

to the recent constitutional convention. He is a forceful speaker and a tireless worker. He has always been an active republican and has had a wide experience both in politics and in business matters.

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HON. THOMAS C. GRIFFITTS.

THE nominee of the democratic party of Washington for national representative of the new state is Hon. Thomas C. Griffitts, senior member of the law firm of Griffitts, Moore & Feighan, of Spokane Falls. Mr. Griffitts was born near Carthage, Illinois, December 5, 1857. He spent his youth on the farm and in the printing office of the *Carthage Republican*, educated himself and was admitted to the bar at the age of twenty-three. In 1881 he moved to Salt Lake City, where he practiced his profession successfully until about two and a half years ago, when he located in Spokane Falls. Mr. Griffitts took a prominent position among the members of the local bar and when the time came for choosing delegates to the constitutional convention he was elected in a district admittedly republican. In that convention he served with distinction on the committees on judiciary and on city, township and county organization, and his minority reports submitted in two or three instances were approved. Though always a democrat he had taken no active part in politics until nominated for delegate to the constitutional convention. He is a ready speaker and live worker in whatever enterprises engage his attention.

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BLACK COD, SKIL OR BLECIREL.

A COLONY of twenty Swede fishermen and their families, under the leadership of Captain Lundberg, have been engaged in the catching and curing of skil, erroneously called "black cod," on the coast of British Columbia the present season. The settlement is known as "Lundberg," and is located on Saunders' harbor, which offers many advantages. The two great necessities of a new home are to be had in abundance—wood and water. Of the former the great pine forests offer an apparently inexhaustible supply; the latter, clear and cold, comes straight from the mountain streams. In addition to the twenty fishermen now on the spot, Captain Lundberg expects seventeen newcomers shortly to swell the numbers of the little settlement. The weather this season has not been altogether favorable for fishing operations, and consequently the catch has not been what it would otherwise have been. Captain Lundberg has put up for market 1,000 barrels of fish, a little of this for home consumption, but the greater part for export. Most of it will find a market in Australia, or in the United States. The fishing is done from three to seven miles

from shore, and at a depth in no place less than 250 fathoms. Fish are plentiful, and of splendid quality, while their weight runs everywhere from five to thirty pounds. After being properly cleaned, and the heads and backbones removed, the fish on being lauded are taken to the salting house, which is fitted with complete and modern machinery. Here they are first treated to a light salt bath, and are afterwards immersed in a refined Swedish pickle, made from the fish themselves. This pickle, which is also plentifully used in packing the barrels, is guaranteed to preserve the fish in good order in any climate. By placing the fish in fresh water, with the flesh side down, the salt can all be removed and the fish made highly palatable for table use. If the skin side is down the salt does not have so good an opportunity to escape. Captain Lundberg is of the opinion, that so long as the name "black cod" is used no market can be found for this fish. It is not a cod and is far superior to that fish, being like both the mackerel and pickerel, but better than either. Neither does he like the Indian word "skil," though that is the name given it in the Smithsonian reports. He prefers "blecirol," and will brand all his fish with that title.

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ALASKA COAL FIELDS.

COAL has been found in vast quantities in Alaska, so extensive in fact as to postpone the day indefinitely when a substitute for that great fuel must be sought. On the east shore of Cook's inlet, for a distance of two hundred miles these great coal measures have been traced, and their extent is unknown. Three veins have been examined, which vary in thickness from four to eight feet. The top one lies thirty feet from the surface beneath a covering of blue clay, and between the veins are strata of fire clay four or five feet thick, which has been used in the canneries in the place of fire brick and found to be most excellent. From the water the coal veins are easily accessible, the highest elevation for from thirty to ninety miles from the inlet on the east being but 200 feet. At Coal harbor the Russians have taken out coal in small quantities for years past, and government vessels have used it to some extent. John Treadwell organized a company last year to work these mines, and several cargoes have been sent to market. Coal harbor is a large and secure haven, completely land locked and sheltered from storms from any direction. Vessels may lie at the wharves or at anchor in perfect security. A railroad three miles in length will connect the mines with the wharves, which must run out a long distance to reach deep water. If these coal veins prove to be what is claimed for them Alaska will have a source of wealth greater than any other now known.