



WESTERN ALASKA—The village of Tuliksak, situated on the Kuskokwim river, is typical of native settlements in the interior of the Territory. The Kuskokwim is the second largest river in Alaska.

been under investigation by Dr. J. P. Scott.

Further studies along this line will be undertaken, and guinea pigs, rabbits, and hamsters will also be utilized in connection with various phases of the problem.

The Hamilton farm will be used as headquarters for this project. This is a 58-acre estate recently given to the Lab-

oratory and located just outside Bar Harbor, Maine. It has barns, shacks and farm buildings which can be easily converted to serve excellently for this purpose.

It is planned to enlist the cooperation of farmers in the vicinity to rear the dogs bred in connection with the experiment. This method has been widely used by British dog breeders and will greatly reduce the expense of breeding operations.

Science News Letter, May 19, 1945

GEOLOGY

Untapped Resources

See Front Cover

► ALASKA IS in the limelight as a vast storehouse of essential minerals, as yet undeveloped, as a result of wartime investigations made by the U. S. Geological Survey and the U. S. Bureau of Mines. Ground explorations were made and photographs, like the one on the front cover of this SCIENCE NEWS LETTER, were taken from airplanes over great stretches of country until now little known.

This American territory, one-fifth the size of the United States proper, is already well-known for its gold and copper production but it has produced other

minerals, both metallic and non-metallic, which have contributed largely in the war. Since Alaska has been an American possession, the total mineral production has a value of approximately \$900,000,000, of which gold accounts for about 70% and copper for about 35%. The other commercial minerals mined include silver, tin, tungsten, lead, chromium, platinum metals, antimony and mercury.

Considerable quantities of other minerals that have not yet been brought into widespread commercial production include iron, nickel, zinc, molybdenum and bismuth. Asbestos, barite, garnet, graphite and sulfur are among the available non-metals.

The lack of transportation has focused mining in Alaska on the production of minerals, such as gold, that have high unit values in comparison with their weights. In postwar days, with improvements in transportation and the introduction of mechanized mining, heavy commodities of lower unit values will be produced. An expected development in hydroelectrical energy will prove of great assistance in this heavy mining.

The aerial photographs taken by the government cover nearly 300,000 square miles of territory. They reveal topographical features and geological structures of value to mineral prospectors, and the terrain through which transportation routes would have to be provided.

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MEDICINE

More Doctors in 1944, But Fewer for Civilians

► THE NUMBER of physicians in the United States increased by 3,306 in 1944, the American Medical Association has reported. Many more than this number, however, were added to the armed forces as medical officers during the year, so there was a decrease in 1944 of the number of doctors available to civilians.

There were 6,933 additions to the medical profession in 1944. These were the men and women who in that year received their first license to practice medicine and surgery. During the same year 3,627 physicians died.

Considerably higher additions to the medical profession might have been expected because of the accelerated program for medical education during the war.

"While two classes were graduated from most medical schools in 1943," the medical association explains, "the number of physicians added to the profession in that year did not increase, since many physicians who obtained M.D. degrees in December of that year were not able to receive licenses until early in the year 1944, owing to administrative details. In 1944 the number in this group was 979 more than in the previous year."

Pennsylvania gained the greatest additional number of doctors of any state. The number added was 821. New York and Ohio added more than 600 and California and Missouri more than 300. No one was added to the number of doctors in Nevada, New Mexico or Wyoming.

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