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ASSAY OFFICE BILL PASSES THE SENATE

The Superiority of Seattle Is Clearly Shown.

GOES NOW TO THE HOUSE

Efforts Made to Secure Indorsement of Coinage Committee.

With the Success of the Measure, Alaska Miners Can Dispose of Their Gold at the Same Price as Is Paid at the Mint—Alaska Homestead and Railway Right-of-Way Bill Also Considered by the Senate—Turner Demonstrates the Need of Legislation—Vest Attacks Rev. Sheldon Jackson's Reports.

Special Dispatch to the Post-Intelligencer. WASHINGTON, March 3.—Everything went along swimmingly today for the Seattle assay office. Senator Turner's bill, which had been carefully steered past the committee shoals by Senator Wilson, was brought up by unanimous consent this afternoon and passed.

The senate bill will now be referred to the coinage committee of the house, and substituted for the Lewis bill, the two varying in no important particulars.

All efforts will now be devoted toward securing a favorable report from the house committee.

J. W. Clise and Frank T. Hunter, of Seattle, appeared before the committee this morning, presenting files of the Post-Intelligencer, the Tacoma Ledger and the Portland Oregonian, showing from the advertising columns of the three papers the superiority of Seattle over the other two cities, and that her Alaska fleet was twice as large as that of both the other cities.

The committee is not ready to report. As the bill has the indorsement of the treasury department, and as the necessity for the establishment of such an office is thoroughly understood by the members of congress, there is every reason to expect that it will be passed by the house within a very brief period. With an assay office in Seattle, every ounce of Klondike gold which reaches Seattle can be sold there to the government at precisely the same price as is paid at the mint. The office will probably be prepared for business by the time the gold fleet from St. Michael reaches Seattle this summer, with its load of treasure.

RIGHTS-OF-WAY IN ALASKA

Homestead Bill Considered in the Senate—Criticism of Rev. Sheldon Jackson.

WASHINGTON, March 3.—During the entire session today the senate had under consideration the Alaska homestead and railway right-of-way bill. One of the features of the discussion was a speech delivered by Vest of Missouri, in which he ridiculed the idea of homesteading part of Alaska or constructing railroads in that district. His motion to eliminate the homestead feature of the bill by striking out the first section of the bill was defeated.

The resolution providing for congressional investigation into the murder of the postmaster at Lake City, S. C., and his family, and the burning of his home, was laid before the senate.

McLaurin of South Carolina said he hoped the resolution would go to the committee without discussion. The state authorities were exceedingly active in investigating the crime, and he was assured that every effort was being made to bring the perpetrators of the outrage to justice. He then had read clippings from a Columbia, S. C., newspaper, to show that the people of South Carolina were not only not in sympathy with those who committed the crime, but keenly reproached it.

Hawley said the crime was clearly within Federal jurisdiction by the fact that a Federal official had been murdered and government property destroyed. He expressed the opinion that the Federal authorities ought to maintain a close watch upon the proceedings.

The resolution was then referred to the committee on contingent expenses. Bills were passed as follows:

Granting free entry to a set of bells presented by the czar of Russia to the Orthodox Russian church at Bridgeport, Conn.

To provide for transfer of the Sidney military post reservation to the state of Nebraska for educational purposes.

To establish an assay office at Seattle.

The motion of Hear of Massachusetts to non-concur in the house amendments to the bankruptcy bill was laid before the senate, and Stewart of Nevada resumed his speech upon the house measure. Upon the conclusion of his speech, Stewart offered a resolution that the senate conferees be instructed to insist upon the senate bill. The resolution created some debate of a parliamentary character.

Stewart then withdrew his resolution, and Hear's motion to non-concur in the house amendments to the bankruptcy bill and that committee of conference be appointed was adopted. The vice president appointed Hear, Nelson and Lindsay. The Alaska homestead and railway

right-of-way bill was then taken up, and Turner of Washington addressed the senate. He recognized, he said, the necessity of some such legislation as that proposed, because 100,000 adult Americans were preparing to go into Alaska, and if proper transportation facilities were not provided it would be a cruel and shortsighted policy. He said he believed the measure proposed by the committee was generally fair, and with some amendments would be an excellent bill. In his opinion the bill sufficiently hedged about the transportation companies, as the restrictions placed upon them were even more severe than those placed on them by the general law.

To meet a point advanced by Turner, Carter, of Montana, in charge of the bill, offered a committee amendment retaining the first section of the house bill, except wherein it provides for the approval of the president, and modifies the committee amendment with a proviso that no entry shall be allowed extending more than forty rods along the shore of any navigable water, and along such shore a space of at least forty rods shall be reserved from entry from such claims.

The committee amendment was adopted. After the section was amended Vest, of Missouri, moved to strike out the entire section. He said frankly that he desired to test the sense of the senate on the proposition to extend the homestead laws to the district of Alaska. So far as the construction of railroads was concerned, it would be a most difficult and expensive undertaking. If constructors could find valleys for their railroad they would be met with all sorts of difficulties and dangers. He thought that after the gold-seeking rush had subsided there would be no possible reason for the construction of railroads in Alaska. Vest ridiculed the report made by Rev. Dr. Sheldon Jackson upon the agriculture of Alaska.

"Alaska," declared Vest, "is not an agricultural section and it never can be made one. I speak from personal knowledge and not from government reports."

He said that in that great section, two and a half times larger than the state of Texas and ten times larger than the state of Georgia, there was not a single farm, yet the report of Dr. Jackson extensively pictured the wonderful potatoes and the remarkable cabbages produced there. Vest said he knew something of those potatoes and cabbages. The potatoes were large and full of water, nothing else. He saw, he said, cabbages that spread over the ground like the blanket of Sancho Panza.

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BRITISH FLAG UP ON AMERICAN SOIL.

Planted On White Pass 18 Miles Over the Old Line.

CANADIAN POLICE DID IT.

Skagway Teamster an Eye Witness to the Raising on Feb. 26.

The Flag Is Flying a Mile the Other Side of the Summit—Headquarters of the Officers Ten Miles Further Back, but Still Eight Miles in Territory Claimed by Americans—Report of the British Seizure Confirmed by Maj. Perry, of Northwest Mounted Police—E. R. Knapp Brings News to Seattle.

"On the afternoon of February 26 the Northwest mounted police raised the British flag a mile the other side of the summit of White Pass. They moved their customs headquarters on the same day eight miles into territory claimed by the United States, and the flag was placed ten miles ahead of the headquarters."

This statement was made by Eugene R. Knapp, of Boston, to a Post-Intelligencer reporter yesterday on his arrival from Skagway on the steamer Queen. Mr. Knapp gave full details of the flag raising as he heard them from a teamster in his employ, who was present at the time the mounted police hauled it up. There can be no doubt regarding the reliability of Mr. Knapp's statement as it is confirmed by the statement given to the Post-Intelligencer's representative at Victoria by Maj. Perry, of the Northwest mounted police. Perry also says that the British flag was raised on the Chilkoot pass, a

short distance the other side of the summit.

In the interview which Mr. Knapp gave to the Post-Intelligencer reporter he said: "I received the news of this work of the British from a teamster in my employ who had just returned with twenty head of horses from Lake Bennett. He had been over with a number of tons of freight and saw the flag raised on his way back. I was aboard the steamer Queen when he arrived at Skagway from the lakes. He arrived Saturday night. The Queen left Sunday night. He came to me and said that the British headquarters had been moved about eight miles into territory which is claimed by the United States. He told me that on the trip back to Skagway when he reached a point about ten miles beyond the new headquarters, he had seen some of the mounted police raise the British flag. The police told him that the flag was to indicate the proper boundary line between the two countries, but would say nothing more. My informant said that it was between 4 and 5 o'clock in the afternoon when the flag was raised.

"The report sent out a few weeks ago that the Canadians had advanced to Summit lake and had raised their flag at that point," continued Mr. Knapp, "was caused by the announcement that the move was to be made in a short time. I have every confidence in the man that brought me the story, and he certainly had no reason to misrepresent things. His statement was written out and Mr. George Brackett and myself witnessed it. I reported it to the commander of the Federal troops at Skagway."

Mr. Knapp was in the north just a month. He was sent out from Boston by the men who backed the Humbert expedition that left here last summer, with an immense quantity of supplies, which were to be taken to Dawson on the Dalton trail. The expedition dragged along for months, and was finally stalled in the deep snow not far from the coast, near Haines Mission. Knapp went north, and after looking over the situation decided to bring the teams and sleds to Skagway and operate a transportation line to Lake Bennett, over Brackett's new wagon road. He says that the wagon road is open, and that the company was to commence charging toll on the upper part of the road on March 1. The lower part of the road is not used, as the frozen river is at present easier traveling.

The telegram from Victoria giving Maj. Perry's confirmatory statement follows: VICTORIA, B. C., March 3.—Maj. Perry,

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FIGURES ARE MORE ELOQUENT THAN WORDS

Facts from the Records Show What the Republican Party Has Saved to Taxpayers of Seattle.

If there is one fact in this campaign that is more remarkable than any other, it is the profound silence maintained by the champions of the fusion ticket on the score of the record of the Republican municipal administration, now just drawing to a close.

Not a single argument has been advanced from a rational point of view showing why the administration of city affairs during the past two years has not been business-like, prudent, economical and thoroughly satisfactory to the taxpayers. It will be observed that not a syllable has been uttered by the Populist orators against the record made by the present city officials, nor has the slightest attempt been made by the fusionists to draw attention to the city's present financial condition.

The Republicans point to the record. An examination into the city's present circumstances, a review of the work that has been done in the past two years, and above all a comparison of the tax assessments and expenditures in the period from 1892 to January 1, 1893, if made by the taxpayer in the spirit of fairness, discloses the fact that the present administration has in many essentials proven to be the wisest, best and most economical in the city's history.

A Post-Intelligencer reporter yesterday visited the city hall and compiled figures from the various departments, bearing on the administration of public affairs by the present regime. Figures compiled from the tax records and from the balance sheet of the city tell the tale. They afford ample reason why the fusion orators have not dared to assail the present officials. They demonstrate more convincingly than the most eloquent speeches why the present administration occupies a position as impregnable from attack as Gibraltar.

Figures are usually not attractive reading. In the hands of one of the fusion orators a few nights ago, they proved disastrous to the cause championed by the man who stood for an hour or more on the platform until most of the audience had departed for the peace and quiet of their homes. Nevertheless, the record made by the Republican administration of the past two years cannot be adequately presented without their aid. Any taxpayer can verify the following figures by visiting the city hall. They are taken from the official records and are absolutely accurate.

The tax levy for the purpose of meeting the current and ordinary expenses of the city for the year 1893 aggregated \$38,664.72. The levy for 1892 made to provide the city with funds for current expenses for 1893 amounted to just \$32,570.54. This is a net reduction of more than 60 per cent., or, to be exact, 61.4 per cent.

The full force and effect of this reduction in the contributions asked of taxpayers does not appear on this simple showing. It must be remembered that the assessed valuation of realty fell considerably within the period named. For instance, the assessment for the year first above mentioned was \$3,892,716, while that on which taxes are to be collected for the current year was only \$3,714,128. Here a reduction of over 30 per cent was made. The levy for the year 1892, out of which the expenses of the city for 1893 were paid, aggregated 12.6 mills in the old limits, while that for 1892, to pay the current expenses of 1893, was 11 mills.

From these figures appears the fact that the taxpayers will be asked to pay into the coffers of the city exactly \$25,024.08 less for the expenses of 1893 than they paid for those of 1892, the last year of the Ronald administration. Distributed monthly, this represents a saving of more than \$20,000 per month.

The fact should be borne in mind that during the last year of the Ronald administration there were no unusual expenditures for street improvements. On the other hand, during the past two years, the Republican administration has paid out a considerable sum on the floating and bonded indebtedness of the city. Since January, 1893, the bonded debt of the city has been lessened by the payment of \$10,000 Grant street road bonds. In the same period the city has redeemed \$48,583 redemption fund warrants. This indebtedness, incurred by former administrations, when the practice of issuing warrants to meet the current expenses of the city was in vogue, has been practically wiped out by the present administration, there remaining of this debt but \$393.32.

In addition to this, the city has paid off a mortgage of \$4,000 which stood against the corporation yard property at the time of its purchase. Altogether, therefore, the sum of \$62,583.32 has been paid by this administration in relieving the city from debt.

The policy of the administration of Seattle, as at present conducted, can well be contrasted with that of previous Democratic administrations. A citation of figures, however, further than that above given is unnecessary.

It is pertinent to recall, however, as many citizens of Seattle who remember the election of 1894 will do, the construction of the front street sewer, on which a small army of political retainers was employed during the months of January and February, 1894. The bonds for the construction of this improvement were floated and they were sold months before. The funds were allowed to lie in the treasury until the Ronald administration began to prepare for the ensuing spring election. The "torchlight procession," as it was styled, will be well remembered. Nearly half of the entire sum provided for the construction of the sewer was expended in the two months preceding the election of March, 1894. The manner of this expenditure is a matter of public notoriety. A "boss" was provided for nearly every 20 lineal feet. Men were so thick in the ditch that they fell over each other. Every possible recourse was exhausted to keep the number of employed in the sewer to the top notch. Men worked day and at night by the light of a string of electric lamps extending along the street.

The sewers constructed on First avenue and Main and King streets aggregated 5,501 lineal feet, and the total cost was over \$4,000, or \$3.38 per running foot. The sewer built by the following Republican administration on Republican street in North Seattle, cost the taxpayers about \$2.45 per running foot, or but a trifle more than one-fourth the cost of the sewer built under the last Democratic administration.

This is the manner in which the Republican party gives account of its stewardship of public affairs: not by promises, but by deeds. It will be conceded that during the period covered in the foregoing statement, the city has been as well provided with all the necessities as ever before. The police force, while not as large as may be required at the present juncture, when the tide of immigration and travel is at its height, yet has been fully capable of coping with the lawless element, and crime has been reduced to a minimum.

PEOPLE OF SPAIN DREAD THE WORST.

America's Asiatic Squadron Causes Uneasiness.

READY TO TAKE MANILA.

Anti-Sagasta Press Fiercely Attacks the Government.

De Lome Incident Made a Pretext for Denunciation of the United States—Spanish Honor Said to Have Met a Rebut—Claim That McKinley Is Thirsting for War, and Secretly Champions the Insurgent Cause—The Pais Says America Has Already Begun Hostilities Without Risk of Open War.

MADRID, March 3.—The public is much exercised over the report of the presence of a squadron of United States warships at Hongkong, as it is presumed the vessels intend to threaten Manila, the capital of the Philippine islands, in the event of war between the United States and Spain.

The Imparcial, in an article headed "To Manila, to New York," quotes an unnamed high personage who scolds the idea of imminent rupture, and says:

"The presence of the warships at Hongkong is only Washington's policy with a view of enticing the jingoes."

"The high personage" is said to have added:

"But America has not so many warships as to warrant such bold action. If the Yankees go to the Philippines the Spaniards will go to New York."

El Globo remarks:

"The government is still alive to the critical situation, and is silently preparing for the worst; but it is too diplomatic to disclose the procedure by which it is preparing for emergencies."

Fierce indignation characterizes the Spanish papers that are not supporters of the government at the alleged weakness in replying in gentle terms to the American demand for explanations of the Dupuy de Lome letter.

The Imparcial says:

"It is the height of weakness to suppose we are going to disarm the Yankees by means of patience. From them we shall gain nothing by it, and on the other hand we shall lose the esteem and dignity and bravery of Spain obtaining among other nations. Paraphrasing the never-to-be-forgotten Spartan words of Mendez Nunez at Callan: 'Suffer it to say Spain loves honor more without Cuba than Cuba without honor.' We sacrificed our youth, we have sacrificed our millions. Must we also sacrifice our national honor? Not the great Antilla, not a hundred Antillas, would be so great a sacrifice."

The Correo Espanol, after recapitulating all the injuries it alleges Spain has suffered at the hands of the United States, says:

"The last affair—that of Dupuy de Lome—has given the measure of our suffering. Another government than that we endure—ancient memories and shen-men—when drawing up the note in yesterday's council in reply to the inadmissible, unceded-for and ruffianly demands of the president of the republic of the United States, would have accompanied with it Mr. Woodford's passports. For it is clear that no other concessions nor the humiliation of the Spanish government can change in the slightest degree the plan drawn up by the American government and people. They want war, and war will come."

The Pais is not so moderate, for it declares that war is already raging, saying:

"The North Americans have not their soldiers, their ships in Cuba, but among the insurgents they have what is better—they have their money turned into ammunition, guns, cannon and dynamite. Why should an official declaration be made when war already exists, and exists under the most favorable terms for the United States? An official declaration might alarm the European powers who would not tolerate McKinley placing his hands upon the Antilles. Instead of exposing their soldiers on their own soil, they send them in the guise of insurgents to Cuba. To avoid a catastrophe to their warships they send men and ammunition to the insurgents in merchant vessels. American politicians would indeed be most foolish if they abandoned, by a declaration of war, the favorable position that they have taken up in Cuba against Spain."

"No, we cannot hope for a declaration of war. Cautious or bold, humble or active, our government need not fear that Washington will declare war. It is already declared. Already it has caused havoc in Spain, and in the United States they laugh at the idea that they are capable of the folly of declaring war against us, a war already afloat through them, a war fed by them, a war in which they run none of the risks and have all the advantages that would accrue from an open war between the two countries."

FOREIGNERS ON THE MAINE.

Japan Will Seek Indemnity for Citizens Lost at Havana.

WASHINGTON, March 3.—As several Japanese lost their lives by the explosion of the Maine, the question has been raised as to the right of Japan to participate in any indemnity which might be claimed if the disaster proved to have been of external origin. Officials differ in their view of this. It was claimed by some that the wearing of the United States uniform took away from a Japanese subject his attributes as a citizen of Japan. Moreover, it is pointed out the loss occurred while these men were in the service of the United States. On the other hand, it was contended that Japan always jealously guards her citizens abroad, and that in this instance she might occupy the same ground as the