

ALASKA DAILY EMPIRE

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BE FAIR TO LEGISLATURE.

THOSE who are attempting to ridicule the Alaska Legislature for the condition in which the Territory of Alaska finds itself on account of the decision of the Attorney-General that the Legislature went beyond its authority when it conferred additional duties upon Federal officials are making themselves more or less ridiculous. The questions involved are purely legal problems, and the weight of legal authority consulted by the members of the Legislature was against the contention of the Attorney-General. Delegate Wickersham, admittedly a good lawyer who has had experience under Territorial government, contended that the Legislature had authority to do what it did. Several members of the Alaska bar agreed with Delegate Wickersham. So did the lawyers in the Territorial Legislature, and all four of those lawyers are men who standing at the bar is unquestioned. Further, some of the points passed upon by the Attorney-General were raised in the proceedings before Judge Fred M. Brown in the poll tax case, and he held for the validity of the law.

The Empire holds no brief for the Alaska Legislature—but even law-makers have the right to fair treatment. If the Alaska Legislature has made a mistake that may make necessary a special session it will be following in the footsteps of illustrious and supposedly well advised predecessors in the work of statute-making. The Congress of the United States has found it necessary to repair the damage resulting from unconstitutional legislation, and so have the Legislatures of many of the American States.

Admiral Dewey, America's greatest living military hero, celebrated his 76th birthday anniversary the day after Christmas by appearing at his office early in the morning and cleaning his desk of the work that had accumulated over Christmas. And the act was that of a systematic man, we are assured, and not due to any childish illusions about Santa Claus. Except for a brief moment when ambitious relatives tempted him with thoughts of the White House Admiral Dewey has worn his years and honors modestly and with dignity, as men usually wear them who earn their honors by their works.

ANOTHER MATTER UP TO CONGRESS.

THE urgency for immediate action looking toward the protection of life and property in the waters of Alaska has been brought to the attention of Congress by Secretary of Commerce Redfield. The Cabinet officer did not overstate the case in his letter to Speaker Champ Clark when he said that "simple justice" to the people of Alaska and the commerce of the Northwest demands that conditions be remedied at the "earliest possible moment." The loss of life and property along the Alaskan coast in 1913, resulting from imperfect charts in some instances and no charts at all in others, tells its own story. The deplorable state of things which resulted in the State of California disaster in which 31 lives were sacrificed, and the other wrecks, where the loss of life might have been equally as great as far as anything the government has done, are intolerable. A government that is spending millions for the protection of life in Mexico and along the Mexican border can well afford to meet the cost necessary to protect the lives of the thousands who are compelled to travel up and down the North Pacific coast.

In his letter to Congress Secretary of Commerce Redfield has accepted the facts and closely followed the reasoning set forth by the Governor of Alaska in his annual report to the Secretary of the Interior. He is entitled to the thanks of the people of Alaska for acting quickly and in a manner that seems most likely to secure desired results.

Former President Taft made a speech the other day in which he opposed self-government for the Philippines. Well, he might change his mind at that if the people go along about their business and confer the self-government despite his advice. He opposed a Territorial government for Alaska and Statehood for Arizona and New Mexico until the bills granting the people of those commonwealths their rights were handed up to him to sign. The he signed them.

Dr. Alfred H. Brooks, the recognized authority on the mineral resources of Alaska, has paid his tribute to the Juneau mining development which, in the conservative language of a scientist, he says "bids fair to become one of the greatest gold producing districts on the American continent."

CLEANINGS OF THE NORTHERN EMPIRE

Skagway Lodge, No. 113, F. & A. M., has elected the following officers: C. W. Wright, master; E. L. Wheeler, senior warden; James Wallace, junior warden; P. H. Ganty, treasurer, and Phil Abrahams, secretary.

The suppression of chicken thieves is consuming some of the time of the city officials of Skagway.

M. A. Mitchell has resigned as cashier of the Miners' and Merchants' bank of Ketchikan. His successor is A. R. Larson, formerly of Seattle. J. E. Chilberg, of Seattle, is president of the bank.

William McGregor, of Ketchikan, fell on icy sidewalk Christmas Eve and sustained a broken leg.

Capt. John Walsh, pilot of the cable-ship Burnside, died on board the ship December 30th.

Charles Ulanky, a farmer of Knik, has unearthed a boulder bearing the figure of a man. Natives who exam-

ined the work declare that it is not the work of their people. It is believed to be a specimen of the work of an ancient Alaskan population. Photographs and carefully prepared descriptions of the find have been sent to the Smithsonian Institute. The specimen, itself, will be presented to the Sheldon Jackson museum at Sitka.

How to Treat the Tiger.
 After all, the Tiger can be made a domestic pet, but not by kind treatment.—New York World.

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 Leaves Juneau for Tyee and Baranoff Warm Springs, 2 a. m. Oct. 25, Nov. 24, Dec. 24, Jan. 23, Feb. 22, and March 24.
Juneau-Skagway Route
 Leaves Juneau for Pearl Harbor, Eagle River, Yankee Cove, Sentinel Light Sta., Eldrid Light Sta., Comet, Haines, Skagway, 2 a. m. Oct. 5, 11, 17, 23, 29; Nov. 4, 10, 16, 22, 28; Oct. 4, 10, 16, 22, 28; Jan. 3, 9, 15, 21, 27; Feb. 2, 8, 14, 20, 26; March 4, 10, 16, 22, and 28.
 Returning, Leaves Skagway the Following Day at 2 a. m.
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SUMMER FERRY TIME SCHEDULE STARTING MAY 26, 1913.

| Best Leaves Juneau For Douglas and Treadwell | Leaves Treadwell For Douglas and Juneau | Leaves Douglas For Juneau | Leaves Sheep Creek For Treadwell Douglas and Juneau |
|--|---|---------------------------|---|
| 6:30 a. m. | 7:10 a. m. | 7:15 a. m. | 7:00 a. m. |
| 8:00 a. m. | 8:25 a. m. | 8:30 a. m. | |
| 9:00 a. m. | 9:40 a. m. | 9:45 a. m. | 9:30 a. m. |
| 11:00 a. m. | 11:25 a. m. | 11:30 a. m. | |
| 1:00 p. m. | 1:25 p. m. | 1:30 p. m. | |
| 2:00 p. m. | 2:25 p. m. | 2:30 p. m. | |
| 3:00 p. m. | 3:25 p. m. | 3:30 p. m. | |
| 5:00 p. m. | 5:40 p. m. | 5:45 p. m. | 5:30 p. m. |
| 6:30 p. m. | 6:55 p. m. | 7:00 p. m. | |
| 8:00 p. m. | 8:25 p. m. | 8:30 p. m. | |
| 9:30 p. m. | 9:55 p. m. | 10:00 p. m. | |
| 11:00 p. m. | 11:25 p. m. | 11:30 p. m. | |

SHEEP CREEK TRIPS

| Leaves Juneau for Sheep Creek | Leaves Douglas for Sheep Creek | Leaves Treadwell for Sheep Creek |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 6:30 a. m. | 6:45 a. m. | 6:50 a. m. |
| 9:00 a. m. | 9:15 a. m. | 9:20 a. m. |
| 6:00 p. m. | 6:15 p. m. | 6:20 p. m. |

On Saturday and Wednesday nights 11 p. m. trip will go to Sheep Creek. Leaving Treadwell for Juneau at 11:40 p. m.; leaving Douglas for Juneau at 11:45 p. m.

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