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ALASKAN AFFAIRS

Report of Governor Willford B. Hoggatt Made Public.

COAL FIELDS DEVELOPMENT

Territory Passed a Quiet Year in Development of Resources Without Any Marked Incidents Occurring.

(By The Associated Press.)
Washington, D. C., Dec. 22.—Early development of the great fields of Alaska in order that states on the Pacific slope may be furnished with a high grade coal at less cost than the product now brought half way around the world and that the warships of the United States navy in the Pacific may be provided with a first class fuel of American production, is advocated by Governor Willford B. Hoggatt, of Alaska, in his annual report for this year before he is succeeded by Governor Walter E. Clark.

Alaska, according to Governor Hoggatt, passed a year of quiet development of its resources and without any marked incidents to excite unusual interest. The population remained practically the same, there having been a redistribution but no gain. Commerce between Alaska and the United States increased, satisfactory experiments in raising grain and cattle were made and the mining industries were successful and without recurrence of the labor troubles, which materially interfered with operations last year.

Recommendations of importance made by Governor Hoggatt include the placing of the government under the authority of the department of justice, instead of the department of the interior as at present, a fair method of disposing of the coal lands of Alaska, the inspection of the mines by the United States geological survey in order to protect workmen, the extension to natives of Alaska of the right to acquire public lands and to hold and transmit property, appropriations for aids to mining, and the establishment of a light-house district or subdistrict with a lighthouse.

Encouragement should be given to those engaged in mining coal in Alaska, says Governor Hoggatt. "Unless a way is found to open the coal fields of Alaska, the population will decrease and the unknown resources of the country be undiscovered for an indefinite period. Coal mining can be made a permanent and profitable industry in Alaska and the establishment of camps will aid materially in the development of its resources. Mining of coal on Seward Peninsula would mean much to the people living in that section, as the cost of fuel under present conditions is very high and the consumption per capita is very great. The mineral is widely distributed throughout Alaska, and is found to be of very high grade in the Matanuska and Bering River valleys. Workable deposits are also to be found on Seward Peninsula. No titles having been secured to any coal lands in Alaska, development of the deposits has not been made. Once title to the lands is given to the local owners, development will follow rapidly, as transportation seems to be assured. Charges of fraud in the location of coal lands should be stifled and determined with expedition and relations issued to these entitled, and rejection of patents promptly made to those who have in any way violated the coal land laws relating to Alaska and the United States.

The future development of Alaska will depend very largely upon all the year-around easy communication between the coast and the interior. This naturally depends upon transportation facilities. There seems to be a decided business reason to warrant the construction of railroads from the coast to the Bering river and Matanuska coal fields, and to the copper mines in the Alaskan range of mountains. Beyond these points there is no present business to warrant capital invested in constructing railroads. Sufficient knowledge of feasible routes from the coast to the interior I believe is now being determined, and it is to be obtained by the government through a board of army and railroad engineers, who should determine upon the most feasible routes in the interior and upon such lines as should be built for the development of Alaska. When the work of this board is completed the government should secure the construction of the railroads in a similar manner to that adopted for the construction of railroads in the States. It is to be noted that a railroad is to be built from the coast of Alaska to the Yukon valley, it will be necessary for the government to have a part of the construction of a permanent line for 10 or 15 years after its construction, which period will be required for the development of the interior of Alaska to such an extent as to make the railroad self-sustaining. The money now paid for a long extensive mail service, if paid in a railroad which built, would go a long way toward its main tenance. I have, therefore, to urge that a board of army and railroad engineers be appointed for the purpose outlined above. If the government does not assume a part of the burden of interior transportation, we will have to wait for a permanent development of the interior of Alaska until such time as discoveries of phenomena mineral deposits will justify the vast capital in the construction of railroads.

If a railroad is built to the Matanuska coal fields it will establish a permanent community north of the coast and of mountains where men will have

an opportunity to earn a livelihood throughout the year, and establish a base from which they can prospect for a radius of 100 or 200 miles, within which in all probability something will be found which will justify the extension of the railroad still farther toward the interior.

Gold mining is being successfully carried on throughout the whole district," says Governor Hoggatt. "The development of recent discoveries of veins carrying high grade ore have been very encouraging, and there seems to be a revival of interest in gold-quartz mining throughout southeastern Alaska. Discoveries of quartz carrying high value have been made in the Fairbanks mining districts, and a limited amount of development work has been done with encouraging results. High grade gold ore have been discovered on the Kenai Peninsula, near Moose Pass and on Willow creek, and the best of these prospects are being developed. Placer mining continues in a small way in southeastern Alaska and the beach at Cape Yaktag and in Cook inlet. This character of mining continues throughout the Yukon valley, and activities in the Fairbanks district continue unabated. Increased interest is shown in the prospecting in the Seward and Kuskokwim valleys, and encouraging reports are made of these districts. A large number of prospectors and miners are in these districts, and it is hoped that developments in the new territory will be sufficiently rapid to maintain the production of gold for several years. On the Seward Peninsula drift mining is giving way to dredging and hydraulic mining.

Governor Hoggatt recommends a law to diminish the controversies over the ownership of placer claims or to diminish the evils which have grown up under the practice of staking unlimited numbers of claims by individuals or through power of attorney, and providing that eight times the amount of work to be performed upon a single claim to constitute ownership for one year should be performed on each association claim during the year.

MUST FACE TRIAL

Indictments Found Against Each of Wardlaw Sisters.

PRINCIPAL AND ACCESSORY

Two of Woman Are Held in New York, The Third in New Jersey—Statement of Brother-in-Law.

(By The Associated Press.)
Newark, N. J., Dec. 22.—The three mysterious Wardlaw sisters must face trial in Essex county, New Jersey, all charged with the murder of Orey W. M. Snead, the East Orange bathian victim. Much as a matter of course the Essex county grand jury filed into court at Newark this afternoon and reported that two indictments had been found against all three.

One indictment charges each of the sisters with being the principal in causing Mrs. Snead's death by drowning and charges each sister also with being an accessory. The other indictment charges the three sisters collectively with causing Mrs. Snead "to commit suicide." The three sisters are Mrs. Carolina B. Martin, mother of Mrs. Snead; Mrs. Wardlaw Snead, aunt of the victim and also her mother-in-law, and Miss Virginia Wardlaw, an aunt.

The latter is in the Essex county jail here, and the two former are in custody in New York.

The proceedings before the grand jury were brief. Chief of Police Bell of East Orange, told of finding the body; William J. Kinalry, a handwriting expert, told of the "suicide notes" he had examined, but just what he swore to was not made public, while physicians testified as to the condition of the body.

Statement by Brother-in-Law.
Palisade, Colo., Dec. 22.—In order, as he states, to stop the stories connecting him with the Snead mystery in East Orange, N. J., A. C. Snead, a brother-in-law of Orey Snead, today made a statement declaring no insurance ever had been paid on his life. The statement follows:

"The statement that an insurance policy has been paid on my life is an unqualified falsehood. In March, 1904, I took out two insurance policies on my life, each for \$1,000, in a New York company in favor of my mother, Mrs. Mary Snead. After coming to Palisade and investing in an orchard, I decided that it would be better to put less money into life insurance and more into my orchard and accordingly I let one of the policies lapse. I still carry one policy for \$1,000 in favor of my mother.

"I have never had any insurance on my life other than the two policies above mentioned, nor have I ever applied to any insurance company or fraternal order for any other insurance. The insurance company has always known where to reach me."

MEET HORRIBLE DEATHS AT HANDS OF ASSASSINS

Three High Government Officials Meet Their End In Widely Separated Parts of the World—Premier Yi, of Korea, Among the Victims.

Three high government officials, the most notable being Premier Yi, of the Korean cabinet, met horrible deaths at the hands today of political assassins. The crimes committed were in widely separated portions of the world, and include, in addition to Premier Yi, Colonel Karpoff, chief of the secret police in St. Petersburg, Russia, and Arthur M. T. Jackson, in Bombay, India, the chief magistrate of Nasik.

In Seoul, Korea, the prime minister of the Korean cabinet was stabbed to death as an apparent result of the intense feeling in Korea against Japanese influence.

Colonel Karpoff was blown to pieces by the explosion of a bomb thrown by supposedly an anarchist.

Arthur M. T. Jackson was assassinated by a native for revenge, presumably as a part of the sedition movement against British official authority. In each of the countries the governing authority is menaced by a dangerous situation, figured against the existing regime.

Premier Yi's Death.
Seoul, Korea, Dec. 22.—Premier Yi, the head of the Korean cabinet, was stabbed to death early today by Yie Chaim Young, a Korean. The attack occurred at 10 o'clock in the morning. The assailant was a young Christian who was for many years a resident of the United States. The premier was riding in his jinriksha when the assassin came up with a long knife in his hand. He drove this twice into the abdomen of the premier and once into the latter's lung. The assassin then turned on the policeman Jirikusha man, who he stabbed and instantly killed. The assassin was immediately arrested. He is a youth of about 30 years, and is believed to be a member of a political secret society.

PEARY SAYS HE MAY MAKE TRY FOR THE SOUTH POLE

REAR ADMIRAL SCHLEY WOULD HAVE PROOFS RE-SUBMITTED

IN INTEREST OF JUSTICE

Retired Naval Officer Suggests Some Scientific Body Other Than National Geographic Society.

(By The Associated Press.)
Washington, Dec. 22.—Reaffirming his complete confidence in Dr. Cook, Rear Admiral W. S. Schley, retired, today said publicly upon Commander Peary to submit his proofs that he reached the North Pole to some scientific body other than the National Geographic society. Thus, the admiral declares, should be done at once in the interest of justice, and to establish beyond question the claims of Peary.

The admiral believes that the same body which threw out and repudiated Cook's data should be permitted to pass upon the data submitted by Peary to the Geographic society. "The claims are the best posted body of men in the world on arctic matters," he said. "The constancy of the University of Copenhagen should be given the opportunity to examine the Peary proofs, for in that way they would be submitted to the same test that was applied to those of Cook."

Moreover, Admiral Schley believes that the submission of the proofs to Copenhagen should be insisted upon by Peary despite whatever the National Geographic society's attitude may be.

Admiral Schley declined to say on what grounds he took exception to the finding of the scientists of the University of Copenhagen that Cook had not been at the North Pole. He merely reaffirmed his belief in the explorer, adding that he believed also that Peary, too, had gained the top of the earth.

The importance of the admiral's demand is emphasized by the fact that he has wide experience in the far north. In 1884 he was in command of the Thetis expedition which resulted in the rescue of Lieutenant Greely and six men who had been cast away at Cape Sabine, and whom the civilized world had practically given up for lost. For this rescue Schley, then a captain in the service, was awarded a gold watch and a vote of thanks by the Maryland legislature and a medal of honor by the Massachusetts Humane society.

Members of the National Geographic society declined to discuss the suggestion of the retired naval officer. The society is still smarting under the somewhat curt reply made by the University of Copenhagen to its request that a committee representing the society be permitted to be present when Dr. Cook's data was examined.

NO LONGER INTERESTING

Explorer Nansen Says Cook Cught To Vanish From Consideration.

DEATH FOLLOWED DRINK

White Man Dead and Negro In Serious Condition.

(By The Associated Press.)
Stark, Fla., Dec. 22.—Sumner Hogan is dead, and a negro in a serious condition here from drinking whiskey that is alleged to have been poisoned. The whiskey was sent in John Bennett, a well known resident, and in the package was the following note:

"I have a friend wishing a happy Christmas. Bennett sent the negro to the express office for the package, giving him a drink upon his return. He then passed the bottle to Hogan, who drank. The bottle was next passed to Mr. Bennett's son, who drank. Presently all three were suddenly taken ill and Hogan died before medical aid reached him. The boy is better, but the negro is in a large way. The package was shipped from Havana, Fla., and the authorities are now investigating the case."

FATHER OF WOULD BE SUICIDE ARRIVED AT NORFOLK

(By The Associated Press.)
Norfolk, Va., Dec. 22.—The father of a young girl who was reported to have taken her own life, and then by shooting arrived here today from New York and has directed that nothing be left undone to save the girl's life. An operation will be performed at once by putting into her chest with the view to removing the bullet which lodged in the spot of her tongue, and which will threaten fatality.

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Washington, Dec. 22.—A wireless telegraph system will be established in the Arctic region, and will be used for the purpose of communicating with the Arctic expedition. The system will be operated by the United States Navy, and will be used for the purpose of communicating with the Arctic expedition.

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DIED SUDDENLY

Senator McLaurin of Mississippi Summoned.

FELL FROM ROCKING CHAIR

Was Dead When Members of Family Reached Him—Successor May Be Appointed By Governor Noel.

(By The Associated Press.)
Jackson, Miss., Dec. 22.—United States Senator A. J. McLaurin died suddenly tonight at his home in Brandon. Death was due to an attack of heart failure, and came without the slightest warning, at 6:30 o'clock.

When the fatal stroke came upon him, Senator McLaurin was seated in a rocking chair in front of the fireplace in his library. He suddenly fell forward, without speaking a word, and life was extinct when members of his family reached his side. The swift summons of death followed within a few moments a remark by Senator McLaurin that he was then feeling better than he had felt at any time since his recent severe illness, resulting from an attack of ptomaine poisoning.

No announcement as to the funeral arrangements had been made at a late hour tonight.

As a successor to Senator McLaurin, it is pointed out that an appointment might be immediately made by Governor Noel or selected by the state legislature, which will convene early in January.

Former Governor James K. Vardaman and Senator-elect John Sharp Williams are mentioned in connection with the selection of a successor to complete the unexpired term of the late Senator McLaurin. Several months ago Mr. Vardaman announced his candidacy for the subsequent term. Governor Noel stated tonight that he would not announce for some days as to whether he would appoint a successor to Senator McLaurin or refer the selection to the legislature, which will convene in regular session early next month. Should he make the selection, however, he stated that the names of Congressman Byrd, Rowles and Chandler and several others would be considered in connection with the appointment.

Washington, Dec. 22.—Senator McLaurin, who was 61 years old, began his first term in the United States Senate in 1894, but was elected governor of Mississippi in 1895, and served in that office four years. He was elected again to the senate in 1900, and served one term. He then returned for the term, which began on March 4, 1907. His present term of office would have expired on March 3, 1911.

Senator McLaurin was a lawyer by profession and began the study of law in 1868, after he had served through the Civil war as a private in the Confederate army. He was born on March 26, 1848, at Brandon, Miss., and was raised on a farm. He entered the Confederate army when he was 16 years old. Seven children were born to him.

When the present session of congress opened Senator McLaurin did not come to Washington because of illness. In the Senate chamber he was known as one of the strongest defenders of the constitution, but not as radical as some. He was loyal in the south, but his resources and his future, and he never failed to rise to her defense when she was assailed.

He did some active work on the Senate committee in the Mississippi river and tributaries and was a member of other important committees during those sessions, and served as a member of the interstate commerce commission and of the anti-trust commission of the United States.

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