

ALASKA DAILY EMPIRE
J. F. A. STRONG.
TELEPHONE 3-74

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JUNEAU, ALASKA, NOV. 15, 1912.

PASSING OF THE OLDER PIONEERS.

The ranks of the old pioneers of Alaska are thinning rapidly. By the term, old pioneers, we mean those who first identified themselves with this country and began to make its real history, both on the coast and in the interior. Many of these have been laid away in Eternity's subdivision; and soon, in the course of nature's demands upon the span of human life those who are still with us will be borne to that country from whose bourne no traveler returns. They were a hardy lot of men; imbued with the spirit of the frontiersman, they steadily pushed their way into new and untrodden fields. In Omineca, in Cassiar, at Fortymile and Stewart river and other places they foregathered in the wilderness; they scaled mountains, shot the swirling rapids of turbulent streams, traversed the toe-twisting tundra, always hopeful, never despairing—typical products of the Western spirit of progress.

And after them will come the newer race of pioneers—those who in later years joined the mad stampedes which opened to human activity other regions hitherto practically unknown, and made them pour out a golden stream. These, too, have left their imprint upon the land, and many are still aiding actively in its development. But these came in droves, had much companionship, while the pioneers of the seventies and eighties were fewer in numbers, and often faced hunger, privation and starvation, alone and unaided by the presence of their fellowmen.

If the histories of the earlier adventures of these men could be gathered how interesting it would be! What hopes, what fears, what illusions would be revealed!

And now we are on the last frontier. With the rapid advance of civilization each day it disappears still farther from the view. Soon there will be none left. What were once immeasurable distances are now covered speedily and safely.

The automobile chugs along where yesterday, comparatively speaking, was the forest primeval. The swift river steamer plows its way through waters where once the Indian canoe alone disturbed their placidity. So comes progress, and so in the fullness of time passes the oldest pioneer.

PROSPERITY ALL AROUND.

While Juneau is making material progress and is forging to the front, due to the extensive development work now under way, and that which has been planned, we are not alone in the car of progress. The country to the south of us is advancing steadily in material prosperity, because of its mines and its fisheries. And while some of the westward sections are not as active as could be desired, owing to circumstances over which they have no control, others, notably Valdez, seem to be attracting considerable attention and give promise of substantial progress in the near future.

Across the Gastineau our neighbor Douglas is making steady progress every day. Its citizens have enterprise and they have faith, and the natural resources that make for permanence behind and about them. More power to them. And may every town and every section of this great commonwealth prosper and increase abundantly in material prosperity and good citizenship.

ALASKA WELCOMES FRIENDS.

We are always glad to welcome those who will work for the betterment of conditions obtaining in Alaska. We need them, provided they really have a desire to help us. Therefore, we give the glad hand to the Hon. J. W. Bryan, a Congressman-elect from Washington. He says he wants to learn all he can about us and our needs, so that he can make a study of Alaska and its wants. Also, he wants correspondence from all persons interested, and those who have any suggestion to make.

Mr. Bryan's postoffice address is Bremerton, Wash., and we doubt not that he wishes to do all that he can toward obtaining for Alaska the recognition that the importance of her

vast and varied natural resources demand.

Alaska needs friends in Congress and out of it. The more the better. There is plenty of work for all who desire to lend a helping hand. Of course we are not as helpless as we once were. It is only a few years since we had no voice in Congress and few friends anywhere.

Now Alaska has a few, at least, who know us and are anxious to help us. We have made some progress—material advancement. Alaska is much better known than it was even six years ago. It has had a great deal of publicity in recent years—not altogether desirable in some respects—but it helped to make the country better known. Added to this we have been given a small measure of home rule—not what we wanted but what, seemingly, we had to take. And the territorial legislature may be an instrument for much good, besides the mere passing of laws within greatly circumscribed limits. It should have the ear of Congress and its recommendations to that body should have weight. We are hoping anyway. And the outlook is much more rosy than it has been at any time in the history of the territory. We have made a beginning. The foundation has been laid. Let us build wisely upon it.

BITTERNESS AND RIOT.

That riot in the hitherto staid and sedate British House of Commons, was not caused by suffragettes. It was apparently a plain ebullition of British anger engendered by political rancor. Such an exhibition of belligerence on the part of members of that historic institution naturally evokes surprise even among Americans who are supposed to be more used to unparliamentary proceedings. The "Mother of Parliaments" has set a bad example to the rest of us, who are newer—and perchance cruder, what though we have inherited our taste for politics largely from our Anglo-Saxon forbears.

Our own Congress has witnessed some exciting times. The "short and ugly word" has been passed in the heat of debate. A time or two the sergeant-at-arms of the House of Representatives has wiped the dust off the mace and waved it in the faces of opposing members, to preserve the peace and dignity of that body. But ancient or contemporaneous history does not record that a fighting member of Congress ever hurled a book or brickbat across the aisle at a fellow member and knocked him out.

A few years ago Buck Kilgore, of Texas, then a member of the House kicked in the door when his way was barred by the doorkeeper. He created consternation, but not a riot. But the Texan was in the heat of his liquor and his later apology was ample.

Only a couple of years ago the "gentleman from Alaska" was determined to swat "the gentleman from Wyoming." These were mere pleasantries, forsooth, and the "incident was quickly closed."

The emute, however, in the House of Commons was occasioned by a deep-seated political resentment, growing out of the bill granting to Ireland a measure of home rule. This feeling of bitterness between opposing political parties is being accentuated, and the outlook for the peaceful settlement of an extremely important and far-reaching problem has not been clarified by recent political developments in Great Britain.

WHY LIVE AT ALL?

A New York physician of an experimental turn of mind has announced that the unsanitary handkerchief is largely responsible for the spread of infectious diseases, according to the New York World.

He advises daily school inspection of handkerchiefs and free distribution of sanitary ones to children too poor to provide their own.

The issue thus presented will naturally be taken up by all experts and zealots on the subject of germs. Sanitary handkerchiefs are of course as necessary as sanitary drinking cups. Why not also sanitary shirts, stockings and shoe-leather? Why not a carbolic-acid bath and antiseptic linen at each school preliminary to any pupil's being permitted to enter the classroom?

The real issue will come and thorough treatment be proposed only when someone examines the air of the city and certifies it to be so full of germs that no child should be permitted to breathe it save through a sanitary mouth and nose guard. Then will come a demand that every child in the city be provided with a sanitary glass case in which he can be kept immune from everything.

In the end, may we not have a demand for the total exclusion of babies from the city, on the ground that no city can be clean enough for them? Or may not some inquirer discover that the baby himself is full of germs; that he is a menace to civilization as an agent of disease? Why live at all in such a germ-laden world?

SIDELIGHTS

"There are two kinds of rain here," said H. P. Crowther, the well known United States land surveyor, the other day. Then he proceeded to elucidate: One kind of rain is the wet kind that wets you, and the other is the dry kind in which you can slosh around all day, so to speak, and never get wet. But then, someone else remarked that there were three kinds of rain on the coast, namely, to-wit: that is to say, positive wet, comparative wetter, superlative wettest.

At that the climate in this part of Alaska does not seem to be any moister than was that of Puget Sound twenty-five years ago. The Puget Sound climate has positively become dryer—to a very considerable extent—both winter and summer. The moistness of the Southern Alaska climate is easily explained. It is due to the glaciers and the Kuro Sirwo, or the Japanese Current. The warmer air of the current meeting the colder air of the glaciers the result is precipitation—snow in winter or rain in summer.

But it is an indisputable fact that the glaciers in this section are receding rapidly and it is not unreasonable to suppose that within a comparatively short time most of them will have become extinct, and with their death the climate will undergo very perceptible changes. The rainfall will be much less and the volume of sunshine greatly increased. The Malaspina glacier. Davidson glacier and even the celebrated Muir glacier are said to be disappearing with great rapidity.

Alaska's numerous excellent hot springs are not sufficiently known. They need the right kind of exploitation, though their virtues are much praised by those who have benefited by bathing in them and drinking their waters. Then good hotels and cottages are needed for those who go there to take the baths. Would not these Alaska hot springs, if properly equipped, offer inducements to the all people of the United States and Canada to come here, especially during the summer season and recoup their health instead of going elsewhere?

They could find no such scenery, mountains, sea, valleys, lakes and forests; hunting and fishing unsurpassed; a salubrious climate and the fresh, pure, non-germ laden air such as is found in few countries outside of Alaska. Tenakee hot springs have visitors always, we are told, and almost invariably they are benefited by the waters. Then there are the Sitka hot springs well equipped and well managed, it is said, which are too a mecca for the afflicted, besides a number of others in various parts of the panhandle of Alaska.

Mrs. Melinda P. Kyle, of Warren, Ohio, is 114 years old, and she attributes her longevity and good health to the fact that for one hundred years she has daily drunk two cups of strong coffee. On the other hand a young sport, named W. C. Hinton, of Dallas, Tex., who, only the other day, at the age of 105, drank two cups of coffee, instead of his usual morning allowance of one cup, and heart failure resulted and he was cut off like a rose in its bloom. Nevertheless it is a poor rule that doesn't work both ways, we are assured.

A Kentucky court some years ago was presided over by a judge who was a strong advocate of temperance. You'll find plenty of temperance advocates there, so don't laugh. One day a witness, named Elm was on the stand. He gave his age as seventy-seven. His testimony was lucid and direct and his memory was as clear as a bell. When he had finished the judge complimented him and asked about his manner of living. He said that he had never used tobacco or liquor in his life.

"Gentlemen," said his honor, "see what a sober, temperate life will do for a man."

The next witness called also answered to the name of Elm. His testimony too, was clear and direct. He was a twin brother, he said, of the preceding witness. When he stepped down from the witness chair, the judge complimented him, too, over the clearness of his statements. "Like your brother," said he, "I suppose you have always lived a temperate life?"

"Yes," said the other twin, but I have used tobacco ever since I was fourteen years old, and have never missed 'drink time' in my life."

A laugh ran around the court room. The judge frowned, and then dryly remarked: "Gentlemen, I perceive that an Elm will flourish wet or dry."

SPECIAL TERM OF COURT.

In the District Court for the District of Alaska, Division No. 1, At Juneau.

In the Matter of Calling a Special December, 1912, Term of Court at Juneau.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to an order of the Honorable Thomas R. Lyons, District Judge for the District of Alaska, Division No. 1, made on the 4th day of November, 1912, at Juneau, Alaska, a SPECIAL TERM of the DISTRICT COURT will be held at the United States Court House at Juneau, Alaska, beginning on Monday, the NINTH DAY OF DECEMBER, 1912, at the hour of ten o'clock in the forenoon of said day.

E. W. PETTIT,
Clerk of the District Court for the District of Alaska, Division No. 1.
Dated and published at Juneau, Alaska, this 6th day of November, A. D. 1912.

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Juneau-Sitka Route—Leaves Juneau for Hoonah, Gypsum, Tenakee, Killisnoo and Sitka—8:00 a. m., Nov. 5, 11, 17, 23, 29, Dec. 5, 11, 17, 23, 29, Jan. 4, 10, 16, 22, 28, Feb. 3, 9, 15, 21, 27, March 5, 11, 17, 23 and 29.

Leaves Juneau for Funter and Chatham, 8:00 a. m.—Nov. 17, Dec. 11, Jan. 4, 28, Feb. 21, March 17.

Leaves Juneau for Tyeo, 8:00 a. m.—Nov. 23, Dec. 23, Jan. 22, Feb. 21, March 23.

Juneau-Skagway Route—Leaves Juneau for Pearl Harbor, Eagle River, Yankee Cove, Sentinel Light Station, Julian, Eldred Rock Light Station, Comet, Haines, Skagway, 8:00 a. m.—Nov. 3, 9, 15, 21, 27, Dec. 3, 9, 15, 21, 27, Jan. 2, 8, 14, 20, 26, Feb. 1, 7, 13, 19, 25, March 3, 9, 15, 21, 27.

Returning leaves Skagway the following day at 8:00 a. m.

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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.
Leaves Douglas for Juneau—8:30 a. m., 9:30 a. m., *12:05 p. m., 1:45 p. m., 3:30 p. m., *4:45 p. m., 7:05 p. m., 8:30 p. m., 9:30 p. m., 11:00 p. m.
*On Sundays this trip is omitted.

**This trip to Sheep Creek daily except 4:30 p. m. trip on Saturday, which is omitted and trips leaving Juneau at 6:30 p. m. and 11:00 p. m. are made instead, and Sheep Creek trips at 11:00 a. m., 6:30 p. m., and 11:00 p. m.

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