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Col. Sol Ripinsky on Home Rule

The following excerpts are taken from a speech delivered by Col. Sol Ripinsky, of Haines, as printed in the Douglas Island News, of Nov. 27, 1907. The occasion that called forth the burst of oratory was the Republican Territorial convention.

"Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen: I deem it an honor, a privilege and a pleasure to be a delegate to this Republican territorial convention. I believe that this will prove a notable gathering and that it will accomplish much good; it will better the condition of our people, and advance the welfare of this great country.

"At some former territorial conventions, I stood in this same hall, advocating home rule for Alaska; and it is now indeed a great pleasure to have the convention adopt the resolutions that it did today (applause).

"The people of the head waters of Lynn canal, whom I have the honor to represent, are a good, industrious, law-abiding people. They have no particular grievance against His Excellency Governor Hogatt, nor against the other present officials. What they want is that which, by right, they are entitled to: to be ruled by laws made by those who have the welfare of the people at heart.

"To speak frankly, it is my belief, that had the present government officials in this territory the right to vote, the majority of them would vote for home rule. (loud applause.)

"In 1867, 'Alaska'—an English corruption of the Icelandic 'Alakshoa', which means the land of glaciers—is the land that was turned over by the savage bear of Russia to the golden eagle of America, for the consideration of \$7,200,000.

"Fellow citizens that was quite a sum, but you must remember that the two seal islands of St. George and St. Paul in Bering sea have supplied the fair sex of the world with seal skin coats. The revenue of the two islands and what the Alaska Commercial Company has gained from them has paid double—yes, treble the amount Secretary Seward paid for the whole domain.

"Alaska is yet in her infancy, and like an infant we are treated by our mother government—according to the

treatment we have received, she acts more like a step-mother than a natural mother. For seventeen long years we were ruled with an iron arm, military rule, until 1884, when the first civil law and organic act were extended to our territory; and that's the same identical carpetbag government we have today. Under the military rule we were in the frying pan, today under the carpetbaggers we are in the fire. * * * * * Our motto must and shall be 'Alaska for Alaskans' and 'Down with the carpetbaggers,' or, better expressed in the regular wooden-shoe language 'heraus-mit-him.' (cheers and applause.)

"What we want is home rule; to be ruled by our own people, under laws framed by people that understand our wants. * * * * * Fellow citizens, they say that we are not ripe for home rule. It seems that the fair daughters of Hawaii are ripe for home rule; the Philippines are ripe for home rule. The Cubans are perhaps, made of finer clay than we Alaskans, so they can rule themselves. (Applause that made the galleries shake.)

"Fellow citizens, when shall we be fit? When our eyes are closed and our arms folded on our breasts; after we are summoned to our fathers; when we are on that journey from whence no earthly traveler returns? Too late. At that time, fellow citizens, we will not care whether school keeps or not.

"Now is the time. While our eyes are open we can distinguish between right and wrong; between friends and foes;—while our wants are open we can express our wants; while our hearts throb for freedom we can hear the sweet sound of the liberty bell ringing. (more applause.)

"Towns have sprung up in our neighborhood, rich mines have been discovered and developed, and salmon fisheries are operating extensively. We are a producing people. No more on our knees begging, we demand better treatment.

"Fellow citizens, let us instruct our delegates to demand home rule for Alaska, and keep on demanding it, until we get it. When we do get it, it will prove to be the greatest blessing we ever received from a cruel, near-sighted stepmother."

CONDITIONS LOOK GOOD FOR ALASKA

Conditions throughout the Eastern states are bound according to F. P. Webb, who returned on the Northwestern.

"In New England," said Mr. Webb, "the large manufacturers have discounted the expected results of tariff reductions and they are now anxious to have the revisions made that a study can be made on the effect of such legislation.

"Copper is in demand, but large factors in the copper world would prefer that the price should remain between 14 and 15 cents per pound rather than reach the recent altitude. Stability is the object to be attained.

"The stock exchange is rather subdued. The stagnation results owing to the fear of radical legislation that now seems imminent in the New York Legislature, which in fact has already been introduced, of which no one can foresee the end. An instance showing the effect on this phase of the financial life is the fact that a seat in the exchange slid the other day for \$48,000, which 3 years ago brought twice that amount.

"Insurance companies are gleefully contemplating the future and have pleasant reflections on the past twelve months, owing to the increase in their business. The travelers' doubled their capital and cut a nice melon not long ago.

"Quite a lot of interest is taken in this country, especially in the Juneau section and there is plenty of money available for good propositions. But good propositions are coming to New York every day and we can't expect them to come way up here and throw their money into something they know nothing about. There is capital to be invested in proved properties and there is money available for developing prospects, but in the latter case, we who have merely prospects can not expect to realize before there has been some development."

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MONTH OF MARCH AND SUPERSTITION

This is the first of March, the month that is supposed, in popular superstition, to govern itself by the manner of its coming in—if like a lion, then it will go out like a lamb, and vice versa. This is another superstition that should be relegated to the ash heap along with the woodchuck.

At the risk of starting a rancorous controversy with Stratter White, who has defended every irrational superstition from the mythology of the Chaldeans down to goose-grease for influenza, we repeat that there is nothing in the Lion and Lamb theory.

March is simply an ordinary division of time, and until the coming of the Christians, it did not occur at this period of the season at all, but was the first month instead of the third, consequently the Lion and Lamb did not apply either in theory or practice. A hundred and sixty years ago, at which time White began to conjure with wish-bones and monkey with the zodiac, the English people adopted the new reckoning, and White, having served as consul on the British side, adopted the changed calendar—along with the wood chuck, ice worm, serpent, lion and lamb falsities.

We are willing that our readers shall indulge themselves in a little harmless fancy, but we do not want the stamp of approval put upon it by a government officer.

Does this glorious, high tariffed and star spangled bannered commonwealth send its representatives to contiguous empires for the purpose of divining with the entrails of fowls? It does not. Our consuls are supposed to make tyranny tremble, and not to witch with forked sticks and make love philters and charms out of strange insects and creeping things.

The truth about March is this: It was invented as a period in which to inaugurate a Democratic president about every sixteen years. Caesar got too fresh with the ideas of March once, and he was laid where a certain other consul will be, if he does not regulate his ideas more to the paths of truth and veracity. This may cause international complications, and we don't care if it does, we have the truth, though "h—l itself should gape, and yawning receive us whole."

—Skagway Alaskan.

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YUKON TERRITORY TO HOLD ELECTION

Yukon Territory is in the midst of a political campaign. Our Canadian neighbors are engaged now in attempting to settle among themselves the question as to whom they will have to represent them in their territorial legislature—council, they call it. The contest is being conducted along federal political lines, the Liberals and Conservatives each having placed party candidates in the field from the several constituencies.

The Yukon Territorial Council meets at least once a year, at Dawson, the capital of the territory.

WARRIOR SLATED FOR CANADA'S HEAD

A recent London dispatch says Lord Methven, the famous soldier, is reported on high authority to be slated to succeed the Duke of Connaught as Governor-general of Canada.

It is said the Duke of Connaught, who is uncle of the king, longs to return to the United States.

CORDOVA TO HAVE COURT TERM

A term of the United States District Court has been called to begin at Cordova April 10. A petit jury will be drawn to serve at that time.

No term has been called for at Seward, as no business has shown up from that section which would justify it in the opinion of the officials. If, however, enough business should present itself, the court will call a term later to be held in the Westward town.

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