Daily Astorian.

Telephone, Main 661.

TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION LABEL ASTORIA, ORE.

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Sent by mail, per year, in advance $1 00

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THE ASTORIAN PUBLISHING CO.,

It would seem strange indeed for Jonathan Bourne to entertain aspirations for the senatorial toga, but that appears to be the exact situation. Bourne is a republican with populistic tendencies. He is quite well-to-do, and it is rumored that he is interested with Joseph Teal in the Portland Journal. Now, the Journal is a democratic paper, but the populistic-republican Mr. Bourne would probably not have any scruple against being identified with its management. The Journal's whole effort at present is to "rib up" trouble between Messrs. Geer and Fulton, thereby dividing the latter's recognized strength with the former. When it gets the two men involved, it will launch forth the boom of the irrepressible Mr. Bourne and elect him hands down. This is the story that is told in Portland, and it is probably based on fact. But it is quite reasonable that, even if Mr. Fulton could not be successful, neither the governor nor the populistic Portlander could hope for the toga. They are, to employ the vernacular of the day, "dead ones," and might as well hope for a ride over that railroad to Mars as to hope for a commission that would entitle either of them to a seat in the upper house of the national congress.

It is evident that the success of the Lewis and Clark fair depends entirely upon the action of the state legislature. The railroads which have subscribed $50,000 have insisted upon the condition that the state give $750,000, which is a quarter of a million more than was asked by the fair board. It is not to be expected, perhaps, that a $750,000 appropriation can be secured from the legislature, but it does not follow that the railroads will withdraw this offer. Should any of them do so, however, the people of Portland might retaliate in the way of business to an extent that would make the railroads realize the dire results of their selfishness. The fair will certainly not be a money-maker, nor is it expected to be. The principal beneficiaries will be the carriers, which should, and must, contribute their full share toward the expense of advertising this region. The legislature must likewise take a broad-minded view of the matter and grant without delay the amount asked for. Oregon is on the verge of a business boom, which will be greatly accelerated by the fair. We must first make the exposition a success, and it is up to the legislature to take the first step toward that end.

Trades unionism in Oregon has made rapid growth during the present year. According to President Harry of the state Federation of Labor, there were only six towns outside of Portland that had unions on January 1, and the total membership was about 950. Portland unions had an aggregate membership of 5000. On November 1 there were unions in 23 outside towns and cities, with an aggregate membership of 5875, while Portland unions had grown in membership to 8800. Astoria easily ranks second in point of union membership, with something like 1600. The showing for the entire state is about 20,000. This is indeed a gratifying condition of affairs and augurs well for the future prosperity of the workingman. Experience traches that the most serious labor troubles have come about through belated effort to unionize industries. Where the unions take hold at the start there is seldom trouble of consequence. The laborer is worthy of his hire, and there is no other way to insure this than to organize trades unions. Oregon will seen be a big state, and the foundation now being laid by her workingmen will operate to the advantage of future generations.

THE NORTHWEST PRESS.

Portland Telegram: That old chestnut, prohibition of the sale of liquor in the capitol building, bobs up again, as it does every year. It is always favored by a lot of congressional cowards who know very well that it is only a bit of cheap claptrap thrown as a sop to the temperance vote. Whether it is voted up or down there will always be something in the capitol restaurant to drink besides what temperance people have on their tables. A great deal of energy is wasted in this world making mountains out of molehills.

Tacoma News: A number of people are preparing to take French leave of Seattle. It is rumored that a grand jury will be convened at Seattle next month. Hence the exodus. But please don't come to Tacoma, timid sirs!

Portland Journal: There is discussion of the status of matters at Salem during the session of the legislature, with reference to the relations between the governor and the assembly. Let it be understood that the people elected George E. Chamberlain as chief executive, and that the executive is a co-ordinate branch of the state government. Respect is due to the governor as the choice of a majority of the people. Partisanship meddling with the functions and prerogatives of the governor's office will be resented by voters in the future. They intended to make George Chamberlain chief executive and that he should perform the duties of the office as determined by precedents. Furthermore, it is mildly suggested that not all of the power of the state government is vested in the legislature. The governor might retaliate, if the other branch of the government were to be too mean. The suggestion is made solely upon the Journal's own initiative, and is not at the instance of Mr. Chamberlain.