

Arctic Alaska

plants, and moved along the coast in cold-storage boats. The amount marketed is steadily increasing, and the amount of meat used locally and in shipments far exceeds a million pounds annually; in 1927 there were shipped 990,000 pounds of reindeer meat to the United States.

North of the Yukon coal is present in fields of great extent, especially on the arctic coast between Cape Beaufort and Wainwright Inlet, and in regions adjacent to Point Barrow. Easily mined, now being procured by the Eskimos for local use, it is not improbable that in future years Alaska may furnish coal for the Pacific, as West Spitsbergen is now doing for northern Europe.

The possibility of petroleum deposits on the arctic coast is indicated by the withdrawal from private entry, in 1923, of 35,000 square miles, south of Point Barrow, known as Naval Petroleum Reserve Number 4.

The general impression that Arctic Alaska is a land of eternal frost and ice, unsuited for habitation and unsupplied with vegetation, is entirely incorrect. Agriculture is of limited extent, but barley, winter rye and winter wheat mature in selected places. North of the Yukon are many flourishing gardens, the best known being that at the Holy Cross Mission (Koserefyski), on the lower Yukon, where for thirty years potatoes and other hardy vegetables have rarely failed, while its dairy has always prospered. Even in the Koyukuk