

ALASKA DAILY EMPIRE
J. F. A. STRONG.

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FOREWORD.

With this, the first issue of the Alaska Daily Empire, a few lines as to its purposes may not be altogether inappropriate. In the first place every effort will be made to make it a newspaper for Alaskans and those who wish to learn of Alaska, its resources and its people, wherever they may be located.

Politically it will be strictly independent, reserving the right to honestly commend or fairly criticize any political party that may be in control of the federal or territorial administrations. The people of Alaska ask for and expect a square deal from the Congress and government of the United States. We believe they have seldom received it, but in the coming years conditions may change, and wrongs inflicted be redressed, with a more intimate and comprehensive knowledge of this territory and its needs, on the part of our national lawmakers.

Notwithstanding the many disabilities under which Alaska has labored for years past, partly due to political and particularly due to ignorance and misinformation and misdirected zeal on the part of the national school of ultra-conservatives, the growth and development of this great continent—the last of the continental territories—has been greatly retarded, if not absolutely prohibited in important sections. A change of policy by the federal administration we believe to be indispensable to the end that the people of Alaska may be permitted to enjoy the fruits of their labors in developing its great latent natural resources. The land is the people's and the fulness thereof; the treasures of the sea should be for the benefit of all, not the few.

The Empire received its name because of the fact that Alaska is an empire within itself, and as such this territory is fairly entitled to imperial treatment at the hands of the federal government. In the development of Alaska's magnificent natural resources there should be unanimity of purpose. There should be no room for sectional strife; factional differences produce nothing but a crop of dragon's teeth.

This newspaper has been started as a legitimate business enterprise. Its proprietor has been closely identified with the territory for many years and in a small measure, at least, is acquainted with its history, the people of the various sections. Every honest effort, therefore, will be made to further every legitimate interest, and give the fullest publicity to the progress being made in the development of its resources.

Southeastern Alaska is especially rich in minerals, in fish and lumber. It is believed that this section is on the eve of a wonderful development, which will result in a vast increase in its mineral output and a consequent large increase in its permanent population and substantial growth in its trade and commerce. The Empire desires to bear a modest part in the upbuilding of Alaska and in the betterment of the conditions which environ its people. It will always be found to have the courage of its convictions on all matters of public moment. Patriotism and civic pride, harmony and unity of purpose are prime essentials in the upbuilding of country or community. For all these The Empire will consistently labor.

THE TERRITORIAL ELECTION.

Reports from the different judicial divisions of the territory are to the effect that the election of senators and representatives to Alaska's first legislature is not a matter of paramount interest with the electorate. This is to be regretted for the plain and simple reason that this election marks an important era in Alaska's history. It is the beginning of that boon which is regarded as a priceless American heritage—the right of the people to govern themselves.

And while the people of Alaska have not objected to the government itself they have objected to the quality of the government medicine they have been per force compelled to take from time to time.

Another reason for the indifference of the people, which, after all, may be more apparent than real, may perhaps be traced to dissatisfaction with the extreme limitations which Congress saw fit to place upon the territorial act creating the legislature. But the law is an accomplished fact. Perhaps it was the best that could be secured. It has been described as a mere skeleton. It is in fact, but even an animated skeleton, with due nursing by careful hands, may be fattened and rounded out into something resembling a state of pulchritude. Anyway there is time and room for hope. The legislature's powers may be expanded, with the lapse of time and the attainment of

experience, until its functions shall embrace important matters now placed beyond its touch. And it must not be forgotten that the legislature can always exercise the right to memorialize Congress and tell that august body what it would like to have done. And if the local legislature be composed of just and intelligent men its requests would, we believe, be given consideration at Washington.

The important matter is the selection of good men for the first legislature. Don't overlook the fact that there will be more work for them to do than the drawing of their salaries and the "blowing of them in." If the legislature is limited in its powers, still it has the right to initiate and recommend constructive legislation for the Congress to act upon. In this respect alone it may be a power for good if its membership be made up of honest and capable men.

The important matter, it seems to us, for the people of the different judicial divisions, to select the best men, those who will best represent the people as a whole, no matter what their previous political condition—or servitude. Their political affiliations in national politics are not a matter of moment.

There are candidates enough in all the divisions from which good selections can be made. In most cases, at any rate, their virtues and their faults are known. It is for the people themselves to determine what sort of history the first territorial legislature will make.

A NEW ERA DAWNING.

Southeastern Alaska is the most prosperous section of a great territory. It is having an awakening especially the country in and about and directly tributary to Juneau. Extensive development of mining properties that have long been idle for various reasons, litigation being a contributing factor, have been undertaken the past summer. The work being done is both big and of large proportion. The different concerns engaged in developing mines, preparing to build mills, running immense tunnels to facilitate the handling of ore, building tramways and railroads to the mines, etc., are all strong institutions, well financed and ably managed.

Within the next two or three years millions of dollars will be thus expended. This means the steady employment of a large amount of labor and a largely increased population, the expansion of general business and the upbuilding of the towns of this section.

Across the Gastineaux the developments are steady and the outlook was never better. Enterprise and careful management are everywhere evident. Expansion along safe, producing lines is in progress. There is no pessimism existent. The spirit of optimism fills the air. Results are being obtained—the essentials that make for steady and permanent progress. To ensure the best results the co-operation of all the people is necessary. All are working, or should be working, in a common cause. It is up to each and all to do their best, and if this be done there need be no fear for the future. Alaska has illimitable natural resources which must be used for the benefit of all the people.

THE POLITICAL FORECASTER.

It is always noticeable that on the eve of a national election the wise forecasters become remarkably busy, and one may get any kind of "forecast" that may be desired. Forecasting is not an exclusive privilege, except as it may be confined to weather sharps. Only a few of the elect are permitted to work the goosebone. But it's different in politics. If one is a red-hot partisan his party is going to win; must win, in fact.

And so now, with the presidential contest to be decided within a few brief hours, we are threatened with the election of three presidents of the United States—if you are to believe the most solemn asseverations of the different campaign managers and other statesmen, politicians and near politicians—Republicans, Democrats, Bull Moose.

It does not follow, necessarily, that a political forecaster is a deliberate falsifier; sometimes his enthusiasm runs away with his judgment. His discretion becomes lost in the closing days of the fight. He thinks that he stands at Armageddon, when, as a matter of cold fact, he is headed up Salt Creek—a stream, by the way, much frequented by Democrats during the past twenty years.

However, no matter what forecasts the cult of political forecasters may formulate, there are certain signs and indications which may be readily seen by the observer, whose eyes are not obscured by the smoke of political partisanship. It would, therefore, seem as though the Woodrow Wilson forecasters had somewhat the best of their competitors, with Taft or Roosevelt in the second place, strictly according to the political trend of the recipient's mind.

The republican party problem is not hard to solve. If it were united there probably would be little doubt of its success at the polls. But it would seem that it cannot win—half republican and half bull moose. Its strength is divided, while the democrats seem to be presenting a greater solidarity than for many years past.

This "forecast" is no better, and possibly no worse than the multitude that are being hurled at a long suffering public just now.

THE BALKAN WAR.

The war cloud in the Balkans, which has been gathering force for many years, seems to be emptying vials of wrath upon the hereditary enemy of the Balkan states, and Greece is gallantly aiding in the fight against the "unspeakable Turk." The traveler in Europe and Asia soon becomes acquainted with Turkish misrule, butchery or tyranny, wherever the crescent flag floats. The "blight of the Turk" it is called in the fair and sunny lands dominated by Turkey. The hatred of the Balkan people for the Turks is rock-ribbed and ancient. It is as deep-seated today as it was centuries ago. It is something which the hand of time has not effaced, nor will it be obliterated so long as Turkey exists as a nation of Europe. Greece shares the hatred of the Turks, and these combined peoples are making a heroic fight against their blood-sceptered foe.

How long the war may last is problematical—possibly until the Turks shall have been defeated; probably only so long as the leading powers shall permit it to continue. Turkey has been the "sick man of Europe" for many years; his physicians have been the great powers, but Turkey's disease is chronic because it is an anomaly and an anachronism in the affairs of Europe.

Some day the map of Europe will undergo a change and Turkey-in-Europe will be no more. How soon is a question which the future must decide.

The Balkan war is of more than usual importance to the people of the United States, inasmuch as there is scarcely a town in America which has not a quota of people from the Balkans or from Greece. The devotion which they are showing for the fatherland is marked. Thousands have returned to engage in the struggle; others are contributing money to aid the fight. Their governments have told them that their personal services will not be needed, but still they go. The spirit that held the pass at Thermopylae and other historical battlefields survives.

SIDELIGHTS

Will it be a donkey, an elephant, or a bull moose?

There will be some optimists out of a job after election day. Also a marked increase in the pessimistic crop.

It is noted that all the platforms of the different parties which have candidates for the territorial legislature urge the conservation of the fishing industry. It is well. Our salmon fisheries, particularly, have been exploited. Not for the benefit of Alaska and Alaskans but largely for the use and behoof of outside interests. Under existing law the releasing of salmon fry to perpetuate the supply is a hollow mockery, a delusion and a snare. The tax on the output should be increased to a reasonable amount, and alien fishermen should be rigidly excluded. The herring, and in fact all other Alaska fisheries, demand immediate attention.

A Seattle newspaper in a recent issue, states that formerly the "natives of the Northern Coast" used to place trees and brush in the herring spawning grounds so that the spawn could be gathered and afterwards well smoked and preserved for food. We do not know the facts, but even if the story be true, the spawn thus taken was for a worthy cause. The destruction of Alaska food fish for fertilizing purposes seems to have developed into a crying evil.

"I became an American citizen by purchase," said George Kostrometloff, of Sitka, who was in Juneau recently. Mr. Kostrometloff was born under the Russian flag while it still floated over Alaska. By the treaty of purchase he and all other Russian subjects in Alaska became American citizens. Mr. Kostrometloff is now visiting New York for the first time. Hitherto his excursions abroad have been no further than San Francisco.

Starting a newspaper in any town is beset with many difficulties, all of which, however, may be overcome by the exercise of patience. It is hoped that The Empire will be a power for good in the development and upbuilding of Juneau and Southeastern Alaska. It is intended to make it a first-class newspaper in all respects—fair and clean and courageous. What more could be asked or expected? It may be well here to emphasize the fact that The Empire is not in politics, neither is its proprietor. Politics is a mere incidental to a legitimate business industry. As a matter of fact Alaska has been suffering, and is still suffering from a glut of politics. More work and less talk of partisan politics may accomplish something tangible for the territory.

Acting Governor W. L. Distin yesterday wired the press and mayors of all towns of Alaska requesting "that all schools and public buildings half-mast flags" today, Nov. 2, in respect to the memory of Vice President Sherman, who passed away on Thursday of this week. It was a graceful act on the part of Gen. Distin in this paying a tribute to the memory of a distinguished American and a patriotic citizen.

Douglas has a live wire in the person of M. J. O'Connor. He is a man of many virtues and, no doubt, has a few faults, but candor is not one of them. The Celtic blood which flows in his veins is never sluggish. He has been in America for a matter of twenty-five years, and he lost no time in identifying himself with the country, for it is related that the second night after he landed in San Francisco, he went down to the Armory and joined the National Guard. Last summer he visited the place of his birth. It is averred that he became seaisick or homesick on his return voyage across the Atlantic, and according to Charlie Hopp, of the Douglas News, with this result:

It is good to see the Old World and its antiquated ways, The ivy-covered castles—relics of by-gone days, But give me Alaska, though 'tis in the frigid zone; There's not another spot on earth I'd rather call my home

It is good to see gay Paris—it has grandeur all its own— On parade are flashy garments, giving it a gala tone, But give me the Alaska girl with her sweet and modest way, A face tinted by the Arctic breeze, and a smile like break of day

It is good to see old London, where lords and dukes hold sway, Though they are disappearing since Lloyd George won the day; But give me good old Douglas, where there's not a lord or duke, Where 'tis easy to find a dollar, but hard to find a crook.

It is good to see Old Ireland, and its abbey old and quaint, Where the boys can dance a jig and the girls use no paint; But give me untamed Alaska, with its mountains and its game; It may get dreary sometimes, but I love it just the same.

Don't you think that this is a good time to bury forever all petty factional jealousies, if there be any, and let everyone get in and boost? And this thought leads up to a story. Many Alaskans know "Big Mike" Sullivan, of the Windsor House in Corvova. A few years ago Mike visited Washington and while there he called upon President Roosevelt. The president was immediately taken with the

big fellow's direct speech and impressed by his commanding stature. Soon Col. Roosevelt was asking him all sorts of questions about Alaska and the federal officials of the territory. Mike gave each one a good boost and praised the president's sagacity in appointing them. Then with a hearty chuckle the Colonel said:

"Mr. Sullivan, most of the Alaskans that I meet do not speak so highly of these officials as you do."

"Well, Mr. President," said Mike, with a grin, "I don't suppose you have been around gambling houses very much. I have, and I always noticed that the boosters in those places got \$10 a day while the knockers never got a cent."

The President slapped Mike on the back and he received an invitation to attend the next White House reception.

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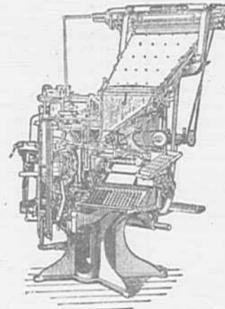
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A paper for all the people, all the time. Independent in every way. It stands for everything that will tend to the opening up and development of Alaska—especially Southeastern Alaska—along legitimate lines.

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