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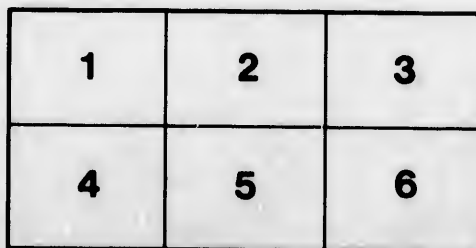
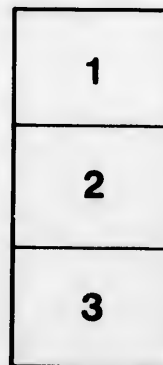
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THE GOLD FIELDS.

The gold fields of Alaska, placer and lode, are extensive. The Yukon placers are as rich as any in the known world, while the quartz deposits are of unknown extent. The United States Geological Survey expeditions have traced the lead for 500 miles. The Treadwell Mill, near Juneau, is located in a vast region interlaced with low-grade free-milling quartz and veins containing rich values in gold. There are nine other smaller mills along the coast and development has only begun. The placers of the Yukon will doubtless repeat the history of California and Australia, and add largely to the world's volume of yellow metal.

Gold was discovered in the quartz district of which Juneau is the center, by Richard Harris and Joseph Juneau, in 1880. They organized the Harris Mining District, and staked off a townsite which they called Harrisburg. They returned to Sitka with \$14,000 in gold and a rush followed. In 1881 the town was renamed Rockwell, in honor of a United States naval lieutenant, but next year the miners voted to call it Juneau. The discovery of placer and quartz on Douglas Island was made in 1881, and several thousand dollars taken out each season until 1884, when the chief claims were bought by John Treadwell, the beginning of the famous mines from which enough ore has been taken to pay the original cost of the country. The mill now runs 240 stamps, the largest battery in the world, and the ore in sight cannot be exhausted in 100 years at the present capacity of 1,500 tons a day, yielding a net profit of \$1.70 a ton, the cost of milling per ton being \$1.25. The mill never stops except for repairs. The Mexico Mill near by runs 120 stamps. There are eight other gold stamp mills along the coast.

The existence of gold has been known for several years in the Yukon district, and mines have been working with varying success along Birch, Miller, American and other streams south of Circle City. One claim on Miller Creek has yielded over \$100,000. Mining methods are very primitive and the work is carried on under difficulties. The ground is frozen and the progress is slow. The discoveries on the Klondike were so rich that miners worked during the winter by building wood fires and melting the frozen earth, and in that way reached bed rock and made tunnels through the pay streaks. Blasting will do no good, the charge not cracking off, but blowing out of the hole. The gravel is taken out as it melts and piled up till spring, when the water comes and it is panned or cradled, and only the coarse grains and nuggets are secured, the fine gold escaping. By this laborious method fortunes were taken out. It is proposed now to introduce oil blowers after the style of those used in putting down asphalt pavements, which make intense heat and will vastly facilitate the labor. Improved machinery of every kind will no doubt be taken into the country next season.

Wm. Ogilvie, the well-known Dominion Surveyor and Boundary Commissioner, says in a report to his government that the Klondike region alone will yield hundreds of millions of dollars, to judge from present outlook. Claims have only been worked in spots over a large territory, and if the pay dirt continues as rich throughout as it does where work has been done, and there is no reason why it should not, Mr. Ogilvie's assertion will be verified. A single pan of gravel has yielded as high as \$500, and four men took out of a space 28 feet square \$90,000 in ten days. Before the boats left Dawson City in the spring of 1897 tons of gold lay unguarded in cabins of the miners. It is estimated that at least \$8,000,000 went out in sums of \$5,000 to \$100,000 belonging to men who had wrested these fortunes from the frozen ground during the preceding winter. The mines are not on the Klondike proper, but on Bonanza, Hunker, Bear and other small tributaries. Bonanza empties into the Klondike about a mile from its mouth. Hunker Creek is 14 miles above, and Eldorado is a branch of Bonanza. It was on Gold Bottom Creek, a branch of Hunker, that the first discovery was made. It must not be imagined that the Klondike includes all or even a considerable part of an immense country. As a stream it was not of sufficient importance to secure a place on the early maps.

John Muir, for whom the great glacier is named, and whose knowledge of that country is extensive, is of the opinion that the gold yield of Alaska will exceed the output of California, a state that has already produced an amount in excess of \$500,000,000.

Gen. W. W. Duffield, Chief of the United States Geodetic Survey, reports that enormous deposits of quartz exist and can be easily reached in the future, and his belief is that stamp mills in the future will find a profitable employment at many points.

"On Annette Island, in the Archipelago, the richest gold mother lodes in the world. At present the reservation occupied by Indians under the commissionary, Henry Duncan." The law setting aside the reservation was passed March 3, 1891, and is as follows:

"That until otherwise provided by law, the body of land known as Annette Island, situated in Alexander Archipelago, in Southeastern Alaska, be and the same is hereby set aside for the use of the Metlakatla Indians and those people who have recently emigrated from British Columbia, and other Alaskan natives as may join them, to be held and used under such rules and regulations and subject to such restrictions from time to time by the Secretary of the Interior."

Unless these alien Indians, who have no title to the soil, are accorded different or better treatment than that accorded by American Indians, with whom we have treated the soil, the mineral land upon Annette Island, from that which is used by the Indians for fishing purposes, and then opened to exploration and mining under the mineral laws of the United States. This has formerly been done in cases where valuable minerals were discovered on lands in Indian reservations, even where reserved by treaty, the Indians being the original owners of the soil, and there can be no doubt that this will be the case with Annette Island. A movement is now under way to open it up.

YUKON SETTLEMENTS

Mining operations have been carried on in the Yukon for a dozen years. In 1894 about 300 men were entered; in 1896, over 1,000. In 1897 it is probable that 5,000 went in to seek riches, while several reached the pass entrances too late to get on to the settlements on the Yukon are Forty-Mile, Circle City, Dawson City and Weare. Circle City was founded in 1894 and is the distributing point for a large number of miners, Miller, Birch, American and other gold-bearing streams. It is also a trading post at Fort Selkirk. Dawson City is the headquarters of the Klondike, and was founded in September, 1896, and named in honor of a well-known explorer. It is close to Fort Reliance, seen on many of the mountains. It was headquarters for fur traders and trappers who wandered over the rich placer grounds without finding any. Fort Cudahy is named for J. C. Cudahy, of the firm of Cudahy Bros., the Chicago meat packer. It is in the North American Transportation and Trading Company has two boats on the Yukon and will be in service next season. The Alaska Commercial Company has two boats running from St. Michael up the Yukon to Weare, named after Porteus B. Weare, a leader of the Chicago and one of the North American Trading Company, is located on the Yukon at Tanana River, the latter draining a large deposit of placer and quartz deposits. Circle City and Weare are on the American side of the line, while the others are on the Yukon side. Buildings in all the places are of logs and brush. Weare is talked of as the capital of the proposed Yukon Territory, which is to include the Yukon country.

HOW TO REACH THE YUKON

SEATTLE is the gateway to Alaska. It is the only Alaskan port than San Francisco. It is nearer to the Great Northern, than any other city. It is prepared, from long experience, to furnish pack outfits for prospectors.

To reach Seattle, take the trains of the Great Northern from St. Paul, Minneapolis or Duluth, which have Depots with lines from the East and South.

Steamers will leave Seattle daily for Juneau, Dyea; about twice a week for St. Michael and Wrangell. There are five known passes from the south to the interior, viz.: Up Stikine River from Taku Inlet from Juneau; over Chilkoot Pass from Skagway; over White Pass from Skagway; over Chilkoot Pass from Skagway; over Chilkoot Pass from Skagway.

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 hlan Indians and those people known as Metlakah-
 igrated from British Columbia to Alaska, and such
 y join them, to be held and used by them in common
 tions and subject to such restrictions as may be pre-
 y the Secretary of the Interior."

Indians, who have no title or claim to the
 erent or better treatment than that received
 with whom we have treated as owners of
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 ened to exploration and purchase under the
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TO THE YUKON GOLD FIELDS.

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ve Seattle daily for Juneau, Skaguay and
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 passes from the southeastern strip of coast
 up Stikkeen River from Fort Wrangel; up
 au; over Chilkoot Pass from Taiya, (Dyea);
 n Skaguay; over Chilkat Pass from Haines

Mission. The last three passes are at the head of Lynn Canal,
 north of Juneau. Sitka claims a route via Yakutat Bay, thence
 over the mountains to White River, and routes via Copper River
 and Cook Inlet are talked of.

The Chilkoot Pass is used more than any other, for the reason
 it is only twenty-four miles from tide water to navigation in Lake
 Lindeman on the other side. The main difficulty is in carrying
 supplies, which up to the present are packed on the backs of the
 owners, on horses, or else Indians, who charge in accordance with
 the demand for their services. The new or inexperienced man
 cannot carry more than forty to fifty pounds at a time. Goods are
 "toted" in this way, by portage or relays, until the whole outfit is
 deposited on the banks of the lake. Dogs and sleds can be of
 assistance in the early spring, when the snow is in condition, and
 the entire trip to the mines made in that way. In the summer
 and fall, when the river is open, boats are used. It is possible
 that by the time the season opens in 1898, a wire-rope tramway
 hoist or other like device will be in position to take goods over at
 reasonable cost. Various projects are in hand for trails, road-
 ways, railways, etc., at the different passes, and the new year will
 not go by without some feasible and easier method of transporta-
 tion being established. If all the propositions for quick and easy
 transportation materialize even in part, there will be but little
 trouble to reach the gold diggings during 1898.

The all-water route by St. Michael and the Yukon River is a
 trip over 4,000 miles from Seattle, as compared with 1,500 miles
 by the passes. The Yukon is open for navigation less than five
 months. Extensive arrangements are being made by the existing
 companies, as well as new organizations, to meet the demands of
 travel and trade on all routes.

PORTLAND is actively in the field for the Alaska trade. It
 is the oldest and largest city on the upper coast, and amply pre-
 pared to take care of any outfitting demand. The Great Northern
 gives the most direct service to that city from the east. Steamers
 for Skaguay and Dyea will leave Portland about every four days.

Tacoma is Seattle's neighbor on Puget Sound and Alaska
 steamers leave both cities the same day.

The Pacific Steam Whaling Company's steamers will leave
 Seattle weekly, after February 1st, for Copper River and Prince
 William Sound.

From April to October the Alaska Commercial Company's
 steamers run between Sitka and Yakutat, Copper River, Prince
 William Sound, Cook Inlet, Kodiak, Shumagin Islands and Dutch
 Harbor. See steamer track on map.

Sailing dates of the different lines, as determined upon later,
 will be furnished to all applicants by any agent of the Great
 Northern whose name appears in list on map side of this folder.

TABLE OF DISTANCES.

From St. Paul, via the Great Northern, to Seattle, 1,823 miles;
 from Seattle to Dyea, 884 miles (Skaguay is 4 miles from Dyea).
 From Dyea (Taiya) distances are as follows:

TOTALS.		POINT TO POINT.
0	miles to Head of Canoe Navigation.....	0
163½	" Summit of Chilkoot Pass.....	103½
26½	" Head of Lake Lindeman.....	9¾
34½	" Foot of Lake Lindeman.....	8
35½	" Head of Lake Bennett.....	1
61¾	" Foot of Lake Bennett.....	26¾
64½	" Foot of Caribou Crossing.....	2¾
81½	" Foot of Tagish Lake.....	16¾
86½	" Head of Lake Marsh.....	5
106½	" Foot of Lake Marsh.....	20
123	" Head of Cañon.....	16¾
123½	" Foot of Cañon.....	1¾
125½	" Head of White Horse Rapids.....	1¾
140	" Tahkenah River.....	14¾
156	" Head of Lake Leberge.....	10
187	" Foot of Lake Leberge.....	31
216	" Hootalinqua River.....	29
242	" Cassair Bar.....	26
249	" Big Salmon River.....	7
285½	" Little Salmon River.....	36½
344	" Five Fingers Rapids.....	58½
350	" Rink Rapids.....	6
403½	" Pelly River (Fort Selkirk).....	53½
499½	" White River.....	96
509	" Stewart River.....	9½
520	" Sixty-Mile Post.....	20
549	" Dawson City (Klondike).....	20
589	" Fort Reliance.....	40
629	" Forty-Mile Post.....	40
629½	" Fort Cudahy.....	¼
879	" Circle City.....	249½

By White Pass, via Skaguay, the distance to the lakes is several miles longer, while by the Chilkat Pass and Dalton's Trail it is about 400 miles overland to old Fort Selkirk at the junction of the Lewes and Pelly Rivers. There is a pass east of Juneau via the Taku Inlet, which leads 150 miles to Lake Teslin. From Fort Wrangel up the Stikine River and overland to Lake Teslin it is about 300 miles, and then down the lake and Hootalinqua (Teslin) River to Leyes River and Dawson City about 500 more.

The all-water route is via the ocean to St. Michael, 2,700 miles from Seattle, stopping en route at Dutch Harbor, on one of the Aleutian Islands, 1,800 miles. From St. Michael the distance is, approximately, to Dawson City, 1,600 miles, divided as follows: St. Michael to Kutlik, 100; Kutlik to Andreafski, 125; Andreafski to Holy Cross, 145; Holy Cross to Koserefsky, 5; Koserefsky to Anvik, 75; Anvik to Nulato, 225; Nulato to Novikakat, 145; Novikakat to (Weare) Tanana River, 80; Tanana to Fort Yukon, 450; Fort Yukon to Circle City, 80; Circle City to Forty-Mile, 240; Forty-Mile to Dawson City, 52. The places named along the Yukon are generally Indian villages and wood stations where missions are maintained by different religious bodies. Fort Yukon is above the Arctic Circle.

WHAT IT WILL COST.

Railway tickets can be bought of coupon agents in all principal railway offices east and south direct to Seattle via St. Paul and the Great Northern Railway, the shortest route by over 100 miles to that city. The Great Northern train is vestibuled and includes palace and tourist sleepers and high-back-seated coaches. Meals are served in dining car, à la carte, twenty-five cents and up, according to one's appetite and desire for variety.

The tourist car is provided with range, so that passengers carrying lunch baskets can warm food and make tea and coffee. The library car contains books, writing desks, barber chair, bath room, etc. It is less than three days run to Seattle.

Steamers make the trip to Juneau, Skaguay and Dyea in four days. The passenger fares from Seattle prevailing this season (1898) are as follows:

Wrangel,	First class, \$30.00	Second class, \$20.00
Juneau,	" 35.00	" 22.00
Skaguay and Dyea,	" 50.00	" 35.00
Stika,	" 50.00	" 35.00
Orea, Valdes Bay (Copper City),	" 90.00	" 70.00
Portage Bay,	" 90.00	" 70.00
To Dawson City, via St. Michael, \$250 to \$300.		
The same rates are in effect from Portland.		

With each first and second-class ticket 150 pounds of baggage is carried and excess is charged for at the rate of three cents per pound.

Miners' outfits, provisions, general merchandise, etc., are charged for at the rate of \$9 per ton, weight or measurement at the ship's option, to Juneau, and \$13 per ton to Skaguay and Dyea. The rates on live stock (horses, mules and cattle) burros and dogs are as follows:

	LIVE STOCK.	BURROS.	DOGS.
Wrangel,	\$20.00	\$12.00	\$5.00
Juneau,	22.50	13.50	5.00
Skaguay and Dyea,	22.50	17.50	7.50

Rates may vary for the season of 1898, and prospectors will do well to correspond with agents of the Great Northern Railway before they start, and get the latest figures.

WHEN TO GO.

There are two ways of getting into the interior—one all water, via the ocean, St. Michael and the Yukon River, a trip of 4,000 miles, possible from about June 1st to September 30th; the other over the mountains to the headwaters of the Yukon. For the overland route, the spring months give better roads across the mountain passes, the rivers are frozen, and with dogs and sleds the trip can be made reasonably easy over hard snow and ice, with exemption from insect pests. Dogs should be taken along from the East, as they are scarce on the coast. In the summer and fall the rivers are open and boats can be used for the trip, but the mountain roads are slippery and muddy, and the expense of forwarding supplies now exceeds the cost of the goods. Improved facilities for getting over the mountains and down the river will doubtless be in operation next season. The Canadian mounted police have established a station at Lake Bennett, and other stations will be located at a distance of about fifty miles apart along the river to Dawson City.

WHAT TO TAKE.

No one should think of going to the diggings without taking along clothing and provisions for a year. Conditions, however, are changing very rapidly, and by the close of the season of 1898 it may not be necessary for miners to carry all supplies with them. Every boat on the Pacific coast that can be secured will go into service next season, new boats are being built, and vast quantities

of goods will no doubt be taken into the interior of the River. Competition will then reduce the cost of life at the mines.

Various lists of articles necessary in an outfit have been prepared, but the following is said by miners to fully cover every demand:

CLOTHING—75 lbs., \$100.

1 clothes bag.	1 pair rubber hi
5 yards mosquito netting.	2 woolen sweat
3 suits heavy underwear.	2 pairs heavy bl
1 heavy Mackinaw coat.	1 dozen towels.
2 pair heavy Mackinaw pants.	6 pairs overalls.
2 dozen heavy wool socks.	1 suit oil clothi
½ dozen heavy wool mitts.	1 suit corduroy.
1 heavy cap and 1 soft hat.	1 suit fleece-line
1 broadbrim hat.	2 rubber blanke
1 heavy knit scarf.	1 sleeping bag a
2 pairs leather gloves.	1 pair felt boots.
2 heavy overshirts.	1 pair heavy rul
2 pairs heavy snag-proof rubber boots.	Roll of flannel
1 pair shoes.	the feet and b

GROCERIES—1,125 lbs., \$8

150 pounds bacon.	5 pounds yeast.
250 pounds flour.	5 pounds soda.
25 pounds peaches.	10 pounds salt.
25 pounds apples.	1 pound pepper
25 pounds apricots.	½ pound musta
25 pounds pitted prunes.	¼ pound ginger
25 pounds coffee, in tin cans.	5 pounds evapo
10 pounds tea, in tin cans.	2 dozen conden
50 pounds sugar.	5 bars tar soap.
150 pounds beans.	5 bars laundry
90 pounds oatmeal.	1 large tin box
25 pounds cornmeal.	1 quart evapora
100 pounds rice.	Assortment sou
5 pounds baking pow ler.	Tobacco to suit

HARDWARE AND CAMP OUTFIT—2

1 pair ice creepers.	6 teaspoons.
1 knife and sheath.	3 tablespoons.
2 miners' shovels.	1 compass.
1 spool wire.	1 hunter's ax a
4 sail needles.	1 drawing knif
2 gold pans.	1 magnifying g
2 balls twine.	1 mixing spoon
½ dozen 8-inch flat files.	1 dust belt.
1 handled ax.	1 whetstone.
1 pick and two handles.	2 granite cups.
1 screwdriver.	1 frypan.
1 handsaw.	1 retinned dish
1 wood jackplane.	1 four-quart co
1 ratchet brace.	1 coffee mill.
4 bits, assorted sizes.	1 granite kettle
1 saw set.	3 granite plates
300 feet rope.	1 whipsaw.
1 pack and 1 shawl strap.	1 gold scale.
20 pounds assorted nails.	1 sled.
1 package hobnails.	1 tent.
3 pounds oakum.	1 sheetiron sto
5 pounds pitch.	1 box candles.
1 set knives and forks (six each).	1 spirit thermom

MEDICINES—5 lbs., \$10.

50 quinine pills.	1 ounce tinctur
50 compound cathartic pills.	8 ounces cough
3 dozen acetanilid tablets.	1 bottle toothac
1 box chlorate potash.	1 bottle vaselin
6 mustard plasters.	2 drams iodofo
6 belladonna plasters.	2 yards lint.
4 ounces carbolic salve.	¼ dozen assort
8 ounces chloroform liniment.	2 feet rubber a
1 pint witch hazel.	4 ounces absorb
4 ounces essence ginger.	Monsell's salts
4 ounces paregoric.	quantity in a
1 ounce laudanum.	person's liba
4 ounces borax.	trouble.
1 ounce tincture iodine.	1 pair smoked
2 ounces spirits nitre.	snow blindne

be taken into the interior by the Yukon
will then reduce the cost of the necessities

cles necessary in an outfit for a man one year
but the following is said by experienced
very demand:

THING—75 lbs., \$100.

- 1 pair rubber hip boots.
- 2 woolen sweaters.
- 2 pairs heavy blankets.
- 1 dozen towels.
- 6 pairs overalls.
- 1 suit oil clothing.
- 1 suit corduroy.
- 1 suit fleece-lined duck.
- 2 rubber blankets.
- 1 sleeping bag and 1 oil blanket.
- 1 pair felt boots.
- 1 pair heavy rubber overshoes.
- Roll of flannel for insoles, wrapping
the feet and bandages.

ERIES—1,125 lbs., \$85.

- 5 pounds yeast.
- 5 pounds soda.
- 10 pounds salt.
- 1 pound pepper.
- ¼ pound mustard.
- ¼ pound ginger.
- 5 pounds evaporated onions.
- 2 dozen condensed milk.
- 5 bars tar soap.
- 5 bars laundry soap.
- 1 large tin box matches.
- 1 quart evaporated vinegar.
- Assortment soup tablets.
- Tobacco to suit.

AND CAMP OUTFIT—200 lbs., \$50.

- 6 teaspoons.
- 3 tablespoons.
- 1 compass.
- 1 hunter's ax and sheath.
- 1 drawing knife.
- 1 magnifying glass.
- 1 mixing spoon.
- 1 dust belt.
- 1 whetstone.
- 2 granite cups.
- 1 frypan.
- 1 retinned dishpan.
- 1 four-quart coffee pot.
- 1 coffee mill.
- 1 granite kettle, retinned cover.
- 3 granite plates.
- 1 whipsaw.
- 1 gold scale.
- 1 sled.
- 1 tent.
- 1 sheetiron stove.
- 1 box candles.
- 1 spirit thermometer (mercury freezes).

EDICINES—5 lbs., \$10.

- 1 ounce tincture iron.
- 8 ounces cough mixture.
- 1 bottle toothache drops.
- 1 bottle vaseline.
- 2 drams iodoform.
- 2 yards lint.
- ¼ dozen assorted bandages.
- 2 feet rubber adhesive plasters.
- 4 ounces absorbent cotton.
- Monsell's salts for hemorrhages, in
quantity in accordance with the
person's liability to attacks of the
trouble.
- 1 pair smoked glasses to prevent
snow blindness.

ARMAMENT—20 lbs., \$24.

- 1 repeating rifle, 30-30, with reloading
tools, and 100 rounds of brass-shell
cartridges.
- 1 large hunting knife and an assort-
ment of fishing tackle.

A shotgun or revolver might be sub-
stituted for the rifle.

The Canadian law against carrying
concealed weapons is rigidly enforced
by the mounted police.

MISCELLANEOUS—2 lbs., \$3.

- 1 package assorted needles.
- 2 spools linen thread.
- 2 dozen bachelor buttons.
- 2 papers safety pins.
- 1 book of pins.
- 1 spool of tape.
- 1 pair medium scissors.
- 4 pads note paper, with blotter.
- 50 good envelopes.
- 1 bottle ink (in metal).
- 1 indelible pencil (extra leads).
- 25 U. S. and Canadian postage stamps
(and holders).
- 1 pen holder and pens.

Cost and weight can be materially reduced by prospectors
traveling in party, so that one camping, hardware, armament and
medicine outfit will answer for two or more persons. When men
intend to work together, it would be wasteful and burdensome to
load up with hardware, tools, medicine, etc., when combinations
can be made. Outfits can be bought in Seattle from merchants
who understand the business and know how to pack for the trip.
A trunk is not the thing to carry goods in; a canvas pack is much
better, protected with oil skins. Mark your baggage with name
and address, and also put on some distinctive characters in glar-
ing colors, so that you can easily identify your own in the great
quantity of goods piled up at landing places. Trading companies
in the Klondike region are American, and buy their goods mainly
at Seattle and pay duty on entering Canadian territory. If there
was any considerable saving by the purchase of goods in Canadian
ports, they would avail themselves of the chance, but the way to
the Klondike is through American territory. Canada exempts
from all duty miners' blankets, personal clothing in use, tent,
broken packages of provisions being used, also cooking utensils
in use and 100 pounds of food for the journey, charging ordinary
customs duty on everything in excess of this amount. The duty
is about the same charged by the United States on Canadian
goods.

THE GRUB STAKE.

A good many prospectors who have gone to Alaska have been
furnished with means for the purchase of supplies, tools, transpor-
tation, etc., by friends, who, under a contract, are to share equally
in the profits, which includes part ownership of any claims located,
discovered or purchased, or of any metal that may be mined.
The prospector agrees to devote his whole time and effort to the
joint venture and make faithful report of his doings. If he fails
the money advanced and lost is offset by his labor. As a rule
"grub stake" contracts are quietly made, for reasons personal to
the staker and staked. Ex-Senator Tabor of Colorado, Tommy
Cruse of Montana, and other well-known miners and operators
made their start originally by being grub staked.

MINING LAWS.

The general mining laws of the United States apply to Alaska.
Claims, usually called "placers," including all forms of deposits
excepting veins of quartz or other rock in place, are subject to en-
try and patent. No single individual can locate more than twenty
acres of placer land, and no location can be made by any com-
pany, composed of no less than eight bona fide locators, exceed-
ing 160 acres. The price per acre of placer claims is \$2.50.
Where placers contain veins or lodes the cost per acre is \$5.00.
Rules not conflicting with this can be made in any state or ter-
ritory, and it is not uncommon for miners to establish smaller sized
claims, and this is the case in Alaska, where the ground is hard
to work. When a new district is discovered the miners agree to
this and select a Recorder of Claims, provided no regular gov-
ernment official is on hand.

The Canadian authorities have ruled that placer claims in the
Yukon district shall not exceed 100x100 feet, and only alternate

claims can be occupied, the others remaining in the hands of the government to be sold for its benefit. An entry fee of \$15.00 is charged, and there is an annual fee besides of \$100. A royalty of ten per cent. is charged where the output amounts to \$500 a week, and twenty per cent. where it is over \$500.

There are various requirements necessary to follow in securing patent to a claim under the laws of both countries, and these are to be had in printed form in all the mining camps. It will pay every prospector to watch and carefully comply with all regulations and stipulations set forth by both governments. The Gold Commissioner of the Canadian Dominion is vested with extraordinary powers and the Klondike region is under his authority.

LAW AND ORDER.

Notwithstanding the absence of organized government in the new district, there is a surprising regard for life and property rights. Few cases of disorder or theft have been reported, and no dangerous or fatal assaults have occurred. The miner stands so much in need of protection for his life and property that he is deeply concerned in maintaining a strong government. He with his associates join together in preserving order, and willingly assist the few officials sent to represent the home authorities. The Dominion has mounted police at all principal points in its territory and the United States War Department intends to send in troops. There has also been established two United States courts. There is no more danger to person or property in the placer fields of Alaska and Northwest Territory than in any ordinary community, and not as much as in certain districts of the large cities. Alaska is in the revenue district of Oregon, and the laws of that state apply.

METHODS OF PLACER MINING.

There are three methods employed by miners in working placer ground:

1st. PANNING. This is by means of a broad shallow dish made of iron or copper. Into this the miner lifts a shovelful of gravel and sand. He then puts in water enough to fill the pan and gives a few whirls and shakes, which tends to settle the gold to the bottom on account of its greater weight. The dish is then shaken in such a way that the gravel and sand are washed out, leaving the yellow treasure at the bottom, mixed with black sand or pulverized iron ore. If the gold is fine it can be gathered with quicksilver, forming amalgam. So far the Yukon miner has not troubled himself to save the fine gold. Panning has been the most common method in Alaska.

2d. ROCKING. A rocker is simply a box about three feet long and two feet wide, made in two parts, the top part being shallow, with a heavy sheet iron bottom full of quarter-inch holes. The other part of the box is fitted with an inclined shelf about midway in its depth, which is six or eight inches lower at its lower end than at its upper. Over this is placed a piece of heavy woolen blanket. The whole is then mounted on two rockers, much resembling those of an ordinary cradle, and, when in use, they are placed on two blocks of wood, so that the whole may be easily rocked. After the miner has selected his claim, he looks for the most convenient place to set his "rocker," which must be near a good supply of water. Then he proceeds to clear away all the stones and coarse gravel, gathering the finer gravel and sand near the rocker. The shallow box on top is filled with this, and with one hand the miner rocks it, while with the other he ladles in water. The finer matter, with the gold, falls through the holes on the blanket, which checks its progress and holds the fine particles of gold, while the sand and other matter passes over it to the bottom of the box, which is sloped so that what comes through is washed downward and finally out of the box. Across the bottom of the box are fixed thin slats, behind which mercury is placed to catch any particles of gold which may escape the blanket. If the gold is nuggety the largest are found in the upper box, their weight detaining them until all the lighter stuff has passed through, and the smaller ones are held by a deeper slat at the outward end of the bottom of the box. The piece of blanket is at intervals taken out and rinsed into a barrel. If the gold is fine, mercury is placed at the bottom of the barrel and amalgam formed. The process is

continued until enough amalgam has been formed to pay for roasting or firing. It is then squeezed through a buckskin bag, all the mercury that comes through the bag being put back into the barrel to serve again, and what remains in the bag is placed in a retort, if the miner has one, or, if not, on a shovel, and heated until nearly all the mercury is vaporized; the gold then remains in a lump, with some mercury still held in combination with it.

3d. SLUICING. This method is employed when possible. It requires a good supply of water with sufficient head or fall. The process is as follows: Planks are procured and formed into a box of suitable width and depth. Slats are fixed across the bottom of the box at suitable intervals, or shallow holes bored in the bottom in such order that no particle could run along the bottom in a straight line and escape without running over a hole. Several of these boxes are then set up with a considerable slope and are fitted into one another at the ends like a stovepipe. A stream of water is now directed into the upper end of the highest box, and the gravel having been collected as in the case of the rocker, it is shoveled into the upper box and is washed downward by the strong current of water. The gold is detained by its weight and is held by the slats or the holes mentioned. If it is fine, mercury is placed behind the slats or in these holes to catch it. In this way about three times as much dirt can be washed as by the rocker, and consequently three times as much gold is secured, in a given time. After the boxes are done with, they are burned and the ashes washed for the gold held in the wood.

COOK INLET DISTRICT.

This body of water is about 600 miles west by north of Sitka and trails connect it with the Kuskokwim River, the second largest stream in Alaska, and with the Tanana and Yukon. A good deal of placer mining is being done along the shores of tributary streams, several hundred men finding employment in mining and fishing, there being three canneries. Large deposits of coal exist, which are described by Prof. Dall in his report to the government on the "Coals and Lignites of Alaska." The schooner Bertha arrived at Seattle in October from Cook Inlet with nearly one hundred miners having from \$500 to \$20,000 each, or a total of a quarter of a million between them, the result of a year's work. Among the party was A. P. Vinnedge, a well-known citizen of Seattle, who said:

"The Cook Inlet country is big with possibilities. Its resources have been but partially explored. For several weeks before I left several claims were paying \$150 to \$175 per day. Were it not for the Klondike records this would be considered big money. Our gold dust sells for \$16.50 at the mint. An ounce of gold dust per man per day diggings is about the average of the whole district, although on one claim on Mills Creek two men took out \$1,500 in ten hours. They used only a pan and rocker. Several hydraulic outfits will be sent up next spring and work will be done on a much larger scale. A California outfit of six men at the mouth of Six-Mile Creek has an immense bar of gravel. They will bring down about \$15,000 on a ship to leave later, the greater part of which will be put into a hydraulic outfit. They did a great deal of ditch work this year, or they would have more money to bring out. A large vein of free-milling gold quartz was discovered just before I left. It was located on the slope of Mt. Kenai, and a ledge 13 feet in width assayed nearly \$1,000 to the ton in gold. There are two mining districts—Resurrection and Sunrise. The Sunrise district consists of Six-Mile Creek and its various tributaries, and the Resurrection district of Resurrection Creek and its small branches. The ground on both of these creeks and their branches has been located in continuous claims. Sunrise City, at the mouth of Six-Mile Creek, is the Dawson of the district. The claims begin at the outskirts of the town and run up river. Both Resurrection and Sunrise creeks empty into the northern part of the inlet, within a short distance of each other. Sunrise City is a typical Alaskan mining camp town. It consists of about twenty-five log cabins and six frame store buildings. One of these is occupied by the Sunrise Hotel, two are used as saloons, and the others by the Alaska Commercial Company and the United States Mercantile Company. The town is on the tapers of a small building boom, and a great deal of lumber has been taken in this summer. The miners either live in cabins on their claims or in town. All are comfortable the whole year round."

The Russians established several colonies along the shores of the inlet, where they engaged in raising crops and cattle. The inlet has a good climate; the Russians called it "Summer Land." It is a veritable pleasure resort on account of its scenery, hunting and fishing. A chain of active volcanoes, snowy peaks and glaciers is in sight, and lofty waterfalls leap from rocky cliffs. Hot springs occur on the forested slopes. Old Fort Kenai stands on the eastern shore, and Mt. Iliamna, from whose double crater smoke is always rising, lies to the west, and near by is the largest lake in Alaska, Iliamna, 90 by 60 miles in size.

THE COPPER RIVER COUNTRY.

This stream is about 400 miles long and very erratic in its course among the mountains. The Indians of this region do considerable mining and have a process of hardening copper, which is said to make it as hard as steel. They have brought in nuggets of gold to the trading station and the belief is that rich discoveries of the metal will yet be made. The country has been very little explored. The river has a delta mouth 5x30 miles on the coast, about 450 miles west of Sitka. The upper waters of the river can be reached by trail from Cook Inlet. Boats leave Seattle at regular intervals for Copper River and Prince William Sound. The Steamer "Townsend" will leave Port Townsend February 1 and every twenty days thereafter for same ports.

A LARGE LAND.

Alaska is the Russian America of the old maps. The first white men, Bering and his associates, to reach its shores in the seventeenth century, in search of furs, gave Russia title under right of discovery. Pribilof discovered the Seal Islands in 1796. The Russian American Fur Company was chartered by the Czar in 1800. Sitka was founded in 1801. The mainland is estimated to contain 580,000 square miles, the islands of Alexander Archipelago, 31,200, and the Aleutian Islands, 6,400, making a grand total of 617,600 square miles, an area greater than the entire Union east of the Mississippi. The United States bought the country in 1867 for \$7,200,000, two cents an acre, the largest real estate deal of history.

IMMENSE WEALTH.

An eminent authority upon Alaska in an address recently delivered in an eastern city has this to say about the future of the Yukon region:

"Bonanza and Eldorado creeks afford between them 278 claims; the several affluents will yield as many more, and all of these claims are good. I have no hesitation in saying that 100 of those on Bonanza will yield upwards of \$30,000,000. Claim thirty on Eldorado will yield a million in itself, and ten others will yield from \$100,000 upward. These two creeks will, I am quite confident, turn out from \$60,000,000 to \$75,000,000 and I can safely say that there is no other region in the world of the same extent that has afforded in the same length of time so many homestakes—fortunes enabling the owners to go home and enjoy the remainder of their days." * * * "We must have from 90,000 to 100,000 square miles, which, with proper care, judicious handling and better facilities for the transportation of food and utensils, will be the largest, as it is the richest gold field the world has ever known." * * * "That country offers to men of great fortitude and some intelligence and steadiness an opportunity to make more money in a given time than they possibly could make anywhere else. They will have, of course, a good deal to contend with." * * * "I object to the use of the name Klondike, because that is so small a portion of the territory up there in the Yukon region, in comparison with which the area of the Klondike would not compare any more than my hand would with that blackboard, and nearly all that vast stretch of country has yet to be prospected."

CLIMATE OF ALASKA.

The climates of the coast and interior are unlike in many respects. A strip of the mainland back to the mountains and its fringe of islands has a temperate climate not unlike Norway, with little zero weather but a heavy rainfall and a profuse vegetation. The interior has a wide range of heat and cold. The mildness of the coast is due to the Japan current, a warm stream in the Pacific Ocean that strikes the coast of British Columbia, and dividing, sends one branch northward to meet another branch which strikes the Aleutian Islands and expends its force in Bering Sea. The mean winter temperature of Sitka is about that of Washington, D. C., but the annual range is less, running from 32 degrees above zero in winter to 75 degrees above in summer. There is a good deal of foggy and cloudy weather on the coast, the clear days averaging about 66 in the year. The climate of the interior is one of rigorous cold in winter, with a short hot summer, especially days when the sky is clear. The day of mid-winter on the upper Yukon has the sun in sight less than four hours, while in mid-summer it hardly gets dark. The records of the Canadian mounted police at Fort Constantine during the winter of 1896-7 showed the first zero weather on November 10, and the last on April 29. It never rose above zero from December 19 to February 6. The lowest temperature was 65 degrees below on January 27, and on 24 days it went 50 below. The cold is not difficult to bear when a man is suitably clothed, and the winter season is better to travel in with dog sleds over snow and ice than during the summer, when the moss, which covers the whole face of the country, is wet and the low places are swampy and mosquitoes troublesome.

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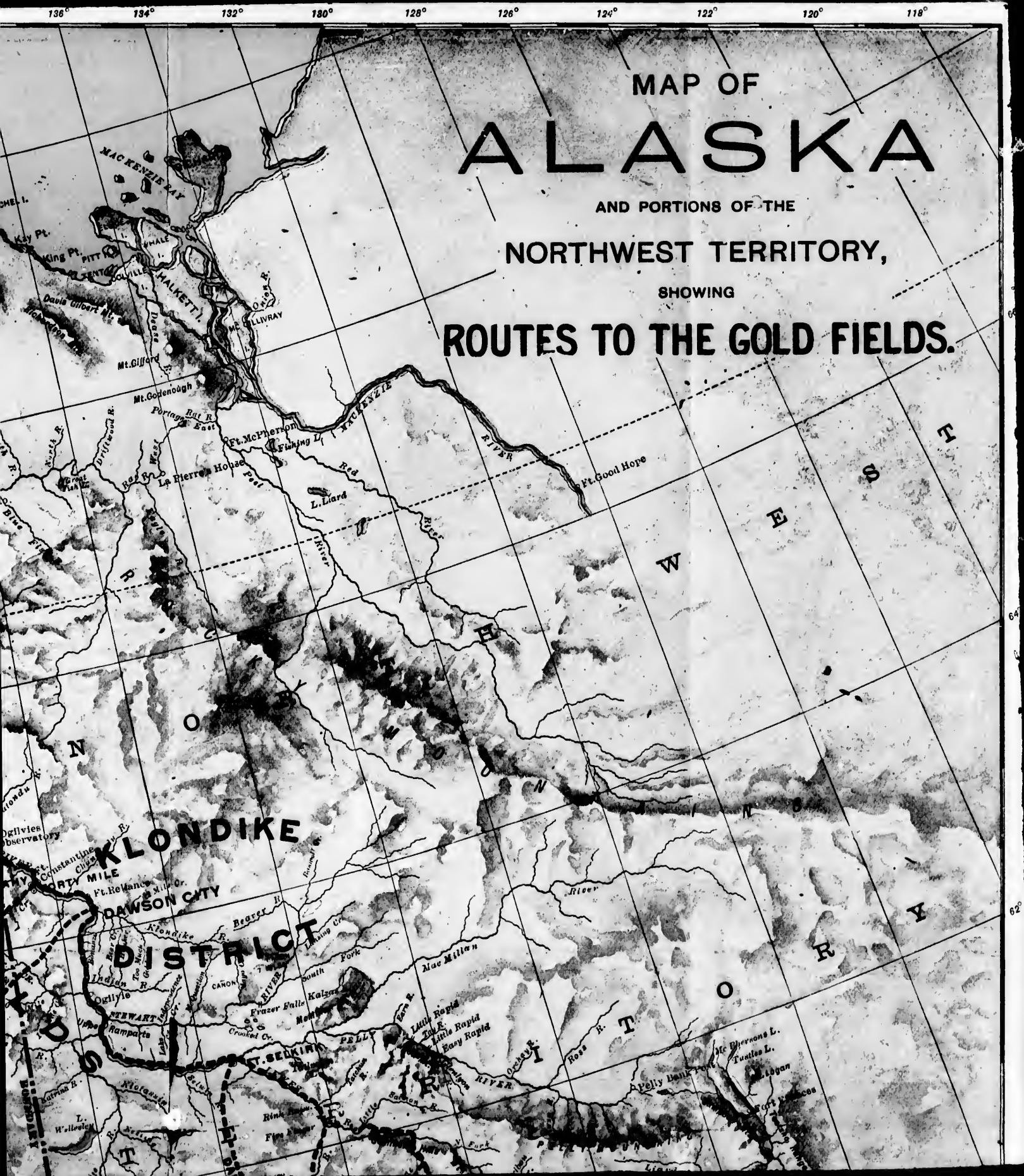
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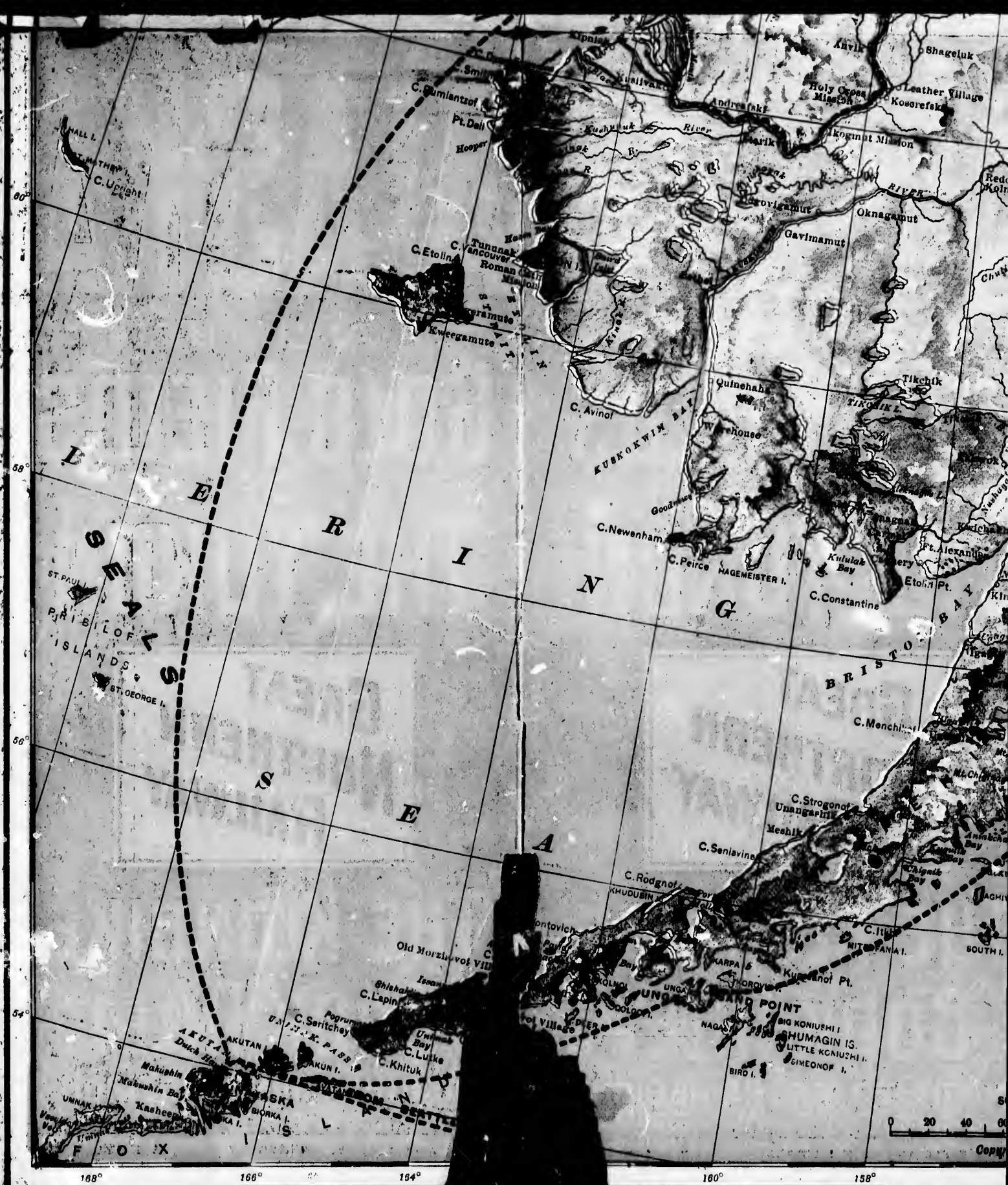
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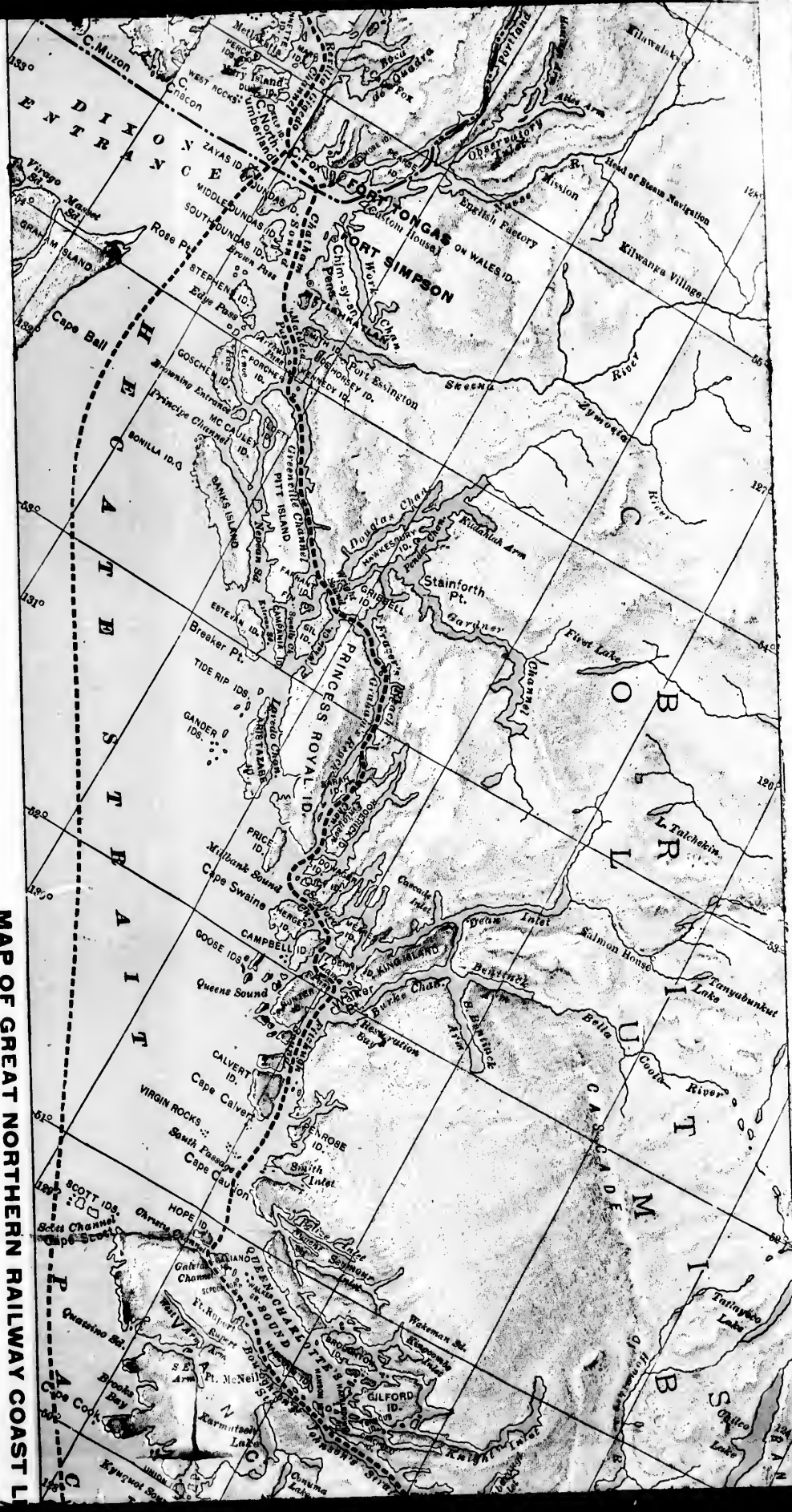
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