

ALASKA DAILY EMPIRE  
J. F. A. STRONG.

TELEPHONE 3-74

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JUNEAU, ALASKA, NOV. 16, 1912.

AS TO FIRE PROTECTION.

There can be no valid argument raised against the necessity of providing adequate fire protection for any town, no matter where it is located.

Usually in Alaska communities it is one of the first cares of the municipality. There is too much at stake for the people generally to overlook or ignore the dangers of fire. There are not many business men who are able to carry their own insurance—that is, take their own risks, while the better the fire protection, both in equipment and water supply, the lower the insurance rates.

These are facts that cannot be disputed, and we submit that the statements herein set forth are worthy of the careful consideration of the citizens of Juneau. This town has increased in population largely during the past few months, and the promise of the present is for a much larger population within the coming year. And it seems to The Empire that it is always a good plan to take time by the forelock.

THE SEAL OF ALASKA.

We note that the great sea of Alaska bears the inscription, "Seal of the District of Alaska." This is a misnomer, inasmuch as we are now fully qualified to bear the more mellifluous and satisfying name, Territory. Some of our district courts, however, several years ago discarded the name district, and substituted Territory, wisely, and without strict legal warrant, we thought at the time. But there can be no question raised now as to Alaska's territorial status.

The changing of the inscription on the seal is an easy matter, and we are simply referring to it for the purpose of congratulating ourselves and the people of Alaska upon the new dignity that has been lately achieved.

KODIAK ISLAND SUFERERS?

If the statements of Kodiak island men are to be taken at their face value, a condition of affairs exists among the native and creole population there that is not at all to the credit of the government officials located on the island.

The statements that are published in The Empire today have been vouched for by supposedly reputable and truthful men, recently from Kodiak. But there are usually two or more sides to every story that is told. Sometimes the information supplied does not come from reliable sources; often it is the result of prejudice and not infrequently of a misunderstanding of the facts, or through ignorance.

When, however, the flat statement is made that hundreds of people are destitute, or in immediate danger of being destitute, it is time to take notice of their allegations.

It need scarcely be pointed out that native peoples usually become extraordinarily helpless in the stress of a great calamity. And it is also needless to say that a great calamity has overtaken these people.

It seems, however, almost incredible that officials of the United States government even though they occupy minor positions, should permit such conditions, as it is alleged, exist, without endeavoring to alleviate them in a practical way, especially when there are funds and rations, furnished by a generous hand, to meet the exigency.

At the very least a prompt investigation should be made and the truth or falsity of the charges determined.

UNCERTAIN WAR NEWS.

Newspaper readers cannot fail to be impressed with the fact that news of the Balkan war, and the negotiations for an armistice between the belligerents, is most contradicting, and wholly unsatisfactory.

But it must be borne in mind that all dispatches from the scenes of war and the seats of the governments involved in the struggle, are rigidly censored, and only such matter as is allowed to pass the censors reaches the public. Enough has been received to establish the belief beyond a doubt that the condition of the Turkish forces is pitiable, while, if the exact truth were known, the allies are no doubt suffering severely.

That cholera is decimating the people of Constantinople is also certain and it is equally probable that starvation faces tens of thousands within that city. These known conditions will, without doubt, soon combine to put an end to a war which has been remarkable in the suddenness with which it was precipitated and the fierceness of the contests at arms that have followed.

The firmness of the Balkan states and their allies, has prevented the European powers from intervening in the war. The allied nations almost at the very beginning of the conflict, served notice upon the powers that they would not submit to interference on their part, and that fact, coupled with the powers' jealousy of each other and their many conflicting interests, whose ramifications are widespread, has deterred them from direct intervention. And added to all this is the attitude of Great Britain, Prime Minister Asquith having recently declared in a public address that the Balkan states should not be deprived of the fruits of their victory.

THE PROBLEM OF LIVING.

The Democratic national platform lays much stress upon the tariff and the trusts as the fundamental causes of the increased cost of living in the United States. That these are contributing causes rather than basic, we are inclined to believe. A casual study of economic conditions in Europe shows that the people of Germany and those of Great Britain are also confronted by desperate economic conditions, and similar conditions may be said to exist in nearly every other European country. Of course Germany has a high protective tariff while England is partially at least on a free trade basis. But the conditions in highly protected Germany are worse than those of England. Evidently, however, there are other causes for the high cost of living when its phenomena are observable pretty much everywhere in the civilized world. It is the universality of the condition that causes economists to look for universal causes.

There is small question, perhaps, that under-production of necessities is one cause, although the United States, this year, produced 3,170,000,000 bushels of corn, and crops generally were the largest in the history of the country. Yet prices have not dropped.

Intimately connected with under-production, which some economists point to as the real cause of high food prices, all the heavy costs of distribution that have grown up in modern times and which are such as to put a heavy tax on the consumer, and a great problem of today it would seem, is to bring the producer and the consumer into closer communication.

THE MOTION PICTURE.

But beyond the revolution the motion picture has worked in the matter of optics, comes the development of the "movies" as means of entertainment. It has spread to a degree unheard of. Never can the "legitimate" theatre hope to reach as many people in a week as the moving picture film reaches in a day. The great mass of people now has its playhouse, which may be nothing else than made-over storeroom. As soon as the moving picture man begins to turn the crank all the joys of the world are flashed before the observer's eyes.

To keep this great educational force clean should be one of the objects of the state. America has taken the lead in film production, which speaks well for the tendencies of moving picture audiences for most of the American films are clean, and breathe of the outdoors. Such a vast force for public good or evil should be kept above reproach. Infinite capacities for good or evil lurk in the "movies," and the evil should not be allowed to creep in.

CHEMICAL LINEN.

Much interest is manifested in the Bohemian linen trade by a reported invention from the Russian textile industry. According to the information, an engineer at Moscow has produced chemically finer linen yarn than the finest yet spun; also that less waste is made in spinning process, thereby lowering the cost of production. Very fine linen goods are to be woven from the new yarn, the cost of which is calculated to be 20 per cent less than the finest articles of linen heretofore placed on the market.

OIL AND WATER.

Ex-Gov. Haskell of Oklahoma, has gone into the oil business and having been long a Prohibitionist, he will now proceed to show how water and oil can be made to go together.

HORRORS OF WAR.

War may still continue to rage about Podgoritz, but it is reassuring to know that the conditions at Tegucigalpa are improving hourly.

SIDELIGHTS

The death of David Waldron, by fire, is one of the saddest incidents in the tragic history of the Northern country. Not the death itself, but the manner of his exit from this gray old world. Mr. Waldron had reached the great age of 89, and for ten had lived in Valdez. A pioneer of the Pacific Coast, he had once been wealthy. But riches take unto themselves wings and fly away. Peace be to his ashes.

The United States has just paid a Kansas man \$3.10 due him as a soldier since 1865. No interest was paid on the money which the government has been retaining for nearly half a century. Our Uncle Samuel seems to be maintaining his record of being slow but sure, in paying his debts.

District Attorney Rustgard was in Seattle on election day—the first national election he had seen in quite a number of years. What impressed him most, he says, was the absence of anything like enthusiasm among any of the political partisans around the newspaper offices and other places where returns were being received on election night. Huge crowds were there, and there was a lot of good-natured "joshing" but few cheers for any of the candidates. All of which goes to show, it would seem, that the American is beginning to take his politics seriously. It is not indifference. Shouting establishes no principles, neither does it establish policies of government. The silent voter does the work.

Judging by the election returns that are still trickling in from a number of states the results of the late election may possibly be determined by Thanksgiving Day—but perhaps not until Christmas. In any event let us give thanks that only two or three states have not as yet determined who has been elected.

John D. Rockefeller and Andrew Carnegie have returned to the people a modicum of the great wealth which they have accumulated, in the way of benefactions to churches, colleges, foundations and libraries. And now comes Banker George F. Baker, of New York, who has announced his intention of giving a trifle of \$4,000,000 to a hospital. After the late Geo. F. Peabody, Dr. D. K. Pearsons, of Chicago, was undoubtedly the most generous giver this country has known. He devoted all of his fortune of \$5,000,000 to charitable and educational work, and when he died he was worth not more than \$5,000. But with all their gifts the wealth of Rockefeller and Carnegie accumulates very much faster than they can thus dispose of it.

Hutton & Co., stock brokers, of San Francisco, have a direct private wire from their New York connections.

On the night of election they had their operator installed in the St. Francis hotel in San Francisco and these returns were flashed hours in advance of the regular associated press service, according to Z. R. Cheney, who was stopping at the hotel. The lobby was filled with an intensely interested crowd with eyes glued to the screen watching the figures. "Of course, I felt blue," said Mr. Cheney, "as the landlady gathered headway and carried practically everything before it—I look blue, don't I? But seriously," he continued, "it will be too bad if Wilson loses California, and I understand that Roosevelt is 72 votes in the lead."

END OF CAMPAIGN.

The long sad months of noise and shrieking come to an end, at Time's behest, and orators, worn out by speaking, can give their battered lungs a rest. How sweet to know an end of yawning, of all the worries campaigns mean! Now we can do our Christmas shopping on buoyant legs, with minds serene. Now we can gambol through the city unharmed by the tariff bores, and wear a smile and sing a ditty, as glad as any one outdoors. Relieved of all the hurly-burly, the screams of warring candidates, we'll do our Christmas shopping throughout these wide United States. How sweet it is to go a-walking, and hear no wrangling, near or far, no arguments or tiresome talking of income tax or I. and R.! How pleasant when the local daily prints something else than campaign junk! We'll do our Christmas shopping gaily, and buy enough to fill a trunk! How sweet to see men safely, sanely, pursuing tasks well worth their while, instead of thrashing "issues" vainly, dispensing language by the mile! Farewell to foolish yawning, to tiresome men with tiresome jaws; it's time to do our Christmas shopping and put in ticks for Santa Claus! WALT MASON.

Typewriters for rent. W. H. Case.

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 5th day of November, A. D. 1912.

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GEORGIA

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 Funder and Chatham, 8:00 a. m.—Nov. 17, Dec. 11, Jan. 4, 28, Feb. 21, March 17. Leaves Juneau for Tye, 8:00 a. m.—Nov. 23, Dec. 23, Jan. 27, Feb. 21, March 23. Juneau-Skagway Route—Leaves Juneau for Pearl Harbor, Eagle River, Yankee Cove, Sentinel Light Station, Juallin, 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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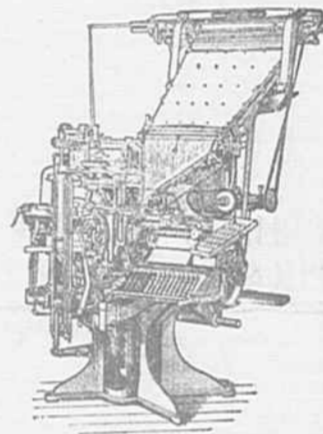
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THE ALASKA DAILY EMPIRE

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 South-eastern Alaska—along legitimate lines.

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