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WHAT MINING MEN SAY.

You have heard through the columns of The Empire what mining men have to say about the mining outlook in this section of Alaska—that is to say mining men who have visited this section and investigated it for themselves, as well as those who reside here.

Harvey P. Dunant is one of the visiting mining men. He is from Chicago. He says that this mining district "is destined to be the most prosperous and permanent quartz country on the continent." And he adds, "of course most of the ore is low grade, but it is practically inexhaustible and this makes for permanence and prosperity."

We do not know Mr. Dunant, but his words ring true. Evidently he is an observer as well as an investigator. Certainly he cannot be classified as a knocker, and we presume his statements are unprejudiced. Not only that, but his statements are corroborated by many others.

The gold-bearing rock of the Harris Mining district, and beyond it, is practically inexhaustible. Numbers of the old-time prospectors and miners have known it for years, but it takes large capital to develop these immense ore bodies and make them productive.

Juneau is fortunate in having as fine a lot of experienced young mining men as ever were leading factors in the development of the mining industry of any country under the sun. They are energetic and full of optimism. They wait until they know they are right and then, like Davey Crockett, they go ahead. These are the men who know how to do things—and then go ahead and do them.

Juneau has waited long and patiently for the coming of the day of development of the quartz lodes of this section, and, naturally, it is welcomed. Let it be met, also, in a broad and reasonable spirit. There is opportunity in store for all who are wide-awake and energetic and who know how to meet the changing conditions. For of a certainty the change is here.

AUSTRIA AND THE BALKANS.

The Balkan war situation is getting mightily interesting. The fly in the ointment of the other European powers seems to be Austria. The Turks cry for mediation, while Europe seems to be awaiting somewhat breathlessly the bursting-out of the flame that may enkindle the continent.

There is much speculation and no one seems to know what may not be expected. Great Britain has declared that the Bulgarians and their brave allies shall not be deprived of the fruits of their victories. The Kaiser has congratulated Greece upon its capture of Salonica. Surely the Balkan muddle has assumed a deep purple hue.

At this distance, if we may judge accurately, Austria is the crux of the situation, and it is thus outlined: "Could Austria smash her way through to Salonica if Europe permitted? That does not seem so certain as it did some weeks ago. Austrian arms have long been weakened by tyranny. She was beaten in Italy and at Koniggratz partly because the Hungarians were fretting over political rigts. How much zeal would Bohemians and Slovaks show now in oppressing brothers of Slav blood? Would Bosnia and Herzegovina, held by an efficient despotism, rebel? And the Balkan states themselves—would they be easily conquered? They have put into the field more than 600,000 men, most of whom would fight to the death for the freedom of their brethren.

"Would Europe permit Austria to crush the Balkan states? Russia has already mobilized forces on the Austrian frontier. A Liberal Government in England would neither wish nor dare to enter another Berlin Congress and cynically hand over five million people to massacre and flames: it would mean overthrow. As for Austria's allies, Italy is tangled up in Africa, her communications at the mercy of the French fleet. And is Germany's interest in Austrian aggrandizement keen enough to run the risk of fighting France and Russia at once, while Britain smashes her new fleet before it is ready? Germany can

command peace and she probably will. "There seems a fair prospect of avoiding a greater war, chiefly because it would be an almost inconceivably great calamity. Austria's "forward" party will not abandon plans for further conquests. It will keep to the good old policy of bribes, and "diplomacy," and spies, and winking at assassinations, that served so long to keep the Balkan states at enmity that Austria might some day divide and conquer. Perhaps the allies can be set quarrelling among themselves again."

CAST DOWN, NOT DESTROYED.

Let us see about this. The dispatches say that United States Senators Cummins and Kenyon, of Iowa, and Governor Hadley, of Missouri, have entered upon an attempt to reorganize the Republican party. And these men are in every sense of the word progressive. In fact Senator Cummins is, and has been for many years, a leader in securing progressive legislation. The statutes of Iowa attest this fact. His colleague, Senator Kenyon, although a new man in national politics, is built along progressive lines. And Governor Hadley. There is nothing of the Bourbon about him. He is a strong, clean-cut, able man, and although he was a pro-Roosevelt supporter in the Republican National Convention, and made a brilliant fight there for the Bull Moose leader, he refused to follow him into revolt after Mr. Taft had been renominated. He believed that the Republican party was old enough and strong enough to purge itself of its impurities, and rid itself of the barnacles that infested it.

Senator Cummins, we understand, supported the Progressive ticket in Iowa, but without putting himself beyond the pale of the Republican party, while Senator Kenyon was busily engaged with his own campaign for re-election.

But notwithstanding the assertions of Colonel Roosevelt respecting his own party and his denunciations of the party which had signally honored him prior to the National Convention of the party in Chicago, we are not of those who believe that the Republican party is dead. On the contrary, we believe that it will be reorganized and rehabilitated. It has been cast down, and we believe it should have been. But it has not been destroyed. It will emerge from the ashes of defeat purified, and with new leaders of a higher type and with higher purposes will again take a prominent place in the political life of the nation.

MR. BRYAN AND POLITICS.

Colonel Bryan says that he is not so sure of his politics as he is of his religion. Happy man! How many of us there are who are cocksure of our political beliefs and know little and seem to care less about our religion?

Yet Colonel Bryan is a deeply religious man. He is also a politician in that he has run the gamut of political life. He has dropped the plummet into the political depths of this nation and sounded them in the past score of years. And yet he is not sure of his politics! But he is of his religion. No doubt he feels that his political views may undergo a change. That which appealed to him sixteen years ago may not do so now. But his religion—it is the same yesterday, today and forever.

Men are not as easily swayed today by political passion and prejudice as they were even a few brief years ago. They do not consider it a disgrace to change their political views. No longer, happily, is the slogan heard, "Vote as you shot." The last vestige of the "bloody shirt" has been cast into the limbo of forgetfulness.

Progress, honest policies, men, not specious promises or honeyed words are now demanded.

And we are quite content to let Mr. Bryan doubt his politics and mix with it if he will a little religion. It will harm no one. We are content to know that he is one of the greatest moral forces in the political life of the world today.

DEFEAT OF TURKS NOT ALL LUCK.

There are many and diverse views about the successive defeats which the Turks have suffered at the hands of the Bulgarians and their allies. Some of them are of more than mere passing interest, and here is one of them. It is the opinion of an Oregon man, and was published in the Oregonian:

"I have seen it stated that there was no telling what would happen to the Turks in this most amazing war waged upon the terrible Turk. To any one who studies the Bible as well as history, it is perfectly clear that the Turk is going to be driven out of Europe and that he will set up his empire in Palestine, with the Holy City as capital. All the things predicted by the inspired prophets have come true so far; the next thing, told us by

them thousands of years ago, is this about the Turk. Judging from the miraculous way in which the small countries are disposing of the "terrible Turk," one would conclude that there is more than just what is called "luck" which has given the allies these wonderful victories."

SIDELIGHTS

And the next will be Thanksgiving Day. And after that Christmas.

They've also had quite a warm time in our sister republic of Cuba. But there is a wholesome fear of your Uncle Samuel in the island republic.

Ambassador James Bryce is going home to England to devote his time to literary work. Perhaps he thinks this country is getting too Democratic.

Campaign orators rent the air prior to the late election and told how the Englishmen were making contributions to the Democratic chest. Other orators, not to be outdone told with much heat how the British were "plugging" for T. R. This was a case of "paying your money and taking your choice."

"The twenty-year cycle holds good," says the Oregonian. Yes, and so may the four-year term.

In Michigan they're trying to steal the fruit of the woman suffrage victory. The mean, hateful old things. So, there!

We would like to suggest the name of Senator-Elect Ollie James, of Kentucky, for Secretary of War, in President-Elect Wilson's Cabinet. Ollie has the length, breadth, girth and voice to fill that position to anyone's taste.

It is a safe bet that there will be an extra session of Congress. So why all this superfluity of talk.

According to last reports President Madero was still sitting on the lid, but there were several thousand patriots who were ready to lift him if they could get a good chance.

President Roosevelt started the Panama Canal; President Taft has greatly aided the great work, but it will be the pleasant task of President Wilson to open it to the commerce of the world. Such is the irony of fate and politics.

Brigadier-General Funston's old friend Emilio Aguinaldo, late Filipino rebel, or sterling patriot—according to the point of view—was much in evidence in Manila the other day when the Filipinos with much eclat and great aplomb, celebrated the election of Woodrow Wilson to the presidency of this nation. Why? Simply because the Democratic platform promises the little brown brothers complete independence—as soon as they are able to walk alone. But the good Lord alone knows when that will be. But they had a celebration, anyway, and likely some new special features in cockfights.

We haven't heard of our old contemporary, Jadam Bede, of Duluth, since he quit trailing the Bull Moose in California.

We didn't make half the fuss in electing members of our first territorial legislature, as they do in some other places that we know of. We are a real nice people up here, and our politicians behaved with much circumspection. For which, thanks.

The Colonel says that the battle has just begun. What, more T. R. magedons?

The Swat of Sarawak, or the Sarawak of Swat—we have forgotten which—is going on a journey to England. What's swat?

Looks as if the Japan Current might have got a sidewinder and jolted landward. No, we're not anticipating anything. Not a bit of it. It may slip back again even if it has slipped Alaskaward.

John Schrank, the assailant of Colonel Roosevelt, has pleaded guilty to the atrocious crime. Schrank stated to the court that he did not intend to kill Roosevelt the citizen, but Roosevelt the third-term. Without doubt Schrank is a dangerous paranoiac and should be restrained of his liberty for an indefinite period. This country should not afford an anchorage ground for the breeding of such types. But inflammatory political speeches and unwise newspaper articles no doubt preyed upon Schrank's mind until the culmination of his deed.

Ladies furs for Holiday trade. W. H. Case.

NEVADA DESERT, TREASURE HOME OF RARE FOSSILS.
Vast Graveyard of Prehistoric Monsters Discovered by Searching Party.

Marvellous discoveries of prehistoric mammals in the shale fields on the desert twenty-eight miles east of Mina, Nev., are announced as the result of geological research of the University of California.

The investigations disclose the fact that the region about Mina was once an immense body of tropical water. The bones of a three-toed horse, about the size of a lamb, have been unearthed. The teeth, well preserved, and the entire remains of a prehistoric dog have been brought to light. It is believed that this animal lived at least 5,000,000 or 6,000,000 years ago. The scientists say that the fields about Mina are the most marvelous in the world.

Fossils eighteen feet high are to be seen cropping out in the heart of the desert miles away from any human life. In the vicinity is a bed of pure carbonate of magnesium, which assays show runs 97 per cent.

The remains of fish are to be seen sticking out of the banks. The professors are bending their efforts to obtain specimens of mammals. The remains of an extinct camel, dating from the miocene period, have been obtained.

Effort is being made to obtain specimens of the water lizard, believed to be the oldest known form of animal life. Fish many feet in length are to be seen and every indication points to the fact that the remains, so perfectly preserved, belong to a period at least 5,000,000 years ago. Along the southern edge of the desert, which is believed to have been a lake at one time, there has been discovered coal of a high quality.

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Leaves Treadwell for Douglas and Juneau—8:25 a. m., 9:25 a. m., **12:00 noon, 1:40 p. m., 3:25 p. m., **4:55 p. m., 6:55 p. m., 8:25 p. m., 9:25 p. m., 11:25 p. m.
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