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PHONE 262

We read that Governor Clark is "strong for Orr." Sure thing.

A lady residing in Ketchikan has written an article in favor of home rule for Alaska. Who more compet nt to judge of the merits of home rule than a woman?

The people of Prince Rupert have recently passed an ordinance fixing the amounts to be paid for liquor licences. We suppose it will be known as the Beverage bill.

No doubt about the congress just over passing into history, as the News-Miner remarks; nor, we may add, is there any doubt that most of the Republicans who composed it will shortly pass into merited oblivion.

It is rumored that Roosevelt is going to start a new party. If true it is merely a piece of political trickery, and will deceive none. The new party would be but a reflex of the old, under a new and probably high-sounding name.

If the rumor should turn out to be correct, the initials "T. R." would have a new significance. They would then mean, "Theodore, Rex." In that event Teddy's armorial bearings would be a roughrider, rampant, slaying a bear. His motto would probably be "It pays to advertise.'

The selection of Ed. S. Orr, as the Republican standard-bearer is not so illogical as it would appear at first sight. The Republicans doubtless think that Mr. Orr's long experience in skinning mules in Alaska peculiarly fits him to argue the point with legislative asses at Washington.

The price of beef to the consumer has increased 50 per cent under the Republican tariff in 12 years, although stock breeders receive the same price for a steer ($80) that they received in 1898. It is said that the packers receive $400 for a steer dressed for market. When will the people of the United States realize that they are being fooled?

Dealing with the extreme heat at St. Louis, Wednesday's Times said that Old Nick himself would prefer Hades. Certainly, he would. "There's no place like home" probably appeals to his Satanic majesty as much as to the rest of us. Even apart from that a dry heat is endurable, and, so far as we can learn, no person in Hell has ever been known to complain of an excess of moisture there.

The editor of the Times says that there is a fitness in the sending of a man named Orr as a representative from a mining country. Well, there certainly is something in the suggestion. If there is one thing that we have enough of and to spare in Alaska it's ore, base and otherwise, and we might as well send out some of the surplus. The fitness in selecting Mr. Orr thus becomes apparent. We can label him; 'Exhibit A: Sample of Alaska Orr, picked up on the Valdez-Fairbanks trail. This specimen is below par."

A Citizen representative asked an an experienced prospector to name the most serious drawback to the development of Alaska's enormous mineral wealth. He replied: "The principal drawback to this country is a lack of sufficient epxerienced quartz men to demonstrate what the country contains in the mineral line. What we need is more qualified prospectors and liberal financial assistanee to enable them to go into the hills and prospect." This is undoubtedly true, and is worthy of the consideration of capitalists, large and small. Many a grub-stake has led to fortune.

DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM.

The full text of the platform adopted by the Democratic convention, held at Juneau on May 26, is now to hand, and we are enabled to examine the document in detail.

In both substance and form the platform is a veritable Declaration of Independence; and we submit that a more comprehensive, enlightened and progressive program has never before been laid before the people of Alaska. The document shows more than careful labor; it shows also keen political insight and a sound knowledge of Alaska's present and future needs.

As was to be expected, the platform contains a strong denunciation of the Beveridge bill, which is declared, and with justice, to be utterly at variance with the elementary principles of liberty as understood by a free people. This view can not be too strongly urged upon all Alaskans. Administration pets are not wanted in the North. What we want, and what we shall insist upon having, is complete control of our own affairs; nothing else will do.

The iniquity of the attempt of the administration to hand over our natural resources to monopolists is next dwelt upon, and also the injustice of the wood tax. In this latter connection it may be of interest to our readers to know that it costs TEN dollars to collect every ONE dollar of this tax, such is the extravagance of Washington methods of dealing with this country.

The platform advocates roads and railroads, more lighthouses, and better postal and telegraphic communication throughout the country. In speaking of railroads, the platform specifically advises that the control and regulation of the same should remain forever in the hands of the people, as in the case of Texas, for instance; and that the bonded indebtedness should be limited to the actual cost of construction. This would prevent over-capitalization, with all its attendant evils of extortionate rates for freight and passengers.

The Republican party receives a severe rebuke for not correcting the abuses of the mining law, and the Democratic candidate is pledged to active and earnest effort to abolish the present methods of staking by power of attorney and to insist upon the performance of assessment work equal to $100 for every 20 acres staked, including those claims staked in associations.

The operation of the road tax is declared to work a hardship upon the poor man by compelling him to pay more than his fair share of the tax, and the Republican party is explicitly charged with passing an act to relieve the Fish trust from all taxation.

A clause in the platform favors the enactment of laws regulating the hours of labor, and insuring adequate protection to the lives and health of all employes; but declares emphatically that there is no hope of obtaining the enactment of such laws at Washington, where they do not understand local conditions, and, in any case, are not sufficiently interested to care.

The platform closes with a denunciation of the Republican administration for its attempt to deprive the people of Alaska of their inherent rights, declaring such tactics to be an insult to our manhood and intelligence. Each state and territory regulates its own affairs, and why not Alaska? Our own men, working in our own country, can manage our affairs far better than a bureau of irresponsibles at Washington, who only succeed to office through nepotism or at the dictation of the corporations.

After reading the platform carefully, everybody must be convinced that the election of a Democrat to congress would mean the commencement of a new age for Alaska.

THE SIGNAL CORPS.

The annual report of the chief signal officer of the United States army has the following to say regarding the enlisted men quartered in Alaska:

"The men of the Signal Corps, assisted by men from the line of the army, have cheerfully and faithfully performed their duties in the operation of the lines and the maintenance of communication throughout the year.

"A noticeable improvement is apparent in the zeal and efficiency of all the station men, particularly among the men detailed from the line for duty as repair men. This is believed to be directly traceable to the allowance of extra pay now authorized for all men serving on the telegraph lines, and is an eminently just reward for men engaged in this service.

"The health of the enlisted men in Alaska has been excellent. Two accidental deaths occurred during the year, due to the severity of the climate."

On May 27 last a message was sent to the Times which purported to be a summary of the Platform adopted by the Democratic convention then being held at Juneau.

We do not blame the local Times office for the lie that was contained therein, because the falsification may have taken place at the other end of the line; but we believe the deception to have been intentional on the part of [illegible].

The Times reported [illegible]: "A denunciation of all democratic appeals to the laboring men to oppose capital."

Such a construction would lead the reader to believe that the platform merely denounced [illegible] whereas its intent was [illegible] all who tried to mislead by promising what they could not perform.

What the platform actually says (see last paragraph but one of the platform) is that the Democratic party does not believe that proper legislation for Alaska can be obtained except through the medium of a locally elected assembly; and it denounces as humbugs all those who, in order to get votes, try to get the Workingmen to believe otherwise.

Washington people do not know enough about Alaska to legislate for it, and never will.

DOOLEY ON CANDIDATES.

(Consolidated.)

Hinnissy, said Mr. Dooley, if there's a counthry in the wur-r-ld that's as well protected against political troubles as our's it's not to be found on any av the maps. Ye've heered what a great trouble its for th' interstate commerce commission to prevent th' states an' territories from abusin' th' corporations that give men and their families the chanct to earn for thimselves an honest bit to ate.

Well, sir, there's bin some great doctors in Washington, D. C., lookin' into oor case, an' they're all in wan mind, an' they says, says they, there's no danger whativer that we'll iver want their assistance, becaze it's their opinion that we are what is called "a non-contagious territory," and we'll niver be sick wid enny av thim terrible diseases that afflict the other parts av the counthry.

Hinnissy, it's a gr-r-eat thing to know that whin ye lay down at night ye won't rise in the mornin' and find that congriss hasn't been cuttin' down th' freight rates. Hinnissy, I tell ye it is a pleasure to know that whativer sickness we suffer from, we'll niver be afflicted wid contagious diseases from th' outside.

Dooley, who d'ye think to be th' best man to be sint out to th' docthers to thank thim fer th' gr-r-eat trouble they've lifted off oor minds?

Hinnissy, if there's a man in th' whole counthry that it wud plase thim to grip be th' fist it's Billy, becaze y'know, Hinnissy, iv there's anything that plazes a gr-r-eat man, it's to make th' acquaintance av other great men, and ye must agree, Hinnissy, Billy's a great man (in a small way). Hinnissy, Billy's a man of few wurruds, but he says thim so often that ye can niver forget thim. And y'know, Hinnissy, Billy's a self-made man, an' that'll be a great feather in his cap, even if they should find out that th' job isn't quite finished.

Billy's a man that's not a bit afraid of wurruk. Whin he come here a couple av years ago, says he, "I've come to this counthry," says he, "to wurruk." [illegible] So he rolls up his sleeves and tackles an' fight. But, Hinnissy, it happened that he went to wurruk for a man that didn't understand his ways, and he wasn't willin' to learn. So says he to Billy, "You're too swift for this job. I can't find a man in th' counthry that's willin' to ride wid ye, so ye'd better git some slower occupation."

"Faith, and I will," says Billy, "iv ye don't want to keep me, I'll not stay wid ye another minnit. I'm a man," says Billy, "that can talk a long time and nobody is any the wiser fer it. And I can be wise widout goin' to much trouble to get information, and that's enough to make a lawyer av me. And th' first thing th' rest of us knows Billy is a lawyer, wid his pocket full of other people's troubles.

Now, Hinnissy, just to fill in his time to-day, and to buy himself a wee bit o' bacca once in a while, Billy went to lookin' up bad debts. Says Billy, "There's only one fir-r-m in town doin' a 50 per cent catch-as-catch-can collecting business, and I'm goin' to make him share it wid me." So he did, Hinnissy. Billy takes the 50 per cent, and he lets the creditor take the catch-as-catch-can.

D'ye think, Dooley, Billy an' Wick will ever be frinds agin, afther th' fallin' out they had last fall?

There's no tellin' what Wick'll do when Taft ties him to a tin can and turns him loose on th' people of Alasky. He may take Billy fer a frind and he may take him fer an inimy, iv the terrible dreams that he has had in Washington pass over and leave him in a natural state of mind. I'm thinkin' it'll go hard with Billy, because Wick belaves Billy hit him below th' belt th' last toime they came togither.

Y'see, Hinnissy, Wick is a man that can niver forget. Iv ye're not smart enough to see th' gr-r-eat things he does for this counthry, an' when Wick was going to Washington, along comes Abe, an' says, "Wick, you an' me was alwiz frinds," says he. "Y' know it was me thet put ye where ye are, an' I've got a requist to ask ye." "Out wid it," says Wick, "an iv it's in my power to do it I'm not th' man to say no." "Then," says Abe, "there's a poor little divil of a printer that once wurruked wid me on th' same job, an' I'd like ye to do somethin' fer him," says Abe. "Ye mane Barney," says Wick. "I'll take him to Washington wid me and I'll give him a chanct to lose his repatation an' make a man av hisself agin, and whin he writes iv me gr-r-eat victries back to th' people he'll have a chance to let thim miners know they're the last av all his troubles."

Now, y'know, Hinnissy, when Billy and Wick were havin' a heart to heart talk last fall about th' great things Wick had done, Billy never let it be known that he knew ennything about it, and see it wouldn't look good fer Wick to tell it himself. I tell ye, Hinnissy, it's enough to make a fergivin' nature like Wick's want to git square wid th' man that would try to keep th' people in th' dark, whin he should have bin more just an' generous.

GUGGS IN THE IDITAROD.

Along with the first of the open-water stampeders was Three-fingered Bob Martin, known for a long time in interior Alaska, who was just from the outside. He said he had ground in the Iditarod under bond to the Guggenheims for $100,000. Later a Mr. Jaffa, claiming to represent the Guggenheims, passed down in a launch, and it was given out that he was to inspect the ground and pass upon it for his company. If the deal goes through Martin will get a snug sum of easy money.—Tanana Leader.

R. C. WOOD, Pres. LUTHER C. HESS, V. P. GEO. HUTCHINSON, Cashier

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