

St. Paul
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LAND MATTERS IN ALASKA

Special Privileges Denied—Status of Tide Lands—Effort to Legalize Miners Meetings—Mr. Hermann Predicts that the Next Mining Excitement Will Be on the Siberian Coast.

[Special to THE CHRONICLE.]

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 5.—So much interest attaches to Alaskan matters that information concerning the management of public lands there will be reading for the public. Since the Cape Nome discovery of beach gold, the general land office has received continual applications from discoverers, inventors and schemers in general, for exclusive rights and privileges connected with beach mining and deep sea excavation, on claim that some method, process or invention had been perfected that would utilize what might be otherwise unavailable. Some have offered to build railways along the beach, if granted exclusive privilege. Commissioner Hermann, of the Land Bureau, has had many such propositions and has respectfully declined to entertain them. As for rights to mine on Cape Nome beach, all have been declined on the ground that there is no authority in existing law to dispose of beach mines. This question is not new to him, as there are extensive beach grounds on the Southern Oregon coast, near his home, where gold is mixed with tide sands. The Southern Oregon beach sands have black sand, or iron sands, mixed so that it is not easily separated from the gold. The Cape Nome beach has no black sand and the gold is easily separated.

As government holds all lands between low and high water in trust for future states, congress will legislate to grant temporary privileges, pending statehood and the relations miners meetings may establish. As for mining on the high seas, within the three mile limit, there is dispute in congress, as it is a serious question if it is in the power of the government to convey rights that can conflict with navigation and fisheries. The commissioner of the general land office has declined to consider applications for beach or deep sea mining, but the secretary of war has granted such privileges. Within the last few weeks many such applications have been granted, on claim that the war department has a right to make these grants, but they will not be exclusive. As under the law any miner would be trespasser the government gives its sanction to legalize their work. The interior department and general land office recognize the rights of miners meetings and regulations passed there, as confirmed by past experience in mining districts.

Complaint is made that claims are often located by attorney, which has been greatly abused. For instance: A Boston man may have filed by attorney on valuable locations and hold for a long time. There have been instances where entire gulches have been thus appropriated, with no ownership visible or present. Commissioner Hermann decides against this as illegal, and congress is recommended to decide that personal presence is necessary to establish title. Mr. Hermann has been consulted by Judge Lacey, chairman of House Lands committee, as to legalizing miners' meetings for regulating claims along Nome beach, or elsewhere: which he strongly recommends.

There were three land offices in Alaska, but two were found to be practically useless as there was no business and expenses were enormous. Peavy, was discontinued, that was on the Koyukuk, 250 miles south of the Arctic Circle. Also Circle, that is near the international line. Rampard, that was retained, is on the Yukon, and will assume the business done at Circle and Peavy. The new office is at St. Michael. Effort made to locate this at Cape Nome, but it is recognized that the Nome sands may be worked out and leave no place of importance while St. Michael is so situated as to be always an important location.

Commissioner Hermann predicts that the next mining excitement will pertain to the region to the northwest, on the

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coast of Siberia, across Behring sea, northwest from the mouth of the Yukon. He estimates that \$2,600,000 has been sent to the mint from Cape Nome since its discovery not over a year ago. Add the dust taken by miners themselves and the total output should be \$4,000,000.
S. A. CLARKE.

Puerto Rican Bill Passed.

WASHINGTON, April 11.—The long and bitter struggle over the Puerto Rican tariff bill ended today when the House by a vote of 161 to 153 concurred in all the senate amendments. The bill now requires only the signature of the speaker of the House and the president of the senate before going to the president for his approval. These signatures will be attached tomorrow and before nightfall the bill probably will be a law. As the bill originally passed the house it was a simple bill, imposing 15 per cent of the Dingley rates on goods going into Puerto Rico from the United States and coming from Puerto Rico into the United States. As amended by the senate and today agreed to by the House, all the restrictions on good into the United States from Puerto Rico are eliminated and certain foodstuffs and other articles which heretofore have gone into Puerto Rico free by executive order, are excluded from the operation of the 15 per cent duty imposed on goods entering the island from the United States.

A complete scheme of civil government for the island is also attached to the measure.

Governor of Puerto Rico.

WASHINGTON, April 12.—Charles H. Allen, assistant secretary of the navy, will be the first civil governor of Puerto Rico under the provisions of the bill passed yesterday.

New patent painters' and paper hangers' suits at the New York Cash Store.

Boers Want to Fight.

BLOEMFONTEIN, April 11.—According to information received here, the Boer activity eastward of the railroad and in proximity to the border, is largely due to the fact that Presidents Kruger and Steyn have found they are unable to keep their forces together in inactivity, the burghers declaring they are unwilling to remain with their commandos, unless actively employed, as they are convinced the British game is a waiting one. It is believed the Boer movement was originally designed to oblige Lord Roberts to weaken his force at Bloemfontein, in order to protect the railroad, when the Boers would have attempted to recapture the capital. But the burghers are evidently ignorant of the enormous forces Lord Roberts has at his disposal.

Advices from Karoo Siding say the Boers are busily entrenching their position east of Brandfort, running parallel with the railroad, while strongly holding the Waterval Drift waterworks.

Catarrh Cannot be Cured

with local applications, as they cannot reach the seat of the disease. Catarrh is a blood or constitutional disease, and in order to cure it you must take internal remedies. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, and acts directly on the blood and mucous surfaces. Hall's Catarrh Cure is not a quack medicine. It was prescribed by one of the best physicians in this country for years, and is a regular prescription. It is composed of the best tonics known, combined with the best blood purifiers, acting directly on the mucous surfaces. The perfect combination of the two ingredients is what produces such wonderful results in curing Catarrh. Send for testimonials, free.

F. J. CHENEY & Co., Props., Toledo O. Sold by druggists, price 75c. Hall's Family Pills are the best. 12

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Strictly first class local and long distance telephone service within your home. Lines do not cross-talk. Your conversation will be kept a secret. No cost for installing. You get the standard Hunning Long Distant Instrument. Continuous day and night service. We will accept your contract for ten years and allow you to cancel same on giving us thirty days written notice.

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PUERTO RICANS IN A BAD WAY

Ninety-Five Per Cent of the Islanders in the Peon Class.

PONCE, Puerto Rico, April 4.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press.)—At no time since the hurricane of August 8th last has the condition of the poor of Puerto Rico been as bad as it is today. About ninety-five per cent of the island may be placed in the peon class, which is made up of a mixture of all races. In the other five per cent are included the well-to-do, educated people, such as merchants, planters and professional men and their families.

The better class is able to pass through such times as are now prevailing without actual physical suffering, but their business affairs are at a standstill, and have been for a long time, and this deprives the majority of the large laboring class of a means of livelihood. This large body of laboring people furnishes the very cheap and effective labor which is needed for agriculture and other work, but at all times they have been in an under-fed and poorly-nourished condition.

Remarkable Cures of Rheumatism.

From the Vindicator, Rutherfordton, N. C. The editor of the Vindicator has had occasion to test the efficacy of Chamberlain's Pain Balm twice with the most remarkable results in each case. First, with rheumatism in the shoulder from which he suffered excruciating pain for ten days, which was relieved with two applications of Pain Balm, rubbing the parts afflicted and realizing instant benefit and entire relief in a very short time. Second, in rheumatism in thigh joint, almost prostrating him with severe pain, which was relieved by two applications, rubbing with the liniment on retiring at night, and getting up free from pain. For sale by Blakeley & Houghton.

Matters Political.

LEWISTON, Me., April 12.—The Republican state convention elected delegates to the national convention at Philadelphia and adopted a platform endorsing the "wise, patriotic and progressive administration" of President McKinley, to whom it promised renewed allegiance and support. The platform favors the gold standard, the Frye shipping bill, laying a Pacific cable and the construction of the Nicaraguan canal.

COLUMBUS, O., April 11.—The sentiment of the state convention of the League of Democratic clubs which met here today is solidly for Bryan although President Buchtel in his annual address referred only indirectly to the Nebraskan and ignored silver entirely. It is expected there will be a big fight in the committee on resolutions over the silver question.

A Good Cough Medicine for Children

"I have no hesitancy in recommending Chamberlain's Cough Remedy," says F. P. Moran, a well known and popular baker, of Petersburg, Va. "We have given it to our children when troubled with bad coughs, also whooping cough, and it has always given perfect satisfaction. It was recommended to me by a druggist as the best cough medicine for children as it contained no opium or other harmful drug." Sold by Blakeley & Houghton.

The Puerto Rico Bill.

WASHINGTON, April 12.—Tongue and Moody of Oregon and Jones and Cushman of Washington voted for the Puerto Rican Bill. Wilson of Idaho voted against it.

Volcanic Eruptions

Are grand, but skin eruptions rob life of joy. Bucklen's Arnica Salve cures them; also old, running and fever sores, Ulcers, Boils, Felons, Corns, Warts, Cuts, Bruises, Burns, Scalds, Chapped Hands, Chilblains. Best Pile cure on earth. Drives out pains and aches. Only 25 cts. a box. Cure guaranteed. Sold by Blakeley & Houghton, druggists.

Campbell & Wilson have determined to close out their entire stock of millinery, between now and the first of June. Call and get our prices. April 4-4d-2w

The Balance of Our
Nice Silk Waists
Arrived This Morning.

This will prove news of interest to many ladies who have patiently waited. We are now ready to show a complete and novel assortment of the very latest designs in black and all the new pastel shades. The new-comers are made of Taffetas and Pen de Sois.

\$6.00 to \$16.50.

This morning's arrivals will be on display tomorrow (Saturday) in Suit Department—upper floor.

Easter Gloves. Our new line of Kid Gloves—styles especially selected for Easter selling—arrived yesterday and are now on sale. Do not fail to see the "Voltaire," the very latest in style and finished with pearl clasps to match.....\$1.00

Silk Pulley Belts. Another lot came by this morning's express. On display in front case. 75c, \$1

Men's Fine Neckwear. The latest color and fabric specialties; on display in Furnishing Goods Department. Select your Easter Tie from this lot, and know it is correct.....50c, 75c

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