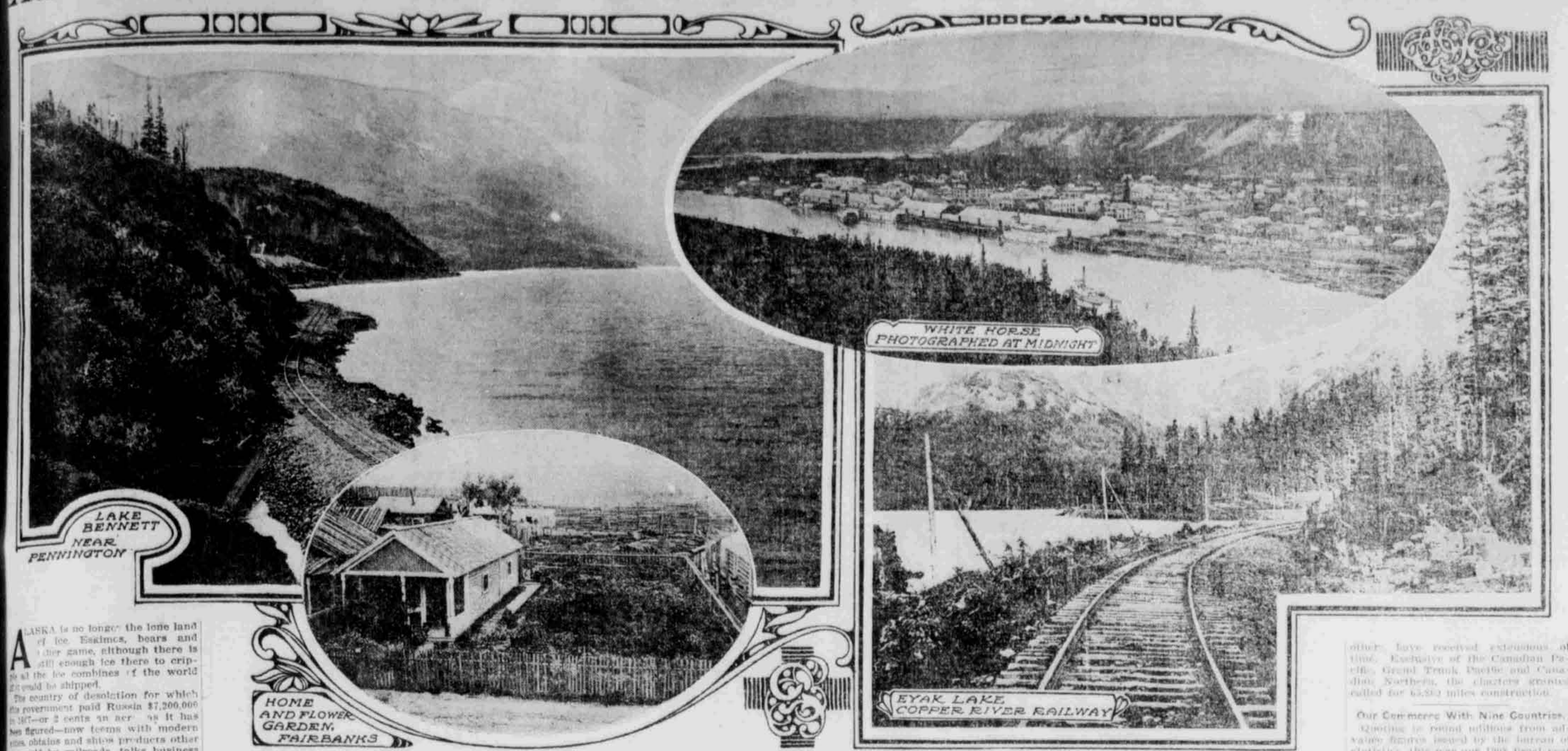


# ALASKA NO LONGER A LONE LAND OF ICE



WHITE HORSE PHOTOGRAPHED AT MIDNIGHT  
EYAK LAKE COPPER RIVER RAILWAY

ALASKA is no longer the lone land of ice, bears and caribou. There is still enough ice there to cripple the low combines of the world, but the country of desolation for which the government paid Russia \$7,200,000 in 1867 or 2 cents an acre, as it has been called, now teems with modern civilization and shows producers of gold by railroads, telegraph lines, and in communication with the civilized nations of the earth. Steamboats carry passengers, and great rivers in summer, and in winter there are no railroad tracks, and the mails are carried in the dog sleds.

The Sushitna and Copper river valleys promise to become great granaries. By comparison it is shown that a hundred acre farm in Alaska produces a larger revenue than a thousand acre farm in Wisconsin. The oil district has been defined over an area 150 miles long and thirty miles wide, in which, besides the prolific oil bearing sands, are lakes and springs of oil, one lake being of great size.

**Race Between Telegraph and Railroad.**  
While the old fashioned iron horse has been pushing its way up valleys and along streams the telegraph has undertaken it and accomplished wonders. In 1904 more than 1,456 miles of Alaska cable had been laid. Telegraph wires overlaid have been constructed into countries where a few years ago no white man had ever been seen. Since 1901 more than 2,000 miles of telegraph and cable have been built by United States interests, and 2,000 miles of Canadian government lines have been constructed from the international boundary beyond Dawson, and every town of more than 500 inhabitants has its telephone service.

**Railroads as the forerunners of civilization in all new countries.** The first railroad was begun in south Alaska and the British Yukon in 1898. Work was started by an English syndicate on what is now known as the White Pass and Yukon railway, extending from Skagway, in Alaska, to White Horse, Yukon territory, and was 112 miles long. It was first constructed to afford access to the gold fields, but since then it has been made a link in the continuous rail and river route to northwestern Alaska and Seward peninsula. The road was completed to White Horse in 1900 at a cost of \$2,500,000, and in two years afterward it paid nearly \$2,000,000 profit. From White Horse to Dawson, 200 miles, connection is made by steamers in summer and by four horse sleighs in winter. Another railroad was built in 1902 from West Dawson to Stewart river, a distance of eighty-two miles. Still another railroad from North Dakota is under construction which will have Fort Churchill as its terminus. Two standard gauge lines are now being constructed from the seaboard to the interior, the objective point of each being Fairbanks.

Dawson is a modern city. In 1902 its personal and its realty assessments amounted to \$11,000,000, and postoffice orders to the value of \$1,800,000 were sold. The streets are electrically lighted, there is a modern system of waterworks, and there are steamboats and trolley lines. In 1898 it was living on dried and canned meats. Now it has vegetables from gardens, it has fresh meats, and its business is under the supervision of a chamber of commerce. This is a sample of the way in which Alaska is growing.

The capital of Alaska, Sitka, is located on a low strip of land west of Baranof Island. Mount Edgecumbe, an extinct volcano of 8,000 feet, opposite the town, is one of the landmarks of the capital. Sitka's population in 1890 was nearly 2,000. Other towns of note and prosperity are Juneau, Wrangell, Douglas City, Nushagak, Ketchikan, St. Michael, Fairbanks, Seward and Circle City. All these are in the gold centers and have up to date improvements. They long since ceased to be mining camps.

**Wonders of Copper River.**  
A famous section of the territory is that known as the Copper river valley. It is traversed by one of the numerous railroads. The river drains 25,000 square miles of mountains and valleys. It is in a bed of long winding gorges or canyons, varying in width from a half mile to several miles. It abounds in game that must eventually lure the hunter. Its walls range from 500 to 1,500 feet above the sea. In early times it used to be said that only God and the Indians knew of its hidden wealth. When Russia landed this country over to the United States the legend of the river was that it had its source in a mountain of pure copper. No white man at that time had seen it and lived to tell about it. Investigation thus far shows that the legend about the river springing from a mountain of copper is not very far wrong.

Notwithstanding all that has been written and told about Alaska, little is yet known except by geographers and scientists of its vast area. With its outlying islands it covers 580,540 square miles. You will figure this up and compare it with Iowa, for example, you will discover that Alaska is ten times larger than the Hawkeye State. As a unit it has an independent shape larger than all the states bordering on the Pacific ocean, with Arizona and Nevada thrown in for good measure. Its bays, inlets, indentations in the coast and its islands give it a coast line of 25,500 miles. In 1908 its population was estimated to be about 40,000, and this consisted of whites. The Indian population has never been definitely estimated—some say 15,000 others 30,000. The reason for this discrepancy lies in the fact that every few years a new tribe is found of which there had been no previous history.

The gold product of Alaska in 1908 was \$12,300,000. This was augmented in 1909 to \$12,600,000. The gold bearing creeks in the vicinity of Fairbanks, 1,000 miles from Nome, the many feet beneath the surface of the earth, after the entire depth is frozen ground and gravel. How can it be guessed what is lying hidden? JOHN A. CONN.

**Foreigners at German Universities.**  
The number of foreign students at the German universities, which owing to the increased severity in the conditions of admission, had declined last year to 2,594, has risen to 3,221, chiefly because this is the first season in which foreign women could matriculate at all universities. The numbers include 1,578 Russians, 674 Austro-Hungarians, 208 Swiss, 155 English, 154 Belgians, 102 Roumanians, 48 Serbians, 40 French, 23 Americans, 175 Asiatics and 4 Australians. Of these, 1,181 entered for medicine, Berlin and Leipzig are now the favorite universities, instead of Heidelberg, which formerly headed the list.

**Indians' Telegraph Service.**  
Captain Whiffen has reached London after a year spent in exploring the southwestern districts of Colombia, South America. He has gained a vast amount of valuable information on the habits and manners of the Indians and on their religious ideas. The people among whom he traveled are cannibals, eating the bodies of the members of hostile tribes, but burying their own dead.

Among the more curious discoveries Captain Whiffen made is the secret of the system of telegraphy employed by the natives. Sound is the medium used. Hollow trees are selected, and these, being of various thickness, are able to give out high and low notes when struck. The sound travels immense distances through the bush some thirty or forty miles. A code is not employed, but from the different musical notes the native is able accurately to recognize the words that are intended.

**Tin Plate Industry of South Wales.**  
South Wales, England, has tin plate mills and fifty-two sheet steel mills in operation at the end of May, employing 22,500 persons. The United States is a large and steady buyer, but large consignments of tin plate go to the Far East, China and Singapore, besides steady exports to the British, East India, Germany, France, the Netherlands and other countries. The United States sends as a purchaser.

**China's Postal Service.**  
In the seven years 1901 to 1908 China's postal service expanded remarkably. The postal routes now cover 58,000 miles, and the postoffice number 3,492 as against 110 in 1901, an increase of 3,382 in the seven years.

**Canada's Railway Charters.**  
Out of 266 railway charters granted by the Canadian parliament in the twenty years ended 1908 only twenty-eight have resulted in any construction, eighty-six have lapsed, and the

others have received extensions of time. Exclusive of the Canadian Pacific, Grand Trunk, Quebec and Canadian Northern, the charters amount to 6,553 miles construction.

**Our Commerce With Nine Countries.**  
According to round figures from advance figures issued by the Bureau of Statistics, this was our 1908 fiscal year commerce with the principal countries for the fiscal year 1908.

The Drift, Evil in England.  
Speaking before the Church of England Temperance society recently, the Bishop of London said that as the result of an inquiry regarding the drink evil fifteen doctors stated that in the middle class there was a decrease of drink, eighty-eight in fashionable practice spoke of the increase among the well to do and ninety-three of the increase among working women.

**Spider That Goes Fishing.**  
There has recently been discovered in Geneva, France, a spider which practices fishing at times. In shallow places it spins between stones a two winged central net, on which it runs in the water and captures small fish, tadpoles, etc.

**Japan Seeks Foreign Trade.**  
The Japanese government will next year send commercial agents to Europe and America for the development of Japanese trade.

**Man's Chances of Sudden Death.**  
The man's risk of sudden death is eight to one greater than that of the woman.

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As a tribute to his ability in the case of the Franklin mold, he was asked, on the death of Conrad N. Jordan, to take the assistant secretaryship of the United States, which he declined. While not a dead in the worst of times, he is a

life, nor has he passed the point at which men lose interest in the questions of the moment. While he is a Republican, he has never allied himself consciously with any party machinery. In the opinion of a class of politicians this should militate against his appointment; in the opinion of another class it should enhance his value as an ambassador. It would not be Mr. Low's credit to say that he was not criticized as mayor of New York city. He had made a strenuous campaign, and much was expected. During his term, however, it is simply the truth to say that his administration was clean and for the best interests of the city regardless of politics, according to the views of Mr. Low. It should be said that when he was mayor the term of office was for only one year, and it is political belief in both parties that one brief term does not give an administration the opportunity it deserves. Mr. Low was mayor from 1902 until 1903.

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**Career of Robert Bacon.**  
Mr. Robert Bacon is a younger man than ex-Mayor Low, but he has been in public life as long as he is regarded as past the meridian. He has not yet reached that time. He made his reputation in Wall street. His mind was trained almost entirely along financial lines. He was an active factor in the huge combinations of corporate wealth and power that created modern criticism and attack. Ex-President Roosevelt and Mr. Bacon were in the class of 1874 at Harvard. Mr. Bacon is one of the old Barnstable family in Massachusetts. When he went to New York he became associated with the house of J. P. Morgan & Co. In the summer of Mr. Morgan's death Bacon was in entire control of the business. When President Roosevelt called Mr. Bacon as assistant secretary of state, under Secretary Root, it was understood that the selection was a personal one.

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## Oscar Hammerstein's New Venture

How the Promoter of Educational Opera Reached the Heights of a Masterful Impresario—A Man With a Boy's Curiosity.

WITHELM, Oscar Hammerstein, impresario in several cities, to which others may be added, announced early in the summer that he proposed a season of educational opera in New York city, giving grand opera of a high class at one-half the price paid for the regular season. It seems during the regular season, it was announced that he had arranged for the class talent, some of it entirely new in this country, to start a season of educational opera. The season is now well under way until the public can in view of the regular season. By that time Mr. Hammerstein expects to be able to convince the public that educational opera is a valuable feature of grand opera.

Mr. Hammerstein has always maintained that when the popular appetite for good music is properly whetted the public will be well content with the very best grand opera that can be given and that it will understand how it is possible to give the best by the use of people without great labor and expense. So far as profit is concerned, Mr. Hammerstein has proved that he was more anxious to please the public than to enrich his own pockets. This idea would not last long in the commercial world, but it goes a long way when one is catering to the pleasure of the public.

The idea worked out. It is the same idea that led to the building of the Manhattan Opera House and the seasons of success that followed under the direction of its owner and manager. It will be remembered by some at least that it was through the efforts of certain patrons of grand opera in New York city that they had received the consideration in other cities where grand opera was given that they deserved and that what affected them affected others. It is not surprising that these contentions were raised. That is not the point. The difference arose, and the aggrieved party about to see what could be done. It was natural that those who alleged that they had been "slandered" should be of the opinion that a movement to establish a rival house.

Just then Mr. Hammerstein came to the front. He had been a more or less

agent of any clique, but he maintained that in a great city there should be more than one field for grand opera. He just happened along at the psychological moment. He believed that grand opera could be given at popular prices. This idea is connected with his plans for educational opera. He said very bluntly that it would take money to carry out his idea.

He was told by some of the people

who believed that they had not been fairly treated as patrons of the highest musical entertainment to go ahead. He was given carte blanche to build a temple regardless of expense and then get the best talent that money could procure. The Manhattan Opera House is the result. It cost \$2,000,000.

Mr. Hammerstein has always maintained that he was young. He is not yet sixty years of age. He has the shrewdness and the persistence of a mature man, but he has the curiosity, the tirelessness of a boy. To him there is fascination in the voice of the

ing out for other cities. Chicago, Boston, St. Louis, Washington, Cincinnati, are on his list. Whether he is reaching out for these cities, whether they are reaching out after him does not matter. He is still hammering away on his contention that grand opera at popular prices is here. In part this has been worked out on his idea of educational opera.

So much for the man who has been a cigar machine inventor, a real estate speculator, a manager of vaudeville, a plunger in whatever he undertakes, a humorist in his way and the happy father of six children.

**Spanked to Success.**  
There is such a thing as being spanked into success. That is what started Oscar Hammerstein on his career as impresario. His father administered the blows. Hammerstein père wanted Oscar to become a violinist. Oscar's mother preferred to see him, in on the flute. One day the father was called away from home on business, and his stay was protracted. Mrs. Hammerstein engaged a flute master to give lessons to Oscar. The boy learned rapidly. By the time his father returned Oscar had mastered several pieces. Early one morning his mother stole into Oscar's room and told him his father was asleep. She suggested that Oscar take his flute and stand before the door of his father's chamber and play. Oscar selected "When the Swallows Homeward Fly." The birds were turned loose on direct notes. Suddenly the door opened. Hammerstein père on his bedchamber came forth. He seized the lad and spanked him in the good old fashioned way. What became of the note is unknown. The boy, stung mentally and physically, resolved then and there to get another audience and winning a patron for his amusement. His audience was the public. He had been enough to know that the public liked music or any other form of amusement, but music was uppermost in his mind all the while.

**Temperature 1,000 Fathoms Down.**  
At 1,000 fathoms below the surface of the ocean there is a uniform temperature just above freezing point.

**No "American" Dentists in Germany.**  
Germany does not permit dentists to style themselves "American," as is the custom all over Europe.

**Corn of Canada and Cape Colony.**  
Canada grows sixty-three bushels of corn to the acre, Cape Colony ten bushels.

**Islands of Great Britain.**  
There are about 1,200 islands in the group which we call the British Isles.

**Where Coffee Is Duty Free.**  
Holland is the only European country that admits coffee duty free.

## Seth Low and Robert Bacon

Ambassadorial Possibilities In the Taft Administration—Futurity of the Former For St. James and of the Latter For the Mission to France.

THE course of time, possibly in the near future, President Taft will appoint an ambassador to succeed Mr. Whitelaw Reid and an ambassador to France to succeed Mr. Henry White.

Diplomatically considered, these two missions are the most important in the administration. Ever since the inauguration of President Taft political guidances have been guessing on the

appointments for these missions. The most frequently mentioned are Mr. Seth Low and Mr. Robert Bacon, the former for St. James and the latter for France, which no longer has a court.

Although ex-Mayor Low has never been in the diplomatic orbit, he has many qualifications necessary for the mission with which his name has been mentioned. He is the embodiment of the Latin maxim which, freely translated, reads "gentle in manners, but foreboding in deeds." He has scholarly attainments and culture, independent views, plenty of money and is not handicapped with inexperience in public

life, nor has he passed the point at which men lose interest in the questions of the moment. While he is a Republican, he has never allied himself consciously with any party machinery. In the opinion of a class of politicians this should militate against his appointment; in the opinion of another class it should enhance his value as an ambassador. It would not be Mr. Low's credit to say that he was not criticized as mayor of New York city. He had made a strenuous campaign, and much was expected. During his term, however, it is simply the truth to say that his administration was clean and for the best interests of the city regardless of politics, according to the views of Mr. Low. It should be said that when he was mayor the term of office was for only one year, and it is political belief in both parties that one brief term does not give an administration the opportunity it deserves. Mr. Low was mayor from 1902 until 1903.

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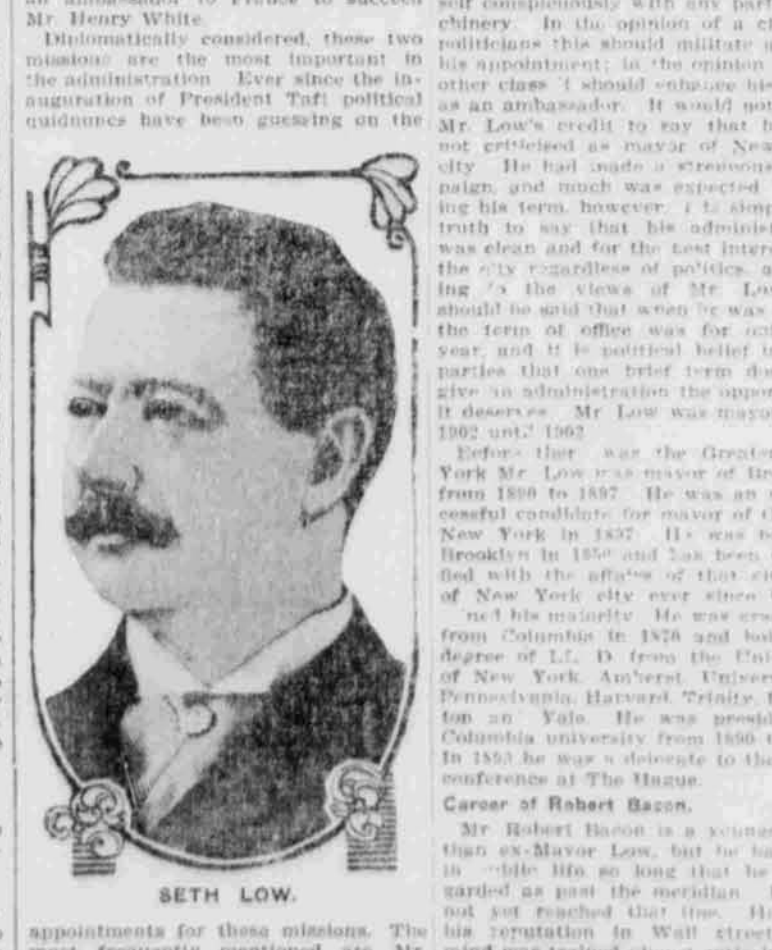
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