

JUSTICE DISPENSED BY UNCLE SAM'S FLOATING COURT

Revenue Cutter Carries Officials to Try Alaskan Transgressors.

SOMEWHERE off the Alaskan coast at this very moment a vessel flying the stars and stripes is working her way from port to port dealing out justice to those accused of breaking the laws of the United States. This ship is the United States revenue cutter *Thetis*, and her mission is hers alone, for nowhere else on any of the seven seas can her counterpart be found. In her Uncle Sam possesses the only floating court in the world.

Less than a quarter of a century ago it was the wild beast of the bold spirits who tempted fortune in the Alaskan ice fields, where "there's never a law of God or man runs north to fifty-three!" But today the law reaches that far—and beyond—and spares no villages or waste places in so doing. And this is due in general to the strong arm of the government and in particular to this floating court that recently set out on her unique cruise. Once every year, though this is only the second trip made, a ship of the revenue cutter service visits the principal ports of Alaska, carrying on board the court officials from Valdez, who enforce laws and administer justice over a territory so scattered that, but for them, lawlessness might reign as supreme as in the old days. At the various points touched rude buildings or schoolhouses are tarred into impromptu courthouses and justice meted out. Not infrequently the deck of the vessel becomes the scene of the trials of the offenders. In many instances those to be tried have been brought more than a hundred miles to answer their accusers.

Territory Covered.

The territory covered by this floating court is known as the third district of Alaska and embraces the southwestern portion of the country and the Aleutian islands. Courts in the other sections are maintained much as they are in the states. All cases of a grave nature are tried at Valdez, the headquarters of the district, and there, too, are the best equipped jail and the waiting court officials. And so it was that from Valdez the *Thetis* set sail on her cruise of justice, which will last nearly two months. According to orders, Unalaska was the first port, then Nushagak, Unga and Kodiak.

The presiding officer of the court this year is Judge Thomas R. Lyons, and the *Thetis* is commanded by Captain S. O. Cochran. A prosecuting attorney for the government and counsel for the defense are also carried. Four of the junior officers of the vessel are sworn in as commissioners and four special United States deputy marshals. The former on the current cruise are Lieutenant Michael Ryan, Lieutenant Thaddeus G. Crapster, Lieutenant Archibald H. Sealy and Lieutenant Edward D. Jones, and the latter Lieutenant William Williams, Lieutenant Joseph B. Befee, Lieutenant Roy P. Munlo and Lieutenant John S. Baylis. Trial is by jury chosen at the places where the court is held.

The Procedure.

The dates of the court sessions are of necessity published beforehand. When the boat arrives an entire day may be spent in arranging a building wherein the sessions may be held and sometimes two or three more in getting jurors. Finally court convenes, and the treadmill of the law runs its slow but certain course. The law itself naturally is the law of all other places over which the stars and stripes wave.

In Unalaska, where the longer sessions are held, there is a girl who acts as court interpreter. She is a half breed in our reckoning. Though separated by several thousand miles, a strange similarity of taste in breaking the law seems to exist between Alaska and Kentucky, for the making of what in the latter is called "moonshine" and in the former "hooch" (more commonly "hootch") is one of the offenses that consume a goodly share of the court's time. And this year, perhaps for the last time, Japanese seal poachers will have to be taught the meaning of Uncle Sam's word "obey." So there is a variety of the unusual to be dealt with by the court.

When the little revenue cutter starts on her cruise she must be prepared to meet almost any exigency, for, aside from carrying the court, assisting in court proceedings and several lesser details, she will have to bring back to Valdez for trial all Japanese seal poachers and other offenders condemned to spend terms in either a federal prison in the states or in the one at Valdez.

Some Experiences.

Lieutenant Frank Austin while serving once as a deputy marshal was conveying a large party of Japanese, alleged seal poachers, to Valdez for trial. By never relaxing his authority he managed to avoid serious trouble with them. At some of the stops they even so far forgot their arrest as to indulge in their favorite pastime of

BY UNCLE SAM'S FROM PORT TO PORT

Juries Chosen Wherever Sessions of the Court Are Held.

wrestling with each other on the beach. But one night when the ship was tied up in port one of them disappeared. Whether he had jumped overboard and was drowned or had succeeded in reaching the shore and secreting himself in the interior of the country was never ascertained. He had literally vanished overnight.

In another instance, Lieutenant Allen relates, a party of revenue cutter men had captured a seal poaching vessel, but were unable to get conclusive evidence, though they felt quite sure of the justice of their charge. The Japs objected to being placed on their ship and being towed to the three mile limit as is customary. So they were loaded into small boats and literally driven to their vessel with clubbed rifles as extra inducements to obey.

Ordinarily, though, the Japanese seal poacher is not combative. A jail sentence is usually more of a pleasure than a punishment to him. The food in the jails is far more inviting than that served on their own ships and the work much lighter. In nine cases out of ten a blank shell discharged or shot across the bow of a suspected seal poacher brings it to a jiffy. If not a solid shot works wonders. Then the revenue officers board the boat and search for evidence.

Whatever trouble the Japanese seal poachers have given this country in the past, the future holds promise of relief. A treaty passed congress by which England, Russia and the Japanese agreed to join this country in not hunting seal within a six mile limit instead of a three mile one. And in addition Japan and Russia have consented to hunt seal along their own respective coast lines.

Their Crimes.

The natives are but rarely accused of theft. Assembled in a store, they will help themselves to pocketknives and other trinkets that appeal to them. These will be passed from one to the other with enthusiasm. But the storekeeper never bothers to keep tab on them, for he well knows that every article will be returned to the identical place from which it was taken. Theft, if any, exists among the lower class of white men.

Murder, however, is less infrequent. It is a custom among the natives, if a white man kills one of them, to kill the murderer, but the first white man encountered. This state of affairs often brings peculiar cases before the court.

Judge James Wickersham, delegate to congress from Alaska, has often sat in judgment upon the natives.

"Although they are beginning to realize the significance of our law," he says, "they find that they conflict at every turn with their own customs. What to them has always been right is suddenly changed to wrong. Their marriage custom is by no means a barrier. The prospective husband does not bid for her in a business fashion, but comes with presents and pays her real court. She takes pride in the size of the 'price' offered for her. She is the center of interest in her village and is proud of being wooed in that manner."

The floating court came out of a trip that Judge Wickersham made some ten years ago. He held court then at Unalaska and recalls one decidedly unusual incident of the work.

A Murder Case.

"It was a murder case," he said, "and one of the most dastardly I ever ran across. The man who committed the deed was an American who had served during the Spanish-American war in a Tennessee regiment. While in the Philippines he shot a man for no other reason, apparently, than for the fun of seeing him die.

"At the expiration of his prison sentence he boarded a fishing boat bound for the Aleutian country. At Unimak island the boat stopped for water, and he, with several others, went ashore. Upon landing they discovered three tents pitched well back from the beach and in them mining implements of value. When the water had been obtained he remained on the island.

"The fishing boat sailed away without him. He returned to the tents and, taking rifles and ammunition, made his way to some nearby hills. There he awaited the return of the prospectors who owned the tents. As they came within range he opened fire on them, killing three out of four of them.

"Thirty days later other prospectors landed on the island and found the surviving one of the four lying beneath an overturned boat, half crazed and starving. They took him with them to Unalaska, where he told his terrible story to the commanding officer of the Manning, and that vessel set out immediately for the island. They found the skeletons of the three men killed and after searching discovered two men attired in the dead men's clothes. Both were arrested. One was the American. The other proved at the trial that he had come to the island after the murder had been committed by the testimony of the three head men of an Eskimo village, who presented a convincing alibi for him. The American was convicted and hanged."

REYES ASKS DELAY

Suffrage Not Guaranteed, Mexican Candidate Says.

MADERO DENIES THE CHARGES

Opponents In Campaign For President In Controversy Over Date of Election to Choose Successor to Diaz. Each Side Carries Arms.

City of Mexico, Aug. 31.—Friends of General Bernardo Reyes have made a move for the postponement of the coming presidential election on the grounds that the country is not yet sufficiently settled and prepared for a vote.

"If the nation is without guarantees in October as it is now, the elections should be postponed, for not to do so would be a grave offense and the exercise of the rights of suffrage would degenerate into a bloody drama," declared General Reyes.

"If suffrage is to be guaranteed let us have the elections, but if the liberty of the voters is to be restrained at the time of casting their votes and the liberty of the people is to be rent by violent actions, then the elections should be put off."

These General Reyes declared are his ideas subject to the principles proclaimed by the revolution.

General Reyes spoke of the declaration made by Vera Estanol to the effect that the states have not been legally divided into electoral districts, saying that if true should come a postponement. Another reason produced by the opponents of October elections is the fact that many Maderists are still under arms. General Reyes said in referring to the armed Maderists that it was notable that only the revolutionists who have turned away from the Mexican principles of the revolution to follow Madero personally are the ones for the most part who are still under arms.

General Reyes said he believed the matter of postponing the elections should be decided in October when the time appointed comes around. "It is true," said Madero, "that there are armed Maderists. Many of the revolutionists when the struggle was over went home and took their arms with them. The Reyesists have more arms than the Maderists, so they have no room to complain. The Maderists don't need arms; votes will be enough for us."

As to the declaration that the territory has not been divided, Madero said this was not the case, and could not be used as an excuse for putting off the elections. The division of the territory into electoral districts was made at the time of the election of the president and vice president, who resigned their posts on account of the demands of the revolution.

TAFT WILL INVADE INSURGENT TERRITORY

President's Forty Day Trip Will Take Him to the Pacific Coast.

Plans for President Taft's coming trip through the west and to the Pacific coast have been completed. The journey will be almost as extensive as that taken by the president on his famous "swing around the circle" in 1909, when he traveled more than 12,600 miles and visited thirty-three states. He will break ground for the Panama Canal exposition at San Francisco and attempt to scale the 14,000 feet of Mount Rainier's precipitous slope.

The president will be gone six weeks. In that time it is expected that he will make close to 200 speeches from platforms and from the rear end of his private car. Republican leaders look upon the trip as the most important, politically, that the president has mapped out since he entered the White House. He will go through all the states in the west dominated by the progressive Republicans, who are counted on to oppose his renomination next year.

Until the question of the adjournment of congress was out of the way the president was undecided whether he should be gone three weeks or six.

The president will leave Beverly Sept. 17, returning east about Nov. 1. He will go through Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado and Nevada to the coast. Most of the big cities in that section, including Des Moines, Kansas City, Omaha, Denver and Salt Lake City, will be visited, but the plans for the trip contemplate stops at scores of smaller places as well. From California the president will go north to Portland and Seattle. Three days are to be spent in Washington state, and the route eastward will allow him to stop in Idaho, Montana, the Dakotas and Minnesota.

While no spellbinders are to be taken along, it is probable that members of the cabinet or congressmen will become traveling companions of the president at various points.

"Oh, zeas langvatth!" complained the foreigner. "What's the matter with it?" asked the native. "You say, 'I am down and out; I am all in!' Oh, zeas langvatth!"—Chicago Record-Herald.

CANDIDATE for PROTHONOTARY.



JOHN N. SHARPSTEEN.

To the Republicans of Wayne Co.: I take this means of announcing myself as a candidate for the nomination of Prothonotary at the primaries, Sept. 30, 1911.

To most of you I am known personally. During my seventeen years of service as a clerk in the Honesdale postoffice my efforts have been to perform my duties faithfully and courteously to the patrons of the office and the public generally.

To the voters with whom I am not personally acquainted I would say that, since a severe injury sustained by my father a few years before his accidental death when I was sixteen years old I have tried to make an honest living. My birthplace was in Texas township, district No. 4, Wayne county. My school days were limited to the district school and the Honesdale High school. As a boy of eleven years I spent my summers slate picking on the Delaware & Hudson dock and attended school during the winter. I also spent several summers working on a farm in Cherry Ridge.

After school I entered the office of the Honesdale Iron Works, known now as the Guernsey Electric Elevator Co., where I stayed a number of years and later entered the Honesdale postoffice serving two years under William F. Briggs. I then went to the Carbondale Lumber company as a bookkeeper, remaining with them until the appointment as postmaster of Miss Mary E. Gerety, who later became the wife of Hon. C. A. McCarty. In June, 1896, I returned to the Honesdale postoffice where I have been employed ever since. In coming before the people and asking their assistance and vote at the coming primaries, let me say that I am no tool of any boss or bosses. I simply desire in common with every American citizen to better my condition. Your support will be appreciated and if nominated and elected I will devote all my time and attention to the duties of the office to which I aspire.

Most cordially yours,
J. N. Sharpsteen.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER.



NEVILLE HOLGATE.

I earnestly solicit your vote for the primary election Sept. 30.

FOR TREASURER.



W. W. WOOD.

I most respectfully solicit your support at the primaries September 30, 1911.

CHILDREN WHO ARE SICKLY

Mothers who value their own comfort and the welfare of their children, should never be without a box of Mother Gray's Sweet Powders for Children, for use throughout the season. They Break up Colds, Relieve Feverishness, Constipation, Teething Disorders, Headaches and Stomach Troubles. Used by Mothers for 22 years. THESE POWDERS NEVER FAIL. Sold by all Drug stores, 25c. Don't accept any substitute. Sample mailed FREE to any mother. Address, Allen S. Olmsted, Le Roy, N. Y.

THE NORTHWESTERN MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF MILWAUKEE, WIS.

Agency at Honesdale, Wayne Co., Pa. FROM THE 33d ANNUAL REPORT.

Total admitted assets	\$ 278,813,068.55
Total insurance in force	1,069,239,708.00
Total number policy-holders	425,481.00
New insurance reported and paid for in 1910	118,789,063.00
Increase in insurance in force over 1909	67,249,613.00
Total income for 1910	51,979,892.23
Total payment to policy-holders	32,869,859.00
Ratio of expense and taxes to income	12.78 per cent.

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H. A. TINGLEY, Agent, HONESDALE, PA.

To the Farmers of Wayne Co.--

We Desire to Have You Patronize the

FARMERS & MECHANICS BANK

75 per cent. of the stockholders of this Bank are Farmers

Open An Account in the Progressive Bank
Capital Stock \$75,000.00
Surplus and Profits \$17,000.00

Comparative Growth of Deposits:

June 1st 1907	\$24,398.54
May 1st 1908	\$109,896.20
May 1st 1909	\$161,077.58
May 2nd 1910	\$241,843.67
May 1st 1911	\$272,500.68

Officers:

M. E. SIMONS, President

C. A. EMERY, Cashier

Directors:

M. B. Allen,
George C. Abraham,
J. Sam Brown,
Oscar E. Bunnell,
Wm. H. Dunn,

W. M. Fowler,
W. B. Guinip,
John E. Krantz,
Fred W. Kreitner,
John Kubbach,
John Weaver.

G. Wm. Sell,
M. E. Simons,
Fred Stephens,
George W. Tisdell,
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We specialize at these prices and give you the best values in the city, which we guarantee cannot be duplicated in any other clothing store for at least five dollars more on each suit.

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Clothing Direct from Manufacturer to Wearer

Saving YOU the middleman's profit.

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