

THE DAILY ALASKA CITIZEN

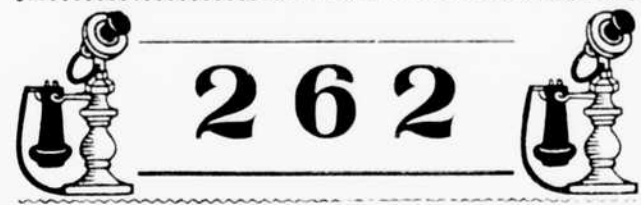
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THE ROAD SITUATION

(Valdez Miner.)

The road commission is up against the hardest proposition this year it has yet encountered. This year's appropriation was for only 100,000 dollars. The average for all appropriations since 1906 to 1918 is \$235,000. During that period the mileage was much less than it is now. At the present time the territory has 4,830 miles to look after with increased prices for labor, supplies and the feed for teams. The \$100,000 covers this vast network of roads at the rate of about \$20 per mile, a sum so small as to be insignificant.

This small appropriation will compel the commission to defer work on many miles of road which are badly in need of repair, and which are of the greatest importance to the people of Alaska, several roads being main highways of communication between one district and another.

There has never been a case where the road commission has failed to ask for a reasonable and justifiable amount for the Alaska road work, but owing to the contention among Alaskans themselves and the ignorance of congressmen in regards to the conditions in the territory, these appropriations have always been trimmed to the quick by a false economy.

In March of this year the road commission sent a statement to Washington to the effect that if it did not receive an appropriation quickly the Valdez-Fairbanks road would suffer a loss of \$550,000 and other roads would add \$350,000 to this amount in a year. Despite the showing made the commission received but \$100,000 and the loss, owing to an unprecedented year of rain and floods will approximate the proportion the available funds bear to the \$384,000 requested.

The constant kicking and criticism of the road commission by well-meaning but imprudent citizens of Alaska has greatly retarded the work of the organization. While telegrams of censure sent to the secretary of war may relieve the feelings of the senders and possibly change the personnel of the commission if kept up long enough, they also cause a feeling of indecision and reticence to proceed with the road work among those responsible for the appropriations. It must be remembered that congress is much in the same state as an Alaskan having much property at the national capitol. Charges of mismanagement and waste of funds would cause the average Alaskan to halt work being done in Washington until he could investigate and disprove the charges, and so it is with the appropriations.

If congress or any other body becomes convinced that the amounts appropriated are only going to be wasted they are liable to cut out the road work altogether. General Richardson stated that every time he went to Washington he found that instead of being allowed to confine his efforts to secure funds for working purposes he was placed on the defensive and was obliged to spend a lot of his time contradicting statements made by Alaskans who were not road builders, and who travelled over the road but seldom. When such matters come up before a congressional committee the effect is obvious and painful.

The commission is asking for \$719,000 for maintenance and improvements of roads and trails in Alaska next year, \$335,000 is for the Richardson road. One item is for \$65,000 to build the road in the hills away from the river, to avoid further expenditures repairing wash-outs. Only by concerted efforts on the part of our citizens can we hope to secure this appropriation.

The past season has shown the harm done to Valdez by the road being out of commission. Mails have been held up, travel diverted to the Copper River railway and freight for Teikhell and roadhouses along the route handled once or twice between this point and Wortmans. The town has lost thousands of dollars in trade. Auto parties have been forced to ship their cars over the railway at a great expense, and signal corps cars have been routed to the interior via Cordova.

If we are ever to have a town here we must learn to go after what we want in a business-like manner. Unmerited criticism will surely only "gum up the works" and get us nowhere. They antagonize the commission, befuddle the congressional committees and render futile the efforts of the optimist.

We can look forward to no improvement this year, owing to lack of funds. Next year the situation will undoubtedly be relieved by an appropriation sufficient to maintain the highway. In the meantime let each of us confine his surplus energy to help the commission secure funds needed. Let us boost unceasingly. Only by doing this can we hope to secure anything from congress.

SHARING IN THE INDEMNITY

A justifiable caution is shown by Mr. Wilson's critics in taking up their position in the matter of a share in the indemnity to be claimed from Germany. Three positions are possible for the administration, and whichever of them it should take, a choice of two would be left to its opponents. But a choice of two may be a dilemma.

Let us suppose, for example, that the President is convicted of opposing the claim by the United States to a share in the indemnity. The bombardment of course would be terrific. "Supremely generous with the property of others," "ready to renounce what did not affect his own pocket," "an idealist neglectful of his country's interests," and so on—it is not difficult to imagine the phrases.

But which of the two alternative courses are his critics more eager to make their own? It is admitted that what Germany can pay will not cover the losses of the allied nations which suffered most directly from the war. In brief, for the United States to claim a share in the indemnity would be making a demand not on Germany but on Great Britain and France, already so heavily in our debt that the expediency of canceling part of the obligation in order to lift Europe out of the slough has been seriously broached. For the United States to file a claim would take off the edge of "Lafayette, we're here," would it not? Who is urging it?

On the other hand, suppose that the United States should claim a share and remit it to Germany—a course brot up in the senate last week, suggested, no doubt, by the precedent of our share in the Boxer rebellion indemnity which our government remitted to China in the form of free education for Chinese students in this country. It is difficult to overstate the cynicism with which this just and kindly act was received by old-world diplomacy; the prevailing view still is that it was simply a bribe to increase American commercial influence in China. What sort of reception, then, would probably be given to the proposal that the United States, at the expense of the allies, claim a share in the German indemnity and in some way or other pay it back to Germany? Who is anxious to father this proposal? It is not difficult to see why criticism of the President in this matter has been carefully kept to general terms.

WILL OUR CHAIR BE EMPTY?

(Exchange.)

The peace treaty will come into force, according to Article 440 of its own provisions, "as soon as the treaty has been ratified by Germany on the one hand and by three of the principal and allied powers on the other hand." Germany and Great Britain have already ratified, France, Italy, and Japan will certainly follow. The reparation commission "will hold its first meeting in Paris as soon as practicable after the coming into force of the present treaty," and at its first meeting will elect a chairman and vice-chairman, "who shall hold office for one year and shall be eligible for re-election." The commission will be the exclusive agency of the signatory governments "for receiving, selling, holding, and distributing the reparation payments to be made by Germany." It will have complete control, within the limits of the treaty, of the relations between Germany and the outside world. As the payments made by Germany must be practically all in the form of manufactured goods, the reparation commission will determine to a considerable extent the direction of German commerce for years to come. If the United States is not represented on the commission it will not have a voice in these important decisions. If it does not have a voice its interests will be no more considered than those of any other plaintiff without an attorney. This is confessedly a materialistic argument. Yet it may appeal to those senators who are unwilling to give the President authority to appoint a temporary American member of the reparations commission. For the treaty can go into effect and the reparations commission do the most important part of its work without our co-operation. If the senate means to delay ratification until October it might be wise to reconsider the businesslike expediency of filling in the interval with some temporary representative.

CHARIVAREE FOR THE NEWLYWEDS

FAIRBANKS CREEK PEOPLE HAVE BIG TIME LAST THURSDAY EVENING.

A charivaree followed by a dance and social evening at the social hall at Fairbanks creek last Thursday evening are reported from there. At both events Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Griffin were the guests of honor.

Mr. Griffin recently came to Fairbanks, met his bride-to-be, was married and after a few days in town, took his bride that is back to Fairbanks creek. During his absence, his friends got ready for him and his bride and the big doings came off Thursday night. About 40 couples from up and down the creek were present to extend their felicitations to the newlyweds, and the evening was most enjoyably spent.

NEWSY NOTES FROM NENANA

NENANA, Ala., Sept. 13.—Woodbury Abbey has completed the coal survey on the Healey Fork and will leave on the first boat for Juneau.

The bridge crews are rapidly completing the 43-mile bridge on the Nenana river and will probably link up the broken connection sometime tonight. A steam-hoist will be moved across and put to work on the grade between the river and Lignite creek. A new surfacing gang will be organized on the section next week.

School opens here Monday morning. Miss Luella Shaffer, head of the school last year, is principal again this session.

There will be a special funeral service held here at Grace Church Sunday morning for Jack Hansen, who died here Friday afternoon. No definite information has been given out regarding the disposition of the remains, as nothing has been heard from his relatives in Seattle. It is possible that the body will be taken to Fairbanks for interment.

The Victory made a round trip to Chena today and will leave here again tomorrow with the body of Timothy Murphy which will be interred at Fairbanks. Captain Douse will not leave until after this local telegraph office opens and in case of instructions to bury Jack Hansen at Fairbanks, will take the body with him.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Bantz will leave on the steamer Yukon next week for Seattle, where Mr. Bantz will go into business with his brother.

Louis Anderson has been advised that his son Clarence L. Anderson, has been made member of the faculty of the University of Washington, being connected with the college of fisheries of that institution.

Colonel Mears is making good time on his way back to the coast and is probably halfway between the ends of steel. The first night out he made 18 miles south of Lignite.

Church Notices

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

Services are held in the St. James' Methodist church building on Third avenue, near the city hall.
 Sunday services at 2 p. m., subject: "Substance."
 Sunday school at 1 p. m.
 Services Wednesday evening at 8:15 o'clock.
 Reading room open Wednesday afternoon from 2:30 to 5 o'clock, when all authorized literature may be read or purchased.

CATHOLIC

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost.
 8:00 a. m.—Communion Mass.
 10:30 a. m. Parish Mass and Sunday School.
 7:30 p. m.—Rosary and Benediction
 Special Feasts and Services of the Week:
 Monday—The Seven Dolours of the B. V. M.
 Wednesday, Friday and Saturday are Ember Days.
 Mass at 6 a. m.
 Benediction on Monday and Saturday.

PRESBYTERIAN


Owing to the absence of Rev. Marple on his vacation, there will be a reading of a short service by a member of the session. The balance of the hour will be taken up with pleasing musical numbers, and hymns by the audience.
 The full program follows:
 By the congregation—5 well known hymns interspersed thru the service.
 By the choir, supported by Mrs. Wood and Mr. Mack:
 Anthem, "Still Keep Me"..... Adams
 "Consider and Hear Me"..... Pleuger
 Duet, sop. and tenor and chorus
 "Crossing the Bar"..... Bush
 Solo, Dr. Bradley
 Choir Hymn, "Raise Me Jesus"
 Duet and Chorus
 All are invited to a quiet and pleasant hour of restful worship.

For the Hot Weather Try Some of the Cooling Drinks.

Patronize a home industry. Home products for home people. We use only the best of materials in making our syrups. Distilled water, siphons, etc. Let us keep you supplied.

Fairbanks Beverage Co.

Fairbanks Lodge No. 1392 LOYAL ORDER of MOOSE



Meeting night, 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month, at Moose Hall, Fifth Ave. between Chisholm & Barnette.

L. R. GILLETTE, Secretary, First National Bank Building.
 THOMAS C. YOUTIE, Dictator

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Fresh Fruits, the finest quality of Bulk and Box Candies, Cigars, Tobacco, Etc. Pool, Billiard and Cards

You'll find the Bunch at the Pioneer
 The most popular place in town

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GIBSON'S AUTO

Leaves from the Nordale Hotel
9:30 A. M. DAILY

Fairbanks Creek

Fox, Goldstream, Gilmore, Pedro Creek and Cleary Summit

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Competent and reliable drivers. Best Autos. You take no chance of walking.

LAUNCH "VICTORY"

Fast and Reliable Service

Leaves for Nenana every other day until permanent schedule is announced

FAIRBANKS OFFICE Pioneer Hotel NENANA OFFICE The "Terminal"

Palace Baths

Fourth Ave. Next to Gordon's Glass Block

Tub, Shower, Steam, Scrub, Turkish
 Soft, clear water from well on premises

Children with parents 25c a bath. Open day and night
 P. L'HEUREUX, Prop.

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\$1.00 per dozen
\$27.00 per case

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 "Alaska's Largest Outfitters"