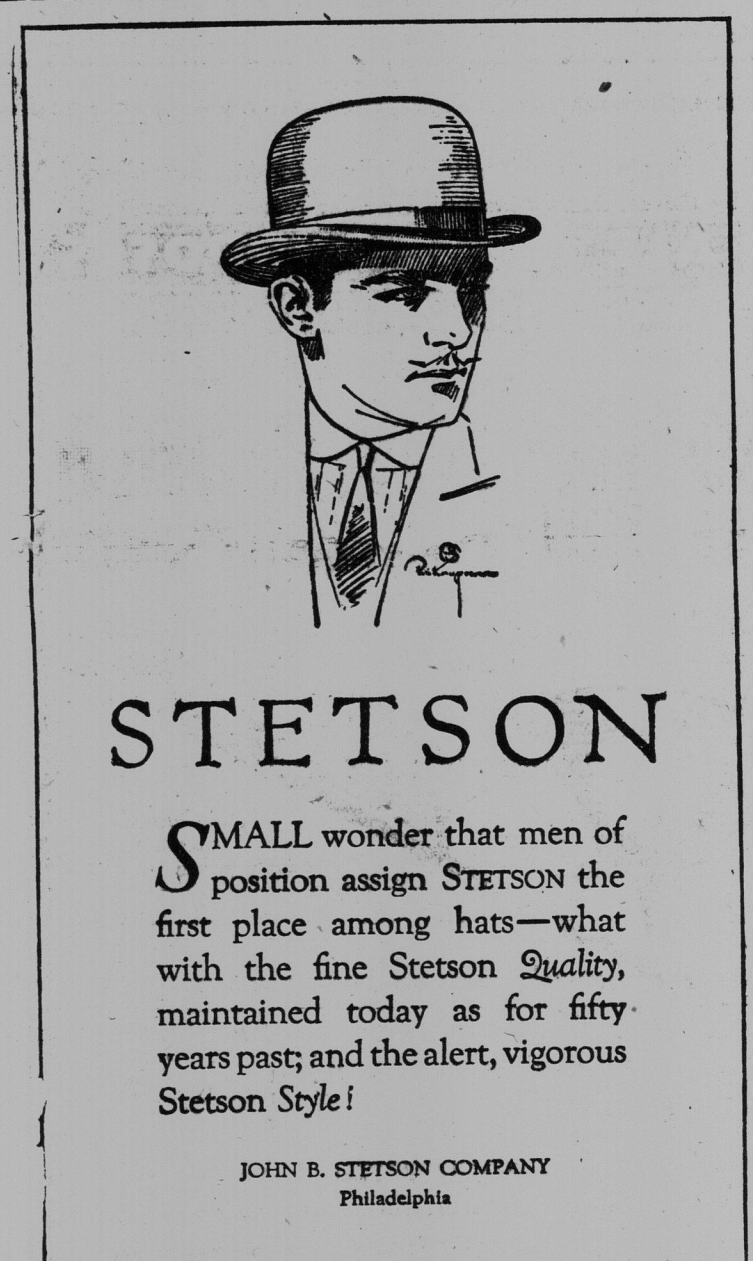
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