

Daily Alaskan

GEORGE W. DE SUCCA.

Proprietor.

E. B. WISBAAR, EDITOR.
T. F. KANE, Advertising Manager

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HOLD UP AT THE SUMMIT.

The sooner the government at Washington makes up its mind that prompt steps must be taken to police the American side of the border of Alaska in a manner somewhat similar to the Canadian mounted police system, the sooner will serious trouble and a possible open conflict be averted. The DAILY ALASKAN some time ago raised this same question and showed the absolute necessity for the creation of such a body, not only to protect American miners and prospectors, but to put a stop to the gradual encroachment on American territory that has characterized the action of the greedy Canadian officials for the last year, and which, in fact, is becoming more pronounced with every recurrence. From a dispatch dated Washington, March 17, the government officials at the National capital appear to be gradually arousing themselves from their apathetic, somnolent state and to have reached the semi-conscious condition of feeling that something out of the ordinary is taking place out here, but, whether serious or otherwise, has not yet struck in deep enough to afford relief to the long-suffering inhabitants of Alaska. They cannot or will not see that the Canadians have been particularly aggressive in this boundary question; they failed to interfere when the Canadians over a year ago planted their flag on the summit of White Pass and arbitrarily declared that point the boundary line without even saying so. The same questionable method of encroachment has been allowed to be pursued in other directions, especially so in the vicinity of locations where the discovery of new gold fields in Alaska near the boundary line has aroused the cupidty of the Canadians. It is time to call a halt. The Canadians are pursuing a grab game, which, while very successful among the savages of Africa and India, cannot be tolerated by Americans, notwithstanding the mild acquiescence on the part of the officials at Washington to everything done by the Canadians. The American members of the Joint High Commission have been criminally negligent in allowing this boundary question to go by default in their long drawn out many sittings. It is apparent that the Canadian members lulled the American members to sleep and worked for the delay which they knew would leave the whole matter again open for another year. They succeeded and the grab game continues. Had the American members been alive to the situation they would have recognized the fact that the gold fields of Alaska were of greater importance to the United States than all the fishery questions of the entire Atlantic coast, over which so much time was wasted in the interest of a few corporations. It is now time for President McKinley to take up the matter, look into it personally and endeavor to afford that protection to which the thousands upon thousands of Americans are entitled who are here and coming in good faith, intent on developing not Canadian gold fields but American gold fields. This boundary muddle is a constant menace to American argonauts and the Canadians are taking advantage of the ever slow and easy methods at the Washington capital to steal in on the American side foot by foot and claim it as their own in defiance of international amity, or the fact that the boundary question is still in abeyance. Alaska today contains one hundred thousand Americans; a large proportion of these are in southeastern Alaska: the new Porcupine district, forty miles west of Skagway, promises rich results and reports have already come in that the Canadian police intend to move the boundary line seven miles nearer to the coast in order to embrace the richest portions of the Porcupine section so far discovered. Gold quartz is being discovered in numerous localities in this and other valleys within a short radius of Skagway; these also must in time develop important mines, and here again the grasping Canadians are trying to head these off by claiming the summit of White Pass as their boundary line. If these several moves are to be allowed unmolested, there is nothing to prevent the Canadians coming to Skagway next, erecting their flag and claiming it as the boundary line. There is certainly no one here, in an official position, to gain-say it, and from past experiences the Secretary of the Treasury will merely rub his eyes, take a wild look at the map and wonder how many Siwashes such a move would turn over to the Canadians. This may seem absurd, but it is not one-half so much so as the dense ignorance of the government officials at Washington regarding the wealth and importance of every inch of ground in Alaska, the necessity for fighting for it at all costs, and the vast population of Americans it contains who are entitled to the same protection given that of any of the States if threatened by encroachments such as already made on Alaska by the Canadians. This last outrage of insolently turning back American convoys in the discharge of their duties from the summit of White Pass and deliberately robbing them of the property entrusted to their charge is too much to bear quietly. The summit of White Pass has all along been accepted as disputed territory and common decency should have taught the Canadian officials to at least await the decision of the Joint High Commission. This is the last straw to the many arbitrary acts of these arrogant Canadians. Patience will soon cease to be a virtue and if a self-organized body of Americans goes to the summit and cleans out the Canadians the government at Washington will be alone to blame for it as by their neglect they will have invited the trouble and forced self-protection on the Americans who are here peaceably seeking to develop American territory.

APOLOGIZING

To our many kind patrons whom we class as our steady family trade for the tardiness in not being able to wait on them at our store on account of the great and unprecedented rush of miners having their outfits put up, and owing to the lack of force to wait on everybody, and as an inducement to our family trade to show them that we still want to continue to do business with them and retain their friendship, we have increased our force and are now better prepared to handle our vast business than ever before in the history of Skagway, and therefore to show our good intentions we offer at our store corner of Broadway and Fifth avenue, for this week only, ending on Saturday night, the following inducements—

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- Table Fruit, asstd. formerly 25c now 17c
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- Gallon Pie Fruit, formerly 40c now 35c
- Canned Cabbage, formerly 15c now 10c

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Have you seen the new line of rugs, portieres and lace curtains just opened at the Klondike Trading Company, corner Third and State streets.

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Fred Ronkendorf, Prop.

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