

quite an important trading center, being visited by Thlinket tribes from the coast to the eastward as far as Bering bay, and also by the Copper River Indians of the Tinnel family. This traffic, to a certain extent, still exists, but not in the old dimensions. There is every reason to believe that the Copper River people have much decreased in numbers, and that they find other outlets for their trade to the northward on the Yukon or the Tennaiah.

Under the protection of the Russians the Eskimo race here occupied the coast as far eastward as Kaiak island and Comptroller bay, but in late years the Thlinket have gradually advanced westward, first mixing with the Eskimo and then absorbing and superseding them, until at the present day they are established in predominant numbers even west of the mouth of the Copper river.

The number of sea-otters sold at the Nuchek stores every year does not exceed 150, and are all killed between the islands of Nushegak and Kaiak. The whole Eskimo population of this secluded district is only about 500, and, as they are poor, they will most probably remain in this seclusion, which is broken but once or twice a year by the arrival of the trading-schooner. They have food in plenty such as it is, consisting of seal-blubber, salmon, the meat of the marmot, porcupine, and bear, varied occasionally by the welcome addition of mountain sheep, an animal that is found over all this alpine region, and is as persistently and skillfully hunted by the natives as is the chamois in Switzerland and the Tyrol. The meat of this mountain sheep, or goat, is in every way equal to the finest tame mutton, but by the time one of the native hunters brings a carcass down from the mountains to the sea-coast or the trading-store the meat is sadly bruised and lacerated, and presents rather an uninviting appearance. Foxes, of course, are plentiful here, as everywhere in Alaska, in two or three varieties, some very fine specimens of silver-gray being brought down to the coast by the Copper River Indians. No mineral deposits have been discovered in these mountains, with the exception of pure native copper, specimens of which have been secured from Copper river ever since the Russians first made their appearance there, but repeated attempts by Russians, and later by Americans, to locate the source from whence these specimens came have always resulted in failure. An American prospector who lived with those Indians for two years reports that he failed to discover copper or gold in paying quantities anywhere in that region, but his individual opinion is not sufficient to deny the existence of copper deposits, of which so many specimens have been procured; and the ultimate location of these deposits is only a question of time and energy.

Of the features of the coast between Copper river and Mount Saint Elias but little is known, but it is evidently a narrow table-land between the high mountains and the sea, well timbered, and traversed by numerous shallow streams that take their origin in the glaciers and eternal snows. The natives describe it as an excellent hunting-ground. The island of Kaiak is undoubtedly the point where Bering first approached the North American continent, and upon the southern point of which he bestowed the name of cape Saint Elias. It is not permanently inhabited, but hunting parties from the mainland sometimes remain here for many months at a time.

The Eskimo of this section partake of the same characteristics with the people of Kadiak and the peninsula.

Timber exists here in the greatest abundance. The dwellings of the people are generally under ground, according to Innuut custom, but where the Thlinket or Kolosh race has mixed with them and gained supremacy the mode of architecture changed at once to substantial log structures entirely above ground, generally with a plank platform running along the entire front, on which the inmates assemble in fine weather, and sit upon their haunches, wrapped in greasy blankets, smoking and staring stupidly into vacancy. At Nuchek there is a Russian chapel, but it is eight or nine years since a priest has made his appearance there. A creole reads prayers every Sunday in the chapel, which is kept in excellent repair with the aid of donations from all the surrounding villages. It is touching to observe the constancy and faith of these poor people, who have gathered at this central point from a circuit of one hundred miles every spring for the last nine years in the expectation of seeing a priest come at last to give them his blessing and to solemnize the marriages that have been contracted during this long interval. Baptism can be performed by the church reader under the rules of the Russian church.

I append a tabulated list of the settlements and the population of the entire peninsula division, as follows:

## KADIAC DIVISION.

Settlements.	Location.	Total.	White.	Creole.	Eskimo.	Athabas-kan.	Thlinket.
Total.....		4,352	34	917	2,211	804	826
Mitrofanja .....	Alaska peninsula .....	22		22			
Kadiak .....	Alaska peninsula .....	30		1	29		
Sutkboon .....	Alaska peninsula .....	25			25		
Kuyakak .....	Alaska peninsula .....	18			18		
Katmai .....	Alaska peninsula .....	218		37	181		
Kakak .....	Alaska peninsula .....	37			37		
Ashivak .....	Cape Douglas .....	46		6	40		
Saint Paul .....	Kadiak island .....	288	20	258	15		
Lezenova .....	Wood island .....	157	2	56	99		
Yelevoi .....	Spruce island .....	78		78			
Ouzinkie .....	Kadiak island .....	45		45			

## KADIAK DIVISION—Continued.

Settlements.	Location.	Total.	White.	Creole.	Eskimo.	Athabas-kan.	Thlinket.
Afognak (two villages).....	Afognak island.....	339		195	144		
Ooganok (two villages).....	Kadiak island.....	78			78		
Ooiak.....	Kadiak island.....	70			76		
Karluk.....	Kadiak island.....	302	1	24	277		
Akhiok.....	Kadiak island.....	114			114		
Ayakhtalik.....	Kadiak island.....	101		4	97		
Kaguiak.....	Kadiak island.....	109	1	6	102		
Three Saints bay.....	Kadiak island.....	7		4	3		
Old harbor.....	Kadiak island.....	160		5	155		
Orlova.....	Kadiak island.....	147		8	139		
Chiniak village.....	Kadiak island.....	24			24		
Killuda.....	Kadiak island.....	36			36		
Alexandrovska.....	Kenai peninsula.....	88	1	12	75		
Yalik.....	Eastern coast Kenai peninsula.....	32			32		
Seldovia and Ostrovki.....	Kenai peninsula.....	74		38	36		
Linda.....	Kenai peninsula.....	29				29	
Ninilehik.....	Kenai peninsula.....	53		53			
Kasslof.....	Kenai peninsula.....	31				31	
Chkituk and Chernilla.....	Kenai peninsula.....	50		10		40	
Silialak.....	Kenai peninsula.....	44				44	
Kenai Redoubt.....	Kenai peninsula.....	44	2	42			
Titukilak and Nikishka.....	Kenai peninsula.....	57				57	
Kultuk.....	Kenai peninsula.....	17				17	
Knakatnuk.....	Kinik river, Cook's inlet.....	57	1	1		55	
Ziluiat.....	Kinik river, Cook's inlet.....	16				16	
Nitakh.....	Kinik river, Cook's inlet.....	15				15	
Kinik.....	Kinik river, Cook's inlet.....	46				46	
Sushetno (1st village).....	Cook's inlet.....	44				44	
Sushetno (2d village).....	Cook's inlet.....	46				46	
Toyonok station and village.....	Cook's inlet.....	117	2	6		109	
Kustatan.....	Cook's inlet.....	65				65	
Chenege.....	Prince William sound.....	80			80		
Kanikhluk.....	Prince William sound.....	54			54		
Tavikhelek.....	Prince William sound.....	73			73		
Nuehek.....	Prince William sound.....	74	3	11	60		
Ikiak and Alaganu.....	Mouth of Copper river.....	117			117		
Cape Martin.....	Mouth of Copper river.....	7	1				6
Atnah villages.....	Copper river.....	250				250	
Chilknaat villages.....	Comptroller bay.....	170					170
Yektak villages.....	Foot of Mount Saint Elias range.....	150					150

The superficial area of the Kadiak district is approximately 70,884 square miles; the inhabitants, numbering 4,352, would give us a ratio of 1 inhabitant to 16½ square miles. The ratio of civilized population (white and creole) is 1 to 74½ square miles.

## THE SOUTHEASTERN DIVISION.

The narrow strip of coast-line from Mount Saint Elias to Portland canal, a strip that was patched upon the solid body of the Russian possessions on this continent through the ambition of Baranof, differs in all its characteristics from the bulk of Alaska, partaking essentially of those of the coast of British Columbia and the islands adjoining. Though Baranof, or rather the company which he represented, at the beginning of the present century was powerful enough not only to establish but to maintain possession of the narrow belt between the mountains and the sea, he was never able to extend the Russian possessions into the interior where the outposts of the Hudson Bay Company were already located, and as the successor of the Russians the people of the United States have shut off the British possessions from the sea-coast for a distance of nearly 500 miles.

This whole division is densely wooded and exceedingly mountainous in its formation; the coast is deeply indented with bays and fiords, and for two-thirds of its length is sheltered by the numerous islands of the Alexander archipelago. The forests, impinging as they do upon the sea-coast everywhere, are easily accessible, and will be of the greatest value in the future either as fuel or as building material. The Alaska spruce is the prevailing forest tree, but in the southern section of the division the yellow cedar, the most valuable of all the northern trees, exists in considerable quantities. The wood of this tree has always been an article of export to a limited extent, and it is purchased by the cabinet-makers of the Alaska coast at the present day; but the extent to which this industry might be developed is not yet known. Large bodies of this timber are found farther south in the adjoining British possessions. Coal has been discovered on many of the islands and on the mainland, but no practical use has thus far been made of the discoveries. An extensive vein of bronze-copper was opened