

THE OBSERVER

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Editor and Owner.

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ASTORIA AND HER SHOW.

To those who are wavering on the question of whether or not they shall attend the Centennial at Astoria, we would urge a decision for the affirmative. Not because there is such an elaborate exposition on, for there is not; not because Astoria is a great big bustling city, for it is not. Then why should anyone attend the Centennial. Because it is forging a link in history. One is confronted more forcefully if in attendance of the great achievements of this western country in 100 years; one is brought face to face with what has been done and is being done, not only on the Pacific coast, but throughout the Inland Empire as well, for without the Inland Empire to support the coast and her business she would be a mere shoestring of commerce as compared with her real standing of the present.

Everyone knows who has at any time in the past quarter century visited there, she is the quaintest and most original town in the nation. Built upon stilts, as it were, there is not a business transaction but what revolves for blocks—from the packing house wagons unloading their cargoes to the restricted district where the clanking of money echoes o'er the placid waters of the fair Columbia.

Fishing is the chief industry and when we say it represents about \$28,000,000 annually, the reader can understand how extensive the industry really is. Foreigners do most of the fishing; just as foreigners do most of all kinds of actual work in this country nowadays, hence there is a large percentage of foreign born citizens in Astoria. While the census gives Astoria as 9,500 common consent makes it 13,000 and of this number it is estimated that but 3,000 are Americans. Finlanders are the prevailing foreign element. They have their own theatre, their own section of the city, are organized into clubs and social functions and print their own daily newspaper. They are thrifty and always have plenty of money. In fact Astoria is a money town. There is no dearth of finance there for the industries that prevail are money getters all the

time. The old timers in Astoria admit they never knew hard times even when panic was on. The reason for this is simple: The best Salmon in the world is caught and canned at Astoria. The supply of Salmon is never equal to the demand, and there you have it—big money for the canneries, big money for the expert fishermen, who in turn spend their money in Astoria and have a good time.

The co-operative idea has struck this industry the same as it has struck all other industries and there is a canneries now in operation that is making good under co-operative methods. At first it was feared this institution might disrupt business, but the demand for Columbia river Salmon grew and grew until there is business enough for twice the amount of canneries, including the co-operative business.

Astoria's Centennial is just like any other big little show. It has its nice features and its drawbacks, but chief of the latter is the difference of opinion among the home people. When the Centennial was first thought of, it was a question whether it should be held on the water-front and braced on piling or whether it should be placed on top of the mountain nearby. The mountaineers won the fight and thereby created a breach which is quite a common occurrence in all smaller towns—and large ones, too—a condition that usually follows where there are people to decide public matters. Well, the exposition grounds were laid out on the hill and the buildings were erected. It took a strong winded horse to make the ascent to the grounds without stopping to rest. Automobiles boiled their water in climbing the hill and a number of cars found it impossible to make the climb. Pedestrians were leg weary, tired and cross when the show grounds were reached and as a result there was discord from the beginning. An admission fee was charged at the gate. This was objected to, for it was argued, "have not the people journeyed a long way to see this show. Then why not open the gates to them and also to the home people who have stood behind it with their money and their energy." This argument lasted a while and the free gate people won turning the Astoria celebration into a free park. Still the crowds were small, and those who favored the water front howl at back and say, "I told you so," while the mountaineer element is working its head off to make the Centennial a success. Even the rubber ball and toy balloon men, along with the rest of the fakery refuse to enter the grounds but ply their trade in the down town district amid the smell of hamberg steak and hot tamales.

Another feature that is repulsive to a number of the "sovereign squats" of Astoria who have been there since the first Salmon was hooked, is the fact that the Centennial management imported one Treppe of Denver to take complete charge of the show. He brought his staff, even to the girl at the information desk, who happened to be from Chicago. This is looked upon as a crime against the city charter and the anti lose no chance to drive a nail on the point of foreigners running their home show.

Anyone unused to noise should not rick their nerves by going to Astoria at this time. As we have stated it is

a good business town and traffic is heavy. Remember all traffic is done over a board floor. The fire department sounds like Ben Hur's chariot race when its horses are merely cantering. We don't know what the noise would be if they ran. Brewery and ice wagons give notice long in advance that they are coming. Automobiles there know no speed limit and it is a mark of aristocracy to open the cut-out and leave it while passing the Weinhard-Astoria hotel—which, by the way, is a high grade hotel. The only objection to it being the grill, which runs until 2 o'clock a. m. and has an orchestra and a lady singer on the job every minute, while you are trying to sleep on the second floor. We have enumerated the features which might be distasteful to some of our neighbors who like ourselves, have been accustomed to a well regulated, peaceful city and country away from deep water and its accompaniments, but the nice things and interesting things to be seen at Astoria will repay anyone for a visit there. They have splendid parades, extraordinary pyrotechnic displays and what it is a fine place to spend a week and breath the salt sea fish and get an idea of a foreign city located on American shores.

A JUST REWARD.

District Forester Cecil has given out information that the offer of reward which was made by Secretary of Agriculture Wilson last September for information leading to the conviction of persons wilfully or maliciously setting fires on the national forests, is still in effect. The terms of the offer are as follows:

First. Not exceeding \$250, and not less than \$50 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of any person, in the United States court, on the charge of wilfully and maliciously setting on fire, or causing to be set on fire, any timber, underbrush, or grass upon the lands of the United States within a national forest.

Second. Not exceeding \$100 and not less than \$25, for information leading to the arrest and conviction of any person, in any United States court, on the charge of building a fire on lands of the United States within a national forest, in or near any forest timber or other inflammable material, and leaving the said fire before the same has been totally extinguished.

Third. All officers and employees of the Department of Agriculture are barred from receiving reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of any person or persons committing any of the above offenses.

Fourth. The Department of Agriculture reserves the right to refuse payment of any claim for reward when, in its opinion, there has been collusion or any improper methods used to secure the arrest and conviction thereunder, and to allow only one reward where several persons have been convicted of the same offense, or where one person has been convicted of several offenses, unless circumstances entitle the claimant to a reward on each conviction.

These rewards will be paid to the person or persons giving the information leading to such arrests and convictions upon presentation to the Department of Agriculture of satisfactory documentary evidence thereof, subject to necessary appropriation, as aforesaid, or otherwise, as may be provided by law.

Application for reward, made in pursuance of this notice, should be forwarded to the Forester, Washington, D. C.; but a claim will not be entertained unless presented within three months from the date of conviction of an offender.

In order that all claimants for reward may have an opportunity to present their claims within the prescribed limit, the Department will not take action for three months from date of conviction of an offender.

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