

ALASKA DAILY EMPIRE

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AN UNEXPECTED ATTACK.

THE ALASKA Juneau Empire in an able defense of the slippery seven Senators who allowed the use of their names in opposition to government ownership says that Delegate Wickersham is not doing good work when he uses his office to malign and injure the reputations of men who are striving as earnestly as he for the advancement of the country. It will remain for the slippery seven to explain to the people of Alaska why they let their own personal opinions protrude when the interests of Alaska hang in the balance. Their interference was not official; was not authorized, but was done voluntarily, and manifestly, for a purpose. What was it? Will they please explain fully?—Douglas News.

We did not expect that from the Douglas News. The News usually is truthful, capable and fair. In this instance it is not only unfair, but it has not a shred of fact nor a foundation for its intimations.

The letter, which forms the basis of Delegate Wickersham's attack on seven members of the Alaska Territorial Legislature which is backed up by the News, makes the position of the men attacked plain. The Alaska Legislature had memorialized Congress to pass the railroad bill. It became known that men who oppose the principle of government ownership of railroads were opposing the bill, and it was reported that the opinion prevailed at Washington that the people of Alaska were unanimously in favor of a government owned and operated railroad. The Legislators did not deny that the people of Alaska favored the government owned and operated railroad. They said that they believed they were not in favor of the principle of government ownership, but were for anything that would result in a railroad that would open up Alaska. This letter was sent to Secretary Lane who already had declared himself in favor of a government owned railroad.

The Empire holds no brief for the Alaska Legislature nor for any member of it. It owes them only what every other newspaper in the Territory owes them—fair treatment, no more and no less. It is as much the duty of a newspaper to oppose untruthful or unfair attacks upon men in public office as it is a duty to expose those who are unfaithful to public trust. The duty is one that forbids the consideration of whether it makes for popularity or otherwise.

The letter which the seven attacked Senators sent to Secretary Lane speaks for itself, and, that it might be read again, we repeat it:

"We are informed that it is a general opinion prevalent at Washington that the people of Alaska are unanimously in favor of a Federal government owned, constructed and operated railroad in Alaska.

"The majority of the people, in our opinion, are opposed to the PRINCIPLE OF GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP. (Note that the letter does not deny that the people favor a government railroad in Alaska. Also note what follows.)

"It is true, however, that in order to prevent the depopulation of Alaska, we are in favor of any plan or system that will result in the immediate construction of trunk-line railroads in Alaska, as an imperative necessity to the development of our vast mineral resources and extensive coal fields.

"We consider 'transportation' the key to the present situation in Alaska."

The people of Alaska have too many things to do that are really worth while to devote their time to small politics. Let us have the facts as they are without coloring and make our decisions on real issues.

A GOOD AMENDMENT.

THE AMENDMENT offered to the coal leasing bill by Delegate James Wickersham yesterday providing that it shall apply only to the Matanuska and Bering river fields and that other fields should be thrown open to public entry should be adopted. The amendment is in the interest of development and it is fair. The inferior lignite coal-fields of the interior of Alaska should be made available for the use of the public in the most expeditious manner and inducement should be offered to prospectors to discover more coal fields. The amendment is directly in line with the administration's policy to release Alaska from the chains which other administrations forged and fastened upon the Territory.

It would be well to scrutinize closely the conduct of those who are quick to attribute an unworthy motive to any one with whom they disagree or who antagonize their purposes.

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LENTE SERVICE TONIGHT.

There will be a short Litany service in Trinity Episcopal church this evening at 7:30. Choir practice will be held immediately following at 8 o'clock. Everyone is cordially welcome.

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Leaves Juneau for Tyee and Barnhoff Warm Springs, 2 a. m. Oct. 25, Nov. 24, Dec. 24, Jan. 23, Feb. 22, and March 24.
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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.
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FERRY TIME SCHEDULE STARTING JAN. 14, 1914.

Boat Lvs. Juneau for Douglas and Treadwell	Leaves Treadwell for Douglas and Juneau	Leaves Douglas for Juneau	SHEEP CREEK TRIPS	
6:30 a. m.	7:10 a. m.	7:15 a. m.	Lvs. Sheep Creek for Treadwell, Douglas, Juneau	Leaves Douglas for Sheep Creek
8:00 a. m.	8:25 a. m.	8:30 a. m.	7:00 a. m.	6:45 a. m.
9:00 a. m.	9:25 a. m.	9:30 a. m.	1:30 p. m.	1:15 p. m.
11:00 a. m.	11:25 a. m.	11:30 a. m.	5:30 p. m.	5:15 p. m.
1:00 p. m.	1:40 p. m.	1:45 p. m.	Lvs. Juneau for Sheep Creek	Lvs. Treadwell for Sheep Creek
3:00 p. m.	3:25 p. m.	3:30 p. m.	6:30 a. m.	6:50 a. m.
5:00 p. m.	5:40 p. m.	5:45 p. m.	1:00 p. m.	1:20 p. m.
6:30 p. m.	6:55 p. m.	7:00 p. m.	5:00 p. m.	5:20 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.		

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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