

THE ALASKA-YUKON-PACIFIC EXPOSITION.

A World's Fair Will Be Held in Seattle, U. S. A., in 1909 Embracing Many Laudable Purposes in Its Plan and Scope—Citizens Raised \$650,000 in One Day for Enterprise.

By Frank L. Merrick.

The Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition, which will be held at Seattle, Washington, U. S. A., opening June 1, and closing October 15, 1909, will be, in relation to the world's development, one of the greatest world's fairs ever held.

The primary purpose of the exposition is to exploit the resources and potentialities of the Alaska and Yukon territories in the United States and the Dominion of Canada, and to make known and foster the vast importance of the trade of the Pacific Ocean and of the countries bordering upon it. Different from former expositions it does not depend upon historical sentiment to arouse enthusiasm and to induce participation. It will not celebrate any particular event; it will be a great international industrial and commercial exposition.

On October 2 last, five months after the incorporation of the exposition company, which was effected May 8, the people of Seattle were called upon to finance the enterprise by subscribing in one day to its capital stock of \$500,000. The generous and public spirited manner in which they responded by over-subscribing to the extent of \$150,000, making the total amount available with which to begin work, \$650,000, is now history. No other city for any purpose ever equalled such a feat. More than half a million dollars in one day is a large amount of money to be raised in a city of 200,000 inhabitants. An average of more than \$3.00 was subscribed for every man, woman and child in the city.

It will be the aim of the world's fair to exploit Alaska and Yukon by showing to the world by exhibits that these two countries possess many things besides snow, cold and gold. Few persons realize the great possibilities and advantages of these countries. Besides the gold, fish and fur resources there are many others that are only beginning to be developed, and which offer unusual inducements for the employment of capital and individual effort.

The mineral resources have been only scratched on the surface and the agricultural possibilities are only beginning to be realized. Alaska and Yukon will soon be able to support millions of people with practically all of the luxuries enjoyed by those living in other parts of Canada and the United States.

The foregoing statements are borne out by the example of Finland. This little country lies wholly north of the 60th parallel, while Alaska reaches six degrees south of this latitude. Finland is less than one-fourth the size of Alaska, and its agricultural area is less than 50,000 square miles, yet in 1898 Finland had a population of more than 2,800,000,

whereas Alaska now has only 93,000 inhabitants. Agriculture is the chief pursuit. Only about 300,000 persons dwell in cities. Finland exports large quantities of dairy products, live stock, flax and considerable grain, and the population has increased 800,000 in the past thirty years, in spite of the large emigration.

Yukon is in nearly the same latitude as Alaska and



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the resources and advantages differ very little from those of the American territory. Alaska and Yukon will be on exhibition in 1909. They have the goods and will have a chance to show them. They cannot make headway with the people they hope to convince by displaying totem poles or gilded cubes representing gold productions. The people want to see the real gold, the real coal, the real timber, the real copper and the real agricultural productions. The result cannot fail to be beneficial.

The bringing of the shores of the Pacific Ocean closer together commercially, will be another important accomplishment of the fair. This will be done by the exhibition of the products and resources of the countries bordering upon the greatest of oceans. There are great possibilities for an increase in the