

BOOK REVIEWS

Alaskans All. By BARRETT WILLOUGHBY. (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1933, Pp. 234. \$2.50.)

The volume is in the usual charming style of the author, and is of five of the outstanding characters of the Alaskan Northland. It outlines settings as varied as the careers it portrays. Five of those who have helped to make history in that land in the past forty years stand out in a brilliant pen picture, tinted with the glamour of romance. Father Hubbard, the Glacier Priest; Ben Eilson, pioneer of the Arctic skies; Captain Louis Lane, champion Ice Pilot of the Arctic; Harriet Pullen, Mother of the North; and Stroller White, The Man Who Invented the Ice Worm, comprise the series.

Each figure graces its own field; one, the vast reaches of icy torrents that pour down the slopes of the Mountains of the southern and southwestern slopes of Alaska, in which are set gigantic craters, and valleys smoking with steam jets and sulphur fumaroles. Another chooses the Realm of the Air and gives his life to creation of a new system of transportation, a third has the sea as his domain, with its fields of floating floe; a fourth marks out a career in the hectic days of the Klondike Rush for Gold, and the building of the railway into the great Valley of the Yukon; while the last is unique in his chosen field of newspaper work of the Yukon and Alaska.

The fire of adventure blazes in the life of each of the characters, and the limning of each is touched with the glory of imagination. They are skillfully blended in a word painting.

The first is largely from sketches outlined by the Padre, of his explorations in Katmai, Aniakchakfi and Veniaminof craters. In the second is a biographical and descriptive sketch of the noted flier, his air conquests and his unfortunate end. Next we have a glimpse at the way Louis Lane looks at whaling and polar bear hunting, which is followed by the story of a woman in the gold crazy throng at Skagway, of her building a business where none existed before, with Soapy Smith the one real Bandit of the North, thrown in for local color. The finale is of a young, budding journalist seeking an opening in the newspaper field in Dawson in Ninety-Eight and his resulting career. These compose this chapter of the Northland. It is a most entertaining volume.

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