

Daily Alaskan

JOHN W. TROY, EDITOR

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COMPLAINT NOT JUST

The people of the north should not complain of the steamship companies for devoting so many of their ships to the excursion trade this summer. The business was much larger than anyone expected it would be. It came on rather suddenly and it was impracticable to attempt to secure extra boats to handle it. It would be an injury to both the steamship lines and the north country had it been refused. All the companies have done their best to have it interfere as little as possible with the regular Alaskan and Yukon trade. More could not be asked of them in fairness.

While a few people probably have been inconvenienced to a more or less insignificant degree on account of these large excursions, the good to the country generally and all that have interest therein has been so great that the injured have no just cause for complaint.

Considered aside from the question of profit to the steamship companies, and only from the standpoint of the greatest good to the greatest number, the excursion carriers acted for the best interest of the people in doing as they do.

The Lyon Manufacturing Company, proprietors of the long famed Mexican Mustang Liniment, have prepared an almanac, advertising their products, but made especially for circulating in Alaska and the Klondike. So much of the almanac as is not taken up with the merits of the publishers' medicines is filled with interesting data concerning Alaska. The first page cover contains an Alaskan winter scene, taken from "Alaska and the Klondike," and a reproduction of the official seal of the district. In addition to a list of the officers of the district and other data it contains a summary of the statistics in the last annual report of Collector Jarvis, of the Alaska customs district, taken from the Daily Alaskan.

Manufacturers of the east, who are most insistent in the demand for the repeal of the Chinese exclusion act, are willing to endure the effective boycott resulting from the constantly increasing tariffs of Canada, Germany and other countries in order to protect the monopoly afforded them in the prohibitive American tariff, but they are unwilling that American labor should be protected against Oriental invasion if the protection is to cost them a market for a few dollars worth of their supplies.

The freer trade is in the world the better it is for all trading people, but the American government cannot afford to purchase free trade with China at the cost of crowding American labor from the Pacific coast with the yellow men of the Celestial empire.

The fire from another battery has been focused on Gov. Brady. It will be come apparent on these days to those at Washington where the people of Alaska stands on Bradysm.

TO MEET

Fire Department on Deck Tonight

There will be a meeting of the Skagway fire department at the Firemen's hall this evening at 8 o'clock. It will be the regular monthly meeting. In addition to the routine business there will be a drill and Chief McLean has requested that every member of the department attend.

Fresh Boiled Crabs

Fresh boiled crabs for free lunch today and tomorrow at the Seattle saloon. Received today (Friday). 2t

Ice cream and sherbets at the Vienna Bakery. Best in town. Phone 35.

Hegg's Souvenir book for \$1 at Harrison's.

No. 1319

This is the lucky number which won the ticket to Portland and return. Who has it?

M. CONWAY



Monarch off the Bar

The lower Yukon steamer Monarch, which has made several trips on the upper river, has just gotten off a bar on which it rested for several weeks below Eagle, where it had sunk. It will remain in the Fairbanks trade.

Scott Is Promoted

John Scott, for a long time cashier in the W. P. & Y. R. offices at Dawson, has been made agent for that company at Fairbanks. He is succeeded at Dawson by Charles E. Taylor, formerly of Skagway, who has been in the Dawson office of the W. P. & Y. R. for several years.

HERBINE

Renders the bile more fluid and thus helps the blood to flow; it affords prompt relief from biliousness, indigestion, sick and nervous headaches and the over-indulgence in food and drink. Herbine acts quickly, a dose after meals will bring the patient into a good condition in a few days.

G. L. Caldwell, Agt. M. K. and T. R. R., Checotah, Ind. Ter., writes, April 18, 1903: "I was sick for over two years with enlargement of the liver and spleen. The doctors did me no good, and I had given up all hope of being cured, when my druggist advised me to use Herbine. It has made me sound and well." 50c. Sold by Kelly Drug Co.

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A Queer Capture

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In the year 1884 the British survey steamer Comet left Bombay to survey the Maldives Islands. The Comet had shipped ten new men before starting out, all half castes and, as appeared later on, members of a secret band that had sworn vengeance on anything British. These men mutinied and, having got possession of the brig, ran her into Shark bay, on the northernmost island. The captain and other officers were set afloat on a raft, unprovided with sail, water or provisions, and no doubt they perished in the storm that swept over the waters next day.

The leader of the half castes was a man known as Dondra. He was a sailor by occupation and probably as great a ruffian as could be found in all India. When a start was made from Shark harbor a course was laid for Ceylon, and during a voyage lasting four weeks the Comet captured seven coasting vessels. In each and every case the crews were put to death, the cargoes transhipped and the craft scuttled.

It was piracy after the old style, except that the brig did not dare attack larger vessels. Her acts finally reached the ears of the authorities, and men-of-war started from Bombay and Calcutta to overhaul her.

After sailing part of the way up the coast of Ceylon the Comet put about, and she was halfway back to her harbor of refuge when the Serpent (man-of-war) sighted her. It was during a heavy gale, and nothing could be done but chase. It was three days before the Serpent fired a gun. Just as evening was coming on on the third day and after the mutineers had refused to surrender she crept up and fired a broadside into the brig and sent her to the bottom. It was supposed at the time that everybody aboard was drowned, but two months later news reached Bombay that Dondra and four other half castes had got away in a boat and reached an island at the mouth of the gulf of Mannar. A gunboat was sent down to make an investigation and a reward of £2,000 offered for the five men.

In the month of September of the year mentioned the bark Southland, bound from Liverpool to Bombay, was making her way up the Malabar coast under light breezes. One night in the middle watch it fell a dead calm, and this state of weather continued all next day and night. At midnight on the second night the officer of the deck heard faint shouting and stinging to the east, and as no vessel had been sighted in that direction he was mystified. As the noises continued the mate awoke the captain, and it was finally decided that there were men afloat in a small boat a mile or so away. We burned a flare to guide them and heard shouts in reply, but it was two hours before a yawl crept up to us out of the darkness. The little craft contained five half caste Hindoos, and they were suffering terribly for the want of food and water. There was but one oar and no sail.

The story told by the men, all of whom spoke English fairly well, was that they were part of the crew of a coaster named the Emerald and while she was making her way up the gulf of Mannar she had been struck by a squall and turned turtle. They had clung to her bottom for several hours, but had finally managed to loosen the boat and drift out to sea. They claimed to have been afloat for three days. We had no room to stow their boat, and it was cast adrift, but not before we had seen that her name had been erased.

When questioned separately the stories of the men did not agree, but as we had heard nothing about the pirates we could not make out what the fellows had been up to. Their leader was an impudent swaggler, who would not promise to do any work in return for his passage to Bombay, and he had not been aboard two days when the captain ordered him into irons. This action sobered him up, and presently he was as humble as you please and begging for his release. When restored to liberty he was zealous in his duty, and all suspicions on our part were hushed but for a discovery made by one of the apprentices who understood the Hindoo language.

Thinking themselves alone in the forecastle one afternoon, the strangers plotted to take the ship, and the lad overheard every word and carried the news to the captain. He passed word to the crew, and of a sudden the Hindoos were fallen upon and made prisoners.

Not three hours later the gunboat from Bombay boarded us to give us the news about the pirates and ask that we keep our eyes open for them. Great was the surprise of her commander to find that we had prisoners aboard who answered to the description of those he was after.

The Hindoos saw that the game was up, and one of them made a confession. Their leader was Dondra himself, and they had been hiding on an island in the gulf. Learning that their whereabouts was known, they had put off to sea in a panic and in a boat stolen from another vessel. Two of their number had been stabbed to death during a quarrel and their bodies thrown overboard. The five survivors intended to fall upon our crew of eleven men and murder us all.

Of course the men were surrendered to the gunboat, and upon being taken to Bombay proof sufficient to hang them was easily obtained, and within three months of their boarding us in midocean they were dangling at the ends of hangman's ropes. We had done little or nothing to bring about their capture, but the government of India paid us the reward and added its thanks to the money. M. QUAD.

TOURING IN RUSSIA.

The Difficulties of One Who Cannot Speak the Language.

Nijal Novgorod, where the great Russian fair is held, far on toward the frontier of Asia, I found the most difficult proposition in all Europe from the standpoint of the traveler seeking rest and refreshment. I knew only one word in Russian, "rodka," and one can pronounce that too often. Nobody seemed to speak anything but Russian. I could not get a cabman to take me to a hotel. One is obliged after another would pick me up, seem to understand and then take me to a shop, a steamship pier, a private residence. I was reduced to the humiliating necessity of making pictures of hotels, bars and food of all sorts and quite without avail. At last, bethinking myself that the trade of Russia was in German hands, I started out at foot in search of any mercantile looking person with close cropped blond beard and spectacles. Such a man I found, and he directed me in German to a trattoria, where I had breakfast with the aid of more crude carting. "Coffee" is good Volapuk, and the waiter understood me at once, but I had to sketch a number of elliptical figures in my notebook and finally make a spirited drawing of the common or garden hen before he knew I wanted "eggs."

For dinner that night I went to a restaurant overlooking the Volga. It is one of my most baffling memories of travel that when in my thirst I made the sign of drinking and pointed to the river the waiter lowered a bucket out of the window into the stream and brought it to me filled with rich brown water.—New York Mail.

THE MUD DAUBER WASP.

The Entomologist Living Spiders as Food For Her Young.

When summer warmth has awakened the maternal instincts of the insect world the mud dauber wasp may be seen gathering mortar at the margin of stream, pool or puddle. Filling her mandibles, which serve as both spade and hod, she bears the load of mud to some rough surface, rock or wall or board or beam. She spreads and shapes her mortar until, after many visits to the mud bed, she has built a tubular cell about an inch long and three-eighths of an inch wide.

Then her huntress instinct awakens and her raids upon the spider realm begin, for within this cylinder the mother mason will put a single egg. In course of time this will hatch into a ravenous larva whose natural food is living spiders, and these the mother proceeds to capture and entomb within her mud daub nursery. On this errand she may be seen hawking over and near cobwebs of various sorts, venturing within the meshed and beaded snares that prove fatal to most insects and sometimes even to herself. If the occupant, expectant of prey, sallies forth to seize the intruder, it finds itself a captive, not a captor. The wasp shakes the silken filament from wings and feet, turns upon the spider, seizes and stings it, bears it to her cell and thrusts it therein.—H. C. McCook in Harper's Magazine.

Old Man of the Mountain.

The title "Old Man of the Mountain" was first applied to Hassan Ben Sabhal, who founded a formidable dynasty in Syria A. D. 1000. He was the prince or chief of the sect of the Mohammedans. Having been banished from his country, he took up his abode in Mount Lebanon, gathered around him a band of followers, who soon became the terror alike of Christians, Jews and Turks. They paid the most implicit obedience to his commands and believed that if they sacrificed their lives for his sake they would be rewarded with the highest joys of paradise. For 200 years these "Assassins," as they called themselves, continued to be the terror of the country. Whenever their chief, the "Old Man of the Mountain," considered himself injured he dispatched some of his assassins secretly to murder the aggressor. This is the origin of our use of the word assassin for a secret murderer.

His We Might Have.

A famous writer said: "Man in general, or, as it is expressed, on the average, does not live above two and twenty years, and during those two and twenty years he is liable to two and twenty thousand evils, many of which are incurable. Yet even in this dreadful state men will strut and figure on the stage of life. They make love at the hazard of destruction and intrigue, carry on war and form projects just as if they were to live in luxury and delight for a thousand ages."

A Need in Schoolmasters.

We should like to see a regulation that every schoolmaster before the age of thirty should for one full year at least be banished from the school world and from the academic life even if for that year he had to work as a navy, a sailor or a commercial traveler. The man who, being educated, only knows what life is will never take too narrow a view of the school course.—London Post.

Enjoy What You Have.

Don't worry about your health. Keep in good condition and get as much fresh air as you can. People who are always puttering over themselves are like misers—they don't enjoy what they have.—Boston Traveler.

A Hard Worker.

Slimson—While they tell me you have the reputation of being the worst boy in school. While—Yes, father, and I can tell you I didn't get it without a struggle.—Life.

An Englishwoman married to a foreigner takes the nationality of her husband.

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