

ALASKA DAILY EMPIRE

J. F. A. STRONG

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JUNEAU, ALASKA, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1913.

ALASKA'S FIRST LEGISLATURE.

THE advance guard, so to speak, of the personnel of Alaska's first Legislature has arrived in Juneau, where on March 3, they will begin their labors. Juneau, as the capital city of this great territory, has extended cordial greetings to those who are already here, and will give a hearty welcome to those still to come. It is hoped that their stay will be pleasant. To the members of the Legislature is assigned the task of organizing the first assemblage of the kind in this, the last of the territories of Continental United States. They have been signally honored by their respective constituencies, and The Empire is assured that each and every one is actuated by the desire to accomplish work that shall be of practical benefit to all the territory.

A glance at the roster shows that each of the members is a seasoned Alaskan. They know their respective divisions, and they know the people, because of intimate contact with them for a long period of years. In other words, they are all imbued with the spirit of the pioneer. They know conditions; they have learned through actual experience what the most insistent needs of the territory are, and it, therefore, may be expected that such legislation as they may devise; and such recommendations as they may make to the Congress will be along broad, sound and progressive lines.

From a legislative standpoint, Alaska is new, and the work of the first legislators will be watched with interest far beyond the confines of Alaska. Self-government in this territory will be placed on trial. There may be those who hope that it will be a failure, but we do not think there are. The first Legislature of Alaska, The Empire is confident, starts out with the best wishes of all the people. Its members can make a record for themselves and the country. They can show the rest of the United States that here on the last frontier, live a progressive, free and independent people, capable of governing themselves, patriotic, energetic, believers in liberty, justice and equality before the law and ready at all times to defend the right.

The members of the Legislature may have some knotty problems to solve. Time will determine, but as Alaskans working for a common purpose they will understand the wisdom of the dictum: In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity.

Tomorrow being the anniversary of the birth of him who was first in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen, The Daily Empire will observe the day and no paper, therefore will be issued.

FOR A PUBLIC LIBRARY.

THE EMPIRE is pleased to note that the first practical steps toward securing a public library for Juneau are about to materialize. As might have been expected the initiative has been taken by a lady, who with the assistance of others of her sex, and a number of gentlemen, will start a fund for this laudable object. The nucleus of a fund for library purposes will be obtained and The Empire ventures the prediction that it will grow to such proportions that within a short time the town will be equipped with one of the most necessary institutions of the present day. Subscriptions and aid, perhaps from unexpected quarters, will roll in until the work undertaken shall be crowned with the success that it so well deserves. The mere fact that it shall have been started, that a beginning has been made, will be a strong argument in its favor, if argument be needed. A well-equipped public library, besides the great work that it can do for the welfare of a community, is one of the best advertisements that it can have. It stands for intelligence and the human uplift. This is a growing town, and it will be the home of many men, young and old, to whom a public library will be a sort of oasis in a desert.

Mrs. McBride and all her co-laborers in this worthy cause are entitled to and they will receive the hearty support of the citizens of the town and district.

Senator Paynter of Kentucky thinks "a man has a right to take a drink when he wants to and where he wants to," no matter how "dry" the immediate locality may be. A refreshing affirmation of the doctrine of personal liberty but flagrantly contrary to prohibition sentiment regarding the regulation of other people's conduct.

THE CONDEMNATORY WORD.

A STORY is told to the effect that President-elect Wilson, goaded by an over-zealous representative of a New York newspaper, who wished some Cabinet information, gave vent to this emphatic expression: "I am doing what I believe to be the best for the country and for myself. If the newspapers expect me to do anything else, I'll be damned if I will."

Some unctuous good people might be shocked by such an expression, but we would like to remark that while forcible it is not profane. Mr. Wilson did not heap imprecations upon anybody. He merely put into plain language a belief, a prophecy, a fact. He was thinking aloud. Besides he, no doubt, by using the expletive, relieved his surcharged feelings. Accepting his premises who can doubt the accuracy of his conclusions?

A TALE OF MUTINY

DETAILS of the late uprising in the City of Mexico, now at hand, show that it came with a suddenness that stunned the city. Led by students of the military school supposedly loyal troops first freed the imprisoned generals, Felix Diaz, nephew of the deposed President, and Bernardo Reyes, considered the "brains" of the revolutionary movement, and, with those intrepid leaders at their head, attacked the National Palace. Reyes was killed in the first encounter. It is also alleged that the revolt was premature; that it had been set for March 1, but that it exploded while it was still in process of incubation,

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tion, while it represented all revolutionary factions in the republic. At any rate there seems to have been mutiny after mutiny among supposedly loyal troops, while Madero asserted their devotion even as they joined the enemy.

To account rightly for a Latin-American uprising one first must understand the temperament of that people. But there is little doubt that Madero in the first flush of his victory over President Diaz, promised the Mexican people much more than he was subsequently able to perform. And the inability to fulfill these promises proved his undoing. A stable government for that country is a problem that only a man of much wisdom and firmness can solve. Madero was not equal to the task that he set for himself, and it is doubtful if a savior can be found among the multitude of leaders good, bad and indifferent, mostly in the two latter classes. It probably will be some time before the United States will recognize President Huerta's government. And such course may be entirely wise and prudent. Mexican "revolutions" are not all opera bouffe, but they are extraordinarily monotonous.

A mixed grand jury of men and women jurors is the latest novelty of equal rights in California. Will jury service become more popular as the equal representation of the sexes in the jury-box becomes more general?

NATIVE UPRISING PROVES A MYTH

Dr. H. O. Schaleben, representing the bureau of education, and Deputy Marshal Goshaw, representing the U. S. marshal's office, accompanied by Al Chamberlain and his dog team, reached Seward Saturday afternoon, from a trip of investigation into the reported attempt on the life of Mr. and Mrs. Cooper, government school teachers at Tyonok, at the hands of the native inhabitants. They were gone three weeks.

The deputy marshal's report to his office is to the effect that he could find no evidence which justified him in believing that the natives had designs on the lives of the teachers; that the charges are entirely groundless. Dr. Schaleben found some of the natives in absolute want, while all of them, in a measure, are destitute. There are over a hundred in the vicinity of Tyonok. He gave temporary relief to those in immediate distress, and will urge his department to provide for all of them.

The destitution is due, the officials report, to several causes. The natural inclination of the aborigines to fall to provide for the future is ascribed as probably the chief cause. Last summer they made no provision for the winter period. Then there is no work this winter; again, fish and fur are scarce. In winter heretofore the natives had a good demand for snowshoes which they manufactured in the fall and winter. This winter they had orders for but a hundred pair, as against three hundred in former years. And the price is lower, being but \$2 as against \$3 1/2 times gone by. The natives also suffer, from the high cost of living. Prices have advanced.

The special object of the investigations results in the complete exonerations of the natives. At the same time, the trip was not made in vain, as a distressful state of affairs was revealed which warranted immediate attention.

AS TO BRYAN, HOKE SMITH PROBABLY COULD TELL

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21.—Senator Hoke Smith of Georgia at a luncheon given here yesterday by John Barrett, Director-General of the Pan-American Union, referred to William J. Bryan as "one who had been mentioned prominently for Secretary of State in President Wilson's Cabinet."

"Well, couldn't you tell us in executive session whether he is to be?" smilingly inquired Senator William Alden Smith of Michigan.

"Probably I could," was the reply. "but I have found that what happens in executive session in the Senate always becomes known publicly soon after, and sometimes in twisted form."

"In a talk I had with Mr. Bryan some time ago he told me that the greatest work the State Department could undertake was the study of and co-operation with Latin-America and that the United States was ready to serve but not to interfere with them."

WEST VIRGINIANS ARE CLEARED

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21.—Senators William E. Chilton and Clarence W. Watson, of West Virginia will be given a clean bill of health, so far as charges of bribery and corruption in connection with their selection are concerned. The Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections today took up the charges preferred by former

Gov. Clatscock and other prominent citizens of West Virginia, and unanimously decided to join in a report completely exonerating Chilton and Watson.

Mr. Watson will retire from the Senate on March 3. His successor will be a Republican. Mr. Watson has been mentioned for Ambassador to Mexico under President Wilson.

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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. 22, Feb. 21, March 23.
Juneau - Skagway Route — Leaves Juneau for Pearl Harbor, Eagle River, Yankee Cove, Sentinel Light Station, Juallin, El dred 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

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FERRY TIME SCHEDULE
JUNEAU FERRY & NAVIGATION Co.—Operating Ferry Service Between JUNEAU, DOUGLAS, TREADWELL and SHEEP CREEK

Lv. Juneau for Douglas and Treadwell	Lv. Treadwell for Juneau	Leaves Douglas for Juneau	Leaves Juneau daily for Sheep Creek	From Juneau for Sheep Creek Saturday Night Only
8:00 a. m.	8:25 a. m.	8:30 a. m.	11:00 a. m.	11:00 p. m.
9:00 a. m.	9:25 a. m.	9:30 a. m.	4:30 p. m.	for Juneau Returning Leaves Sheep Creek 11:40 p. m.
11:00 a. m.	12:00 noon	12:05 p. m.		Leaves Sheep Creek for Juneau Leaves Treadwell 11:45 p. m.
1:00 p. m.	1:40 p. m.	1:45 p. m.		Leaves Douglas 11:50 p. m.
3:00 p. m.	3:25 p. m.	3:30 p. m.		
4:30 p. m.	4:55 p. m.	5:30 p. m.		
6:30 p. m.	6:55 p. m.	7:05 p. m.		
8:00 p. m.	8:25 p. m.	8:30 p. m.		
9:00 p. m.	9:25 p. m.	9:30 p. m.		
11:00 p. m.	11:25 p. m.	11:30 p. m.		

Sunday Schedule same as above, except trip leaving Juneau at 8 a. m. is omitted

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