

ALASKA DAILY EMPIRE

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JUNEAU, ALASKA, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1913.

A GRATIFYING REPORT

THE very excellent and complete report of the "commerce and customs business" of Alaska for the year 1912, which is just at hand from the office of Collector of Customs J. R. Willis, makes a gratifying showing.

The total trade was twenty-seven per cent higher than for any previous year, while the balance of trade in favor of Alaska was the largest of record, amounting to nearly twenty million dollars.

These statements are more than ordinarily interesting and are significant as well. They show a wonderful expansion of the salmon cannery business and accentuate the necessity existing for the proper conservation of this valuable food fish by the enforcement of sane regulations and the artificial propagation of the species.

The production of gold indicates an upward tendency and it is safe to say that the low water mark in the mining of Alaska gold has been reached, and the coming years will note a steady increase, due to the extensive development of quartz and the introduction of dredges to handle the immense low grade alluvial deposits of Seward peninsula and the interior country.

The steady increase in the output of copper also shows the advance that Alaska is making in this important industry.

The careful and methodical work of Collector of Customs Willis and his efficient staff, is worthy of commendation. The statistics presented have been carefully compiled and they will be of large benefit to the Territory at large, as they typify in a concrete way the strides that Alaska is making industrially and commercially.

A fatal accident last night was narrowly averted when an alley broke and dropped several people, including a number of women and children, into the tideflats below. Fortunately the tide was out and no one was drowned. But it was a most unpleasant and unnecessary experience, and is such as to call for an investigation. There is a blameworthiness somewhere.

AN URGENT NECESSITY.

THAT there is no provision made by the Government for paying the necessary expenses that must be incurred in effecting quarantine and caring for the afflicted, in case of an epidemic of contagious diseases in Alaska, is as deplorable as it is true. The Government cannot be blind to the fact that such a condition exists. As a matter of fact it is not. Representations have been made time and again to Washington, but without result.

Following the Eagle quarantine small-pox appeared among the natives at Fort Yukon and on the Porcupine river, in Canada. The Yukon territorial government immediately dispatched a relief steamer with medical and other supplies, and instituted a strict quarantine and the disease was soon stamped out.

Common humanity, to say nothing of common decency, demands that permanent provision be made for effecting a prompt quarantine in such cases, and to do this a fund must be created and placed at the disposal of the federal authorities in each judicial division.

The diphtheria outbreak at Sitka and Hoonah serves to emphasize the urgent need of some adequate means to meet an emergency of this kind. The territorial legislature would do well to memorialize the Congress and endeavor to obtain relief from an intollerable condition.

RECALL OF PRESIDENTS

IF WE are to have the recall of judges and other elective officials, why should the President of the United States be exempt? He holds his office by the will of the people, the same as a county coroner or a justice of the peace; and if the lesser officials are made subject to recall the President should take his chance with the rest of the elect.

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has not been an unmixed blessing. When a dishonest or incompetent man attains office the operation of the recall system can be made to meet his case, but it has been worked overtime by people who have had nothing better to do.

CHURCH NOTES. Methodist Episcopal. R. C. Blackwell, Pastor. Services morning and evening at 11 and 7:30 o'clock.

Alaska News Notes. J. A. Jacobsen an old time prospector of the Copper river country, had the misfortune to freeze his feet badly on the Chetochina.

Trinity Episcopal. Tomorrow being the first Sunday of the month there will be Holy Communion at 8:00 a. m. Sunday School at 12:30.

The JunEAU Steamship Co. U. S. Mail Steamer GEORGIA. Juneau-Sitka Route—Leaves Juneau for Hoonah, Gypsum, Tenakee, Killisnoo and Sitka.

INDIANS ARE CARRYING PLEA TO WASHINGTON. The Prince of Wales, the present Chief of the Clallam tribe of Indians, who have been homeless and landless since 1855, has started from Seattle for Washington, D. C., to present to Congress and to the Interior Department the Indian's petition for redress of grievances which they have endured nearly fifty-eight years.

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