

REPRESENTATION FOR ALASKA

Is Demanded in Congress by Senator Brick.

The Wealth and Possibilities of Seward's Iceberg are Such as Demand That She be Recognized.

[From Monday and Tuesday's Daily.]

Washington, Feb. 26.—In his favorable report to the house from the committee on territories of the bill to allow a delegate in congress from Alaska, Representative Brick, of Indiana, enters into the subject of Alaska affairs very extensively, and urges the passage of the bill in unqualified terms. Among other things, he says:

"A bill of similar purpose was reported from the committee on territories of the house of representatives in the Fifty-third congress near its close, too late for action; and another in the Fifty-fourth congress, which for some reason failed to become a law. But in the unanimous opinion of your committee, fortified by the judgment of a vastly increased population in the territory of Alaska, whose best men have not only recommended it, but have urged it as an absolute necessity at this time, we respectfully submit that congress should no longer delay the right of these people of a great and ever-growing population to a delegate representation in congress.

"We found this conclusion upon various reasons, among which we suggest that, whenever it is practicable, it is the tenet of the American creed that proper elective representation is the heritage of our citizenship. Whatever may have been the needs and the requirements or the limitations of Alaska in the past, we think the time has now arrived when it is not only feasible for its inhabitants to elect and have delegate representation in the house of representatives, but that its absolute necessity makes it a matter of right which we should heed by speedy action.

"Alaska is a territory whose prospects, resources and commercial and political importance have heretofore been almost wholly unappreciated by most people. Even now, in the period of Alaska's marvelous development, the first thought of many persons is that a delegate would be a doubtful experiment, and an unnecessary expense, when in fact, from the information received by your committee, of all our outlying territory it is the most deserving of this privilege.

"In 1890 the census of Alaska showed a population of 32,052. In 1900 that has swelled to 63,441, and will undoubtedly increase in even a greater ratio during the next few years; and while the number of white people were some less than 5000 in 1890, with a very large portion of the remainder Indians and mixed, this great increase during the last ten years has not been caused by the births of natives. The Indian is rapidly passing away; and while the census figures for 1900 cannot be given in detail at this time, yet it is well known that they will show less Indian and mixed population than in 1890, in a very large degree, so that the majority of the present population of 63,441 will, beyond question, be whites who have emigrated from the States. These persons dominate the territory, and in a short time, through the evolution of nature, the Indian will have become a tradition.

"Another reason for a delegate which must impress itself with great force upon every member is the fact that most of the relations with the territory are direct with the general government. Up to this time every transaction of that nature was required to be done through the individual effort and expense of some person willing to undertake it. This has fallen in a great measure upon the governor, who every year, upon a salary slender in consideration of the expense of living in that country and its distance from the seat of government, has been compelled to neglect his duties at home in the performance of more pressing and purely voluntary ones at Washington. This should not be forced upon him. His services in that respect have been invaluable to his people, but they are not a part of his duties, and they should not be.

"The people are in continual need of a delegate selected by them for that purpose, responsible to them directly for his service, to look after the multifarious affairs of the territory in the department at Washington. And this is as necessary and convenient for the departments as for the people. They very much desire to have some one person whose business it is to be correctly informed, and look after all matters

that arise—some one whose duty makes him directly responsible for his acts."

The writer of the report devotes a good deal of space to the subject of Alaska's resources, going in detail into the production of gold, copper, coal and fish. Then he says:

"Believing that good reason has been shown why a delegate should be given to Alaska, it remains to explain the working of this particular bill. Considering the mining features and the isolated and primitive condition of Alaska, the first thought naturally is to provide her with a very restricting and complicated piece of election machinery, registration, Australian system, and all of the other safeguards of the ballot known to the states, and your committee was no exception to the rule. But having made up our minds that they are entitled to and ought to have a delegate, then it became the duty of your committee to give this to them in as practicable a manner as possible—the best that can be devised as applied to their condition and environment. Whatever we do will be imperfect, but that is no reason it should not be done. It will be improved as experience lights the way.

"The pioneer through ages has traveled from Plymouth Rock to Alaska. He may have been rough and daring and strong, but he was always manly and capable of self-government, and during all these years human nature has remained about the same. The more primitive, the simpler the method of elective franchise. As population and civilization advanced, the more complicated became the election machinery.

"The town meeting was sufficient in the old days of New England; today they require the Australian ballot. So the more you think of it the stronger grows the impression that in Alaska the simpler methods are, to say the least, the best in their present condition. Registration and the Australian system would both be too burdensome in that country and the existing state of society, and it would seem to be more than that—unnecessary and impracticable.

"To look at the map showing the vast expanse of territory, with its far distant settlements and lack of roads, its long winters and short summers, all advise some simple and easy plan for the election of the delegate, at the same time, however, surrounding the purity of the ballot with all the safeguards possible.

"With the information at hand, the committee has striven to carry out this idea in the present bill. We believe the bill as recommended by your committee will be sufficient for the first election, and experience will undoubtedly suggest improvements. Whatever may happen, the subject will still be in the hands of the house.

"It was thought best to make the voting privilege as free from delicate questions as possible; therefore it is confined to male citizens of the United States and of Alaska who shall have attained the age of 21 years. Citizens of Alaska include all citizens of the United States who were residents of Alaska on September 1, 1900, and also all those who shall in good faith reside there for one year thereafter.

"In order that each particular community might learn to some extent something about the voter and his right to vote, he is required to have lived in the precinct where he desires to exercise the franchise for a period of 60 days immediately preceding the election.

"The statistics show that the great body of voters will be the white American citizens, native or naturalized. There is a provision as to the Indians, allowing them to become citizens, and therefore to vote, if they are living a civilized state and have resided in Alaska for the period of five years."

In conclusion, the reports says: "Representation is a privilege they have been praying for through many years. It must be that they will appreciate it, and your committee believe they will attempt to preserve it.

"Whatever happens, it is their weal and woe. We feel they are entitled to representation and a voice in the affairs affecting their own land. Your committee therefore urge the immediate passage of the bill, so that preparations may be made for the first election on the second Tuesday of next August, as provided for in the bill."

Mr. C. Dolan and J. M. Partridge, who own the lower half of the third tier off of No. 11 Last Chance, have struck a very rich pay streak. From two buckets and one pan of dirt they recently took out \$810, making an average to the pan of \$54.

The following party of old timers arrived in Dawson on Robertson's last stage from Whitehorse: John Lind, John Crist, R. B. Word, Pete Campbell, Ed Campbell, Jack Woods, Al Smith and Tom Blake.

West in Two Places.

Kid West, concerning whose whereabouts there has been so much speculation ever since he was taken from this city by the Dominion officials as a witness against George O'Brien at Dawson, is now hidden in jail at Victoria, where he was yesterday interviewed by a Times reporter.

West's position is a most unique one. According to the law of the state of Washington, he is a prisoner at Walla Walla, serving a five years' sentence for burglary and assault, and according to the law of the Province of British Columbia, whose jail he occupies, he does not exist. In addition to this, West's custodians, the provincial officials, are sick and tired of him, and are anxious that the Northwest Mounted Police, who are responsible for him, should come and get him.

Warden Johns, of the Vancouver provincial jail, wrote last week to James Seely, the officer who had taken West from Seattle to the Victoria jail, to this effect, bidding him take some action to get West off the hands of the province, and that quickly, as both West and his jailers were distasteful to one another. In reply to this letter, he yesterday received a telegram from Seely, who was then at Vancouver, stating that he would be on the scene today and would remove West.

When West was taken from Seattle by James Seely, detective of the Northwest Mounted Police, that official told him that he would have to lay over a couple of days in Victoria. He was taken to the provincial jail at that place. The authorities in charge of the jail—the provincial police department—were told that West would be their guest for a day or two; and they readily consented to his being put into their hands for that time. Instead of a couple of days, West has now been in the place for two and one half months, during which time Seely had not been heard from up to yesterday. West is not booked as a prisoner. There is no warrant for his retention. He is simply held at the tolerance of the provincial officials out of courtesy to the mounted police. In the meantime, the prisoner himself enjoys the situation as little as anyone concerned. He has grown decidedly thin and the regular jail pallor has perceptibly increased on his face a great deal during the past two months.

The prisoners in the Victoria jail are confined in separate cells. There is no tank. The only light comes from a small grated hole in the door.

During the day all the able bodied men are worked in quarries. This makes their cell life of solitude endurable.

There is no way to work West. In the first place the authorities have no right to do so, and in the next place West was to be kept out of sight. This makes his captivity doubly hard for himself and for his warders.

Just what Detective Seely intends to do with his charge is a mystery. At first he intended to take him to Dawson in about a month from now. This was before the provincial authorities took their final stand and asked Seely to take West away.

West himself was interviewed by a Times reporter yesterday after no little difficulty. He was heavily ironed at the time. The unaccustomed light of the jailer's office made him blink. Solitary confinement had left its mark on him and he was pale and thin. Asked how he liked his present surroundings, he replied:

"They're bum. Seely brought me here to stay a day or two. Then we were to go to Dawson. I've been here two months and a half now and haven't seen Seely since."

In answer to an inquiry as to whether the present place was not better than Walla Walla, West said:

"I'd rather be making jute at Walla Walla any day. Here I can't do anything. These cells are dark and I pass most of my time in one of these holes. I'd like to get out of this if it was but to go back to Walla Walla."

When the fact was mentioned that he was getting more of a change during his term than other prisoners, West replied:

"Change be d—d. There's no change sitting all day on a hard bench in a hole that's too dark for you to see a thing."

Warden Johns states that West is a troublesome prisoner and that he is constantly in need of discipline.

"We are tired of him and he of us," said the warden. "There is no work to put him at and that makes it hard for him and for us, too. I wish very much that the authorities of King county or the state of Washington would come and get him if those who left him here are not going to do so."—Seattle Times, Feb. 26.

A party of five left Monday for the Tanana going across the country from Eagle.

PRESENT SYSTEM

For Collecting Taxes Will be Enforced.

The joint committee of the Yukon council and Board of Trade met in Commissioner Ogilvie's office last night and discussed the taxation question from various standpoints. The conclusion was arrived at that the present system, by amending the ordinance, establishing a court of revision to adjust the appeals now before the council, would be the better plan for this year, and for next year some new scheme might be worked out.

Commissioner Ogilvie, Justice Dugas and Mr. Prudhomme represented the council and H. Te Roller, H. T. Wills, Falcon Joslin, L. R. Fulda, Thos. McGowan, F. W. Clayton and H. Macaulay represented the Board of Trade.

Dr. J. N. E. Brown, territorial secretary, and Assessor Ward Smith were also present.

Commissioner Ogilvie was chosen chairman of the meeting and Dr. Brown acted in the capacity of secretary.

In opening the meeting the chairman cited the various methods of taxation which had been discussed at the time the ordinance had been enacted and it was then considered that the most equitable tax for all classes would be on the volume of business transacted.

Secretary Clayton presented a report from the committee of the Board of Trade which provided for the continuation of the present tax on real estate, a graded license tax in lieu of the present "turnover" system and a tax on all persons having an income of over \$2000 not otherwise taxed.

A paper with an estimated assessment list was read by Mr. Te Roller on behalf of the Board of Trade aggregating in the neighborhood of \$75,000.

When asked what amount was expected to be raised the chairman stated it that an income of \$75,000 had been figured for last year, but that there was now under consideration a school-house which was absolutely needed for the accommodation of the school children and that an increase of \$60,000 would probably be needed.

Mr. Fulda in speaking on the question said: "The opposition to the 'turnover' system is based on the fact of its being a double, triple and even a quadruple tax. For instance my company brings in a million dollars' worth of goods upon which a tax is levied. We sell to another dealer and he is taxed and so on. Every time the goods change hands another tax is added. We are simply offering the license system as an alternative and we consider it a more just and equitable system."

Mr. Ogilvie answered him by saying that there was no disposition on the part of the council to force any system of taxation on the people which was not just and that any system put into execution whereby the revenue might be derived would be entirely satisfactory to them.

Falcon Joslin discussed the situation at some length and after summing up the whole situation he came to the conclusion that between the present system and the one proposed there was no difference and that of all systems of taxation which he had thought of the tax on the volume of business was the best suited to the needs of this country.

The question was raised as to whether the town would be in accord with the system proposed, which would raise the tax on the smaller dealers and lower that on the large concerns and it was considered that it would not and that difficulty would be encountered.

The question was very thoroughly discussed by all the members present and the final conclusion reached was that for this year the present system should be enforced subject to appeals for which the council will provide at its meeting next Thursday night by an amendment to the present ordinance and then consider plans for a new system for next year.

Business and the Cinematograph. It is proposed to utilize the cinematograph for representing machinery in motion. It is expected that in this way it will become a valuable auxiliary to trade in machinery, as buyers will be able to judge of the working of a machine from the microscope without seeing the thing itself.

Clever Thieves. A new menace to the domestic problem is the Chicago practice of hiring out for a few days as a butler or something of that sort, so as to learn "the lay of the crib." This accounts for the number of successful robberies, according to the police.

NEW CREED WRECKS HOMES

Many Illinois Families Destroyed by New Amish Church.

What the Preacher Says Goes Even to Wives Forsaking Their Husbands and Children.

Pekin, Ill., Feb. 14.—Facts and data will be introduced by the defense in the trial of Sam Moser, charged with a quadruple murder, to prove that the New Amish church has broken up scores of homes in Tazewell and McLean counties.

This morning one of the strangest witnesses for the defense came to Pekin and told a story of unrelenting and terrible prosecution on the part of the Amishites. His statements seem to bear out the claims of Moser that he was driven to commit murder by the Amish religion. Peter Rickenberger, living near Gridley, McLean county, is the witness by whom Attorney Green proposes to prove to the jury that Moser was driven insane by the strange religious sect. Rickenberger is a well-to-do farmer, about 55 years old, and tells his story in a straightforward manner.

"My home has been broken, my life made a hell and the love of my wife taken away from me by the New Amish church," he said. "I have been a member of the church since I was a boy. I was taught to believe in the rules of the church and accept without question the word of our preacher. I was well satisfied without voting or associating with the outside world until over a year ago.

"I had married, and I don't believe a happier man or woman could be found in all this world.

"I made money, and I had a certain influence among the members of the church and the preachers, owing to this fact.

"The preachers had never entered my home as they did and do with other members of the church.

"One day they came, or, rather, one of the preachers did. I was away, or a murder would have been done that day. Mind, a member of the church must never question what a preacher may do.

"I was not the narrow-minded, crawling dog like other Amishites. I came out before the world and denounced the preacher for his attempting to enter my home.

"I said I would resent any such actions. That was a bombshell in our circles. I had sinned. I was not of God; I was dead in the New Amish church.

"My wife was bound with fetters of steel in that church. She sided with me, but she dared not give up the church. She could not see beyond the limited world of the life she had always lived. I tried to explain; I pleaded with her in our love, but no, the poor woman could not give up the church, for she feared the hereafter.

"Then came the revenge of the New Amish. I could not trade with my neighbors. I could not talk with them. I was cut off from them. I have lived in and around McLean all my life. I have been a farmer and I am too old to go out into the world and make a new home. There is nothing for me to do but live on and on, only hoping and praying that my wife will see as she should."

This is but a partial statement given by Rickenberger, and before this famous trial is at an end others will be put on the stand to tell how their homes were broken up by the New Amish church.

MARRIED AT HIGH NOON.

Mr. Foster and Miss Clark Made Man and Wife.

Mr. Ernest Foster and Miss Gertrude Clark were married today at 12 o'clock at St. Paul's church by Rev. Naylor. A large number of invited friends were present to witness the ceremony and bid the happy couple bon voyage down the sea of matrimony.

Mr. Foster is employed by E. Meeker at the Log Cabin grocery, while his fair bride was for some time employed in the central telephone office. The young couple have hosts of friends in Dawson who join the Nugget in wishing that their bark may never be rocked by the waves of domestic infelicity or stranded on the bar of family dissension.

Miss Georgie Watney of Last Chance is in town visiting Mrs. Nerland.