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AWAKE AT WASHINGTON

Official confirmation that over 7,000 men, including office employees, will be at work along the railroad between Seward and Fairbanks during the coming season, indicates the determination of the government to complete this project in the quickest possible time, regardless of war's alarm.

There is no doubt now that Washington is thoroughly awakened to the value of the territory, which was acquired in spite of protests a half century back, and relegated to obscurity until its very richness forced attention.

PILGRIMS' PROGRESS

Mexico's border bandits are at it again as was to be expected when this government's dip into the neighboring Republic for Villa fizzled. The Mexican peon has not advanced very far up the scale of civilization and past experiences having taught him that might is right; he has not much respect for the Gringo president who is trying to coax him up into a higher plane of life, or his army which tempered justice with mercy. He fears the quick-on-the-trigger Texans, but not enough to refrain from visiting sudden death on any he may be able to ambush.

Uncle Sam must realize that the government which tries to travel the ideal path, seeking that perfection promised this world during the millenium, is due for considerable trouble.

IT PAYS TO BOOST

There is probably no person in the world who does not value the approbation of his fellowmen and does not desire their appreciation of his efforts. This is one of the most necessary and valuable attributes of character, because without it one of the greatest incentives to good work, and which will be of benefit to mankind as a whole, would be gone. The desire for approbation is the foundation of fame, perhaps of honor, and of much effort. All this being true, it follows that one should give approbation where it is due; and not only approve but express the approval.

There is a story they tell of Big Mike Sullivan's interview with President Roosevelt some years ago. Big Mike visited the president with a prominent Alaskan, who introduced Mike as being very familiar with the situation at Nome. The president presently said, "How are you pleased with the judge?" "Fine," said Mike; "best judge in the land." "How do you like the marshal?" "Couldn't be beat," said Mike. "Are the other officials satisfactory?" "Surest thing you know," said Mike. "How are conditions generally?" "Best ever," from Mike. "Well,"

AS THE WAGE EARNER SEES IT.



---Greene in New York Evening Telegram.

said Mr. Roosevelt, "you are the first man from Alaska who ever visited me that did not have a complaint of some sort to make. How is that?" "Mr. President," said Mike, "did you ever work in a gambling house?" "No, I never did." "Well Mr. President, I did, and there they pay boosters seven dollars and a half a day, but a knocker only gets the worst of it."

Like Mike, we believe it pays to boost—not to boost without some foundation—not to boost indiscriminately, but to boost heartily and sincerely where a boost is due. A failure may deserve a boost because of the intention to try. A partial success frequently deserves a boost; but there are a class of people who look only for the faults and discuss them. They criticize only from the point of view of the pessimist. Such criticism is frequently heard of our legislature and its acts. That our legislature has not been perfect we freely admit. Its most enthusiastic member would not claim perfection for any of its laws; but on the other hand, it has done many good things. It has been absolutely untainted by a suspicion of graft. It has taken initiative in several matters that the subsequent vote of the people of Alaska shows meet the approval of most of the people. It has not passed a single act that does not show an intention to improve the situation, and just at the present time, when it is about to meet again, it seems fitting that the people of Alaska appreciate their efforts. So far as this paper is able to judge of the feelings of this community, allowing for a certain amount of honest criticism, the community is well pleased with its legislature, and we may reasonably expect even better things from it in the future. Several of the laws have been passed upon by the upper courts. Well defined ideas have been expressed by the power that has the right of determination as to the limitations that are contained in the enabling act. Such decision as the late decision of Judge Bunnell as to the eight hour law have pointed out possible defects, and the legislators themselves have learned much of the diverse needs of the different portions of Alaska.—(Ruby Record.)

POSTAGE HYPOCRISY

For frank hypocrisy nothing beats the proposition to cut the first-class postage rate to a penny on the ground that it will be a saving to the common people.

It would not be a saving of 4 cents a month to the common people but would, on the contrary, shift upon them much of the postage expense of the big mailing houses, especially the stock-jobbers. To meet the reduction in revenue, the postoffice department would be empowered to increase the rate on newspapers, magazines and other publications and, the publishers, in these days of trust prices for paper, would have to shift the increased cost over upon the readers.—(Cleveland Press.)

DYING VILLAGES

But it is the American village that most betrays the impulse of our civilization, a civilization that perpetually overreaches itself, only to be obliged to surrender again and again to nature everything it has gained. How many thousands of villages, frost-bitten, palsied, full of morbid, bloodless death-in-life, villages that have lost if they ever possessed, the secret of self-preservation, lie scattered across the continent! Even in California I used to find them on long cross-country walks, villages often enough not half a century old, but in a state of essential decay. Communities that have come into being on the flood tide of an enterprise too rapidly worked out, they all signify some lost cause of a material kind that has left humanity high and dry; like the neutral areas in an old painting where the color, incompletely mixed and of perishable quality, has evaporated with time.—(Seven Arts.)

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