

ALASKA VOLCANOES

Six Active Mountains of Fire Within a Radius of a Hundred Miles.

Much is heard of the stately Mount St. Elias, in southern Alaska, which towers 19,500 feet above the sea level, because of its being the highest mountain in America, but this mountain with its smoking crater, though probably the grandest, is not the most interesting one of the north, by any means. The volcanoes Unalakleet, Bogosloff, Programmia, Akutan, Shishaldin, and Pavloff, all located in the Aleutian Islands, 1,300 miles from Sitka, are probably the most interesting mountains in the world. All six volcanoes are in active operation, and are located within a radius of 100 miles of Oonakaska. From the Pacific Ocean all the mountains, with the exception of Pavloff, which is hidden from view behind another mountain, can be seen at once, with the smoke and steam rolling upward from their craters. More is not told the world of these splendid mountains because they are seldom visited. Tourists do not go within 1,300 miles of them, for there is no regularly established line of steamers running further north than Sitka. The far-off land favored with the presence of these smoking mountains, which should prove the life study of a geological student, is visited only by an occasional whaler or a revenue cutter.

The revenue cutter Bear, which returned from the Aleutian Islands last week, and which is now on her return north, brought down a great deal of information concerning the volcanoes. Lieut. D. H. Jarvis of the Bear, who has taken special notice of the six volcanoes in this group of islands, has made several cruises north, having been in both the Bear and Rush, Government cutters, and upon each cruise he embraced every opportunity to learn more of them. Several of them he has visited; he has climbed to their summit and acquainted himself with their peculiarities.

He spent much time examining Bogosloff, which he soon found to be the most interesting mountain of the group. Speaking of Alaska volcanoes, the Lieutenant says: "From the mainland to Attu, a distance of 1,000 miles, are hundreds of islands. The map will show that they are chained along, Attu being the westward island of the group that composes the Alaska peninsula. The islands are all of volcanic origin, Oonakaska, or Oonakaska Island, is east to the centre of the group by several hundred miles, and is in the centre of the Aleutian Islands. Oonakaska Island, which is about eighty miles long, is the largest. The other islands, of which there are numbers vary in size from this down to a mere reef or rock projecting out of the sea."

The Lieutenant found Bogosloff an especially fascinating study. One hundred years ago Bogosloff did not exist. The island on which the volcano is situated lay at the bottom of the sea. Just about 100 years ago there were continuous jarings in the Aleutian group, and the several volcanoes smoked and belched forth lava, showing that an internal war was in progress in the bowels of the earth. One morning, during a heavy disturbance, the natives of Oonakaska saw an immense object rise up out of the sea, about sixty miles to the northward. Great volumes of smoke and showers of a hot and running lava came out of the object. After many days the disturbance subsided, and the natives could see that a new island had come to join the group and they called the new arrival Bogosloff. The island was about half a mile long, and was 350 feet high. The island in reality was nothing but the volcano, for from the water line it towered from all sides up to the summit. A peculiar feature of the mountain was that it had no well-defined crater. From many fissures which cut across the sides of the mountain and around the top huge volumes of smoke came, but at the top there was no hole. Still notwithstanding this deformity, Bogosloff was very lively, and made more fuss than all the rest of the larger volcanoes.

About eight years ago, during a violent eruption, another island came up out of the sea and joining Bogosloff became one island. During the summer of 1889, while in the Government service, Lieut. Jarvis visited Bogosloff for the first time. He walked all over the mountain whose entire sides were rent with huge fissures out of which came hot, stifling smoke, odorless with sulphur. So much smoke came out of the fissures that it was simply impossible to go close to them much less look down into them. There was no crater or fissure directly at the summit, as was found by examination. Again, last summer, the Lieutenant went to Alaska, this time in the revenue cutter Kush.

When the cutter made landfall at Oonakaska the natives told the officers of the steamer that a few months before there were eruptions among the volcanoes, and that Bogosloff was especially angry; that the island gave out great showers of hot ashes and steam and black smoke. The rush made the run of sixty miles to the island, and long before she hoisted to those on board could see that the whole top of the volcano had fallen in, forming an immense crater, from out of which the smoke not only rolled, but puffed like the exhaust of an enormous engine. These who went on shore did not dare go near the summit because of the intense heat. In the top falling in the height of the mountain was reduced a full 150 feet, leaving only 200 feet above the sea level.

Clear days are almost unknown in this land of ice and volcanoes. When it is not raining in summer it is foggy, and when it is not snowing in winter a wind is fierce and howling. Once in a while, in the early spring, mariners are favored with a few clear days. The wind lies down, the sky is free of clouds, and the deep blue azure of space looks down upon the trembling ocean with a cold, unfeeling gaze. At this time of the year the country is covered with ice and snow, the land being distinguishable from the sea because of its whiteness. The scenery from the deck of a cutter or whaler on such a day is enchanting, and the view remains indelible upon the memory. During the latter part of April last, while the Bear was en route from the Pribylov Islands to Oonakaska, such a day as described was enjoyed. Morning broke while the Bear was forty miles from Bogosloff, and Unalakleet, Makushin, Programmia, Akutan, and Shishaldin came out in bold relief to the southwest. All were in active operation, and Bogosloff, not content with merely smoking like the rest of the mountains, was puffing savagely.

Unnak, which is 8,000 feet high, lies the furthest to the westward of the group, and Pavloff, also 8,000 feet high, lies the furthest to the eastward. Between these two are ranged in order, from west to east,

the other four mountains—Bogosloff, Makushin, Programmia, Akutan, and Shishaldin. The latter is a big round mount 9,000 feet high, and is by far the grandest of the group. He is always grumbling, and a steady volume of smoke continually wreathes from the summit. Programmia is 5,500 feet high, and Akutan towers up 4,000 feet. Makushin is 5,500 feet high. The grandest view of the volcanoes can be had from the Pacific Ocean side.

NUMBER OF BABIES BORN ANNUALLY.

A Procession Lasting Six Years.

It has been computed that between 36,000,000 and 37,000,000 babies are born into the world each year. The rate of production is, therefore, about seventy per minute, or more than one for every beat of the clock. With one momentary calculation every reader is familiar, but it is not every one who stops to calculate what this means when it comes to a year's supply. It will, therefore, probably startle a good many persons to find on the authority of a well-known statistician that, could the infants of a year be ranged in a line in cradles, the cradles would extend around the globe. The same writer looks at the matter in a still more picturesque light. He imagines the babies being carried past a given point in their mothers' arms, one by one, and the procession being kept up night and day until the last hour in the twelfth month had passed by. A sufficiently liberal rate is allowed, but even in going past at the rate of twenty a minute, 1,200 an hour during the entire year, the reviewer at his post would only have seen the sixth part of this infantile host. In other words, the babies that had to be carried when the tramp began would be able to walk when but a mere fraction of his comrades had reached the reviewer's post, and when the year's supply of babies was drawing to a close there would be a rear-guard, not of infants, but of romping six-year-old boys and girls.

On a Long Journey.

Tramp—"Please, mum, I can't git work at me trade now anywhere around here, and wud you be so kind as ter help me along on me journey to a place where I can find work?"

Lady—"Poor man! I didn't know business was so dull. Where do you expect to find work?"

"Considerin' the time o' year, mum, I'm afraid I'll have to go a long ways north of here."

"Indeed. What is your trade?"

"I'm a snow shoveler, mum."

An Interesting Find.

An interesting find has been made in a mound at Hobro, Jutland. It consists of a large sacrificial bowl of solid silver, evidently of Gallic origin, after Roman art had influenced the manufactures of the province. The measurements are 26 inches in diameter, 16 inches high, and it weighs 20 kilograms. Inside and outside the bowl is covered with silver plates ornamented with mythological figures in high relief, representing gods, warriors, women, wolves, lions, elephants, stags, oxen, griffins, serpents. The warriors' helmets are decorated with horns and the images of bears and birds. The bottom of the bowl is a round silver plate, ornamented with the figure of a bull in high relief.

Pat's Great Wonder.

We are surrounded by dangers all the way from the cradle to the grave. "The great wonder is," as Pat says, "that after getting out of our cradle, we live long enough to reach our grave." Thousands are out of health—morose, morbid and miserable, because they do not avail themselves of the remedy within easy reach of them. Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery would cure them.

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Adam and Eve were not exactly thrown out of the Garden—they were snaked out.

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The world is like a fruit-basket. The big and attractive get on top, while the little ones are crushed out of sight in the bottom.

A Dangerous Counterfeit.

The man who counterfeits a coin of a bank note, or who is detected in an attempt to pass a counterfeit is speedily placed in prison as a person too dangerous to be permitted to be at large. How much more dangerous is the person who, for the sake of petty gain, endeavors to impose upon the public a dangerous and worthless counterfeit of a popular medicine. The great popularity achieved by Pink Pills, and the wonderful results that have followed their use for the treatment of all female complaints, nervous diseases, and general debility in both males and females, has induced some unscrupulous parties to place upon the market a worthless imitation, resembling the genuine Pink Pills in appearance only. The public are cautioned against these spurious imitations, and are asked to see that every box they purchase bears the trade mark and name of The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., of Brockville, Ont. Do not permit any dealer to palm off upon you any imitation of the genuine pill, as not only will they not produce the expected results, but may prove positively harmful. No other pill made can produce the extremely wonderful results obtained by the use of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. Sold by all dealers or sent post-paid, on receipt of price (50c. a box) by addressing The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

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