

THE ASHLAND TIDINGS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1920

TROUBLE IN ALASKA.

The advantages resulting to the United States from the purchase of the territory of Alaska are of too recalcitrant a nature to be appreciated by the common mind. To the average citizen it would seem that the nation would have been the gainer had the old iron with which Alaska was bought been sunk to the bottom of the sea, and the glory of the dominion of Alaska been left to the Czar, or some other potentate with a similar greed for territory. When the U. S. troops were recalled from Alaska, a short time since, the people who had ventured into that questionable paradise under the expectation of protection by the presence of a garrison of soldiers remonstrated against being left to the mercy of the savages, who were known to be treacherous and only peaceable through fear of the troops. The steamship California brought the news to Victoria, B. C., on the 14th that the people of Sitka were fearing a general massacre, and a petition from the imperiled people to Her Majesty's Government for assistance was presented to the authorities by the captain of the steamship. The petition is a keen rebuke to the government that permits its citizens to be exposed to such dangers in a land ostensibly under the protection of the American flag. Following is the petition:

We, the citizens of Sitka, Alaska, are now threatened with massacre by the Indians of this place. We have made application to our Government for protection and aid, and thus far it has taken no notice of our petition. We have now again begged protection, which we hope will be extended, but the intricate forms of law through which our petition must drag its way will cause a delay which may result in our entire demolition before the arrival of the necessary succor; wherefore, we do beg and pray that you will at once send to our assistance. We beg you will lay aside all forms of etiquette between the government; that you will take the side of an oppressed and threatened people; that you will sympathize and charity dictate your decision—for before the required aid from our government can be had we may be past assistance. Our monetary position is well known. Our appeal to you is from man to man. We ask help from you in the cause of humanity. Poverty prevents the greater number of us from fleeing from our homes and little possessions, and, therefore, the lives of our wives and children are in jeopardy.

A British gunboat was sent to the assistance of the abandoned children of the "Land of the Free," and a U. S. Revenue cutter, carrying three little brass guns, was dispatched from the Columbia, by order of the military authorities at Washington.

In an editorial review of the matter, the New York Times says: "It may not be worth while to organize a territorial government for Alaska, and no form of civil government short of that would be possible. But if Alaska is not to be abandoned to primitive barbarism and devastation the authority of the United States must be maintained."

INCREASE OF SERVICE.

With some surprise, we learn from the Sentinel that Mr. Colwell, who has the contract for carrying the mails between this place and Lake View, has been circulating a petition for the increase of service on the route from six to seven trips each way per week, and the shortening of the schedule time from 60 to 36 hours. We were surprised to learn of this through our Jacksonville exchange because we had not been extended the privilege of attaching our autograph to the list of petitioners, and had not even been favored with the information that such a prayer for the relief of a people crying for a lightning mail service was to be offered up to the mail deities at Washington. The matter being one of public interest, we made it convenient to inquire of a number of the prominent business men in town how they viewed the question. We failed to find any who had seen the petition. It seems strange, indeed, that the men who are most interested in the proper service of the mail on this route should not have been given an opportunity to sign the petition. The truth is, there is obviously no need for such a change, and the only object in the effort of the contractor to have such change made is to have his pay increased, when there can be no proportionate increase in the benefits resulting to the public. A petition for almost anything not glaringly criminal will receive many signatures in any community, and perhaps a long string of names may be attached to the petition in question, but the names of those who receive the greater portion of the mail that passes over the route will not be found in the list.

We would gladly welcome any increase in the mail facilities between this county and Lake county that is needed, but everyone interested would be well satisfied with the present arrangement, if the service were well performed.

The loud complaints that have been caused by irregularities or poor assurance that a service involving increased difficulties to the contractor would be faithfully performed.

Mr. Colwell has informed us that he has been hampered by the active interference of enemies, and is now better prepared to fulfill his contract than he has been. We shall be glad to give him credit for a faithful performance of the service in the future, but shall be compelled to make known any delinquencies that may occur.

Judge Jeremiah Black, a Democrat, and one of Pennsylvania's most respected public men, is quoted by a correspondent of The Albany Journal as saying: "It takes a strong man to carry the great State of New York in the hollow of his hand. There are points in which Senator Conkling is an abler man than any of the great triumvirate—Clay, Calhoun, Webster; and certain of his speeches equal their best efforts, if they do not surpass them. Statesmanship is a broader and a more intricate thing now than in the earlier days of the Republic; and the leading men of to-day do not suffer by comparison with their elders. There is Blaine—his magnetic manner is as wonderful as Henry Clay's; and I think him as great a man. Blaine is rich in the finer traits of character that mark the highest individuals of a race."

Says the New York Tribune: A new species of Congressional incompetence has been discovered. Commissioner Le Duc has found that members cannot even be trusted to distribute his official cabbage vines and watermelon trees—honestly and intelligently. This is the hardest thing that has ever been said either of the morals or the intelligence of Congress.

Attention is called by the Chicago Tribune to the fact that of the thirty-six senators who voted for the salary grab, every one has retired to private life, except two, Bayard and Ransom. Not one of the other thirty-four now wears the toga. Of the twenty-six Republican senators who voted for the bill, not one has been reelected.

Dr. Coon, in an able scientific magazine article on climates, assigns Southern California the first place among American localities, and San Diego the fifth place in the list of climates of the world favorable for consumptives.

QUINCY A. BRIDGES ON THE DEFENSE.

In the Oregonian of February 15, this gentleman publishes a scathing defense of himself, both as a Modoc Warrior and swamp land expert. If there is any one thing in which the major pre-eminently shines, it is a sustained and unvarying contempt for facts. Let us examine his assertions as nearly in detail as possible: Commencing with the Modoc war, he says: "Every article that was purchased, whether of subsistence or quartermaster's stores, was duly accounted for on regular returns." Where are these "returns"? The committee found none. Mr. Chadwick knew of none, Gen. Ross had no recollection of any; what was done with them? And he quotes Gen. Hardie. Did the "returns" referred to by the officer, describe any property as "remaining on hand," or was everything "issued and sold"? The committee found the vouchers issued in payment for supplies, and issues and sales charged on service vouchers. A few leading items were examined with the following result:

Horses purchased.....34
Horses sold.....22
Saddles purchased.....76
Saddles sold.....63
Blankets purchased.....403
Blankets sold.....251
Boots purchased.....253
Boots sold.....194
Vouchers were issued for these purchases which vouchers were subsequently "bonded," Geo. Hardie to the contrary, notwithstanding. Here we have a deficit on the face of all the papers on file of 32 horses, \$5 404; 63 saddles, \$2 205; 281 pairs of blankets, \$4, 215; 144 pairs of boots, \$1 155; also 6 tents, \$210; amounting in all to \$13 186.

The major is charged with being a favorite of the "over," Chadwick administration. He calls this a "soft impeachment" and denies it in emphatic and unqualified terms. He even cites an instance in which his bill for swamp land service was cut down \$500. It seems he selected certain swamp lands, all of which he took possession of, as a pay for selecting, and wanted the swamp land board to pay him \$500 in addition to the land. That board could appreciate a joke, but this was carrying it too far. They let him have what land he had selected, and—well, I don't know what use they made of the \$500, but they refused to pay the major.

Statistics show that the number of unemployed mechanics and laborers in New York is one-half less than four and five years ago, which is accounted for by a movement West and South, and a decided business revival. The table published gives the present number of unemployed there at 15,000, as follows: Laborers, 3,000; carpenters, 8,000; masons and stonecutters, 1,000; tailors, 1,000; bricklayers, 800; painters, 800; plasterers, 600; cigarmakers, 300. During 1878 the daily average unemployed was 25,000 reaching subsequently 60,000.

Study Your Markets.

The question of success or failure with respect to crops depends upon their knowledge of the markets. Many an industrious and skillful farmer fails just at this point. They know how to cultivate crops, but are poor salesmen. They keep in the beaten track, and never vary the relative proportions of meadow, pasture and tillage, seldom try a new crop, or seek to improve their breeds of cattle, swine or poultry. They do not read much, and seem not to be aware that farming, like other pursuits, is in a transition state, and that they must meet new demands or fail in business. The change is so great from the age of homestead, which closed fifty years ago, to the present time, that our younger readers can hardly appreciate it. Then, almost everything consumed in a farmer's family in the northern states was produced on his own farm, or manufactured under his own roof. Nearly all the table supplies, except sugar, molasses, tea and coffee were of his own raising. The homestead span and wore not only all her table linen but all the clothing for her household. She made the cotton and tow wicks and dipped them in tallow, for the light in the dwelling. Traveling shoemakers made the annual supply of boots and shoes. The trade which a farmer had with the outside world was of a very limited character. All this is changed now. No cloth is made that he has little competition, and can sell them at a profit. In perishable articles, poultry, eggs, butter, milk, vegetables, fruit, he can compete with the prairie. With a knowledge of the markets, and the specialties of the soil, it is not a very difficult matter to ascertain what crops will pay, and what will not. Those who do not study these conditions of success, and can not tell what any given crop costs, do not know for what they pay, or for which we know there is a profitable demand. Or an enterprising man can often create a demand for a good article (See description of "clotted cream" in an article on "Deerfoot Farm" in the January number, as an example), and thus have a specialty that will return him a handsome profit, and win him the reputation of being an enterprising man. He will at the same time set an example for other farmers, that may benefit the agriculture of a whole neighborhood or even of a county.

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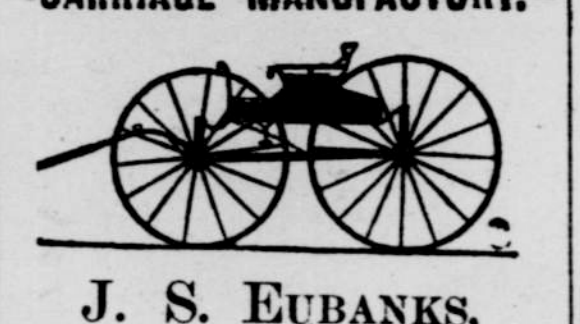
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