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# The Morning Astorian.

LARGEST CIRCULATION IN CLATSOP AND THE ADJOINING COUNTIES . . . . .

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ASTORIA, OREGON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1902.

NO. 155

**To My Customers**

Owing to the rush incident to Xmas business, I have not the time to send cards to all of my customers asking them to call for a 1903 calendar.

I therefore take this method of inviting all who have so liberally patronized me during the year just closing to please call and get one of my calendars.

As there will be a rush of shoppers the fore part of the week, I respectfully ask that you get the calendars immediately after Xmas.

Very sincerely,  
*Norman Ellis*  
CLOTHIER & HATTER

Have You Read  
**"THE CONQUEST"**  
The true story of Lewis and Clark?  
FOR SALE BY  
**J. N. GRIFFIN**  
SUCCESSOR TO GRIFFIN & REED

**THE BEE HIVE**

Special sale of Ladies' India Silk White and Light Colored Waists at . . . . . \$2.50

Bargains in Ladies' and Misses' Cloaks—long quarters and 27 in. lengths.

Children's Dresses in latest styles at astonishingly low prices.

Black and Colored Wool Taffeta Silk Waists . . . . . \$4.00

Now is the opportunity to get a Cloak at a big reduction.

SEE DISPLAY IN WINDOWS

Dainty affairs in Neckwear—Handkerchiefs and Mufflers.

**See Us for Holiday Goods**  
**THE BEE HIVE**

## JUDGE NELSON WAS A FORGER

Late Official Had Systematically Plundered the City by Raising Warrants.

### HIS SHORTAGE IS A BIG ONE

Loss Will Fall on His Bondsmen and the Persons for Whom the Auditor Bought City Warrants.

A question was sprung yesterday afternoon when it was announced that the accounts of the late Henry E. Nelson, auditor and police judge of this city, showed a heavy shortage. The exact amount of the defalcation cannot be told, but enough is known to show that there is a deficit of fully \$4000.

The first intimation that Judge Nelson's affairs had not been honestly conducted came about two weeks ago, when he was taken to St. Mary's hospital for medical treatment. Deputy Auditor Leberman, in going over the warrant book, noticed some peculiar marks on the stubs, and subsequent investigations, which were quietly made, brought to light the defalcation.

Experts have been appointed to examine the late auditor's accounts, and within a short time the extent of the defalcation will be known.

Judge Nelson was first elected to the office of auditor in 1896. Evidently the auditor's shortcomings commenced in 1897, although the period over which the defalcation extended is yet to be actually determined. Every month the official plundered the city treasury, and the shortage was never discovered, the auditor always being successful in talking the council ways and means committee out of the notion of expediting the books.

The auditor's defalcation was the result of a thorough system of warrant-raising. For several years past he had been engaged in the buying of warrants for Astorians who invested in city scrip, and nearly all persons whose claims were allowed by the council received cash instead of warrants, the auditor taking their receipts. When a claim for \$3, for instance, was presented, it was referred to the proper council committee, and at the following meeting of the council would be allowed. When the claimant called at the city hall the auditor would pay him in cash, the money having been left with him by warrant buyers. City warrants are made payable to bearer, and after paying the claimant the auditor would make out the warrant. A \$2 warrant would be made out for \$3, not, however, until the signature of the mayor had been attached to it. Mr. Leberman first noticed private marks on the stub book that were used by the auditor as memoranda. All sorts of marks were used, such as three straight lines with the figure 6 below them. These marks served to remind the defaulter of the amount in which he raised the warrant, the mark above referred to meaning that he had added \$36 to the warrant.

As the stub book showed both the exact amount of the claim and the amount in which the warrant was drawn, the auditor was enabled to make a proper showing at any time he was called upon to do so, as he could have called off the correct amounts to the official who was delegated to check him up.

By thus raising warrants, Auditor Nelson stole between \$3000 and \$5000. It is recalled now that the auditor always refused to permit persons other than himself to go into his private office, but, as he was addicted to the use of liquor, it was generally thought that he had whiskey in his safe and kept people out of the office in order that they would not learn of it.

On several different occasions City Attorney Smith advised the ways and means committee to have the books of Auditor Nelson audited, but the auditor always talked the committee out of the idea, saying the city could not afford to pay for the work. He was regarded as scrupulously honest, and for this reason the books were never gone over.

The police court fines and forfeitures which amount to a very large sum annually, have all been turned over to City Treasurer Dealey.

City Attorney Smith states that the city will not lose any large amount. Judge Nelson's bondsmen for his first term (1896-98) were W. L. Robb and Martin Eard; for his second term (1898-1900), August Danielson and Charles Larson; for his third term (1900-02), Charles Larson and George A. Nelson, the latter his brother. Thus far no bonds have been discovered for

## ROOSEVELT WILL NOT ARBITRATE

Final Decision Is Dispute Will Go Before The Hague Tribunal.

### CASTRO IS AGREEABLE

Following Out the President's Suggestion Is Expected to Speedily Raise Blockade.

### NEW CUP DEFENDER

Herrshoff Building a Craft to Beat the Constitution and Columbia.

### TOO HARTY KANSAS MOB HANGS THE WRONG MAN

Two Brothers Become Implicated in Murder and the Innocent One Suffers.

### SAD DEATH OF SANTA CLAURE

The Annual Christmas Accident This Time in Ohio.

### CHRISTMAS FRACAS IN WALDORF ASTORIA

Insane Man With Grievance Creates a Scene.

### MARCONI CONGRATULATED.

GLACE BAY, N. S., Dec. 26.—The following message was received today by Marconi in reply to his wireless telegram to the Italian minister of marine:

"Considering the cooperation of the navy as a duty which was owed to you, I am happy and proud to have been responsible for arranging that it should be given. I congratulate you cordially upon the great success obtained."

## FIREMEN MEET DEATH IN FLAMES

Huge Wall Crashes Down Upon Them With Fatal Results.

### THE BODIES ARE RECOVERED

Factories in the Brooklyn River District Suffer a Fire Loss of Nearly Half Million.

### ROUGH RIDER DEAD

Made Good Record in Spanish-American War.

### NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—Dr. Frederick E. Brady, who was a member of Roosevelt's Rough Riders, in the Spanish-American war, is dead in a hospital here from typhoid fever.

In the Spanish-American war he was in the engagement at Las Guasimas, the battle of San Juan Hill and the siege of Santiago, making an honorable record.

## GEER CONGRATULATES DOLE

Completion of Trans-Pacific Cable Source of Gratification.

### ENGLISH NAVY REGULATIONS

Introduction of Modern Ideas Meets Favor and Criticism.

### NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—A dispatch to the Tribune from London says Mr. Ahold-Forrester, rather than the Earl St. Albans, is believed to be the real author of the British admiralty's new naval scheme.

As might have been expected, the regulations are already provoking a great deal of criticism. They are far too revolutionary for some of England's senior naval officers, but the younger ranks welcome the new order of things as being a big step in the direction of the democratization of the British navy.

### WASHINGTON, Dec. 26.—President Roosevelt will not be the arbitrator of the Venezuelan controversy. The whole Venezuelan subject will be referred to The Hague tribunal.

Epitomized, this was the situation as it had resolved itself at the conclusion of the cabinet meeting today. The meeting was not so long as the sessions usually are. All the members, except Secretary Root, were present. The Venezuelan question was the principal and practically the only topic of general concern under consideration. Secretary Hay presented the results of his cable correspondence with the governments in London, Berlin, Rome and Caracas. In accordance with the suggestion made by President Roosevelt, through Secretary Hay, President Castro was reported to have agreed to submit the difficulties to the arbitration of the tribunal at The Hague. The European powers not only consented to submit the controversy to arbitration, but while they had expressed a preference for an arbitration to be conducted by President Roosevelt, they had assented to his suggestion that the matter be referred to The Hague.

The presentation of the case met the hearty approval of the cabinet. No fear is expressed by the administration that the Monroe doctrine will be brought into the controversy in any manner that might result in an embarrassing situation for the United States. Secretary Hay is preparing a note to the powers in which the gratification of this government is expressed for the course agreed upon. No intention is given of the conditions which may have been imposed by the European powers or by President Castro's precedent to the arbitration. It is known that Great Britain was willing to submit the subject to the arbitration of President Roosevelt practically without conditions, but the suggestion is made that one, and perhaps two of the other powers involved proposed some conditions which might have proved embarrassing to the president had he undertaken the responsibility of determining the question.

It is understood that some money must pass, but it is also known that the amount of cash to be required of Venezuela before arbitration is not nearly so large as had been stated. It is not possible to learn either whether the allies insist upon apologies from Castro, and while it is assumed that the blockade will be speedily raised, no arrangement to that end has yet been made.

### SALEM, Dec. 26.—Governor Geer today sent the following congratulatory dispatch to the Postal Telegraph and Cable company at San Francisco for transmission to Governor Dole, at Honolulu, to be among the first messages sent by trans-Pacific cable when completed tomorrow:

"To President Dole, Hawaii—Accept the congratulations of the people of Oregon upon the establishment of a telegraphic communication with your distant island territory. May it be a forerunner of uninterrupted patriotic and commercial community of interests between your people and those of the parent country. T. T. Geer, Governor of Oregon."

### NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—In a fire which shot through five factories in the river front district of Brooklyn this morning after 1 o'clock three firemen were killed, three were badly injured and more than \$400,000 damage was done. The list of dead and injured is as follows:

**THE DEAD:**  
MICHAEL O'TOOLE, fireman of engine No. 55; on water tower.  
THOMAS JEFFRIES, fireman, water tower No. 6; crushed out of recognition.

**BATTALION CHIEF THOMAS COPPINGER** of Twenty-third Battalion; skull fractured; arm and leg broken.

**THE INJURED:**  
Thomas McCarthy, fireman, engine No. 58, on water tower; right leg fractured and right hip crushed.  
William McCoolley, citizen; skull crushed.

Beginning among the inflammable materials in the coopersage plant of Arbuckle Bros., at Plymouth and Bridge streets, within a half hour the flames were shooting from all the building and all the available fire engines of Brooklyn, with Chief Purrey in charge, were trying to save the district.

The coopersage plant of Arbuckle Bros. is an old fashioned five-story building. It was filled from top to bottom with material for making brooks, the refuse from the carpenters' work, old barrels and loose odds and ends of lumber and fears were entertained that the flames would spread to

(Continued on Page 4.)

**Oregon City Woolen Mills**

## BLANKETS

**NONE BETTER**

We have them in White and all Colors  
Per Pair \$3.50 to \$12.00

**C. H. COOPER**

**TALK HAPPINESS**

"The World Is Sad Enough  
Without Your Woes." 000

**MAKE YOURSELF HAPPY**

By Cooking your Xmas Turkey in a  
**SUPERIOR RANGE**

**ECLIPSE HARDWARE CO.**