

In the news columns of the Morning Democrat yesterday, publicity was given to a demand that is springing up in Eastern Oregon for representation in the United States senate. The demand is just; it is reasonable. The Democrat is democratic in politics. It believes the election of democrats to office is for the best interests of the people and the government. It rejoices that a part of the state government will for the next four years be administered by democratic brains and consciences, and its pleasure and pride would be still greater should the state have democratic representation in the halls of congress. Both the representatives from Oregon in the next house are republicans, and to be almost brutally candid and frank, they are men of small calibre and little ability. Mr. Tongue will be likely to continue to hustle around in his feeble way for the Multnomah political bosses—the people who created him and it does not require a prophet to predict that Mr. Williamson's political career will be dominated by the sentiment: "Charity begins at home."

The democratic members of the legislature are pledged to support Mr. Wood for the senate. They will do so, but it will be almost impossible to elect him. This fact is patent when the complexity of the present legislature is considered. But there is a remedy. If Eastern Oregon will for once drop politics altogether and unite, Portland can be forced to assist in the election of a senator from this part of the state, east of the Cascade range. Of course he will be a republican, but there will be no webs between his toes.—Baker Democrat.

The official organ of the German butchers in Berlin, has invited the members of the Society for the prevention of Cruelty to Animals to partake of a horse-meat banquet in order to show those soft-hearted people that it is really a mercy to animals not fit to work to be dishd up as a roast or ragout. If the scheme of the butcher's organ succeeds, it will open up a wide range of activity for the bands of mercy, and no doubt stray dogs and homeless cats will be shortly added to the general bill of fare.—EX.

A man of foreign extraction went into a watchmaker's store yesterday and handed over a bulging specimen of what is known as a "turnip." "What's the matter?" asked the repairer. "It's too soon." "You mean it don't keep time." "Yah, it is early all the while yet." "Yes, I see. It needs regulating. Goes too fast. Gains time." "No! It makes me time constantly too lose." "You mean you are late?" "No, the clock is early, it is too soon. I lose the time." And before they were done night fell softly.

A Virginia legislator has introduced a bill making kissing illegal and punishable by a fine. To accomplish his object, he'll have to change the climate, abolish moonlight, forbid people to grow to an age over 7 years, and kill all the men. If honesty characterize the movement, and the rights of the people be concerned, then let the inquiry into land frauds proceed. The government must have been cognizant of these frauds for these many years. They have been known to all intelligent citizens. They have been bruited by the newspaper. Officials

have come across evidences of irregularities. Proofs have been easy to access. Yet the years have gone, administrations have succeeded administrations, and little has been done to stop the frauds. If there be now intention to cure the evils, it is well, and let him who may, suffer. "Turn on the lights," is a good motto just now.—Portland Journal.

IN FROZEN ALASKA.

Rich Opportunities for Stockmen in That Country.

Agricultural Possibilities of the Region Have Been Found to Far Surpass Expectations—Gold, Fish and Furs.

A million dollars a month is the estimate made by the bureau of statistics of the present value of the market which "frozen Alaska" offers the producers and manufacturers of the United States, states a special to the St. Louis Globe-Democrat. "Commercial Alaska in 1901" is the title of a monograph just issued by the treasury bureau of statistics. In it are presented some striking figures about this (until recently) little explored and little understood territory of the United States. By reason of the application of modern systems of travel and transportation, Alaska is now as accessible as Arizona. Three days of travel by modern ocean steamers from Seattle among the islands and along the coast which forms the southeastern extension of Alaska lands the traveler at Skagway; 12 hours by rail over the mountains, carries him to the headwaters of the Yukon, where comfortable and well-equipped river steamers carry him to the gold fields of central Alaska or down the Yukon river, which is navigable for more than 2,000 miles at this season of the year. From the mouth of the Yukon another comparatively short trip by steamer carries him to Cape Nome—the latest and greatest of the gold fields of Alaska.

Gold, fish and furs are, according to this monograph, the principal industry of Alaska at the present time, and they send to the United States \$15,000,000 worth of their products, \$5,000,000 of gold, \$8,000,000 of fish, chiefly salmon, and the remainder furs.

The cost of Alaska was \$7,200,000. The revenue which the government has derived from it since its purchase amounts to over \$9,000,000, and the value of the products are now twice as much every year as it cost. The total value of the products of Alaska brought to the United States since its purchase is (according to the best estimates that the bureau of statistics is able to make) about \$150,000,000, of which \$50,000,000 is precious metals, \$50,000,000 products of the fisheries, chiefly salmon, and \$50,000,000 more furs, chiefly seal furs.

Probably \$50,000,000 of American capital is invested in Alaskan industries and business enterprises, including transportation systems. In the salmon fisheries alone the companies engaged have an capitalization of \$2,000,000, and the value of their plants, including vessels, is given at \$12,000,000. In the mining industries there are large investments—the great quartz mill at Juneau being the largest quartz stamp mill in the world, while several other quartz mills represent large investments. With the inflow of capital, the development of transportation systems, and the gold discoveries, has come the building up of towns and the development of cities with modern conveniences of life.

Nome City, which is located but a comparatively short distance south of the arctic circle, has now a population of over 12,000; postal facilities have been so extended that the number of post offices is now about 60, and mails are being regularly delivered north of the arctic circle.

Agricultural possibilities in Alaska have, until within a recent period, been considered of but slight importance. As the country was explored, however, and its conditions of climate and soil studied, its natural products observed, and experiments made with various classes of agricultural productions, it became apparent that the agricultural possibilities of the country, and especially of the south and southeast, where the climate is modified by the Japan current, were of considerable importance in view of the practicability of furnishing at least a part of the food supply of the population which the varied resources of Alaska seem likely to sustain and make permanent. These observations and experiments lead those who have participated in them to the belief that vegetables in great variety can be produced all along the southern coast and in the valley of the Yukon, and by some of the possibilities of the successful production of wheat and oats is strongly supported.

The grasses for the support of cattle are abundant, and the experiments with live stock thus far justify the belief that this feature of the requirements of Alaska may be furnished by the development of stock ranges in the southern sections. In the north vast areas are covered with a moss similar to that upon which the reindeer thrives in other parts of the arctic regions, and in view of this fact the introduction of reindeer from Siberia was begun a few years since and has proved extremely successful, about 3,000 now being distributed through northwest Alaska, and the experiment has advanced sufficiently to justify the confident belief that the reindeer will within a few years prove an important feature in furnishing both the transportation and food supply of northern and northwestern Alaska.

The gross area of Alaska is, according to the 1900 census, 590,000 sq. miles. The Governor of Alaska in a recent report states that this is equal to the combined area of the 20 states of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee.

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