



FRED CRANE

Nome District Attorney

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"They don't always get the breaks they deserve," observed Fred Crane, the newly appointed District Attorney at Nome.

The grizzled and stern countenanced veteran lawyer was discussing the subject that has become close to his heart—the Eskimos and Indians, great many of whom he has defended in courts. This he has done superbly through the years. He was aided no little by one of his great assets—that of his understanding of the Natives for he has lived among them for a great many years. He has gained their confidence and respect by his willingness to serve in their behalf when they were in trouble and they could be sure that the elderly lawyer had a good measure of compassion in him.

One should not, however, mistake Fred Crane as a man of compassionate nature altogether. "I will be tough if the occasion calls for it," he said recently. This should make it plain that in dealing with anyone, coddling of the culprits will not be the order of the day.

Fred Crane has also been seriously concerned about discrimination that plagues the Natives from time to time and he has shown determination to work to stamp this out wherever it may occur.

For many years, it has been a common occurrence in Fairbanks, where Crane has practiced for many years, in that a surprising number of Natives have shown a marked preference for the man as a lawyer. This has been a token of regard for his ability and the confidence they have in the veteran attorney. As a result, he has become known as the champion of the underdog. This reputation, we are sure, rests easily on his shoulders because he has demonstrated it time after time in the courtroom.

We think that Fred Crane's appointment as District Attorney at Nome is a definite gain for the Second Judicial District. He will serve in the area that is predominantly populated by the Eskimo. His wide experience and his ability should prove to be of great benefit to those he serves. We are also of the opinion that justice and fair-play will mark his tour of duty, something that has left much to be desired in the past.