

The Mining News

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SALUTATORY.

If the time worn adage that 'the proof of the pudding is in the eating' be true, the custom of outlining at the start the principles and policies by which a new publication purposes to be governed...

WHO REPRESENTS ALASKA-THE DELEGATE CHOSEN BY THE PEOPLE, OR THE FIGUREHEAD APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT?

On the 28th day of November last Hon. Frank H. Waskey, delegate from Alaska...

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, Washington, D. C., November 27, 1906.

SIR: In compliance with your request for a written statement relative to the political needs of Alaska, I beg leave to submit the following:

The most urgent need is a revision of the United States mining laws as they apply to Alaska, particularly that part of them which has to do with the staking, recording, and holding of placer ground.

First, The great area of ground containing probable placer values. Second, The extreme difficulty and cost of proving these values. Third, Because of their extreme liberality.

Under the present laws, speculators have been enabled to acquire a quasi title to great tracts of ground, supposedly valuable, and are holding this ground undeveloped.

Fourth, The association claim should be abolished. Given these four things, jumping

and its consequent litigation will cease and Alaska's placer development go on apace. The setting aside of all unlocated coal lands in Alaska from location has been an act of wisdom. I would suggest that actual discovery of oil in pumping quantities be made a requisite before a valid oil location can be effected.

While the most urgent need of Alaska is special mining legislation, the most important matter politically is that of home government.

Opponents of that form of government for Alaska have questioned the expediency of Alaskans being allowed to legislate for themselves.

There is no objection to the creation of a fourth judicial division, with headquarters at Valdez, this division to be carved from the present third division and to consist of the entire Pacific slope watershed west of Mount St. Elias...

Equally urgent is the need for the appointment of an associate or assistant judge in the second judicial division. The business in both the second and third divisions has grown beyond the power of any one man to handle...

It would be advantageous in many ways if Alaska could be made a separate light-house district instead of being in one district with Washington and Oregon, as at present.

The deepening of Wrangell Narrows would be of more benefit to the shipping interests of Alaska than any other single improvement of the coast or waterways.

As regards Government aid to railroads, the only just and necessary aid is the giving of ample terminal facilities, rights of way, etc.

Washington, D. C., November 28, 1906. Mr. President: I have the honor to submit herewith my views as to the most urgent need of legislation for Alaska.

Alaska is now governed under a code of laws enacted by Congress and approved June 4, 1900, since the passage of this act the development of the country has been wonderful.

To this end I would recommend that Congress provide for a commission to visit all parts of Alaska, study the needs of the various districts, and make such recommendations which, if enacted into law, would conduce to the betterment of Alaska.

There are, however, some matters of urgent importance which have need of the immediate action of Congress. First of importance is the creation of an additional judicial division to embrace that portion of Alaska along the coast west of Yakutat Bay...

Second, There have lived since, and now have their homes in an environment that brings out all that is best in American citizenship.

It has been claimed that if Alaskans were given the power of legislation they would drive capital out of the country. This is nonsense.

There has been no objection to the creation of a fourth judicial division, with headquarters at Valdez, this division to be carved from the present third division and to consist of the entire Pacific slope watershed west of Mount St. Elias...

Owing to the activity in railroad construction which now prevails in some sections and seems to be only starting, I would recommend that a law be enacted prohibiting the sale of liquor or the licensing the sale thereof at any place within a radius of 5 miles of a construction camp of a railroad or other enterprise employing one hundred or more men, except in incorporated towns.

Owing to the peculiar nature of the deposits of gold in the placer districts of the interior of Alaska, the general mining laws of the United States do not seem to be entirely applicable...

the amount that it seems the time has now come when a separate light-house district for Alaska should be created. It is now practically impossible for a tender stationed at Portland to cover the whole of the Alaska coast as is needed.

THE PRESIDENT. White House, Washington, D. C. The foregoing letters, together with the one which follows, showing that Mr. Waskey's communication to the President, made at the latter's request...

Mr. President: I have the honor to acknowledge receipt this day of the letter of the Hon. Frank H. Waskey, Delegate to Congress from Alaska.

Mr. Waskey's second suggestion regarding change is very questionable, inasmuch as it would be in many instances impossible to produce evidence that the ground sought to be located is part of the unappropriated domain of the United States.

With regard to coal and oil land, I deem it essential that persons exploring the country for these minerals should be protected during the time of such exploration in good faith.

THE PRESIDENT. White House, Washington, D. C. Again the query. Who represents Alaska in Washington?—The delegate chosen by the people themselves or by the figurehead of her bastard government...

Great interest is manifested in the welfare and future of the Porto Ricans. Eloquent appeals are made in behalf of the Hawaiians. Affectionate regard is shown for the well-being of the Philippines.

THE PRESIDENT. White House, Washington, D. C. The press dispatches say that 'Senator Piles, of Washington, will press his bill, to shut the Canadian Pacific Railway out of the Alaskan passenger business, for passage at the present session of congress.'

Many Alaskans do not agree with the Governor in his 'estimates' of the population of the territory. Like his predecessor Brady he is extremely modest, and if he errs it is entirely on one side of the subject.

Mr. Waskey's statements regarding the issues at the Delegate election are not accurate. The issue was not clearly drawn on the question of Territorial government.

Without burdening yourself or Congress with too many demands, I am wholly satisfied that Alaska's best interests can be looked after far better under present conditions than with any other form of government that I know of.

THE PRESIDENT. White House, Washington, D. C. The national congress measure offered by Representative Jones, of this state, providing a territorial form of government for Alaska, should receive the undivided support of congressmen from this part of the country.

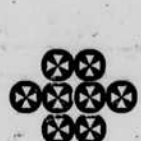
Not in the entire history of the American republic has there been such shameless trifling with the rights of a free people.

Great interest is manifested in the welfare and future of the Porto Ricans. Eloquent appeals are made in behalf of the Hawaiians.

THE PRESIDENT. White House, Washington, D. C. The Douglas News says that 'the Wrangell Sentinel threatens to become a daily,' and adds 'may the good Lord deliver us.'

If late dispatches from Washington are true, the governor of Alaska has crossed swords with the authorized representative of the territory and is contesting with him the questions to come before congress.

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In the chart of the mineral products of the United States for the years 1896-1905, just issued, by the director of the geological survey, is told a marvelous story of expansion in the national wealth.

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his predecessor Brady he is extremely modest, and if he errs it is entirely on one side of the subject. The Governor is surely devoid of the spirit which usually characterizes a westerner...

That must be an extraordinarily intelligent Washington correspondent who sent out the rot concerning the failure of speaker Cannon to recognize Alaska's delegate in his 'committee appointments'...

IN THE UNITED STATES COMMISSIONERS' COURT, for the District of Alaska, Division No. 1, Ketchikan Precinct, In Probate.

U. S. COMMISSIONER'S COURT, for the District of Alaska, Division No. 1, Precinct of Ketchikan, sitting in Probate. In re Estate of Johnny Killoon, deceased.