

## LEGISLATION FOR ALASKA.

Occupies the Attention of Congress for Eight Days.

Amendment Passed Authorizing the Issuance of Dredger Permits Below Low Water Mark.

(From Tuesday's Daily.)

Washington, May 21.—The house practically devoted eight hours today to the consideration of the Alaska civil government bill, but progress was slow.

Two amendments of importance were adopted. One of them authorized the secretary of war to issue permits to excavate or dredge for gold below low water mark on the beach at Cape Nome. The secretary has heretofore issued permits, but the bill as it passed the senate cancelled them. The house also struck out the chapter relating to arrests and bail which permitted arrests in certain civil sections. The conference report on the Indian appropriation bill was adopted.

The house met at 11 o'clock today and proceeded forthwith to resume consideration of the Alaskan civil code. Amendments to the mining provisions were adopted to authorize the secretary of war to grant permits to dredge for gold below mean low water, and to provide that nothing in the act shall be construed as nullifying claims heretofore legally located. Williams (Illinois) offered an amendment to provide for a territorial delegate for Alaska. Both political parties, he said, were committed to the proposition that the territory should have a delegate in congress. Warner (Illinois), in charge of the bill, said the committee had deemed it unwise to provide for a delegate on account of the difficulty of securing an election and the shifting character of the population.

The amendment was adopted 71 to 21. An amendment offered by Wheeler of Kentucky was adopted to prevent the shipment of eggs of the crane, goose or wild duck.

Wheeler said that Alaska and Manitoba were dredging grounds and this was an attempt to protect these wild towns.

Bartlett moved that all the provisions of the bill relating to arrest and bail were stricken out. Bartlett insisted that there should be no arrest for debt. "Suppose a man has \$10,000 and is about to leave for Halifax, how are his creditors to collect the debts?" asked Tongue.

"Let them go to Halifax for it," replied Bartlett, amid laughter, and the house a moment later struck out the provisions.

After completing ninety-three of the 117 pages of the bill it was agreed that a night session should be held tonight for its further consideration.

### Ate Broken Glass in Court.

A dramatic climax to the proceedings against John T. Elliot for forgery took place in the police court, when the prisoner made an attempt on his life in the police dock.

Elliot is a Bohemian, and although said to be a brother of Sir Henry Elliot and a scion of the house to which the present governor-general of Canada belongs, he has had no correspondence with his friends and his chief concern lay in concealing his disgrace from them. He confessed, when arrested at Nanaimo, that he had made up his mind to commit suicide, but concluded that such a step would only add publicity to the matter and bring it to the ears of his folks in England. It was the impression that his crime was about to be made public that finally led to the step which has placed his life in imminent danger.

Yesterday he stated to the chief, when told of the serious nature of his crime, that he was at the fog end of a mispent life anyhow. He also inquired of the magistrate what the penalty for forgery was, and was informed that the maximum penalty was life imprisonment.

When the case was called in the police court it was noticed that Elliot kept his attention rivetted upon Mr. Geo. Powell, who was employed as counsel in a case which was to be called after that of Elliot. Mr. Powell was writing letters in the interim, and Elliot jumped to the conclusion, as he afterwards confessed, that Mr. Powell was a reporter, and that his alleged offence was about to be paraded before the public.

He had decided previously what he would do in certain given circumstances, and the spectators noticed that he began to take something from his pockets and transfer it to his mouth, crunching it meanwhile in a manner

which indicated that it was a hard substance.

At this point the witness then in the stand concluded his evidence, and the court mentioned that he would call another witness.

Elliot replied: "What's the use? You don't want any more."

Magistrate Hall replied that he was bound to accept all the witnesses whom the crown offered.

The prisoner then observed slowly and deliberately: "I might as well tell you that there is a change of venue ordered in this case and that it will be before a higher assize in a few hours."

Detective Palmer had noticed that Elliot appeared to be chewing something and accordingly asked him if it was tobacco?

"I'm chewing, but it's not tobacco," responded the prisoner, and the detective's suspicions were aroused. Consequently when the prisoner made the aforementioned observation the court was startled, and after a conference with some of the members of the bar present, the man was removed from the dock, when it was found that he had been deliberately chewing broken glass in order to destroy his life. He had obtained a bottle in jail, and this was broken into pieces, which he had secreted in his pockets, and with which he hoped to circumvent the ways of justice.

Dr. Fraser was summoned to attempt to save the life of the prisoner, but the latter assured him that there was no use in doing anything as he had read a book on suicide and knew exactly how to proceed about it. The man, however, is doing well.

The offence with which he is charged is forging the name of E. B. Marvin & Co. on checks for \$37 each, passed by him at the Empire and Occidental hotels.—Victoria Times.

### Authors and Writers Galore.

With the great throng now passing through Skagway to the many attractive parts of the vast interior are many members of the newspaper profession, people who make observations and chronicles for the benefit of thousands of others not given the privilege of visiting this wonderful region. The City of Seattle, arriving Sunday brought several members of the profession.

Miss Mollie Glenn, lately editor of the woman's page on the Vancouver Province, is in the city en route to the interior. Three years ago she went to Dawson by the St. Michael route.

Mrs. Mary E. Hitchcock, who hails from the Atlantic coast, arrived on the City of Seattle en route to Atlin. She is the author of "Two Women in Klondike" and is now writing a book on Atlin. She has mining interests in Atlin, which she will work this season. Mrs. Hitchcock leaves today for a side trip to Haines to study Indian folklore and gather data for future stories.

P. J. Burde, managing editor of the Vancouver Daily Province, arrived Sunday on the steamer City of Seattle. He is on his way to Atlin on a visit. He says:

"The papers of Lower British Columbia have not paid so much attention to Atlin heretofore that they perhaps should have done, but now we wish to give the camp all the consideration it merits. The alien exclusion act hampered the situation then, but now it is different, and we hope to find the field more deserving of attention."

J. Campbell McLagan, jr., of the Vancouver Province, arrived in the city several days ago en route to Dawson.

J. T. Wilkinson, of the Vancouver Province, was in Skagway a short time ago en route to Atlin for the purpose of writing up the country for his paper. Mr. McGill, of the same paper, also visited Skagway not long ago.

D. L. Ery, late editor of the Atlin Globe is also in Skagway on a short visit. He will soon leave Bennett for Nome in the sloop Gold Seeker, in which he has an interest.

R. Roediger, one of the owners of the Dawson News, is in the city en route from his home in Tacoma to Dawson, where he will have charge of the paper. He is accompanied by Mrs. Roediger. They will leave for the interior as soon as through connections can be obtained. Mr. Roediger was formerly managing editor of the Tacoma News, and later in the customs service at Tacoma.—Alaskan.

### Will Go Mining.

Mr. C. W. Joynt, for many years with the Seattle, Lake Shore & Eastern railroad as assistant superintendent, later agent for the W. P. & Y. at Bennett, and but recently assistant traffic manager with the same company at Skagway, is in the city en route to Nome. Having thrown all the airs and cares of a railroad man to the winds, he will now seek the fortune which comes through toying with the ruby sand that skirts the Arctic sea.

The warmest and most comfortable hotel in Dawson is at the Regina.

## SHOWS ARE IN FULL SWING.

Big Houses Greet Good Entertainments at Both Theaters.

Drama and Vaudeville of Excellent Quality Attracts the Playgoers of Dawson.

Although a large proportion of the theater going people have left Dawson for the lower country there are still enough people left to pack the local play houses, as was evidenced last night. Both houses are doing a good business as far as attendance is concerned, but the merry pop of the champagne cork is far from being heard in as frequent intervals as the managers would desire. Whether this is due to lack of funds or a distaste to "shoot em' up" on the part of the one time high rollers is a matter of conjecture. The boxes still have a number of votaries, however, and the alluring smile of the dizzy blonde is still in evidence.

At the Palace Grand this week the four-act drama "Forgiveness" is produced. The entire company is cast in the play and the work of the different people was done very creditably.

In the olio Bessie Pierce did her usual contortion act. She was followed by Dick Manretius in specialties. Babette Pyne, as usual, attracted a great deal of attention and applause by her clever work. Miss Alice Fairbanks danced with her accustomed grace, followed by Garnett the singer and slack wire performer. The olio wound up with a screaming act of the O'Brien family who as usual received an ovation.

At the Orpheum the French drama, "Pit and Passion," is being produced this week under the direction of Lucy Lovell, the clever emotional actress. This is quite an innovation in the theatrical circles and is possibly accounted for by the intense agitation going on outside in favor of woman's rights, a wave of which may have dashed as far north as Dawson, engulfing the fair Lucy and imbuing within her breast ambition, with a capital A. The cast included Messrs. Layne, O'Brien, Lawrence, Breen and Traube; Miss Wolcott played Cecile and Lucy Lovell, Marie.

Cad Wilson appeared at the head of the olio and was received with delight by the audience who encored her repeatedly. She has not lost any of her magnetism and held the audience as attentively as in the old days. Wm. Malan and Nellie Howard are also new people at the Orpheum and are exceptionally clever. They presented the curtain raiser, "A Home Party." The show closed with the original act of Will Malan, "Who is Who?" a screaming farce which the audience heartily enjoyed.

### An Unserved Capias Warrant.

Wm. A. Boyce is a Nome-bound pilgrim who did not herald his departure from the housetops nor cry it in the streets of the city. On the contrary, William departed as quietly and surely as departs the glistening dewdrops from a pansy blossom before the forenoon sun.

Boyce was indebted to Mrs. Helen Ross in the sum of \$298, and her attorneys, Burritt & McKay, were endeavoring to collect that amount. Boyce sent an ambassador to deal with the attorneys and if possible, effect a compromise. The agent's overtures were not favorably received, and the attorneys for Mrs. Ross, fearing that Boyce would leave on the Seattle No. 3, which was to sail shortly, had a capias warrant issued at 8 o'clock last night. Sheriff Ellbeck took the warrant and sallied forth to serve, but the wily William was not to be found. While his ambassador who had been entertaining Mrs. Ross and her attorneys with a proposition to compromise the debt, William was quietly embarking in a small boat and heading for the arctic circle.

And this is why Sheriff Ellbeck still has in his possession an unserved capias warrant.

### Consular Invoices Necessary.

Considerable trouble is caused to steamboat men and shippers alike by the ignorance of the latter in matters pertaining to freight destined for an American port and loaded at Dawson.

By a recent ruling of the U. S. treasury department all goods to the value of \$100 or over which are shipped from a foreign country to the U. S. requires a consular invoice to accompany the same. The charge is \$2. It is necessary also to make export entry in the Canadian customs, and for this a charge is fixed of \$2.50. The latter covers all goods no matter of what value. Goods manufactured in the U. S. and upon which duty has been paid once is not subject to duty charges when reaching the port of entry, but all other goods are subject to duty unless special provision has been made for the particular character of goods imported.

## The Klondike Nugget

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(DAWSON'S PIONEER PAPER)  
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### WHY WONT THEY?

A condition confronts the Yukon territory of which the government may well take cognizance. Men are leaving Dawson by hundreds for the lower country. Every steamer that has thus far gone has been loaded to its fullest capacity, and others which are shortly to sail will be similarly crowded. It cannot be said that the population is being attracted away from the Yukon territory by reason of any well-founded belief that richer or more extensive diggings have been discovered on the other side of the line. On the contrary, it is the universal opinion both among men who have left and those who remain that in respect to the richness of its deposits of placer gold the Yukon territory is surpassed by very few, if by any, mining camps in the world.

The explanation for the present situation must be sought in the laws which so hedge the individual about and cramp his efforts that but little encouragement is left him to attempt anything either in the way of establishing the existence of new deposits of gold or in developing the districts already known to be gold bearing.

If the local representatives of the government have in the past felt any doubt as to the effect upon the country of the present vicious and wholly unsatisfactory system of regulations such doubt should be entirely eradicated from their minds by the object lessons which the departure of every steamer for the lower country is furnishing.

We are unable to understand how the Yukon Council can sit idly by and watch the richest portion of Canada's possessions become rapidly depopulated and not even raise a voice in protest. The Ottawa authorities must certainly look to the local council for some suggestions as to matters of policy toward the Yukon, and if over there was a time when such suggestions are required that time is right now. The councilmen; notwithstanding the fact that they are appointees of the Minister of the Interior, might for once act in accordance with their own knowledge and convictions and send down to Ottawa a clear statement of fact with reference to present conditions in this territory and the causes which have brought them about.

If they are not absolutely bereft of reason, they should be able to see what is patent to every one else in the country, viz.: the laws are slowly but surely sapping the life blood from this territory.

The council should impress this fact upon the Ottawa authorities in a manner so certain that no mistake could longer be possible.

### THE PERMANENT ERA.

The work of the pioneer in developing the Alaskan peninsula will be given an impetus this summer which will have a marvelous effect ultimately in determining the extent of the resources the big territory possesses. Thousands upon thousands of men will be landed on the beach at Nome, and from there many of these who fail to realize their expectations will scatter up the various tributaries of the Yukon in an endeavor to make up for the ill luck which meets them at Nome.

Already, to a greater or less extent, many of these side streams are known to be gold bearing,

and enough of a population will come in this summer to fairly prospect a large portion of them. It appears, therefore, that the era of permanent things has begun for Alaska. From this time on indefinitely there will be a steady growth in population and a constant increase in consumption of all classes of commodities, which must necessarily be brought in from outside points. Alaska will afford a market for the surplus products of the Pacific coast, which means to the coast cities a degree of commercial activity which will increase with each succeeding year.

The future never looked so bright for Seattle and the other cities of Puget Sound as it does today. They are all enjoying a large measure of business prosperity, due to a very great extent to the immense trade which the northern gold discoveries have already created. That trade may now be regarded as established and permanent. Alaska will never consume a less amount of goods than she did last year. In that fact lies the key to the entire solution. The prosperity which the sudden springing up of the Alaskan trade has brought to the cities of the Pacific coast is not for a day, but must be for an indefinite length of time.

Notwithstanding the continuance of general financial prosperity throughout the states, an occasional heavy failure is announced, which serves to indicate that stock markets are uncertain matters, even in a time when, generally speaking, every one has money to invest. The latest big firm to go upon the financial rocks is that of Price, McCormack & Co. of New York, who failed on May 25th with liabilities amounting to \$13,000,000. The firm has assigned and is endeavoring to straighten out its difficulties with its creditors.

The gold belt adjacent to the Yukon river is undoubtedly the most extensive in the world. The precious metal is known now to be present in greater or less quantities along its entire length. With the influx of people now pouring into the lower country the possibilities for development during the next five years are wonderful. With the handicap of restrictive legislation renewed the Canadian portion of the Yukon valley would already contain a population of not less than 100,000 people.

The town is still pretty well filled with stray dogs, whose masters leave them to eke out a miserable existence during the months when they cannot be worked. A few mangy animals, have communicated the disease to others, and the streets are overrun with the brutes. A man who will turn a dog which has worked for him all winter long out to starve when summer comes again is possessed of meanness which beggars description.

Africa will attract an immense amount of capital for investment as soon as it is definitely known that the war has ceased and law and order thoroughly established again in the country, which has been the scene of such hard and prolonged fighting. However, it appears that the end is not yet, although Kruger is reported as a fugitive in no less than a dozen different places.

### A Crowded Scow.

C. L. Peabody, a well-known Skagwayite, arrived yesterday, having stood on the quarter deck of a scow all the way from Bennett. The scow was loaded with 36 tons, six head of beef cattle, five men and three women. Capt. Peabody congratulates himself on landing his craft safely.

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