

FIRST MATE SILAS TALKS.

He Says the Ice Will Go Out in One Week More.

Bases His Assertion on Present Indications and Observations Covering Many Years.

(From Friday's Daily.) Although not their chief, the Indians of Moosehide look upon Silas as a sort of first mate; and as Chief Isaac is inclined to be somewhat frivolous, the tribesmen look to Silas to pilot their ship of state on the turbulent sea of life.

Silas is perhaps 40 years of age, but his appearance indicates that his winters have not alternated with summers; in fact, Silas looks as though his life had been all one long winter of discontent with but little seasoning in it. To Silas has been allotted a large share of the philosophy which has ever characterized the red race. Being in every sense a child of nature, he is a profound student of nature and from his observations is able to draw deductions, the logic of which would do credit to men who have devoted their lives to delving in the archives of scientific research.

In view, therefore, of the scientific bent of Silas' mind, it is not surprising that he should entertain views of his own on the all important question: When will the ice move out down the river? The first mate was up to the city yesterday, having accompanied his wife who desired to purchase a spring bonnet and inquire at the news stands regarding the arrival of fashion magazines. When approached by a Nugget representative and questioned relative to the momentous question—that of the ice—he assumed a look that would not have done discredit to an ancient day seer, and said:

"What I do not know about the history and habits of the Yukon can not be learned this side of the grave. I know all that my forefathers knew, besides that which I have picked up in my own checkered life. My father lived for many years after the sera was on his pumpkin, and to him it was given to be wise in the lore of the country. But my father did not know half so much about the spring habits of the river as I do, for the reason that he was not required to study them. For many years of his life he had a never-failing harbinger, and just two days after the coming of the harbinger the ice in the river would go out."

Here Silas paused and looked intently at a hole in the toe of one of his shoes. "Go on," said the knight of Faber, No. 2.

"Give me a dollar," said Silas, a gleam of intelligence revealing itself in the smile which curled his upper lip and cracked a couple of cold sores, as he placed the silver in the interior realms of his pants.

"The messenger which always foretold to my father the exact date of the going out of the ice was a bull moose that never failed to walk down the bed of Moosehide creek and take a drink from the water running along the edge of the Yukon just two days before the ice would go out. That moose never missed a spring for 41 years. The spring after my father wrapped the drapery of his couch around him and laid down to pleasant dreams the moose never came, and the ice did not go out that year until the 35th day of July."

"I have," continued Silas as he rose, stamped the ground volently with his left foot, which had seized the opportunity to go asleep, "nothing but my own scientific deductions on which to base my prognostications. Do you follow me? Ah, good! I have made these deductions, and am now able to state definitely the day and date on which those optic-offending piles of garbage on the river in front of the city will start northward. Give me a dollar, Tanks! Today is Friday, the 4th; on next Friday, the 11th, at seventeen minutes past four, by the fire bell, in the afternoon the ice will start. I can also impart some startling information regarding the damage that will be done by a jam, but it will take more than a dollar to get it."

And Silas, who has a smattering knowledge of the French language, said "Olive oil," as he hastened away to join his wife who just then appeared coming down the street with a large hatbox under each arm.

An Advertising Dodge.

At a meeting of an upper west side political club a few nights ago, after the chairman had asked if there were any remarks on a question before the house, a long silence was broken by a man who arose and said that he would

like to say a few words. He was young, with a face not overattractive, and his clothes were seedy. He attacked the unimportant local subject with the ferocity of an orator upon whose words the fate of nations might have hung. He talked glowingly, continuously and uninterruptedly for many minutes, and in that time he managed to be on both sides of the question at once.

It was evident that he did not want to offend either the supporters or the opponents of the measure. He went back into history and quoted authorities upon abstruse topics, which he managed somehow to make fit the trivial issue. In the course of his remarks he repeated many times the phrase "Now, I, as a lawyer, believe so and so," or, varying it, said: "My friends come to me and say, 'Mr. Blank, what is your position on this question?'" As a lawyer I answer that it appears to me so and so."

When the man sat down, no burst of applause greeted his efforts, but that did not seem to disturb him. Investigation led to the discovery that he was one of a class of men who belong to numerous small political organizations for the purpose of advertising their business at the meetings. The words, "I, Mr. Blank," and "I, as a lawyer," form the key to the method employed.

The hearers are left in no doubt as to the man's pursuit, and there is always a chance that at the meeting some one will be present who will need legal assistance and may be deceived into the belief that the orator is a man of standing in the legal profession. As long as the man's remarks are in order the chairman cannot suppress him. He is looked on, however, as one of the evils to be shunned, and when he gets up to speak those in the secret are weighed down with despair and helplessness. — New York Tribune.

An Ostrich Policeman.

On a Florida ostrich farm one of the birds acts as watchman. This ostrich, who has been dubbed Napoleon, patrols the camp, giving at intervals a cry which may be said to mean "All's well." If anything alarms him, he at once communicates it to his companions by a series of yells as he advances to the attack.

Napoleon stands nearly ten feet high and weighs upward of 400 pounds. He is a savage bird, of unusual intelligence. At night he is unusually ferocious, and often his keeper is obliged to stand off. To see the keeper, force Napoleon back to his pen in the morning with a large fork is one of the sights of the ostrich farm. The enormous bird screeches with rage and strikes out with his feet, but all the while slowly giving way.

One night the farmhands were awakened by the roars of Napoleon and the agonizing shrieks of a human being. Rushing to the pens they saw the ostrich chasing a negro. The negro made an effort to get over the fence, when the bird struck him a glancing blow on the thigh, which ripped it open and exposed the bone. For a time it was thought the poor peasant thief would bleed to death. The fame of this episode has naturally caused the peasants' quarters to be shunned by other depredaters. — Brooklyn Eagle.

On the Stage.

The many thousands in this country who have read Mr. Sheldon's story "In His Steps"—mainly, of course, and with a quaint significance in cheap editions, which, in defiance of the principal underlying the law of copyright, have not brought a single penny to the author, will be interested to know how "The Better Life," the play based upon the widely-read tale, appealed to an Adelphi audience tonight. The Sheldonian idea, of course, is no new one, for the late Mrs. Lynn Linton, a full quarter of a century ago showed with lurid light in "The True History of Joshua Davidson"—a title which always demands a second keen thought—how the idea of the Christ as portrayed in the New Testament would appeal to a materialistic modern world. But a far greater than Mrs. Lynn Linton had anticipated the cardinal idea upon which the book is based; and the episode of Jean Valjean and the good bishop's silver candlesticks in "Les Miserables," rendered immortal by Victor Hugo, can scarcely be effaced from the memory by even so effective a first act, reproducing, with slight variations, this very tale as that of "The Better Life." Yet, even when all allowance is made for these echoes of a greater past, the fact stands that the play—daring in its application of the principles of an extreme Christian socialism to the complex civilization of today—cannot but command serious attention. — Exchange.

Weather Report.

The maximum temperature for the 24 hours preceding 9 o'clock this morning was 61 degrees above zero. The minimum temperature during the same period of time was 30 degrees above.

AFTER SENATOR PERKINS.

Who Wants Alaska's Capital to Stay at Sitka.

Skagway Business Men Accuse Him of Being Prompted by Selfish Motives.

Understanding that Senator George E. Perkins, of California, has been working for the retention of the capital of Alaska at Sitka, the business men of Juneau and Skagway have taken no uncertain exception to his course, and have addressed to him protests declaring emphatically that they consider such action as he is understood to have taken to be inimical to the best interests of Southeastern Alaska.

In the Skagway protest it is stated that it is impossible to dissociate the public position of the senator from that of his private position of the Pacific Coast Steamship company, which has a service to Sitka.

The Skagway protest has been forwarded to the senator. The signatures at the bottom of the document represent thirty-five of the leading and most important business firms of Skagway. The protest, void of superscriptions and signatures, follows:

"We, the undersigned merchants of the city of Skagway, Alaska, are in favor of the removal of the capital of Alaska from Sitka to Juneau, Alaska. We expressed our desires in this matter through our delegates at a territorial convention held in Juneau, and later at a mass meeting of the citizens of Skagway held February 3, 1900, copies of the resolutions passed at which were duly forwarded to you. Also, the facts being personally known to you that the removal of the capital to Juneau would be a great convenience and the saving of much time and expense to the men of this city desirous of doing any legal business, we feel bound to express our surprise at the position you have taken in regard to the same in the United States senate, which amounts to an opposition of such removal and a disregard of the wishes of the people of Skagway."

"Further, it must also be within your personal knowledge that the people of Southeastern Alaska, with the exception of Sitka, is in favor of the removal of the capital to Juneau, and that your position in regard to the same is in direct opposition to the will of the people of this whole section."

"Under these circumstances it is scarcely possible to dissociate your public position as senator from your private position as head of the Pacific Coast Steamship company, and we must therefore regard the latter as representing interests which are inimical to those of this port and those of Southeastern Alaska and take action accordingly. For the consideration of such action we have herewith signed our names, this ninth day of April, 1900." — Alaskan.

Speed on the Ocean.

In the last sixty years the speed of ocean steamers has been increased from eight and a half to twenty-one and a half knots an hour. Ships have been more than trebled in length, about doubled in breadth, and increased tenfold in displacement. The number of passengers carried by a steamship has been increased from about one hundred to nearly two thousand. The engine power has been made forty times as great, while the rate of coal consumption per horse power per hour is now only about one-third what it was in 1840. The weight of the machinery per horse power has also been very greatly reduced. Were the engines of the Campania proportionately as heavy as those in use sixty years ago, they would weigh about 14,000 tons. In other words, machinery, boilers and coal would exceed the total weight of the ship as she floats today. There could not be a more striking illustration than this, says Popular Science Monthly, of the close relations between improvements in maritime engineering and high speed.

Clearing the River Bed.

The bed of the river fronting the upper part of the city on which all winter there has been a number of ice, small boats and little steamers, is now being cleared of all these preparatory to the expected early breaking up of the ice. The craft is all being hauled out to the bank except in cases of disabled scows which are being converted into fuel. The object is to remove all hindrance to the departing of the ice, and to save the craft from the destruction to which it would surely be doomed if allowed to remain where it lay during the winter.

The Klondike Nugget

(DAWSON'S PIONEER PAPER) ISSUED DAILY AND SEMI-WEEKLY. ALLEN BROS. Publishers

DEFEAT WILL RESULT.

Admiral Dewey bids fair to go down in the history of his country as another example of a career ruined by overweening ambition.

When Dewey returned from the Philippines, he was the cherished idol of an entire nation. He had won a splendid victory for that nation, and a grateful and admiring people vied with each other in doing him honor. His progress through the country was a succession of triumphs. Holidays were voted, magnificent receptions were arranged, and men high in all walks of life hastened to pay homage at the shrine of the man who was regarded over the entire country as a typical American hero.

Had Dewey been content with honors which were justly his, he need never have doubted his hold upon the hearts of his countrymen.

The American people are not ungrateful for services rendered them by their great men, but they have a discriminating appreciation of the eternal fitness of things, which may be offended only with disastrous results.

Dewey, the hero of Manila, resting upon his laurels, was a popular idol, entitled to and accorded universal worship.

But Dewey, endeavoring to use those laurels as a lever with which to elevate himself to the presidency, finds himself in a decidedly different and, in fact, exceedingly uncomfortable position.

The national sense of propriety has been shocked, and Dewey has, in consequence, fallen from the position of high esteem which he formerly occupied. There is no probable combination of circumstances which can land him in the presidency, and should he, in the face of the storm of disapproval which his recent action has evoked, insist upon becoming a candidate, ignominious defeat must almost absolutely result.

A CAPITAL "C."

Our valued contemporary, the News, in discussing the local situation, last night, expressed the opinion that "united Conservative action" only will bring about the reforms which the people of the territory have so long and vainly sought. In view of the fact that our contemporary has on several occasions agreed with the Nugget that political considerations should be kept out of the present reform movement, we are surprised that it should, at this critical juncture, so completely back-track upon its convictions.

We had been in hopes that the citizens' movement would be carried forward without the element of politics cropping out. As far as the citizens' committee is concerned, the Nugget is positively aware that this has been done. What object, therefore, the News hopes to attain by its implied suggestion to make the needs of this territory a political issue, is more than we are able to understand.

We want united action, true enough. But we do not want that action confined to Conservatives. It must include adherents of all parties and men of all nations, who are interested in the welfare and advancement of the Yukon Territory.

In order that no doubt should be left as to its meaning, our contemporary took particular pains, in the article referred to

above, to spell the word "Conservative" with a capital "C," thus eliminating the explanation that the term was intended merely to limit the word "action," and did not refer to the present opposition party.

No suggestion of politics should be entertained for a moment. A division of our citizens at this time upon political lines would be fatal to the success of a movement in which all are equally interested. United action we want, and must have, without limiting it to any party, creed or nationality.

IMPROVED TELEPHONE SYSTEM.

Dawson will, in a very short while, boast of a telephone system as extensive and complete as could possibly be desired. The telephone company has determined to place the system upon a thoroughly up-to-date basis, and has succeeded most admirably in so doing.

In spite of a great many discouragements, the promoters of the company have taken up the work of perfecting their service with a will, and are meeting with eminently deserved success.

The telephone, as a factor in the transactions of modern business life, occupies a position of continually increasing importance. It has become one of the necessary features in the equipment of store or office, neither of which, in places of any pretension on the outside, are complete without a 'phone. The same thing should be equally true of Dawson. A telephone is of advantage only when the service is in general use. With all business houses availing themselves of the facilities offered by the company, each 'phone becomes of increased value to the individual subscriber, and at the same time the company will be enabled to furnish them at a decreased rate.

The determination on the part of the management to give Dawson a telephone service on a par with that usually found in cities of much larger size, is an exhibition of public spirit which, to our way of thinking, is justly entitled to recognition and support.

IN AID OF OTTAWA.

The movement looking toward the subscription of a fund to be contributed to the relief of the sufferers from the Ottawa fire will meet with hearty support in Dawson.

Our little city has felt the hand of the fire fiend sufficiently often for us to know that substantial sympathy will be appreciated in Ottawa by the hundreds who have been rendered homeless. The committee which has undertaken the good work may rest assured that the community stands behind them and will forward the movement in every possible manner.

The noise of hammer and saw is heard so frequently in the air these days that one is led to conclude that there are still some people in Dawson who believe the town has a future before it. The fact that thousands upon thousands of dollars have been invested in new buildings during the past sixty days rather lends color to the belief. Were Nome as fabulously rich as has been reported, it would have no permanent effect on Dawson. This town is built upon the solid foundations of immense natural resources, which guarantee it an indefinitely prolonged existence.

Special Power of Attorney forms for sale at the Nugget office.
Carbon paper for sale at the Nugget office.

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Trading Posts
Alaska
St. Michael
Andreofsky
Anvik
Nulato
Tanana
Minook (Rampart)
Fort Hamlin
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Baths Each Floor
Durs a Day, Medical Attendance Extra.
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Week of Monday, Apr. 30
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TERRIBLE MISTAKE
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Special Engagement of the Talented Actress
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our Vaudeville Artists - New Songs
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