

## "Go North Young Man" to Alaska, Says Edwin Balmer, the North Shore Novelist

Edwin Balmer, 727 Lincoln street, Evanston, in an article entitled, "Go North, Young Man," published in the August number of the Cosmopolitan, uses the city of Evanston as a basis of comparison between the cities of the middle and far northern latitudes. The article is aimed directly at the prejudice that exists in the temperate zones against little known opportunities of Alaska and northern Canada. He begins with a historical account of the barriers that man has set from time to time between his own habitat and that lying to the north, and shows that, as time and experience weaken prejudice, the trend of progress is toward the lesser latitudes.

**Pays Tribute to Stefansson**  
He pays tribute to Vilhjorim Stefansson, the American explorer, and his assistants, who by their precedent-breaking expedition into the unknown parts of Alaska without the elaborate system of food depots and supplies demonstrated that the arctic fields support adequate subsistence for man and beast. The task of opening up these neglected opportunities falls to the Americans by right of fitness and physical equipment.

"To be an American," he says, "has meant to be one of a race of men formed by frontier life, men whose most characteristic impulse has been ever to extend the edges of civilization, men made to be pioneers in the empty places."

**Used Wrong Standards**  
"One of the great difficulties in the development of the north has been the fact that men have been too ready to value or condemn northern lands on the basis of the standards of the temperate zones. It is easily apparent that identical crops and stock can not prosper in both latitudes. This, however, does not detract from the value of northern opportunities. One of the great industries of Alaska is soon to be the raising of the reindeer. The wild reindeer or caribou, when domesticated, is valuable

as a draft animal, milk-giving animal, meat animal and one furnishing leather. The importation of domestic reindeer from Siberia to replace the thousands killed off by the natives has been a part of the work of the bureau of education for the natives of Alaska, and men from Chicago and other middle-south cities have obtained and are exercising grazing privileges for this valuable animal. Another animal which prospers in the colder climates is the musk ox, which is valuable for meat, hide and wool.

"As for climate, many people will be surprised to learn that much of Alaska lies in the north temperate zones and reaches a temperature of 90 degrees in the summer time. Even on the arctic prairie roses and other beautiful flowers of fall sorts abound."

**Evanston City of Homes**  
After stating the population of Alaska and its educational opportunities, Balmer goes on to say: "I am writing this in a suburb of Chicago called Evanston, known as the city of homes. We have a population of about 35,000, with an enrollment of less than 5,000 in the grade schools. The comparison, of course, favors the Illinois city, but it shows Alaska as the all-round-the-year land for more women and children than many may suspect."

He closes his article by saying, "Our new frontier may be depended upon to be truly American—'American' meaning the mixture of many peoples related only by common instincts and desires. The pioneers will come, not from a locality but from a generation, as the young men came to our west—such men as Theodore Roosevelt made his comrades and who had their part in the making of that man."

Edwin Balmer is a graduate of Northwestern and has been a resident of Evanston for the past fifteen years. He is a member of the Society of Midland authors and has been a contributor to popular magazines for many years.

### LARGEST CHEESE IN WORLD COSTS \$16,000

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the National dairy show, to be held at the International amphitheater October 6 to 12, 1919.

So big and unique is this huge cheese that motion pictures have been taken by two large film companies, which will circulate the pictures of the world's largest cheese throughout the world as well as the process of manufacture.

### ALL EXPORT RECORDS ARE BROKEN IN JUNE OF 1919

A remarkable jump in exports during June brought the total for the fiscal year 1919 to more than seven billion dollars, a new record, according to a statement issued recently by the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce, department of commerce.

The June exports are put at \$918,000,000 which exceeds the previous high record, established in April of this year, by more than \$200,000,000. The exports for June of last year were valued at \$484,000,000. Total ex-

ports for the fiscal year stand at \$7,225,000,000, as compared with \$5,920,000,000 for the fiscal year 1918. This is more than three times the exports for 1914, the last normal year. Exports since the armistice was signed in November, are estimated at about \$5,000,000,000. The excess of exports over imports for the fiscal year 1919 was \$4,129,000,000 against \$3,000,000,000 the previous year and less than \$500,000 in 1914.

### Civil Service Examination

The United States Civil Service Commission announces an open competitive examination for assistant observer, Weather Bureau, for unmarried men, on August 20, September 17, and October 22, 1919, to fill vacancies in offices of the Weather Bureau throughout the United States, and in positions requiring similar qualifications, at \$1,080 a year, or higher or lower salaries, will be filled from this examination. Applicants should at once apply for Form 304, stating the title of the examination desired, to the Civil Service Commission, Washington, D. C.

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