

The Alaska Citizen

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY
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DISCOVERED WHO'S BOSS.

The cat is out of the bag already and it is now known to an absolute certainty who was the boss of the late grand jury. Marshal Erwin is talking, and from his talk the people of the community will be able to distinguish the God Almighty of the Tanana Valley.

While chortling over the vindication of the marshal's office during the past week, the diminutive pot courage made the bald statement that a representative of The Citizen is the presence of at least two of his deputies, that if it had not been for his influence the writer of the article would have been indicted. That he went to one of the most prominent men on the grand jury and asked that they refrain from investigating our citizenship and actions while a resident of the Klondike capital.

When asked why he did that noble act, his answer was that if we were indicted then it would look like a political frameup and he would wait until the next grand jury for his revenge, or words to that effect.

For his action in this matter, it is such is the fact, we refuse to be the least bit grateful to Mr. Erwin, or to consider ourselves under any obligations to him. He cannot buy our silence, neither can he intimidate us by his statement that he might go before the next grand jury with our case. All we care to say to him in that connection is that he can go as far as he likes and we will be here fighting his crooked methods when the trap is sprung.

It might throw a little light on recent happenings to analyze this great statesman's words. He claims that he was big enough, and had the power to prevent our indictment. If that be true did he not also have the power to have other men indicted against whom he had personal grievances and who were in his way politically? The result of the investigations by the body is the question was the return of two indictments against men who were offensive to active against the marshal, and by virtue of a verdict being rendered against one of them he gets a swelled up that he is most willing to tell what else would have happened but for the reason that the play would be too raw and the people of the community would not stand the gaff.

Now what is his ground for threatening that at some future session of the grand jury he might take our case before them?

In the year 1899 the writer went to Dawson to help install the Daily News plant. At that time the miners of the country were being robbed right and left by as crooked a gang of officials as ever kept out of jail. Everything was graft, and they stopped at nothing to gain their ends. An election came on and with it one of the fiercest political fights ever known in the North tool place. By virtue of having the reins of the government in their own hands, the officials were doing just about as they pleased and were carrying things with a high hand.

Every man in the country, regardless of nationality, had more or less to do with events at that time for they were the ones that were being systematically robbed. Many went just as far as they could with out jeopardizing their citizenship and even at that some overstepped the mark and have since been reinstated. They were all in the fight against a rascally gang of grafters and the final outcome of the corrupt situation was their defeat at the polls after running one of the gang half over the town with a rope ready for business if he did not perform certain acts, and it is needless to say that he did what he was requested to do.

In this fight the writer was in the thick of it. He was opposed to gang robbery then just as much as he is today, and was making the fight then just as he is today—for the betterment of conditions of the masses and the death of gang rule. It won in the upper country, though they had to have a rope in evidence, and it may have to come to that here yet.

This grand jury boss, conceiving the idea that we had taken out our papers, commenced an official probe and received what was purported to be an oath of allegiance, and forthwith had it printed in

the gang's official organ, but he failed to have published the note of the clerk of the court, viz:

"That the said Caskey, notwithstanding the taking and filing of said oath, has not been legally naturalized and no certificate of naturalization has ever been issued or properly applied for for the said James H. Caskey in the Yukon territory."

Taking the matter of our Canadian naturalization up with Hon. George Black, governor of the territory, at a subsequent date, the following answer was received:

"Under the Naturalization Act a duplicate of the certificate of naturalization has to be sent to the secretary of state at Ottawa and to remain on file. Upon application to the secretary of state for a copy of the certificate of naturalization is sent to Caskey I am informed that no such certificate is on file, and further that no naturalization returns were received from Yukon previous to 1913. There is no record in the court minutes here, (either of the judge or the clerk of the court) of the granting of this naturalization. No duplicate of the certificate is on file at Ottawa and it is not likely that certificates were issued to Caskey."

These are the facts of the case, set forth in letters to the Alaska Citizen office. Marshal Erwin knows these facts just as well as we do, but he makes the assertion that only for the fact that I would show up his jobbery too plainly he would have had us indicted, and "that he may do it yet at some subsequent session."

In other words, he took the occasion offered to pass an intimidating threat, thinking in his shrunken heart that he could cause us to get up on him and allow his crooked methods to continue.

He was never farther from the mark in his life. We have not arrived at our present age to be scared by the howling of an owl. The grand jury did return six or seven indictments, which, for reasons best known to the court officers, remain unserved, and he might just as well have let the proceedings in our case come to an issue and if a true bill was returned it could have been held up with the balance of the bunch until his other jobs had been finished.

The marshal's admissions are very damaging and made at a moment when drunk with the victory of carrying out a well concocted plan. Not being able to have a man discharged from a position which furnished bread and butter for the mouths of his family, he deliberately set a trap for him, and when a term in the penitentiary is staring the victim in the face, the official regenerate brags of his power and resorts to threats and intimidation.

How long will the people of the community put up with such things?

THE WOOLDRIDGE CASE.

The sensational case of W. H. Wooldrige, charged with rape upon the person of a girl under the age of consent, came to a termination last Tuesday, when the jury returned a verdict of guilty of the charge of an attempt, which carries with it a sentence of imprisonment in the penitentiary for a term of not less than one year nor more than ten years.

The verdict of the jury is not in accord with the views of a large majority of the citizens of the community, who, however, were excluded from the court room during the progress of the trial. From the evidence which has been made public the people are firmly convinced that the marshal's office and their tactics were more on trial than was Wooldrige, and that his conviction was of a secondary nature and it became necessary to send him to the penitentiary to uphold the marshal.

Some few people argue that inasmuch as a crime had been committed someone must pay the penalty, and there is but little doubt in the minds of many that there was an element of guilt in the matter, but the defendant in the case has the sympathy of the community from the fact that there are extenuating circumstances, and further that the marshal's office set a trap to catch an enemy of the marshal himself.

This view is taken from the fact that Mr. Wooldrige, as a notary public, put his seal upon an affidavit which was very damaging to the marshal, and another which reflected against the good name of the prosecuting attorney.

At a very early stage of the trial the defendant's attorney drew the information from Joe Miller, chief deputy in the marshal's office, that he had gone to the Alaskan Engineering commission's office at the solicitation of Marshal Erwin and requested the official in charge to dispense with the services of one W. H. Wooldrige for good and sufficient reasons best known to himself. Be it to the everlasting credit of that official, to use the words of Tom Marquam, no attention was paid to the request, and the man continued to labor and receive his wages as before.

Knowing the man's frailties he set a trap baited with the strong est drawing qualities known to man commonly called "jail bait." It was proven on the witness stand that Wooldrige had not been seen around the Herrington place for two years prior to the tenth or eleventh of February, and it was as positively stated that the trap was set for him in the district attorney's office the day before by Joe Miller.

It was proven on the stand that a bottle of whiskey purchased at 1:15 in the afternoon was given to Mrs. Herrington at 10:30 in the morning of the same day, which would be an utter impossibility, and that the bottle shown in evidence was not the bottle bought, but one of twice its size and value. All these things were brought out in evidence, but for all that the verdict was guilty and the marshal's office was vindicated in its trap and any methods of laying plans for men to walk into and get into the marshal's office, and the marshal himself, was personally interested in having put where the deed would not bite him.

The people of the community are not aroused over the fact that it was Wooldrige who was made the test, but that unscrupulous officials would stoop to the methods adopted to accomplish their ends. They do not know what minute it might be some man of standing in the community who would incur the enmity of these officials, and to what extent they would go to secure a conviction upon trumped up charges and official corruption.

They may ease their consciences with the thought that the end justifies the means, but we can assure them that the utter contempt with which they are held in this community for their display of unfairness will follow them to their dying day.

PRINTING THE NEWS.

The evidence brought out during the trial of Bobby Jones last week, is not published in The Citizen, this week, and there is a reason. At a conference called by Judge Bunnell just before the taking of evidence in the above case representatives of the three papers were addressed by the judge as to the hardship in getting a jury for future trials if any of the testimony was printed, and of course if one paper printed some of it the next one would go a little deeper into it and when it came The Citizen's turn we would have the whole story.

Judge Bunnell did not make this as a request for the suppression of the news, and left the matter entirely up to the papers themselves to handle as little or as much as they could agree on.

Both the "kept lady" and the News-Miner agreed that they would refrain from publishing the testimony and would confine them selves to mere details. The Citizen did not promise anything.

However, we were inclined to take into consideration the troubles of the court in the selection of juries for future cases and do likewise, at the same time protesting that it was legitimate news, to which Judge Bunnell agreed.

Since then we have been thinking the matter over and cannot see for the life of us why we should exclude any news upon the grounds stated by the judge. The people who buy The Citizen do so because they get all the news there is, and that is the reason why our subscription list has been continually growing. They are entitled to what they pay for if it is to be had.

However, we meditated deeply on our rights and came to our determination too late to do us any good this week in the Jones case. We could go ahead and publish the testimony, because we did not enter into the compact, but by remaining quiet we practically committed ourselves and it would be unfair to the others at the conference to print the story now. Therefore our readers will be disappointed, but we can promise them that, with this fair notice to our contemporaries, we will have the balance of the cases, if admitted to the courtroom.

PRIMARY ELECTION.

On next Saturday, which is the 25th of the month, the polls for the Democratic primaries will be open in the city hall from the hour of 12 o'clock noon until 8 in the evening, at which time every person in the Fairbanks voting precinct who embraces the Democratic faith will have the privilege of casting his or her vote for twenty-three delegates to represent the Fourth division at the nominating convention to be held at Juneau, just a month later, or, in other words, on the 24th day of April.

This will be the last opportunity offered for two long years to administer a rebuke to the present officials of the party in this district and to register a protest to the national party for their failure to carry out the principles of the organization. You have the chance to register your protest in good and vigorous terms by casting a vote for all those who are opposed to the present ring rule.

Marshal Erwin wants to go to the convention so that he can again attend the national convention, and there fix up his fences for his retention in the office he now holds, and it is the duty of every Demo-

crat in the Fourth division, who is not wholly in accord with his conduct of the office and who is satisfied that he is using the party for his own ends—both finance and revenge—to not only attend the primaries on next Saturday but to put his or her best efforts forth to get others there who have become lukewarm and disgusted with the way things have gone in the past two years.

The women of the town have the same voting privileges as the men and it is to be hoped that they will take an active interest and place the gang just where they belong. They are just as disgusted with the gun shoe tactics adopted by the officials as are the men of the community, and it is to be hoped that they will assert their rights and vote their protests.

What is known as the Australian ballot will be used—a ballot containing the name of every candidate—and this ballot will be initiated by an election officer at the time it is handed to the voter. He or she will then repair to a suitable place to mark that ballot, putting a cross opposite the twenty-three names it is desired to vote for. The names placed on the ticket by the nominating faction have pledged that if they are elected to attend the convention and do not go that they will give their proxy to someone who will vote it against "the gang."

This is the last opportunity we will have before the primaries to call the attention of our readers to this important event, and we firmly believe that it would not be necessary to do so again.

Whoever you see an official sign blot it out. Vote the opposition ticket straight and make it a telling and lasting rebuke. Every Democrat is supposed to do his or her duty.

WHO'S DOING IT.

A secret indictment is returned and the court instructs that a bench warrant issue for the arrest of the person indicted. The bench warrant is usually placed in the hands of the marshal for immediate service and unless otherwise instructed that officer immediately arrests the accused. The district attorney usually directs such matters because he has knowledge of the evidence against the accused and the court, relying upon the honesty of the attorney, respects his wishes in the matter. Sometimes the bench warrant is ordered issued, but, upon request of the district attorney, is withheld from the marshal until the former instructs service. We understand that in the present cases of secret indictments the court ordered bench warrants to issue but not to be served until the district attorney instructed. There can be no criticism upon the court, because there is nothing wrong in his instructions. The court cannot know the secret reason for the warrants not being served unless the district attorney informs the court.

"JAIL BAIT" will be used in the future the same as in the past by the marshal's office. They will soon get the population whittled down to just where they can handle things.

ERWIN says that if Joe Miller had cast a black ball against the writer in the ballot at the Tanana club we would have been turned down when applying for admission. Evidently Erwin passed up a bet.

WHAT interest could a grizzled old court bailiff have in the outcome of the Wooldrige case which would cause him to go down the street throwing his hat up in the air and proclaiming "victory?"

THE Forty-Ninth Star, published by Frame at Valdez, had a Fairbanks Chicken story in his issue of the 4th of March, and propounds queries which the Fairbanks people cannot answer.

SOME families are getting quite a "grubstake" from the government in the way of witness fees. There is one bright ray, however. The "jail bait" will have reached the age of consent in another year, so they will only have about one more chance at the trough.

There is a man in our town and he is wondrous wise. He jumped upon a speech he wrote. And scratched out all the I's. But then, remembering who he was, He quickly grabbed his pen, And with a thousand strenuous strokes He put them in again.

IT is easily understood why the higher-ups of the marshal's office would get soured the night the jury returned a verdict of guilty against Wooldrige, but why the clerk of the court should join in the hilarity is more than the average man can understand. (Can it be that he had a finger in the pie?)

AN exchange says that Bud Fisher gets \$75,000 a year for darning a daily picture of Mutt and Jeff. Stubs Erwin gets less money than Bud, but he does less for what he does get. His "get even" schemes keep him busy the most of his time, and the remainder is spent in Washington answering charges.

THE "kept lady," that accurate disseminator of truth stated last Tuesday that in the appointment of Mrs. Gillette as one of the judges of election, she would be the first

woman to ever hold a like position here. Contrary to their statement, however, Mrs. Fred Lewis, of Garden Island, was a judge at the delegate election held two years ago.

LAST Monday evening the News-Miner almost accused The Citizen of receiving or being bought off by a subscription from some official. If that family journal can and will tell who that official was we will be greatly obliged, for they are so few and far between on our subscription books that we are afraid we have overlooked something. If this issue suits the News-Miner any better will they please retract their insinuations!

THE argument advanced by the prosecuting attorney's office for the withholding of service in the secret indictments was that, being of the same nature of crime it would create a prejudice and the government would not be able to obtain convictions in any of the cases. If the withholding of service is of benefit to the government, why not give the defendants the same consideration and allow them the benefit of knowing who the indictments are against? Is it fair to the accused to give the government all the best of it?

If one or two of the secret indictments should subsequently prove to be for that many of the witnesses testifying in the Wooldrige case, could Mr. R. Froth ever convince the public that he did not use the knowledge as a club to get the testimony desired to convict? And suppose again, that a couple or all of these indictments should be dismissed at the request of the prosecuting attorney, even before or after service, would it change the view of the people one whit? That phase of the matter is entirely in the hands of Mr. R. Froth.

GRIN.

When everything's had an' you feel sad,
An' the world seems indigo blue,
Just looka here, there's nothing queer,
The trouble's all in you.

You may be broke, an' minus your poke,
An' ye think you're down an' out;
Don't let things slip, get a good grip,
Shovel hard, she's bound to pay out."

If ye jolly along, when things go wrong,
And worry none a'tall,
It'll all come right as sure as night,
It you'll only hit the ball.

The pessimistic guy (either you or I),
Never succeeds in the end,
It's the fellow that'll smile all the while,
That's "a nan among the men."

Did ye ever know, (or do ye think it's so)
It is just as easy to grin,
As set down an' whine, moan an' pine
When your pay dirt comes to an end.

Work like the devil, be on the level,
An' ye'll get there after while.
Don't be a grouch, get outa the slouch;
Work hard, play hard, an' SMILE.

—MORRISON.

Old Applicants Will Be Dropped

In district court last Monday night Judge Charles E. Bunnell granted permission to the district attorney's office to drop from the list of naturalization applicants all of those whose names had been on the list for two years or more. All who are dropped will be notified of such action by the clerk of court.

The request to drop the names was made of the court by Assistant District Attorney Harry E. Pratt and the court instructed him to draw up the order. The matter was brought at the conclusion of the naturalization hearing, when seven men were admitted to citizenship. They were Salve Tobiasson, O. H. Delaney, M. Meisinger, C. K. Press, M. L. Forsthaugen, Joseph Werner and H. B. Peterson.

Election Judges Named By Council

The chief business of the city council meeting of last Monday night was the appointment of the judges and clerks of the election which was held last Wednesday. Three ballots were taken by the councilmen before the five persons necessary could be named from the list of eight who had made application for the positions. Mrs. L. R. Gillette and William E. Kenyon. The clerks of election were Henry T. Ray and R. A. Jackson. F. B. McDonald was named inspector.

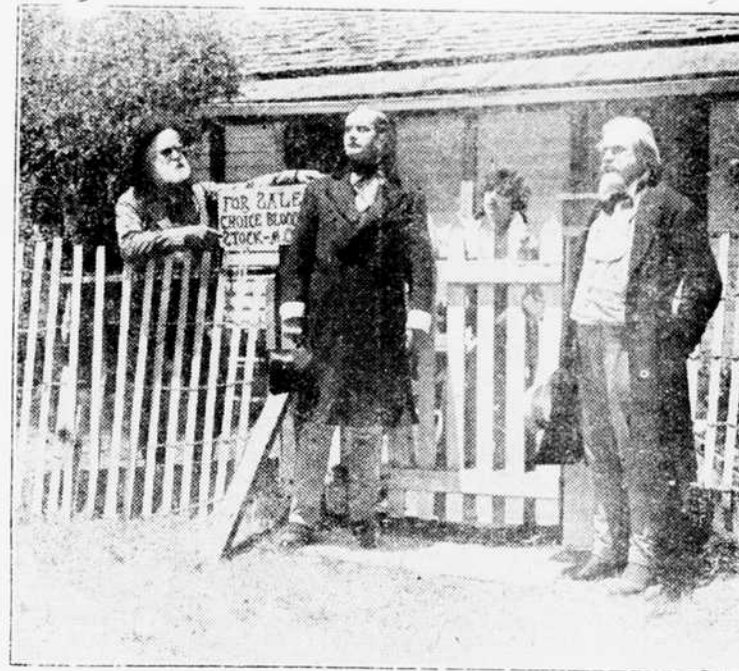
Other applicants for positions on the election board were Mrs. C. E. Knudson, J. H. Chaffee and William Butler. The contest was spirited throughout.

Tonight at Thorne's

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ONE SHOW AT 8:30 sharp

Commissioner Riggs Writes on Tungsten

On a recent mail from the Outside the Fairbanks Commercial club was in receipt of a letter from Thomas Riggs, Jr., of the Alaskan Engineering commission, relative to the tungsten industry in this part of the country. The letter is as follows:

"Washington, D. C., Feb. 21, 1916.
"Mr. Wallace Cathcart, Secretary Fairbanks Commercial Club, Fairbanks, Alaska.

"Dear Mr. Cathcart:
"This is to confirm my telegram of today to be sent from Seattle by Mr. C. E. Dole, our purchasing agent. I wired as follows:

"Please send promised letter regarding tungsten."
"The matter of tungsten is receiving a great deal of attention. In response to my letters to tungsten dealers quoting part of your previous telegram, I received replies showing great interest. I have endeavored to put them in touch either with you or with Johnson & Evers. I hope that we can promote an interest in prospecting for tungsten, as this metal will have a high value, not only for the period of the war, but for several years after the war. There should be as good deposits in the Fairbanks district as that discovered by Mr. Johnson.

"I have noted the activities of the Fairbanks Commercial club with a great deal of interest and pleasure. I think Fairbanks is to be congratulated upon having such an aggressive body.
"With very kind regards to you, I am always
"Cordially yours,
"THOMAS RIGGS, JR.,
"Member of Commission."

The man with the guinea hen laugh is the joy of the funny story teller.

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