

SITUATION IN ALASKA HAS BECOME BIG NATIONAL PROBLEM

Threatened by the loss of priceless mineral resources, deprived of the benefit of its rich coal fields, denied an efficient form of government, and its valuable fishing industry in the hands of a grasping monopoly, Alaska has presented one of the hardest problems which congress has faced during the past session. Already plans have been formed which will make the problem one of the leading ones of the next session.

During the agitation that has been carried on furiously for several years this situation has resulted:

The Cunningham coal claims have been canceled by Secretary Fisher, of the interior department. His action saved to the people from the attempted grab of the Morgan-Guggenheim syndicate, thousands of acres of high quality coal worth uncounted millions of dollars.

No adequate law for the development of the coal fields appears in the statute books, and, with vast supplies at hand, Alaskans must get their coal from distant points—even Australia. Secretary Fisher will recommend a practicable law to congress.

Richard S. Ryan's attempt to acquire from the government valuable terminal privileges for a railroad at Controller bay, has not been consummated but the prospects seem to favor his enterprise. Congress passed a law giving Ryan permission to build a wharf over shallow water to a deep, narrow channel in Controller bay. The grant was subject to approval by Secretary of War Stimson, however,

and the matter is pending in the war department.

Ryan has not received title from the government for locations under soldiers' scrip of land on the shores of the bay made in the interest of Ryan but it is said these lands cannot be denied him and that the delay has been merely a matter of official routine. Each of these locations extends for 160 rods along the bay but are not contiguous. The law provides that every alternate claim, 80 rods on the bay, shall be retained by the government.

Ryan had the presumption to file a terminal railroad claim of 40 acres, covering an entire frontage of one of the government's 80 rod reservations. President Taft, however, has said that the claim is clearly against the law.

With characteristic foresight Ryan has surveyed a railroad right of way, about 27 miles long, from Controller bay to the coal fields in which the priceless deposits sought by the Cunningham claims are located.

There is a general impression that if Ryan and his backers build the railroad it will eventually pass to the Morgan-Guggenheim syndicate.

The syndicate owns the only railroad in Alaska, with a length of about 96 miles, and, when the Cunningham claims seemed to be within reach, had planned to build a short branch to the coal fields. The shore terminus is at Cordova, a not a great distance from Controller bay.

Senator Poindexter (republican, of Washington), who is an authority on

Alaska said today that the parties seeking to grip its wealth in a monopoly are J. P. Morgan, the Guggenheims and a London firm, Close Bros. "Should the government give them a transportation monopoly in Alaska," declared the senator, "it would be one of the most stupendously rich money making propositions in the world. Even an increase over reasonable rates of 10 to 15 cents a ton would mean millions increase above ordinary profits. The interstate commerce commission has no control over railroads in Alaska.

"Monopoly is not only charged but is admitted by these men as the object they have in view. They seek to control not only land transportation but the ocean shipping and are now credited with being masters of the great fisheries and large mercantile enterprises. It is a private monopoly and they are seeking to extend it over vast mineral interests in Alaska.

"As a remedy I believe that the government should develop a large coal deposit for its own use and for public distribution. It should construct a railroad from the mine to the coast and operate a fleet of steamers to convey coal to our naval stations and to the Pacific coast states. In that way an effective curb could be placed upon corporations also engaged in coal production and disposed to extort exorbitant prices from the consumers.

Present laws applying to Alaska make the development of coal deposits impossible. An individual is permitted to hold only 160 acres of coal land and it seems to be obvious that an attempt to work on such a small basis would result only in loss.

Bills introduced in the senate by Poindexter, Works (republican, California), and Jones (republican, Washington), present solutions of the problems. They are similar in respect to providing for strict government control of railroad rates and the price to be charged to consumers. Fair remuneration to those engaged in the industry but no monopolistic extortion are the points held in view by these senators.

'Senator Works' bill was written by Gifford Pinchot. Some of its points are that the secretary of the interior may lease to a person not to exceed 5,120 acres of coal land for a term of not over 30 years. A small royalty on the production is made payable to the government. Leases are to be granted under the condition that the lessee "will not monopolize or unduly restrain the trade in coal and that the lessee will proceed to develop the coal diligently."

Full power is given the interstate commerce commission to fix the prices at which the lessee may sell coal.

Build 8 Torpedo Boat Destroyers.

Washington, Aug. 31.—Contracts for the construction of eight torpedo boat destroyers, all of which will be built on the Atlantic coast, have been awarded by Acting Secretary of the Navy Winthrop. Each boat will have a displacement of 1,010 tons and a speed of 29 1/2 knots.

Will Fortify Four Islands.

Washington, Aug. 31.—The war department is considering plans for the fortification of one of the four islands—Naos, Flamenco, Perico and Culebro—lying off the western entrance of the Panama canal which the government has purchased from the Pacific Mail Steamship company. It is not known yet which of the four will be selected.

NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received at the office of the undersigned for the construction of cement walks on Fir street from the O.-W. R. and N. right of way to Monroe avenue, and on North Fir street from Monroe avenue to W avenue, same to be constructed in accordance with the plans and specifications on file in this office. The amount to be constructed on the above mentioned streets can be had by applying to this office. Certified check for 5 per cent of the amount bid must accompany all proposals, which must be filed with the recorder before 5 o'clock p. m., September 6th, 1911. The council reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

C. M. HUMPHREYS, City Recorder.

8-31-11

PRODUCERS WANTED TO ENTER LAND SHOW COMPETITION

Oregon producers are invited this year by the immigration department of the Northern Pacific and the Great Northern railways to compete for prizes in the American Land & Irrigation exposition, to be held in Madison Square Garden, New York city, November 3-12. These railroad lines will transport free of cost all exhibits from the point offered to the place of exposition.

James J. Hill, chairman of the board of directors of the Great Northern, has offered a \$1,000 prize silver cup for the best 100 pounds of wheat grown in the United States in 1911 and exhibited at the New York exposition. This competition is open to any farmer in the United States. Howard Elliott, president of the Northern Pa-

cific, has offered 160 acres of first class farming land near Terry, Mont., on the line of the Northern Pacific as another prize. He will also give \$500 for the best 25 boxes of apples of any variety, or varieties, a single variety to the box. Competition for these prizes is open to the world.

Many other prizes will be given for the best exhibit of corn, oats, alfalfa, potatoes, hops and barley. The conditions of the contests are contained in the prize cup bulletins, issued by the Great Northern and the Northern Pacific. These bulletins have been furnished the various commercial clubs of the state, where interested growers may obtain them on application.

DAVIS LOafs SAYS COUNCIL

BONDSMEN NOTIFIED AND CITY WILL COMPLETE SEWER.

Service of Notice Some Time Ago Does Not Result Properly.

Contractor B. S. Davis who was served officially with a notice two weeks ago that he must proceed to repair the alleged faults of the city sewer system or the city would assume the responsibility itself, was last night at the council meeting deemed to be making only a pretense at repairing the work and his bondsmen will be notified at once that the city will take the work off his hands and with the balance due the contractor, construct and repair the project.

Sewers Badly Needed.

Property owners are crying for sewers and permission to hitch on to the trunk sewers. This cannot be allowed because the project has not been accepted and it is absolutely essential that the work be done before winter.

City Attorney Cochran is today preparing a notification to the bondsmen protecting the city and just as soon as it is possible the sewer will be completed so that connections can be made. Some have already—without permission—hooked on and there is going to be some difficulty in adjusting the final test for the pipe must be laid dry and not show any run of water when accepted.

While it is not known how much time the notice to the bondsmen will require in transit, it is likely that the city will not assume active control of the project for a week at least.

Rare Sport at Fair.

Salem, Ore. (Special)—With the horsemen racing against their own money as they are at the Oregon State Fair from September 11 to 16, there is bound to be rare sport. All the classes have filled and as a result the unusual spectacle of the drivers and owners racing for their own money coming from entrance fees is presented. This insures honest racing and the cards show that the fast horses have all been entered.

Secretary Frank M. Heath of the organization which has its track and exhibit grounds at Salem, Ore., is happy because of the showing made. He has had the track improved and it will not "cup" as much as in former years. The "doctor" reported that the fault of the track was because the clay mixture was dead. Some new clay was spread and as a result the track has been "regenerated" into a fast one, with the objections of veteran horsemen nearly removed. As a consequence all the classes have filled and everyone is waiting for the "go" of the first race.

Governor Oswald West has promised to attend the races this year, and President L. W. Hill of the Great Northern Railway Company has assured Secretary Meredith that he will be present on the closing day, Saturday, to participate in the Good Roads Conference and demonstration. Altogether, it looks as if the Oregon State Fair, with improved grounds and better track and buildings, will be better than ever. Hardly a county is lacking in representation and the competition for prizes in the various exhibits will be keen, probably unusually so, in the stock show events.

Reduced rates are in effect on all railroad lines for this exposition of the best that Oregon has to offer.

MEN INSPECT 'PHONE BOOKS

DELEGATION REPRESENTING ENTERPRISE VISITS OFFICE.

All Books of Home Independent Telephone Company Open to Men.

Business men of Enterprise, representing the business calendar of Enterprise and the farmers of surrounding district, last night and this morning went over the books of the Home Independent Telephone company with the object in view of establishing to their own satisfaction whether or not the tolls charged by that company in Enterprise were right and just and equitable. The visitation of this delegation came as the possible solution of the Enterprise telephone war when many telephones in Enterprise were cut out pending a settlement. The other towns of Wallowa county have already settled with the company and are using the telephones as before, but Enterprise will await a report from its book committee before taking further action that will probably consist of returning to the Home Independent service or building a line of its own. The report of the committee which was here last night will largely determine further action.

The books of the company were laid before the committee. The cost of construction, the cost of maintenance, the taxes and the gross receipts were at the disposal of the committee and the men, who are influential in business affairs of Enterprise, went back with accurate data on which to make a report this week.

To Discuss Phases of Crime

Boston, Mass., Aug. 31.—Following the meeting of the American Bar Association the American Institute of Criminal Law and Criminology opened its third annual meeting here to-

day. The convention will continue for three days, closing Saturday. At the opening session today Governor Foss delivered an address of welcome, to which Nathan W. McCasney of Illinois, the president of the institute, replied. One of the features of the meeting will be a visit of the members to the various penal and correctional institutions of the city located in Boston and on some of the islands of Boston harbor.

Marshfield News: Ed Abernethy in manufacturing brick at Dora to supply the local demand, and will also use a large quantity himself in the construction of a hotel, which he contemplates building immediately.

Classified Advertising

FOR SALE—Some blue chickens and a fine Jersey cow. Thos. S. Harris, 1302 B Avenue. 8-30-11

FOR SALE—A desirable home, on reasonable terms and easy payments; a nine-room house with acre of land; good location. Address P. O. box 254, Wallowa, Or. (A. 15, S. 12.)

FOR SALE—Dry chain wood in any quantity, \$1.50 per cord at the Perry yards, Grande Ronde Lumber company Perry, Ore. 8-15-11

FOR SALE—Two steated trap in first class condition. Inquire Dr. A. L. Richardson. 8-4-11

WANTED—Two or three rooms furnished, or three or four rooms unfurnished. No children. Phone Main 735 8-22-11

YORK & YORK CHINESE DOCTORS, CAN POSITIVELY CURE YOU.

Those who are suffering from diseases which many other doctors have pronounced incurable, now have relief in sight. York & York, the famous Chinese doctors, are now located in Walla.

Walla. These men, after years of study and research in China, were granted diplomas by the emperor, to pursue their practice of medicine. For centuries the Chinese have been acknowledged leaders in the practice of medicine, and many wealthy people annually go to that country in search of relief for ailments which doctors of this country have pronounced incapable of permanent cure.

York & York use nothing but powerful roots and herbs of demonstrated medical value. These roots and herbs act gently on the system on direct contrast to medicines usually given.

They can be consulted without cost. Those residing out of the city can send for symptom blanks and free diagnosis will be given.

YORK & YORK MEDICINE CO., 10 W. Main St., Walla Walla, Wn.

The Home Looks More Cheerful When Papered and Decorated by NUTTER

NEW STOCK JUST RECEIVED
Phone Red 971—next door to Observer office.

Home Independent Telephone Co.

Long Distance Connection with the Entire Bell System

SAM-O

uggestions

Take two-thirds of a glass of cold sparkling SAM-O, add one-third of any of the following fruit juices: Lemon, Orange, Pineapple or Grape

"Measure it right and mix it together"
It's good for what ails you in this kind of weather."

LA CHEERABLE CIGAR

ALL HAVANA CUBAN HAND MADE
NOTHING BETTER CAN BE MANUFACTURED

Call Main Eight Retail Department

Lumber, Lath, Shingles, Ruberoid Roofing, Sash Doors, etc.
at the
George Palmer Lumber Co.