

The canoes are made of the skin of the hair seal, which is sewn over a light wooden framework. In spite of their frailty, the Indians venture to sea in them in quite rough weather.

On August 23rd we left Seldovia and faced the fierce racing tide rips of the inlet. The great fish called "white whales," which are found in the inlet, greatly interested us, and though our propeller got caught in the heavy sea-

We visited the coal outcrops at Moose Creek, Eska Creek and King's Creek, and arrived at our goal at the Chickaloon Creek outcrop by August 29th. We found that a considerable amount of work had been already done at this outcrop, some 1,600 feet of headings having been driven. The coal is a semi-bituminous one of excellent quality and vast quantity. The government analysis shows a fixed carbon value of 66.08 and a fuel ratio of 3.77. Anthracite, too, has been found further up the Matanuska River.

On the trail we found mosquito tents were the only way to obtain a good night's sleep. Trout were most plentiful, and big red salmon (hump-back) were dying in their thousands along the river banks. It was a curious sight to see our retriever dog plunge into a creek and, seizing a particularly lusty one which was trying to work its way upstream over the gravel, hold it up for our inspection.

From Chickaloon we visited Coal Creek outcrop on foot, crossing two wide streams by wire rope and cradle. An unprecedented event for Chickaloon camp took place on August 30th, when a cablegram from London, England, was handed to me, sent by Indian runner along the trail. London to Chickaloon in five days!

On September 4th we again reached Knik, and having engaged a pilot, got on board the launch, with the intention of facing Turnagain Arm, of evil repute. Both Knik Arm and Turnagain Arm are notorious for their dangerous character, the chief points of which are the violent tide rips; the sand banks, which are uncovered at low tide, and become "sinking sand" as the tide rises; and the bore, which runs from 3 to 12 feet in height.

This is the neighborhood where Captain Cook landed in 1778. He wrote in his "Voyages of Discovery": "In the afternoon I sent Mr. King again with two armed boats, with orders to land on the northern point of the lowland, on the southeast side of the river, there to display the flag; to take possession of the country and river in his Majesty's name, and to bury in the ground a bottle containing some pieces of English coin of the year 1772 and a paper, on which was inscribed the names of our ships and the date of our discovery."



The Central Alaska Railway—Seward to Fairbanks, Alaska.

weed, 30 to 40 feet long, which is found all along this coast, we arrived safely at our destination (Knik) by August 24th. At one time our engines refused to work for several hours, and the gale was rapidly drifting us on to a lee shore, but as soon as our skipper lost patience and hoisted the big mainsail, the engines fortunately recovered.

At Knik we obtained horses and started on the pack trail along the proposed route of the Matanuska branch.