

The great valley of this river and of its tributaries has not been explored, and its resources are unknown. The Russian American Fur Company formally had, and the Alaska Commercial Company at present have, trading points on it, the former at Nulato, and the latter at Fort Yukon, Fort Selkirk, and Fort Pelly Banks, at which large quantities of furs are obtained. Fort Yukon is at the junction of the Porcupine River, and is the most northerly settlement in Alaska, being within a few miles of the Arctic Circle. Large numbers of Indians occupy the Territory, subsisting upon game and fish, of which there are an abundance. Vast herds of moose and reindeer attest the grazing capacity of the country, and these, with many varieties of fur bearing animals, constitute an important resource. The weather is exceedingly cold in winter, the thermometer measuring at times as low as 60° below zero; but the summers, though short, and with the long days of June, when the sun scarcely sets, are very pleasant. Grass, of the Kentucky blue-joint variety, grows in great luxuriance throughout the valley of the Yukon, and about Norton and Kotzebue Sounds, where, in the bright summer, may be seen countless miles of waving meadow, in which this excellent herbage is growing from three to four feet in height. Berries of many varieties grow in profusion, and a few hardy vegetables are cultivated. In the interior, bordering on British Columbia, the climate is quite pleasant, but the coast is subject to excessive rains. The islands are generally barren, but those of the Aleutian group contain small patches of arable soil, and the climate being more mild, some quite tender plants are cultivated. Gold is found on the Stikkeen and other streams along the southeastern border, and amber is gathered at various points on the coast. Mail communication with Sitka is maintained by monthly steamer from Portland, Oregon, via Victoria and way stations, and the vessels of the Fur Companies make frequent trips from San Francisco to the various posts.

A

GAZETEEER AND DIRECTORY

OF

BUSINESS LOCALITIES

IN

ALASKA TERRITORY.

Fort Kenay, P O address, Sitka, 675 miles northwest of Sitka, is one of the principal stations of the fur traders on Cook's Inlet, north of the island of Kodiak, from which it is distant about 100 miles. Several other stations are on the shores of the inlet and upon the river Sushina, which flows into it.

Fort Tongass, a military station on an island of the same name, 105 miles north of Sitka. This was established upon taking possession of the Territory, as a protection against Indians, but as there was nobody to be protected, and but a dozen or so squalid savages to commit offense, the soldiers have been withdrawn, and Fort Tongass is now but an Indian camp.

Martin Abraham, general merchandise

Fort Wrangle, P O, a military station on the main land, 100 miles east of Sitka. The troops formerly stationed at this place have been removed, but recent discoveries of gold on the Stikkeen River, which near here breaks through the Cascade or Coast Range of mountains, will give the place some importance. The Stikkeen enters from British Columbia, and is a navigable river. Near the mouth of this river, and of easy access to tourists, is one of the largest glaciers of the known world.

Learn W K, postmaster, and general merchandise
Martin Abraham, general merchandise

Klowak

Hamilton George, general merchandise

Kodiak

Alaska Commercial Co, general merchandise
Shipper D & Co, general merchandise

Michaelovski, or **St. Michaels**, 1,200 miles northwest of Sitka, is the principal station on Norton Sound, and about 40 miles northeast of the northern mouth of the Kwichpak or Yukon River, and is the depot from which the stations on the river are supplied. This great river having a bar at the mouth prevents vessels drawing over six feet

water entering, consequently only small craft from St. Michaels venture in the trade by water, the principal business being carried on overland to Nulato, or other points on the river. The delta of the Yukon has a breadth of about 90 miles, and flows such a current into Behring Sea that fresh water for ships' use is often taken up 50 miles from shore.

Sitka, P O and Capital of Alaska, is on the western shore of the Island of Baranoff, in latitude 57°, and fronts a large and commodious harbor. The place was formerly called New Archangel, from the resemblance of the harbor to the harbor of Archangel, in Russia, and the bay Sitka, but all—bay, island and town—now bear the name of Sitka. This has been made the headquarters of the military affairs of Alaska, but otherwise possesses little of importance. With the presence of the soldiers it at present has a population of about 500. The town is built of wood, and does not present a very imposing appearance.

Frohman I, general merchandise
Fuller H, Alaska Ice Co agent
Goldstein Samuel, general merchandise
Haltern T, general merchandise
Kaplan L, general merchandise
Levy Aaron, general merchandise
Martin Abraham, general merchandise
Phillipson William, postmaster, and general merchandise
Whitford A T, general merchandise

St. Georges Island

Alaska Commercial Co, general merchandise

St. Paul, Kodiak Island, the largest town of Alaska, 550 miles west of Sitka. This is on the principal harbor of the island, which receives its name from its resemblance to a tub—"kadia"—in the Russian language meaning tub. The harbor is one of the best in the world, and of easy access, and the town enjoys a large trade with the Aleutian Islands and the Peninsula of Alaska.

Alaska Commercial Co, general merchandise

FARNSWORTH & CLARK represent the best Eastern Insurance Companies.