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REINDEER HERDS IN ALASKA VALUABLE

Worth More Than U. S. Paid to Russia for the Entire Territory

Domestic reindeer herds in Alaska are now worth \$1,550,000 more than the United States paid to Russia in 1867 for the entire territory, announced the bureau of education of the department of the interior in its annual report for the past fiscal year made public today.

Of the whole number of reindeer, approximately 350,000, about 235,000 are owned by natives. The deer supply to their owners not only food and clothing, but a livelihood. The entire industry has developed since 1892, when the bureau of education began to import the animals from Siberia. The herds extend from the Arctic to the Pacific ocean, and in the interior from the Alaska railroad to the Aleutian Islands. The present problem which confronts the bureau of education in this connection is to reorganize the industry on a co-operative basis so as to handle the increasing herds more efficiently and to market the meat more economically. Already reindeer venison is appearing frequently as a "special" in high grade restaurants and dining cars of the northwest and its general use in the States will soon be merely a matter of transportation.

The bureau of education is charged by law with the education and welfare of the natives of Alaska, and the bureau of education of introduction of reindeer is but a part of its work in their behalf. Schools, hospitals, and co-operative commercial enterprises are also included. The commissioner in his report lays stress which has recently been undertaken, and especially upon the introduction of modern methods of industrial training. The changes extend to all the schools more or less, but the most striking innovation is the establishment of industrial boarding schools at Eklutna, Kanakanak, and White Mountain.

GEOLOGY EXPERT REPORTS FINDINGS

John R. Ball of the geology department of the Northwestern university in a recent statement to the members of the society of Sigma Xi, presented new data regarding recent explorations he has made in the Bainbridge limestone formation in Missouri, stating the fossils he recently found there correspond with fossils already discovered in Southern Illinois and Western Tennessee convincing him that millions of years ago the Silurian sea covered all this part of the country at the same time. This is a personal discovery of the Northwestern university teacher and is interesting because it furnishes new information dealing with the physical aspects of the earth when it was in primitive development.

Associated with other formations of Silurian age it is recognized at several points between these two places. The Bainbridge limestone is a formation of the Silurian age out-cropping along the Mississippi river north of Cape Girardeau, Missouri, said Mr. Ball. "It outcrops also near St. Genevieve, Missouri, a city about fifty miles north of Cape Girardeau. The discovery of several ledges rich in fossil remains has made possible recently a detailed study of its fauna. From the different assemblages of fossils in these ledges it is now possible to divide the Bainbridge into at least two definite horizons that in general will correlate closely with formations outcropping in Western Tennessee and Southern Illinois."

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