

day. Then a monthly report was sent to each superintendent showing the names of those men who were late three or more times within the month. And if an employee was late five times in a month for three months, or eight times a month for two months he was subject to dismissal unless he showed marked improvement. Competition between departments for bettering records was aroused, and during 1925 the rate of lateness was cut to five persons per thousand each day.

There is a seasonal trend in tardiness, Mr. Motley finds, December being the record breaking month for lateness, and March showing the fewest cases of tardiness.

LITTLE KNOWN ALASKAN ISLANDS TO BE SCIENTIFICALLY EXPLORED

The Aleutian Islands, a string of thirty or more volcanic peaks rising above the surface of the sea and forming a chain of stepping stones between Alaska and the northeastern corner of Siberia, are at last to be systematically explored by scientists. Hitherto they have remained almost as unknown as they were when the United States purchased Alaska from Russia, but at the annual meeting of the American Geophysical Union preliminary steps were decided upon that are expected to unlock their secrets.

Many scientific agencies are interested in the Aleutians: the U. S. Geological Survey and the Geophysical Laboratory of the Carnegie Institution of Washington in the volcanoes, the U. S. Department of Agriculture in climate, soils, forests, and wild animals, the Coast and Geodetic Survey in the accurate charting and mapping of the land and water areas, the Army and Navy in their relation to the national defense. These and other institutions expect to cooperate for a considerable number of years to come in obtaining and making available accurate information about this little known territory.

COWS MAY BE SAVED BY NEW VACCINE

Thousands of dollars may be saved to cattle breeders if experiments being carried out at the Michigan State Agricultural College prove successful. Prevention of premature calving in cattle, responsible for large losses annually, is being sought by scientists with vaccination. This condition is caused by infection from a specific bacteria, hence the possibility of combatting the disease by inoculation.

Dr. I. Forest Huddleson of the bacteriological section of the State Agricultural College has been conducting a series of experimental inoculations of cattle to determine if this method can be successfully used as a preventive. The idea is much the same, according to Dr. Huddleson, as that of smallpox vaccination. It is necessary to evolve a strain of the causative organism so weakened that it will not cause harmful effects but will still stimulate the production of enough antitoxins to confer future immunity to the disease.

He has found that the cattle he has inoculated have attained a certain degree of immunity and it is hoped that further research will develop a strain of bacteria that will confer complete immunity.
