

SEWARD GATEWAY

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1905

SOME ARCTIC WINTER

The "Frozen North" in this part of the world recedes like wild animals before the advance of civilization. Probably every man now living in Seward imagined when he was a boy back in "the states" that icebergs perpetually crashed against the shores of Southern Alaska with polar bears climbing and sliding over them.

Recent arrivals in Seward, even coming with the assurance that this region is exempt from the terrors of the Arctic winter, have been greatly surprised that they have no need of a North Pole outfit to go out of doors in safety. Immigrants from Puget Sound wear the same clothing they did there and men almost constantly go about the streets without overcoats as they do on the Sound.

The Seattle Post-Intelligencer was so impressed with the record of temperature in Seward recently published that it gave the figures an editorial, calling attention to the fact that throughout last winter the mercury never reached zero, and comparing the climatic showing with that of the states below the fortieth parallel east of the Rockies.

Seward is pleased to assure the Post-Intelligencer that nothing has been handed out by the weather bureau since the last returns went down from the north which requires a modification of its estimate of the Southern Alaska climate. The town has had one week of winter, the first week of December, in which the lowest temperature recorded was 2 degrees above zero and the average about 10. Since then it has had a foot and a half of snow, which by temperature almost steadily above the freezing point and intermittent rains has been reduced to a few inches and on the eve of Christmas is rapidly going.

In one particular Seward has a climate equaled by few localities in the civilized world. It is absolutely free from extreme fluctuations of temperature. Puget Sound boasts of a climate free from violent changes but Seward has almost as wide a margin over the Sound in that respect as the Sound has over the Middle West.

The ordinary daily range of winter temperature in Seattle is from 10 to 20 degrees, and sometimes reaches 30 degrees. In Seward during November and December the daily range has rarely been as high as 10 degrees. Several times the range has been less than that in an entire week and the daily range has frequently been only 1 or 2 degrees. During the thirteen days from December 11 to December 23 the mercury has been steadily between 33 and 42—only 9 degrees variation and every hour above the freezing point.

NOW IS THE TIME TO BUILD

Two vessels have been chartered to bring 500,000 feet of lumber with other building material to Seward, and both cargoes will be on the ground within a few weeks. For the first time in its history the town will have lumber enough to furnish builders everything they want.

It is admitted to be a fact that building operations have been hampered all through the year 1905 by the dearth of material. Last spring it looked like a risky undertaking to carry a large stock because it was uncertain whether the growth of the town would create a heavy demand. When it became certain in midsummer that a permanent and increasing demand was assured it was impossible to find freight room on the steamers for large quantities of building material and equally difficult to charter extra boats.

As a result of this lack of foresight and of transportation facilities Seward has not enough roofs to shelter comfortably all the people who come in. Scores of lots are vacant whose owners would have built houses or business blocks upon them months ago if they could have obtained material. Nearly every hotel and lodginghouse room is occupied by a regular tenant, and men who arrive on steamers are often compelled to sit up in chairs the first night because they cannot find beds.

For the present situation nobody is particularly to blame, but if Seward does not now proceed to double its house room just as fast as builders can put the materials together it will soon have a sorry reputation for enterprise on the outside, where just now it is regarded as the most promising town in Alaska.

The penalty for being a citizen of Seward in good standing is that a man is liable to be compelled to serve on a jury at Valdez.

MR. SIMENSTED COMPLAINS

Charles Simensted of Valdez is credited by the Portland Telegram with complaining that Seattle papers are advertising Seward as the best town in this part of Alaska, and he offered the trade of Valdez to Portland is the Webfoot city would only take it. Mr. Simensted says the Seattle papers credit everything to Seward which comes this way, "although as a matter of fact the bulk of the cargo is booked for Valdez."

Dear Mr. Simensted, you are to be commended for sticking up for your town. A man who won't shilly on his own side ought to be put out of the church, but did you "holier" when the Edith sailed last August with 2100 tons of steel, a locomotive and six cars for the Alaska Central at Seward and 140 crosscut piles for John Rose's new townsite wharf at Valdez, and both big Seattle papers under top heads announced that the steamer was taking the entire cargo to Valdez for Mr. Rose's new railroad?

Repeatedly the Seattle papers have mentioned large cargoes destined for Seward as going to Valdez, several times stating that the freight was for the Alaska Central at Valdez. This was done so often that eastern papers frequently stated that the railroad was building from Valdez. The Seattle papers have lately been informed.

Seward has no quarrel with Valdez. Its growth will never interfere with that of Seward and its prosperity will redound to the advantage of all Alaska as will that of every other community. This town wants no credit for anything which belongs to its neighbors, but it does want credit for all that is due to itself. Until recently it never received such credit.

Incidentally taking up the claim that "the bulk" of steamer cargoes are destined for Valdez, the records of the steamship companies show, as recently published in Valdez papers, that a little more than 5000 tons of freight were carried by steamer into Valdez in the first nine months of 1905. In the same time about 20,000 tons were carried to Seward on the same steamers.

If the "bulk" of freight carried this way by steamship lines is for Valdez why has the Northwestern Steamship Company, whose president is said to be building a railroad out of Valdez, and who is laying off a new townsite in that locality, decided to run three steamers by the outside passage direct to Seward next year, allowing them to return by way of Valdez?

It was rash, also, for Mr. Simensted to tell the Telegram, "if he did—that the Alaska Central has "about thirty miles constructed" when it had forty-five at the hour of his interview.

HARD LINES FOR RUSSIA

Russia seems to be in a fair way to repeat the history of France in the last decade of the eighteenth century, with Witte in the role of Mirabeau. The trouble with these nations whose ruling classes trample upon human rights for centuries seems to be that neither side knows when to quit. The aristocracy never give up an iota of privilege except upon peril of their lives, and when the proletariat gets a taste of power it is like the taste of blood to a hungry wolf.

In Russia, as in revolutionary France, a few far-seeing statesmen and philosophers could pull the chariot of state out of the mire with the assistance of either side, but neither aristocracy nor commonalty has sense enough to give and take. In Russia, as in France, the immediate result is likely to be chaos, anarchy, riotous bloodshed and brutality.

If France had followed Voltaire before the Revolution, or Mirabeau after it was under way the Terror would have been averted. If Russia had listened to Tolstol these twenty years or would follow Witte today it could avoid a similar fate that seems impending.

Probably it is not in human nature that barbarism should be uprooted except by barbaric processes. Men are guided somewhat by reason in lands which have known something of justice. Reason seems to have no place in lands which have never known it.

The Seattle Times heads one of its Alaska convention accounts "Three Delegates will go to Congress." This does not bind the Times to secure seats for the gentlemen but only signifies that the news editor let the head go through because it fitted the required space.

Furniture in James H. Hyde's former Long Island home brought at auction little more than 10 per cent. of its cost. Apparently the belongings of the discredited young insurance magnate have no value as souvenirs.

Bourke Cockran has opened his yawning, fathomless mouth to assail the life insurance companies, which affords a conclusive presumption that none of the companies has paid the brass-lunged spouter a retainer.

Police Captain Stover of Portland was badly cut up in his chase after a burglar through thick underbrush, clad only in his nightshirt, but the dispatches fail to state what happened to his shirt.

Miss Fitz of Nome must have had 'em when she learned that a strange gentleman had walked off with her \$5000 furs. Or maybe Miss Fitz needs a little advertising to enable her to sell mining stock.

President Roosevelt, Senator Platt and Governor Higgins are so strongly opposed to bossism that they want to take the New York machine away from Odell and run it as it should be run.

There is room for several railroads in Alaska and it is to be hoped that the Cordova bay line will build as rapidly with government aid as the Alaska Central is doing without it.

The original Elijah went to heaven in a chariot of fire but "Elijah" Dowie goes to the tropics to become partially hardened to the climate which is awaiting him in the hereafter.

Japan has appointed itself receiver of Korea but it still permits the Korean emperor to draw a salary paid by his nominal subjects.

This Russian revolution is a good deal like a prize fight in the quantity of hot air it requires to get started.

Jim Hill is going to reduce freight rates right away so that he can say the government didn't make him do it.

The inevitable jawfest from the professional challengers which always follows a big fight, began on time.

Congress has adjourned for the holidays, which is a Christmas present for the whole nation.

Tacoma wouldn't call a grand jury if she had any hope of rivaling Seattle in population.

A man always has to be jolted in the stomach or head before he knows that he is old.

The civil service reform league has fired another paper wad at the political bosses.

The insurance magnates all seem to be ashamed or afraid to tell what they know.

The czar is boxed up pretty tight but his salary is going on all the time.

Hetty Green is 70 years old and she is still drawing interest.

FISHING BANKS OF ALASKA

Principal Cod Schools of North Pacific are in this region

A table of the fishing banks in the North Pacific ocean reprinted from the Pilot Chart for the month of December of the present year, has been issued, giving complete data relating particularly to the halibut and cod fisheries.

By this chart it is shown that codfish and small halibut are abundant where the bottom is either black sand and gravel or gray sand, gravel and broken shells, the latter predominating on the principal cod banks. The depth of water on these banks ranges from as low as eleven fathoms to as high as ninety fathoms, no apparent difference being recorded on account of the depth of water.

The principal banks for cod fishing recorded in the chart are in Alaska waters. Slime bank, in Bering sea, named from an intermediate zone of jellyfish which cover fishing lines and bait with slime; Baird bank, at Bristol bay, and Portlock bank, northeast of Kodiak island, are the largest banks where codfish and small halibut are numerous and red rock fish fairly abundant.

Slime bank covers an area of 1,445 square miles, and the depth of water is from twenty to fifty fathoms. The bottom is black sand and gravel. Baird bank is the largest given in the chart. It covers 9,200 square miles, and the depth of the water is recorded as from eleven to fifty-three fathoms. The bottom is gray sand, black sand and gravel. Portlock bank has 6,800 square miles, with a depth of water ranging from thirty-seven to sixty-seven fathoms, and a bottom of gray sand, gravel and broken shells. Another one of the larger banks and where the greatest depth of water is given is Albatross bank southeast of Kodiak island. While this bank has not been as fully investigated as the others, cod, small halibut and red rock fish are said to be fairly plentiful. The bank extends over 3,700 square miles, and the depth of water ranges from twenty-seven to ninety fathoms.

SEWARD STEAMERS

Santa Ana; sailed from Seattle, 16th; due in Seward, 26th.

Harold Dollar; sails from Seattle about 23rd.

Bertha; in Seattle.

Portland; sailed from Seward, 11th.

Santa Clara; sailed for Seattle from Seward, 13th.

Oregon; sailed from Seward 15th.

In Sweden a plumber is called a vatenledingsentreprenor,

SEES GREAT CHANCE FOR QUARTZ MINING

L. F. Shaw Says the Investments on Falls Creek Are Drawing Nome Men Here

Prospecting for quartz mines on Kenai peninsula will no doubt receive a tremendous impetus in the immediate future by reason of the wonderful prospects revealed on Falls creek by the work so far done on the properties discovered by Sken and Lechner last July. These claims are now under bond to Charles D. Lane, H. A. Ingalls and L. F. Shaw.

Development work has already made rapid progress on these claims and will proceed on a constantly expanding scale as rapidly as arrangements can be made to put men at work to advantage.

L. F. Shaw has charge of the town end of the business of the Falls creek mines. He is a young man who has had extended experience in Alaska, and spent three years prospecting in the wilds of Siberia in regions never before visited by white men. He came to Seward on the Corwin in October, having been drawn here by his association with H. A. Ingalls, who took the first bond on the Falls creek claims for Mr. Shaw and himself. Since then a large number of Nome men have come to Seward, attracted by the reports written back to Nome by the first arrivals from that district. Of the situation here Mr. Shaw said yesterday:

Means Much to Seward

"The advent into this section of such a man as Charles D. Lane means much to this community, as his judgment in matters pertaining to mines and mining has a great influence, being founded on wide experience. He has made a large fortune in mining and has ample means to carry to a successful conclusion anything he undertakes.

"The find on Falls creek is yet only a good prospect, but a force of hard rock miners is now at work on the property and it is confidently expected that a mine of great value will be developed.

"Within the past two months many mining men from various parts of the northland have come to Seward, attracted chiefly by the Falls creek discovery. Among them may be mentioned Theo. Allen, a mining expert well known in the west, and son-in-law of Charles D. Lane. He recently resigned the position of manager of the Wild Goose Mining Company, the largest concern in the Nome district. He left Seward on the Oregon, but expects to return in the early spring, as he expresses himself as well pleased with the prospects of this section. T. M. Lane, a brother of C. D. Lane, is superintending the prospect work on Falls creek. He is a practical miner of wide experience and recognized ability.

Comes Here to Stay

"H. A. Ingalls, another Nome man, is here with his family, and intends to make Seward his future home. He is a great hustler. Before people generally knew of his presence here he had bonded the Falls creek properties and several choice business lots and left for the outside, returning quite recently.

"Joe LeClair, another recent arrival, was one of the pioneers of the Nome goldfields and made a handsome stake there. He says this country looks good to him.

"A. D. Wentworth and Free Pelton, formerly of the Kougarak district near Nome, are here, and will go to the hills when the weather permits. A. D. McLennan came down from the Candle Creek country and will cast his fortunes with Kenai peninsula. Bill Eggle is a frontiersman who has prospected from Siberia to Peru. He is now here and will remain. A. Erierson came down from Nome on the Corwin and has already located a good prospect. He has prospected in the Klondike and in Siberia."

REAL ESTATE, MINING AND COURT RECORDS

Deed

Dec. 21—Frank L. Ballaine to J. M. Cummings and H. Tecklenburg, lots 27-38 block 4, Seward, \$900.

Location Notice

Dec. 21—Axel Heroela, two 20-acre quartz claims, north side Lake Kenai.

Probate

Dec. 20—Letters of administration granted to J. L. Reed estate of Lewis Johnson who died in Seward Aug. 30.

Seattle Headquarters

All Alaskans going to Seattle on business or for other purposes are cordially invited to have their mail addressed to themselves in care of the Industrial Bureau of the Alaska Central Railway Company, Lumber Exchange Building, Seattle, Wash., and make the Bureau their headquarters while in that city.

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Express Steamer "OREGON" Sails from Seward for and Seattle Valdez, outside route, January 5th and every 20 days thereafter.

Str. SANTA CLARA Leaves Seattle 1st of each month. Same trip as Santa Ana, connecting at Seldovia with S. S. Neptune, etc.—returning leaves Seward 12th of each month.

Steamship "SANTA ANA" Leaves Seattle 16th of each month for Juneau, Kayak, Yakutat, Ellemar, Valdez, Seward, Seldovia—connecting at Seldovia with S. S. Neptune for all Cook Inlet points—returning, leaves Seward 29th of each month.

Str "DORA" Leaves Seward 27th of each month for Unalaska, Dutch Harbor, and all way points, returning, leaves Seward about 14th, of each month.

For transportation, berth reservations, freight rates etc. call on S. P. BROWN, Agt., Coleman House, Seward, Alaska.

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