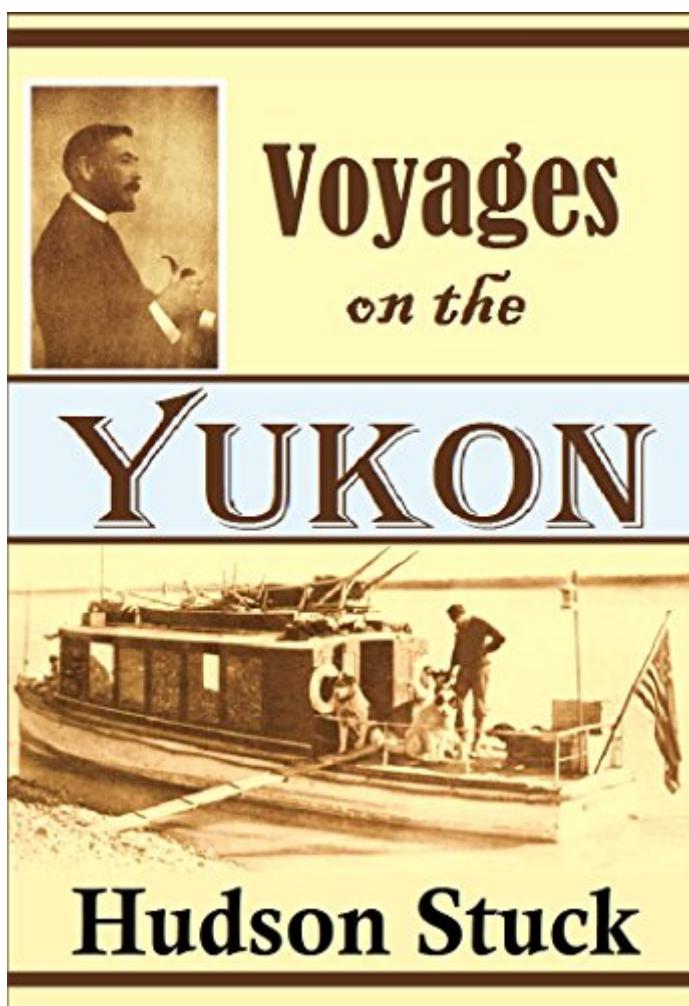


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Voyages On The Yukon And Its Tributaries: A Narrative Of Summer Travel In The Interior Of Alaska (1917)



Synopsis

Hudson Stuck (1863 – 1920) was a British native who became an Episcopal priest, social reformer, and mountain climber in the United States. With Harry P. Karstens, he co-led the first expedition to successfully climb Mount McKinley. He was ordained as an Episcopal priest. Moving to Alaska in 1904, he served as Archdeacon of the Yukon, acting as a missionary for the church and a proponent of "muscular Christianity". Dr. Stuck traveled in his steam launch Pelican along the Yukon River and its tributaries for ten summers, covering in that time about 30,000 miles and noting all the way the things that seemed to him most important, such as the regimen of the waterways, the forests, plains, flora, fauna, climatic conditions, mines and miners, settlements, natives, and so on. We may consider this book as a fairly complete summary of Alaska, in most of its aspects. THE well-known Episcopal archdeacon writes this deluxe volume as a supplement and complement to his fascinating work, "Ten Thousand Miles with a Dog-Sled," in which winter experiences of a tireless missionary are set forth. From Whitehorse in Canada, reached by one hundred and ten miles of rail from the Pacific, the present Yukon journey of two thousand two hundred miles to the ocean begins with a little steamboat pushing ahead of her at first a troublesome barge which she later jack-knives around sharp points and generally manoeuvres in a masterly way. On the Yukon tributaries the mission gasoline launch, Pelican, with the author standing for hours at the wheel while she slowly grinds up stream is the sight-seeing craft which moves through scenery and among sparsely scattered peoples whose respective beauty and strangeness are here interestingly depicted, with Dr. Stuck as an ideal guide and interpreter. The windings of the Porcupine, Chandalar, Tanana, Iditarod and Koyukuk rivers are the threads upon which the author strings gems of mission reminiscences, adventures near to thrills, comments upon screech owls, the wonderful salmon, nature's greatest gorge, the glacier, owls and rabbits and wolves again, in "divagations" which he apologizes for but which his readers will applaud. Dr. Stuck has spent fourteen years in the land of gold and glamor and traveled many thousand miles not only in boats but also by dog team. There are few living men who have seen more of our Arctic empire than has he. He was present during the Klondike rush of '97. All through this book there are references to those early days which are of interest to the men who had a place in them. The book has chapters on The Upper Yukon; Forty Mile Eagle and Circle; The Yukon Flats; The Lower Ramparts and Tanana; Tanana to Nulato; Kaltag; Auvik, Holy Cross; The Pimute Portage, Marshall; The Porcupine and The Chandalar; The Tanana River; The Koyukuk River; The Chageluk Slough, The Innoko and Iditarod Rivers. We do not know the writer, but it can be said and with all sincerity of his book that it does not contain a line which is not modest and manly. Furthermore, it is interesting to a high degree and accurate – a good

out-of-doors book. Hudson Stack's book, is more valuable to the reader who desires to know Alaska than a cartload of extravagant and highly-colored stories. It is a sane, well-balanced account of travel in the interior of Alaska. Climatic, topographic and sociological conditions as well as historical notes are covered in an interesting way. In contrast with the author's "Ten Thousand Miles with a Dog-sled," the book deals with summer travel, and this is synonymous with river travel. Stuck writes in a cursory and easy style and sees more with the eye of an ordinary observer than that of a scientist. For the general reader interested in travel and for the sociologist who is interested in primitive conditions, the book is heavily recommended. This book originally published in 1917 has been reformatted for the Kindle; may contain occasional defect.

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