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The Astorian guarantees to its advertisers the largest circulation of any newspaper published on the Columbia river.

RELIEF IN LEGISLATIVE ACTION.

The annual message of President Hahn to the Portland Chamber of Commerce is characterized by candor that is refreshing for Portland. Although President Hahn does not go much into detail, it is plain to see that he is holding up the Harriman railroad to public notice when he says:

"The opening of the Upper Columbia and Snake rivers would so develop the country that there would be traffic enough for the railroad now occupying the south bank of the river for the steamboats, and for the often projected railroad on the north bank of the Columbia. It is not to be presumed that the project for opening the upper rivers to navigation will escape the opposition of the railroad companies. Water-borne transportation is an active competitor of the railways, and will always be fought by them. In the Pacific Northwest at the present time the railroads are opposing not only the improvement of the inland waterways, but the construction of competing railways. Thus we find Hill and Morgan keeping Harriman out of the Lewiston country, and each of the conflicting interests fighting the other away from the Nehalem-Tillamook country. But free navigation on the Columbia and its tributaries is not a local or sectional issue. It appeals with equal force to every resident of Oregon, Washington and Idaho, embracing 250,000 square miles—a region as large in area as all the New England states and New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Ohio and Kentucky combined. There is room here for the railroads and the steamboats, too. The people are entitled to competitive transportation and if they will unite in their own interest, they will be able to obtain from congress the relief they so urgently need."

Mr. Harriman's community of interest plan in the Columbia river basin has resolved itself into a hold up of producers, merchants and shippers for the benefit of Mr. Harriman and his financial backers. Harriman and his colleagues are absentee landlords. They know nothing about Oregon and they seem to care less. They are counters of shekels—of the shekels that are wrung from our people by extortionate freight charges. Had they the welfare of the country at heart they would not let Hill, Morgan and Mellen bluff them out of the Lewiston country by threatening to parallel the O. R. & N. line with a railroad down the north bank of the Columbia. Did they give but a single care to Oregon they would not tolerate the Northern Pacific's demand for the Nehalem-Tillamook country. Northern Pacific country, mind you, when the Northern Pacific has not a 25th part of the mileage of the Harriman system in Oregon.

We are pleased to note the distinctly anti-O. R. & N. tone of President Hahn's message. It denotes that Portland is waking up, perhaps late in the day, to the patent fact that Oregon's so-called "only railroad" is no longer Portland's friend. The truth is that railroad charges in the Columbia river basin are all that the traffic will bear. Portland is being cinched. The Dalles is being cinched, we are all being cinched, all for the benefit of the little man who sits in an office somewhere in New York and makes up tables of "earnings" for his coterie of backers. These men will grant no concession to our people that are not forced out of them. The only relief lies in legislative action. If present extortionate charges continue the legislatures of Oregon, Washington and Idaho will not longer keep their hands off Mr. Harriman's railroad.

THE EVIL OF COMMISSIONS

A significant indication of the tendency which reform in state government has at present is found in the governor's message in New York and Massachusetts. Last year Governor Odell made strong objections to the growth of "government by commission," and this year some of the most important recommendations which he makes are concerned with the reorganization of state institutions, to abolish unnecesary offices and secure more efficient administration. Simultaneously Governor Crane of Massachusetts, in his message, gives extended attention to the evils of the commission system, which has been carried further in that state than anywhere else. The governor points to many unnecessary offices and suggests consolidation. He says that there is a tendency "to the establishment of special commissions to care for interests of a trivial character, which might properly be delegated to boards already in existence."

There can be no doubt that the commission system as it has prevailed in many of our states, Oregon among them, is not only extravagant, but also tends to educate the people into bad ideas of government. It is so easy to establishment of special commissions to thing or nothing, and legislatures will authorize commissions to undertake work which is no proper business of the state when it would seem impossible the same duties on the proper departments of state administration. Even when the function performed really belongs to the state, it is better to commit it to officers more directly responsible and more continuously devoted to public service than the members of commissions are likely to be. The latter are generally busy business and professional men, who give to public work such fraction of their time as is convenient. This may render valuable assistance to state officers, and their participation in government should by no means be discouraged, but they should not be placed in charge of matters which can be more economically and more efficiently cared for by a single man or a few men giving all their time to the duty and directly responsible for the results.

In regard to final payment made within four months of bankruptcy, the case of both the creditor and the debtor should be taken as to any intent towards preferring the creditor. If the debtor had made payment without any idea of preference, or the creditor had made a collection without any idea of gaining the preference, the payments should stand good; but if the contrary, then they should be refunded before the balance of the claim could be proven as against the debtor. Two jobbers might sell a retailer one night. Collect his account in full ten days before bankruptcy and the other one being as good a customer might yet have an unpaid one. Now, if both of these men in making the collection were free from any intent to gain a preference, certainly the one who has a further claim against the debtor has as good a right to a further collection as the man who had his claim paid in full has to retain it. The payments should stand as made if the oath of the debtor and the creditor is taken, and shows that no intent for preference existed.

We are willing patiently for Portland to raise the Lewis and Clark stock to $500,000 and for the rest of the state to join hands with it. Astoria has fought Portland in the past for reasons that are well known, and it will keep up the fight on the same line in the future. But when it comes to the 1905 fair we have a platform upon which all can stand. Astoria does not say what it is going to do, it does things. When all the returns are in it will be found that Astoria's subscription will be next to Portland's, the largest of any city in the State of Oregon. Therein we are going to show that we are all right.

Our friend the Amoer of Afghanistan, Habib Ullah Khan, says that he will guard his country against the wicked railroad and telegraph builders and the unreasonable missionary. Mr. Khan will think an earthquake has jarred him when the American juggernaut of twentieth century progress lands against his palace.

A great many congressmen are disturbed by the assertion of representative Eddy of Minnesota that not over a dozen of them could earn $1000 a year in private life. Mr. Eddy may not have exaggerated the number but he is digging into a well where he has dislodged a large nugget of truth.

It would appear that the unconscious Oregonian is doing its best to forget the Hon. Joseph Simon.

Stops the Cough and Works Off the Cold.

Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets cure a cold in one day. No cure, No Pay. Price 25 cents.

There is to be a fight between Jeffries and Sharkey at San Francisco. So far as recorded, the latter never fought a fair fight in his life. The only hope in connection with the matter is that Jeffries will knock him out so quickly as to prevent any foul work and then die of joy to see what he has accomplished.

According to the Columbia Chronicle, Chauncey Depew had been a bachelor until the other day he took a wife a girl of suitable age to have been his own granddaughter. Possibly Chauncey, Jr. would be interested in this information.

THE FUEL OF THE FUTURE

This question has been worrying many people who fear that the coal supply is becoming exhausted, but there is no need to worry, however, as a substitute has been discovered in petroleum. In nearly all of Nature's products we find that as soon as one material becomes scarce another is discovered to take its place. There is one exception and that is Hostetter's Stomach Bitters. It is Nature's own remedy for all stomach, liver and bowel complaints, and during the past fifty years it has been impossible to make a better medicine. It cures indigestion, dyspepsia, constipation, nervousness and malaria, fever and ague. If you have never tried it do so today. It cannot help do you good. Our private Die Stakes is over the neck of the bottle.

Daniel Young, late auditor of the Union Pacific, has had his jurisdiction so extended that he will have to maintain an office at each of five places, namely, Omaha, Salt Lake, San Francisco, New Orleans and Houston. A mere dual existance is no longer in it.

WORKING 30 HOURS A DAY.

There's no rest for those tireless little workers—De. King's New Life Pills. Millions are always busy, curing Torpid Liver, Jaundice, Biliousness, Fever and Ague. They banish Sick Headache and Fever and Malaria. Never gripe or weaken. Small, mild, sure, work wonders. Try them. 25 cents at Hart's Drugstore.

Uncle Sam's commercial invasion of Europe has not required all the forces available. A few unpatriotic skirmishers seem to be doing all that is necessary in Mexico and South America.

DON'T LIVE TOGETHER.

Constipation and health never go together. DeWitt's Little Early Risers promote easy action of the bowels without distress. "I have been troubled with constipation nine years," says J. O. Greene, Depauw, Ind. "I have tried many remedies but Little Early Risers give best results." CHAS. ROGERS.

Attorney McKinnell seems to be getting some advertising out of the tendency to gambling manias really deserves.

Turkey has paid $100 in cash for having murdered an American wheelman. For a country so hard up as Turkey such indulgences should be counted as luxuries.

Another Boer show has come and gone, and the natives have gone to smash, from an income point of view, so far as recorded, the latter never fought a fair fight in his life. The only hope in connection with the matter is that Jeffries will knock him out so quickly as to prevent any foul work and then die of joy to see what he has accomplished.

Rockefeller asks for concessions from the city of Paris. Naturally there is more or less of a joke in the French capital.

Turks are said to be making it lively for the kidnappers of Miss Stone. Now if somebody will only make it lively for the Turks quite will seem to be having an inning.

A FIREMAN'S CLOSE CALL.

"I struck to my saddle although every joint ached and every nerve was racked with pain," writes W. Bellamy, a locomotive fireman of Burlington, Iowa, "I was weak and pale, without any appetite and all run down. As I was about to give up I got a bottle of Electric Bitters and, after taking it, I felt as well as I ever did in my life." Weak, sickly, run-down people always gain new life, strength and vigor from their use. Try them. Satisfaction guaranteed by Hart's Drugstore. Price 50 cents.

A man who keeps his own counsel rarely has to search for fine phrases for apologies.

The man who passes forged checks must be a fool, but the law does not allow him to make this plea.

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"I was troubled for about seven years with my stomach and in bed half my time," says R. Demuck, Somerville, Ind. "I spent about $100 and never could get anything to help me until I tried Kodol Dyspepsia Cure. I have taken a few bottles and am entirely well." You don't live by what you eat, but by what you digest and assimilate. If your stomach doesn't digest your food you are really starving. Kodol Dyspepsia Cure does the stomach's work by digesting the food. You don't have to diet. Eat all you want. Kodol Dyspepsia Cure cures all stomach troubles. CHAS. ROGERS.

An interesting speculation about those hold-up stories out of Alaska is that they are not so.

Other politicians are at sea. If they were not they would not be sent to Cuba.

CHILDREN ESPECIALLY LIABLE

Burns, bruises and cuts are extremely painful and if neglected often result in blood poisoning. Children are especially liable to such mishaps because not so careful. As a remedy DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve is unequaled. Draws out the fire, stops the pain, soon heals the wound. Beware of counterfeits. Sure cure for piles. "DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve cured my baby of eczema after two physicians gave her up," writes James Mock, N. Webster, Ind. "The sores were so bad she soiled two to five dresses a day." CHAS. ROGERS.

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LEAVE	PORTLAND	ARRIVE
8:00 a m 7:00 p m	Portland Union Depot For Astoria and Way Points	11:10 a m 5:40 p m
	ASTORIA	
7:45 a m 6:10 p m	For Portland and Way Points	11:30 a m 10:30 p m
	SEASIDE DIVISION	
*8:45 a m 11:05 a m *5:00 p m	Astoria for Warrenton, Flavel, Fort Stevens, Hammond and Astoria	7:40 a m 1:00 p m *6:10 p m
6:15 a m 2:30 p m 5:30 a m	Seaside for Warrenton, Flavel, Hammond, Fort Stevens and Astoria	11:50 a m 7:00 p m *9:25 a m

* Sunday only.

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Arrives The Dalles the same day, 4 p. m.
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Chicago Portland Special 9:00 a. m. via Huntington	Salt Lake, Denver, Ft. Worth, Omaha, Kansas City, St. Louis, Chicago and East.	4:30 p. m.
Atlantic Express 4:00 p. m. via Huntington	Salt Lake, Denver, Ft. Worth, Omaha, Kansas City, St. Louis, Chicago and East.	8:45 a. m.
St. Paul Fast mail 8 p. m. via Spokane	Walla Walla, Lewiston, Spokane, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Duluth, Milwaukee, Chicago and East	7:00 a. m.

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	All sailing dates subject to change. For San Francisco every five days.	
7 a. m. Daily except Sun.	Columbia River To Portland and Way Landings	4 a. m. etc. Monday

Steamer Nahcotta leaves Astoria on this date, except Saturday, for Ilwaco, connecting there with trains for Long Beach, Tokeo and North Beach points. Returning arrives at Astoria same evening.

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