

ALASKA DAILY EMPIRE

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Telephone No. 3-7-4

Entered as second-class matter November 7, 1912 at the postoffice at Juneau, Alaska, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

One year, by mail \$10.00
Six months, by mail 5.00
Per month, delivered 1.00

JUNEAU, ALASKA, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1913.

POWERS OF THE LEGISLATURE

THE powers that may lie in the Territorial Legislature seem to be a debatable question. At any rate there seems to be a wide divergence of opinion as to the powers that may be exercised by that body further than to memorialize the Congress.

The members from the Fourth judicial division, we are told, have already, in their "mind's eye," some subject matter that should be whipped into good law.

A tax on foreign corporation.
Amendment of the road law.
Amendment of the banking law.
Amendment of the incorporation act for the incorporation of companies.

Amendment to the mining laws with regard to record and what shall constitute annual assessment work on mining claims.
Care of indigents.

Amendment of the election laws.
Small debt court.
Tax on transient traders.
Amendment to the criminal code regarding notaries.
Penalty for passing checks when drawer has no funds in bank.

Appointment of a mining inspector for each division.
Revision of the Alaska code.
Creation of the office of superintendent of public instruction, defining who shall be teachers.

Quite a respectable list indeed from the Fourth. If the other divisions do as well the first territorial legislature promises to have a busy time.

The large increase of business made during the past two years by the First National bank of this city, speaks well for the growth of this section and the careful management of that institution. The bank's deposits have doubled and its profits rose from zero to \$31,000. And its growth during the next year will undoubtedly be much greater.

ALASKA RAIROAD DEVELOPMENT

THE latest news from Washington indicates that the Government, under the leadership of President Wilson, may finally undertake railroad development in Alaska, says the Seattle Sun. Once this policy has begun, it will probably be continued until the whole territory is made accessible by rail.

No one believed that there would ever be a railroad north of the Canadian Pacific, yet within the last two years, we have seen two trans-continental lines rapidly pushing their rails across British North America far into what was at one time supposed to be frozen wilds, and one of them getting ever nearer towards Alaska.

It is interesting in this connection to recall a book that was published forty years ago predicting the ultimate construction of an international railroad from Winnipeg and through Alaska and connecting at Bering Straits by tunnel or bridge, with a trans-Siberian line, continuing onward towards Moscow and St. Petersburg.

The writer of this book was looked upon in his day as an idle dreamer, yet he was perhaps a seer with clear vision. It will take but little more gridironing to the Northern wilderness to bring about the realization of his dream insofar as the American side is concerned.

On the Asiatic side, engineers have recently pushed their way up from Vladivostok, Siberia towards the Straits investigating topographical conditions with an idea to railway construction. The day may be approaching when, with advancing population and enterprise, the inter-continental railway will become a reality.

Although the elections were held on November 5, the President and Vice President of this nation were formally elected only yesterday.

MEXICO AND THE MONROE DOCTRINE

WITH the United States on the point of intervening in Mexico, comes to mind once more the Monroe doctrine, which in effect, constitutes this nation the protecting power of the American continent. There also arises the question whether the Monroe doctrine is as beneficent as it seems. No doubt at the time it was promulgated by President James Monroe it served its purpose well, and continued to do so for many years.

But with the lapse of time its sphere of influence seems to have been extended rather than diminished. In the beginning the idea that no European or other foreign power should obtain a foothold in America was no doubt sound. But in the time that has elapsed numbers of independent governments have been established, and have become permanent and stable.

And yet, as a direct result of the Monroe doctrine, the United States may find itself compelled to enter Mexico with an army and bring order out of chaos. The precedent has been established. It was done in San Domingo and very recently in Nicaragua.

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ragua. There have been three occupations of Cuba and there may be more. And if Mexico be added to the list our troubles will be multiplied, but, without doubt, Mexico would be the gainer.

When the United States assumed policing powers over the little swarm of Central American republics trouble was invited, to say nothing of the burden of expense that was added to that of the American people. Of course if Mexico should be occupied by American troops that burden would ultimately have to be borne by the Mexican people, already impoverished because of internecine warfare and misgovernment.

The commercial relations of the countries under our protecting wing are much more extensive with European nations than with the United States. In other words, we have the glory, those get the profits.

The Monroe doctrine needs revision—either upward or downward.

Northern News Notes

The measles epidemic at Metlakatla and Saxman is abating.

Ketchikan is improving its fire alarm system.

No trace of the missing fisherman Jim Short, has been found though his boat was picked up adrift between Onslow island and Meyers Chuck. It is believed that Short perished in a storm.

The Lindenburger Packing Company's cannery tenders Berlin and Orient have been sent from Ketchikan to Seattle to be overhauled.

Geo. Redmond, who was severely frozen early in January while enroute from the Teslin lake strike had the toes of one foot amputated at St. Andrew's hospital at Atlin, last week and will undergo an operation for the other foot in a few days.

The Telegraph creek mail carriers are having considerable difficulty this month in getting the mail through. When but a short distance from Atlin the dogs got their feet wet and were consequently frozen, the temperature being forty degrees below zero at the time. After some delay fresh dogs were secured and the journey resumed. On account of the great depth of snow and mildness of weather, it is impossible to cover more than an average of ten miles per day.

The Dominion telegraph station at Tagish was burned a few days ago. The men in charge of the station escaped with their lives, but lost all their clothing and supplies.

Frank Palmer, engineer of the steamer Bertha, was fined \$100 at Skagway for assaulting Assistant Engineer William Kennedy.

The Skagway baseball team had its first practice this year on Feb. 9. Last year the first practice took place in March, therefore the Daily Alaskan concludes that Skagway's climate is getting milder.

Skagway is rejoicing in securing unlimited quantities of Northfield coal, mined at Departure bay. It is free from dust and rich in bitumen.

Dr. Thompson M. P. for Yukon has asked for an allowance for the wife of the late Governor Ogilvie who was commissioner of Yukon Territory in 1898-99. Mrs. Ogilvie is a sister of Colonel W. P. Richardson. Mr. Ogilvie was not a wealthy man when he died.

GOES TO BABYLON

The legal code of the great Babylon King Hammurabi, who died 2185 B. C., is one of the authorities on which Judge Muench, of the circuit court of St. Louis, Mo., bases a decision by which he dismissed the action of 8-year-old Louis Bernero to set aside the will disposing of the \$1,000,000 estate left by Mrs. Theresa Bernero, who died July 15, 1911.

The boy is the son of Emanuel Bernero, adopted son of Mrs. Theresa Bernero and her husband, Louis Bernero. The suit was brought by his mother, Mrs. Lorraine T. Bernero, of St. Louis, as best friend.

Judge Muench's decision is that the child of an adopted child has no rights as an heir after the adopted child is dead. The relation of the grandchild to the adopter is contradictory, he holds.

This is the first time, Judge Muench

says, that this precise point has been adjudicated in Missouri. Arguments in the case were made two months ago and the court has been consulting legal authorities ever since to get a basis for the decision.

SIX-FOOTER AT 13, STILL GOING UP

CONNELLSVILLE, Pa., Feb. 14.—Somerset County, this State, has a thirteen-year-old boy 6 feet 6 inches tall and still growing. For two years he has been wearing long trousers, and his fond parents are puzzled what to do with him, because he outgrows his clothes before he outwears them. He is well developed and strong and weighs in the neighborhood of 200 pounds. Although normal at birth and when a child, within the past two years he began to sprout up to an enormous height and a special bed was constructed before he could obtain rest.

Young lady wants position in office where there is a chance for advancement. Address Room 15, Occidental hotel. 2-1234.

The Juneau Steamship Co. U. S. Mail Steamer 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 Funter and Chatham, 8:00 a. m.—Nov. 17, Dec. 11, Jan. 4, 28, Feb. 21, March 17. Leaves Juneau for Tyee, 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, Elfred 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. WILLIS E. NOWELL, MANAGER

Professional Cards

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