

selling their wares. Leaving San Francisco or Seattle for the far North, the girls one finds selling wares on the wharves of various towns in Alaska remind one, to a certain extent, of the flower girls he left behind in sunny Honolulu. To be sure, the loose, airy Mother-Hubbard gown of our Hawaiian flower girl is replaced by sundry folds of cheap imported jackets, shawls and different classes of head-gear in this land of the midnight sun.

Many very interesting articles find their way to the docks of the northern towns of Alaska, especially at Yakutat, nestled in a cove, behind which rises that most magnificent of peaks, Mt. St. Elias. One can purchase goods of great artistic value as well as those of use and otherwise here. We find here the famous Yakutat baskets. It takes a vigorous search of the Indian shacks in the fishing villages to produce any of the very old baskets. Some have been cast aside as worn out and useless, but collectors readily seize upon them, paying the natives exorbitant prices for these treasures of a fast-dying race. The days for buying articles cheap in any of the towns of Alaska has long since passed. The price of a new Yakutat basket, however, is not exorbitant considering the endless toil necessary for its production. Prices range from \$2.00 to



\$50.00 a basket. Of course here, as in every other port in the world where Americans go, the prices are almost double while the ship is in port. Half of one's time in port, if the boat is to stay only a few hours, as is the case in many of the smaller Alaskan towns, is generally spent in dickering with the girls for their wares. They hold out for their price, which they do not expect to get, with that stoical Indian way until the gangplank is about to be pulled up, when they perhaps meet your price half way or else carefully wrap their wares in a towel to keep them clean for the next boat that might chance to come that way. These people have plenty of time and can wait and wait.

No home in the Puget Sound country is complete without at least a small collection of Indian baskets. At Yakutat one finds many articles made from the short-haired, silver-gray sealskin, beaded moccasins, handbags and wall decorations of endless varieties. Their unique shapes made by combining bits of bright flannel and gaudy beads with the sealskin add a bit of local color to one's collection of things from places afar, and helps one to remember that vast and interesting country of the far North.

G. B. ST. JOHN.

Alaskan Basket Sellers

WHEN tourists hunt about Honolulu for the interesting flower girls with their beautiful wreaths and garlands of pink and red carnations and yellow marigolds, they usually find a few ancient dames sitting, blinking in the sun on the sidewalk of some dusty side street