

citizenship cases, he received one fee of \$750,000. The San Francisco *Chronicle* (Ind.) calls these disclosures "simply shocking," and observes:

"Some of the British Australasian colonies have salaried state public trustees who administer estates, big or little, which those concerned place in their hands. And the expenses are invariably nominal in comparison with the value of the estate.

"It is evident and shameful that the United States Government is unfit for such trusts. In its hands the spoliation of the Indians has gone on without interruption, under all administrations, since there have been Indian lands to deal with. Treaties have been made only to be broken."

The Washington *Times* (Ind.) thinks the reason the Indians have been willing to pay big commissions to lawyers, is because they realize that if their claims were allowed to go through "all the red-tape tangle of Government method, it would be months and years before the actual money would be forthcoming."

The New Orleans *Times-Democrat* (Dem.) wonders "that there is anything at all left for the ward after the clean-up of his property." "It is high time," says the Pittsburgh *Sun* (Ind.), "to stop lying to the Indians and make good on old and new promises." For the Government, in the words of the Boston *Advertiser* (Ind. Rep.), "is shown to be inexcusably 'slow pay.'" The Chicago *Inter Ocean* (Rep.) concludes an editorial on the subject as follows:

"In future, when some new Cooper rises to regild the fading romance of the race, it will not be the stake, the fire, running the gantlet, that will be utilized to show the fortitude of the race.

"No. The future Cooper will draw a word picture of an inflexible brave standing calmly by, with not a movement of a muscle, not a fleeting change of expression, while an Indian-claim attorney tells him how much the fee will be for his services!"

The Washington *Times*, in common with several other papers, sums the result up in this way:

"If the investigation, now being conducted, results in an awakening to our duty to him it will have been productive of good, whether or not it reveals all the inside facts concerning the charges of bribery."

THE CASE OF MR. SIBLEY

THE AMAZING agility with which Mr. Joseph C. Sibley leapt from one political eminence to another long ago earned him fame as "the Kootenay Ram of Western Pennsylvania politics." At various times, the records show, he has loomed upon the political horizon as Democrat, Populist, Prohibitionist, and Republican. Yet now, remarks a writer in the New York *Evening Post* (Ind.), he seems to stand unsteadily on the edge of a dangerous precipice which menaces more than his political life. Having spent, according to his own statement, \$42,500 in a successful fight for the Republican Congressional nomination in the Twenty-eighth Pennsylvania District, he withdrew from the contest last week on the plea of ill-health, and almost immediately afterward was arrested on a charge of "conspiracy to debauch voters." His arrest, remarks the Philadelphia *Press* (Rep.), "will explain the cause of his retirement from the Congressional race more satisfactorily to many minds than the plea of impaired health, which he himself presents as the reason." After asking pertinently why any man should pay \$42,500 for a nomination to an office in which if elected he would receive but \$15,000 as salary in his two years' term, *The Press* goes on to say:

"A great deal of money can be spent in a political campaign legitimately. Where there are no campaign committees with

sufficient money to defray the expenses, an undue share of the cost will fall upon the candidate. But it is not for the public interest that a plutocratic candidate should expend a small fortune in order to secure his election. There should be a limit to a candidate's money expenditure in his canvass for office. This country will have fallen to a low estate when a nomination or election to office is dependent on the size of the candidate's bank account and the liberality with which he draws upon it. There is too much of that now and it is time that it was checked. Mr. Sibley's distribution of \$42,500 to secure a nomination to Congress is a late and striking evidence of this evil tendency, and it has received a rebuke. Mr. Sibley will have to explain and justify his expenditure. His withdrawal as a candidate will not suffice. He was frank and apparently open in acknowledging the lavish use of money in his canvass. If he can show that he kept within the law the fact that such an expenditure can be made by a candidate legally is a good reason why the law should be made more stringent. A campaign does not always turn on high principles or clearly defined policies, but it should never be allowed to degenerate into a mere contest between money-bags."



CONGRESS IS DEAR TO HIM.

Mr. Joseph C. Sibley thinks so highly of Congress that he parted with \$42,500 just to secure a Congressional nomination.

"The reformers of the Sibley district have taken the right course in carrying their facts to the courts instead of to the newspapers," remarks the New York *Globe* (Rep.), which thinks that "we need at least one specimen of the cheerful spending school of politicians in striped clothes." The charges against Mr. Sibley and his lieutenants are instigated by the Warren County Civic League, a non-partizan reform organization. The New York *World* (Ind. Dem.) regards the incident as a vindication of the Campaign Publicity Law. We read:

"Ever since he was nominated for Congress at the primaries last June in the Twenty-eighth Pennsylvania District, ex-Representative Joseph C. Sibley has been openly charged with corruption. His arrest yesterday for debauching voters gives no room for surprise. His first statement admitting the expenditure of over \$40,000 revealed the means upon which he relied for success. Later he explained over \$2,000 in expenditures had been overlooked. Whether or not he bought every vote cast for him at the primaries, every vote so cast cost him \$4.80.

"Mr. Sibley has announced his retirement from the race for reasons of health. But retirement does not clear him of criminal charges. The effects of publicity are not so easily avoided. To have forced him to withdraw after his confession of the lavish use of money at the primaries would have been only a partial victory for honest elections. If there is evidence of corruption on his part, prosecution is the only course.

"Publicity of campaign expenditures never better justified itself. It has not only exposed an unfit candidate for Congress to universal censure, but the force of public opinion has brought him to bar. Better still, the fate that has overtaken Mr. Sibley under a law compelling publicity will serve as a general warning to all politicians of his class. Such a lesson is not easily forgotten."

Mr. Sibley declares confidently that a full and exhaustive audit of his campaign-expense account "will give me real opportunity to present my side of the case and emphatically deny the rumors that have been circulated and inspired by my political enemies."

WHAT TO DO WITH ALASKA'S MILLIONS

WHETHER to turn our capitalists loose among the untold riches of Alaska, or to bar them out entirely, or to let them forage under the restraining hand of a supposedly incorruptible government commission, is the question that seems to be agitating alike the people of Alaska, the champions of conservation, and the capitalists of Wall Street. What all agree upon is the marvelous richness of our Arctic Territory. Mr. James Wickersham, Alaska's delegate in Congress, who thinks his realm is ripe for Statehood, gives in an article in *Collier's* some striking estimates of the resources of the land he represents. Says he:

"Alaska has more gold than California and Colorado; more copper than Montana and Arizona; more coal than Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Ohio; and more fish than all other American waters combined. Her output of gold and fish for last year amounted to nearly \$32,000,000, and had increased from \$15,000,000 in 1900. Her total cash trade with the rest of the United States for 1909 amounted to more than \$52,000,000, while that between China and the United States amounted to only \$48,000,000."

"Alaska has a better climate and greater agricultural capacity than Norway, Sweden, and Finland combined. Her rich and fertile valleys are capable of supporting a much larger population than that of the three countries named, without mentioning the population which will be supported by her mines and other natural resources."

Probably few men in this country have a more thorough knowledge of Alaska's resources than Senator Guggenheim, who is suspected of having dark designs on these riches by the weekly quoted above. In an interview in *The Independent* he makes a strong plea for Alaska's development by American capital. The copper-, tin-, coal-, and gold-mines which require large plants, open highways, and railroad facilities for their profitable operation, he says, form the industries from which Alaska will get the greatest return. Not only will their development open up the country for settlement but more and more of their profits will have to be spent in Alaska for wages and local improvements. To develop these resources Senator Guggenheim believes very definitely in the liberal admission of capital. Says he:

"It has been repeated *ad nauseam* this winter that these riches belong to 'the people,' by which is generally meant the people who sit comfortably at home and not those who risk all they have, including their lives and suffer hardships incredible to the ease-loving Easterner in finding them. They do. They are Federal possessions, quite valueless till found, developed, linked with the world and made producing and profitable. Men and capital must do this work, and it is risky work for both. Both are entitled to rewards commensurate with the risk, and if Alaska is to be developed at all the interests of these pioneers must be guarded as jealously as the interests of the man at home."

Another banker who believes that the demand for conservation has gone too far in Alaska is Mr. Jacob H. Schiff, of New York. He finds that the Territory has suffered from the lack of a definite government policy. While the press generally agree with him on this point they are not so unanimous in approving his suggestion as to what that policy might be. According to news reports Mr. Schiff suggests a commission as follows:

"The demand for conservation is good enough, but it must not go as far as it does at present. Capital is readily frightened, and the fact is that population in Alaska is at present not increasing because intending immigrants do not know what they can count upon. To me it appears that Alaskan resources, especially its coal and timbers, could be developed under the control of a United States commission, something like the Interstate Commerce Commission, a body which should determine how fast coal may be taken out and timber cut, what royalty should be paid to the Government, and perhaps, even what percentage of profits should be permitted to be made by the promoters and corporations who desire to work these resources."

Among other papers the *Sioux City Tribune*, the *Buffalo Express*, the *Milwaukee Journal*, and the *New York Commercial* favor the plan, and the *New York Times* finds it highly commendable. Says *The Times*:

"His plan certainly is not open to the charge of giving everything to the capitalists, since he would entrust to a Federal commission the power to determine the conditions of operation even to the limitation of profits. Naturally if these limitations were too narrow there would be nothing doing. But with reasonable and attractive possibilities of profit there would be competition among capitalists. The main thing is that there shall be provided a commission or other governmental body capable of handling one of the most important assets the Union possesses."

The *Brooklyn Citizen*, however, fears the power of the capitalist over the commission, while the *New York Journal of Commerce* urges great caution.

Still more definite disapproval of the commission plan is evidenced, if editorial opinion is correct, by the recent reelection of Mr. Wickersham as delegate. He has taken the position of an insurgent Republican both in 1908 and in this year, and according to the *Providence Journal*, has stood for "Alaska for the Alaskans." This paper believes it may be assumed that "the Administration is not in high favor with the residents of Alaska," and the *Boston Herald* concurs in the opinion of the *Boston Journal* that

"the reelection of Mr. Wickersham is a testimonial to the feeling among the people of Alaska against the commission plan of government and in favor of self-rule. It is an indication of the strength of the opposition there to the domination of the Territory by the Guggenheims and related big interests and to a régime in which numerous Federal officials are charged with being grossly subservient to those interests."

"It may be expected that the lesson as to the feeling in Alaska will not be lost on Congress."

TOPICS IN BRIEF

WE take it that the Indian is one of the principal industries of Oklahoma. —*Milwaukee Journal*.

"I LIKE the earth," says John D. Rockefeller. Pride of possession is one of the strongest of human traits. —*Rochester Post-Express*.

WHEN all the Indians die off some of those western lawyers will have to hunt up a new profession. —*Grand Rapids Press*.

THE trouble is that so many officeholders are meeting charges with resignation instead of with resignations. —*St. Louis Republic*.

WHY not put Mr. Ballinger's face on the postage stamps? He is one of the greatest stickers this country ever saw. —*Grand Rapids Press*.

A CALF born on a train gets a free ride, according to the interstate commerce commission. The Roosevelt policies are not yet dead by any means. —*Tacoma Ledger*.

CONTINUED investigation of the Indian land situation shows that those who took up the white man's burden exceeded the ordinary rates for common carriers. —*Boston Advertiser*.

AT a distance Esperanto looks like a scholarly vindication of the typographical error. —*Washington Star*.

CHIN ON is the name of a Washington Chinaman. He's not a member of Congress. —*St. Paul Pioneer Press*.

ALDRICH, Ballinger and Cannon are the A. B. C. of Republican dissatisfaction. —*Memphis Commercial Appeal*.

"TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND bad eggs in Pittsburg." —Exchange Market or census report? —*Memphis Commercial Appeal*.

NEWFOUNDLAND, having celebrated its three hundredth birthday, really ought to consider changing its name. —*Washington Times*.

J. PIERPONT MORGAN has just paid \$25,000 for an antique pitcher. We imagine Manager Kelley might sell him a few for less money. —*St. Paul Pioneer Press*.

AN English periodical compares the Kaiser's poetry with that of Mr. Alfred Austin. War between Germany and England probably can not be avoided much longer. —*Washington Herald*.