

He went to the marble room and found a stranger. The man arose as he entered and said: "Mr. Jones of Nevada?"

Jones answered "yes" and the stranger said: "I am sorry to have troubled you, senator, but I wanted to ask you if you would sell your interest in your Alaska property?"

"Indeed I will," said Jones, "but pray tell me what property I have in Alaska?"

The man smiled and said: "Did you not give Jim — \$300 about ten years ago, to go prospecting with?"

"Jim, Jim," muttered Jones, then brightening up with a flash of remembrance, he added: "O, yes, the cuss was persistent and I gave him the dab of money to be able to shake him."

"Well," said the stranger, "he located you in a claim all right and has kept up the assessments and paid the taxes every year, the property is of some value now and I would like to buy your interest if it is for sale."

"How much is the property worth?" asked Jones.

"I do not know what it is worth, but I would be willing to pay you \$100,000 for your interest," was the reply. The property is part of the Treadwell ground at Juneau, Alaska. The records of the coast are filled with just such incidents. In the early days men bunched together and sent out prospectors, of late the prospector has become an almost unknown quantity, partly because silver mines have lost much of their charm, and second, because it is so hard for a poor man to cling to a prospect and keep his title good until it is enough developed to attract attention.

But when the prospector quits, then mining is generally limited to what has already been discovered, and the best mines are worked out after a while.

In the old days when the boys "put up" for a prospector they called it gambling and were prepared in advance to lose philosophically.

That gambling, or some other plan will have to be resorted to, or mines will become scarce after a few years more.

There will be a change of city government day after tomorrow. It will be the first change that a good many people have seen since Christ-

As To Sleigh Riding

AT this writing the sleigh bells are ringing outside. They have not quite the old rings partly because they have not quite the old accompaniments. To be complete the team must be a span of Black Hawks, so black that charcoal would make a white mark on them; they must have a silver-plated harness, a fancy cutter behind them, filled with robes, with just room enough for the prettiest girl in town beside the driver. Then there is one defect which cannot be remedied in this country. There are no rail fences. If some one asks what rail fences have to do with sleigh riding, that gives him a way. It shows that while he may have theories about sleigh riding he knows nothing of the real facts. Rail fences are built zig-zag. Imagine a north and south road with a rail fence on the west side, then a snow storm in a gale blowing from the southwest. The length of fence that is laid southeast and northwest does not obstruct the snow, it is blown straight through it, but the next length which runs southwest and northeast obstructs it and the snow is piled in the road behind it. This makes a series of hills and hollows of snow, and when the storm subsides and the sleighs come out they have to go over these ridges. Such a road is called a thankemom road, and it is an inviable low that when a young man takes a young lady out sleigh riding, with every pitch hole he must kiss the young lady. Strangely enough the most demure looking young lady seems to prefer the thankemom road to the level one. You see she can charge the heightened color of cheeks and lips to the cold. Old chaps in this country when they hear sleigh bells, put on an old Nestor look and in his voice exclaim: "There is no sleighing in these degenerate days, they have not the Black Hawks, they have no roads worth riding over. They do not know what real sleigh riding is."

Alas the horse is passing, the rail fence is no more—the world is degenerating fast.

On Tuesday morning last a beautiful black horse was loose in the street. He was neighing repeatedly in a most anxious tone, telling in his way that he was lost and did not know the way home. It was snowing heavily and he evidently had lost his bearings. The writer explained to



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