

**Daily Astorian.**

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The Weekly Astorian, the second oldest weekly in the state of Oregon, has next to the Portland Oregonian, the largest weekly circulation in the state.

It was with the greatest satisfaction that property owners and business men in Astoria met Mr. Hammond on Saturday with the superintendent and coal manager of the Northern Pacific railroad, and saw them examining sites for large coal bunkers within the city limits. Such a spectacle refuted on its face the oft-repeated rumors that after Astoria had given about 20 per cent of its property to secure a railroad it was to be sidetracked and a rival built up at Flavel, where the future payoffs of factories and industries would be distributed.

The following item, which appeared a few days ago in one of Astoria's evening papers, it is understood, was taken from statements furnished in a Portland newspaper:

There is trouble within the gates of the O. R. & N. boneyard these days, a number of mechanics being employed in repairing the various boats for service. Lying at these yards are the side-wheel steamer Olympia, sleeping a sleep from which she has not been disturbed for three years; the stern-wheeler Emma Hayward, the passenger boat Baker, the passenger boat H. R. Thompson, the bar tug Escort, the barges Autocrat and Columbia Chief, the new coal barge S. Wash., formerly used at the Cascade portage, one day of usefulness of most of these craft have forever dawned.

It was a small and short-sighted policy that prompted the original promulgation of such an article. Today the O. R. & N. a strictly Oregon institution, is doing more to advance the interests of Portland than the entire state than any other factor within the confines of the state. Such statements made public, whether true or false, as in part, speak only to the disadvantages of Portland and injure the business interests of the entire state. The cities on the Sound and Astoria do not commit such blunders. Any business interest that comes in here we acknowledge to live and thrive to its utmost capacity. They help us, and their small faults and errors we do not criticize, for in doing so we but call unfavorable attention to ourselves.

Discussing the rumor on Saturday that there would soon be inaugurated a rate war on passengers and freight traffic between Astoria and Portland by the railroad on one side and the steamship on the other, several merchants are undecided as to have expressed the opinion that it would be a good thing for Astorians, and would enable them to get their goods as well as travel cheaper. It is the history of all such controversies that the public is usually to blame for them in the first instance. In the wild scramble to get something for nothing, by shippers, transportation companies are often driven to the wall. Some people seem to think that a railroad or boat can haul them and their freight for nothing, give them a chromo besides and still live, pay employees wages, taxes, interest on bonds, interest on investment, and dividends to stockholders. Should there occur in this instance a fight in rates, have the people who think they will profit by it stopped to consider the natural and probable result? Every man, woman, and child in Astoria will buy a fifty-cent ticket to Portland, and do their shopping and trading in the big stores of that city, even to their meat and groceries, which can be delivered here at their own homes in a few hours after purchases are made. Already the Portland department stores are reaching out for the trade of Astoria, their large stock and cheap prices offering extra inducements, and even at the present rates of fare and freight many now buy their whole supplies in Portland. The outcome of affairs, when the new tariff is issued, will be watched with interest.

## WHY GOLD DEMOCRATS ARE FOR MOODY.

The imminent danger that seemed apparent in the presidential election of the success of free silver brought to the aid of the republican party a class of men of pure and unselfish desires. The sound money democrats of the United States, and especially of Oregon, had nothing to gain in the way of political preferment

from the republican party, and they were obliged, in parting with the democratic organization, to leave behind them many old political associates and tender personal associations. Nevertheless they made the sacrifice courageously, with the result of carrying the election for McKinley in the United States and of winning a victory for the republican party in Oregon.

Since the presidential election the issue has not changed, and the gold standard democrats of this state are still united in support of the administration and of the republican party in this election. The free silver democratic party has not only not improved the situation by its action, but has made matters worse. In this state it has given up all the principles of the democratic party and has adopted bodily every taint and political evil of the popular party.

Not only that, it has joined in a fusion with the populists that has given that party all the principal offices. In fact, the youth who whines constantly may be a sort of vindictive sibyl, but he is a horrible nuisance also.

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