

Fresh Meats and Groceries OUR SPECIALTY

Low Prices and Satisfaction

Ross, Higgins & Co.

THE MORNING ASTORIAN

TELEPHONE 661.

TO DAY'S WEATHER

POTLAND, Jan. 3.—Western Oregon, partly cloudy with occasional rain.

For BARGAINS

Come to Our

Seventh Annual Clearance Sale

THE A. Dunbar Co.

Sweet cream 15 cents a pint. No charge for whipping. Tagg's candy store.

FOR SALE—At a bargain, a fine cash register. Apply at Astorian office.

You will always find the best 15c meal in the city at the Rising Sun restaurant, No. 413 Commercial street.

Young Japanese boy wishes situation to do cooking and house work. City or Country; 626 Commercial street.

Call and see the latest novelties from Japan. Large stock of fancy goods. Yokohama Bazaar, 428 Commercial st.

For Rent—Three furnished rooms for housekeeping, on ground floor. Enquire at Scully's hardware store, 431 Bond street.

The licenses of Pilots Gunderson, Cann, Matthews and Groves have been renewed by the Oregon board of pilot commissioners.

The steamer Elder departed yesterday for San Francisco. She took on 300 tons of box shooks and a quantity of oysters at Astoria.

For mirrors, brushes, soaps, perfumery, stationery, and fancy and toilet articles where an you be supplied so well as at Charles Rogers' druggist?

The funeral of little Albert Ekoon, who died Friday evening from scarlet fever, was held yesterday afternoon with interment at Greenwood.

Miss Esther Carlson, the 16 year old daughter of Mrs. Peter Carlson, living in the east end was reported yesterday to be down with scarlet fever.

George Welch, now a practicing attorney at Heppner, Ore., is seriously ill and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jas. W. Welch, will leave today to be with him.

There is a movement on foot to change the assessor's term from two to four years and a bill will be introduced at the next session of the legislature incorporating the proposition.

An event of much importance to the general public is the sweeping clearance sale now under way at the popular exclusive boot and shoe store of Peterson & Brown. When a stock of this size is offered at special sale, everything goes down to bedrock, it is no wonder that a run is made on the firm which bids fair to clean them out of goods before the time is up.

A telephone message to the local O. R. & N. office yesterday afternoon stated that the steamer Hualala had broken her pitman shaft, and that she would not arrive down this morning. In consequence of the accident, there will be no morning boat out of Astoria on Monday. The steamer Undine will arrive down this morning with the Hualala's freight and passengers. Only meager particulars of the accident were received, but it is thought it will not take long to repair the damage.

A landslide which occurred yesterday morning on Little Bear Creek broke the water main at that point and the reservoir in consequence is not being replenished. At the point where the slide occurred the main takes a plunge of 300 feet to the bottom of the ravine and at the very bottom is where the break occurred. Great pressure is felt there and heavy castings are required. The work of repairing will commence this afternoon and it is hoped will be finished sometime tomorrow. In the meantime it behooves consumers to be as economical as possible in the use of water or the limited supply on hand will be exhausted.

There is a large whale stranded near Fort Stevens and there is every indication that it will stay stranded. When first observed the huge leviathan was broadside on the jetty and was being knocked in a merciless manner against the rocks. After a desperate effort the great fish righted itself and struggled through an 18-foot bent its sides grazing as it went. Friday evening the whale was pounding on the sands somewhat further out, but not in water of sufficient depth to be free. A. Siefert and W. Laycock, employed on the government works, made close observations from their engine on the jetty and state that the monster is fully 75 feet in length.

Office of C. Q. M., Vancouver Barracks, Wash., December 31, 1902. Sealed proposals, in triplicate, will be received here until 12 noon, January 8, 1903, for delivery on a wharf accessible to ocean-going steamships at Portland, Oregon, or on government wharf at Seattle or Tacoma, Wash., of material required for the construction of 13 buildings (officers' quarters) near Manila, P. I. Information furnished here. U. S. reserves right to reject or accept any or all proposals or any part thereof. Envelopes containing proposals should be marked: "Proposals for material required for the construction of officers' quarters near Manila, P. I." addressed F. H. Hathaway, C. Q. M.

Judge Alex Sweek, state senator from Multnomah county and a prominent democrat, was in Astoria yesterday. Just at this time the doings of democrats are watched with interest, as the new governor is of that political faith. When an Astorian man saw Senator Sweek he was talking with a bunch of Astoria democrats, but assured the reporter that his visit had no political significance. Efforts to induce him to talk politics fell flat. "I am out of politics," said he, but the merry twinkle in his eye indicated that he thoroughly realized the humor of the remark. "I am a lawyer, sir, and came down to look after the interests of a client." The senator said the democratic smog in Portland on January 3 would be an informal affair to which all democrats were invited, and expressed the hope that Astoria would be well represented. The big democratic love-feast is to come later, and on that occasion invitations will be issued to the faithful by a committee. Senator Sweek returned to Portland on the night train, having found it impossible to remain over in Astoria for a day.

The committee appointed by the salmon packers of the Columbia at their meeting in Portland last week, and consisting of Messrs. Geo. H. George, F. M. Warren Jr. and Geo. W. Sanborn, held a meeting yesterday afternoon at which a schedule of rates for taxation and license fees was arranged which, if adopted, will increase the amounts raised by this means for artificial propagation by about 50 percent over the receipts of last season. The report covers all items subject to license, including packinghouses, cases of packed salmon, boats, gear, etc. It is the intention to do away with individual licenses so far as they apply to boatpullers. H. M. Lornsen, secretary of the fishermen's union, was present by invitation and will cooperate with the packers in the endeavor to raise the amount necessary for the proper protection of the fishing industry. The report of the committee will be presented to the packers at a meeting to be called by Chairman F. M. Warren, probably on Tuesday next in Portland. The recommendations of the packers will be submitted to the state legislature at the coming session, and will also embody the request that the state appropriate \$30,000 for the purpose of building hatcheries, and \$5,000 additional to make up the amount necessary for their maintenance. It is estimated that the amount to be realized from taxes and licenses, if the recommendations of this committee are made legal, will approximate \$17,000. Last year's receipts were in excess of \$11,000. An effort will also be made to induce the state of Washington to equalize its license rates with those of Oregon.

SCHOOLS TO BE CLOSED

BOARD BELIEVES CONDITIONS WARRANT IT.

Scores City Health Officials Who Make Reply to the Attack Upon Them.

The school board has gone after the health department of the city, and in an open letter to City Physician Cordiner takes the health authorities to task for what it terms the laxity of the city officials in observing the quarantine regulations. However, the board evidently appreciates that there is some cause for alarm, and will cause the schools of the city to be closed for at least one week, intimating that, should conditions warrant closing for a longer period, the order will be continued in effect. The letter is as follows:

"ASTORIA, Jan. 3.—Dr. C. A. Cordiner, Health Officer, City of Astoria—Dear Sir: Your favor of the 2nd inst., requesting us to close the schools, has been received, and a meeting of the board was called to consider the same. "You will pardon us if, upon discussion of your communication and request, the board has seen fit to criticize the action of the health department for its laxity in quarantining houses wherein scarlet fever has been reported, and it is a serious question if this laxity has not been the cause of the spread of the disease.

"Several physicians have informed members of the board that they have reported cases to the chief of police, and that no notice was taken of the same. In one case, where a death occurred, followed by a public funeral, many small children were permitted to view the remains. At the same time another child was lying ill, afterwards dying from the effects of scarlet fever, yet there was no quarantine.

"Where any notice at all is taken of the disease, a flag is simply put up, and members of the family and residents of the house are permitted to come and go at will; sheets and bedding and clothes are taken to the Chinese laundry from the sick rooms. Who is responsible? It seems to this board that the health officers and the police are the proper parties to correct this state of affairs.

"It is remarkable that the disease has been, or is, confined to some three or four families, as you inform us. "We do not wish to be unduly critical, but would much rather cooperate in this matter; and, in accordance with your request, we beg to state that we will defer opening of the schools for at least one week.

"The board hopes that steps will be taken to properly quarantine the infected homes. If you do not or can not do so, we consider it of little use to close the schools. Very truly yours, "E. Z. FERGUSON, Clerk.

"By order of the board." "A reporter talked with Chief Hallock about the charge in the board's letter that he had not displayed proper activity when cases of infectious disease were reported to him. Chief Hallock said:

"So far as I know, I am not the health officer of this city. I am supposed to report contagious disease to the city physician, and to follow his instructions as to placing out flags and notices. The statement that I have been lax in my official duty is not well founded. Once a physician reported an infectious case to me, describing the location as being on Scow Bay street, I personally made search for the house and later detailed an officer to look for it, but neither of us could find it. I am willing to do—and have done—whatever the city physician has instructed me to do. No other course remains for me under the existing regulations."

DOCTOR CORDINER'S STATEMENT

Says He is Doing the Best He Can in Preventing Contagion.

Dr. C. A. Cordiner, city physician, and Chief of Police Hallock called at The Astorian office last night to make reply to the letter from the school board. Both officials seemed to think the board should have addressed the letters to them through the mail, but were willing, nevertheless, to stand by their public records. Doctor Cordiner submitted the following reply to the school board's letter:

"ASTORIA, Jan. 3.—To the Editor: In last evening's Budget appeared a communication from the school board, addressed to the city physician, concerning the laxity of the quarantine being placed on the various houses infected with scarlet fever. I heartily agree with the honorable gentlemen that the quarantine is somewhat lax; but upon what individual can the blame be placed? Upon arriving at those houses I usually find the people informed by their physician what they may or may not do, and that before any quarantine is placed on the premises. What can I do in the matter—disagree with the attending physician in many cases, thereby incurring the enmity not only of said physician, but of the people as well, and demand that they do such and such, and then not be backed up in the matter by the city law? "The same men who now criticize would be the first to point the finger and say I had no business to act so. I tell you, I am 'between the devil and

the deep sea.' I advise you now, gentlemen, that I shall get along as quietly as I can with the other physicians and not inconvenience the people more than is required for public safety.

"Several physicians are quoted in your letter as having reported cases of scarlet fever. Permit me to say that only two physicians have reported cases of scarlet fever to me (count again, gentlemen), and in each case, two hours after being reported, the premises were under quarantine, placed there by a police officer and myself. The statement quoted from some physician that 'in one case where a death occurred, followed by a public funeral, many small children were permitted to view the remains, and at the same time another child was lying sick, and afterwards died from the effects of scarlet fever,' all without quarantine, is wrong and the truth is not in it, for no family has lost two children.

"In concluding, I shall ask the cooperation of every physician and every citizen, that we may more effectually stamp out the dreaded disease. As for the members of the school board, they consider it a personal favor to cooperate. Not at all, gentlemen; it is demanded of you. C. A. CORDINER."

ESTES UPHOLDS CITY PHYSICIAN

Dr. O. B. Estes was seen last night by an Astorian man in regard to the closing of schools during the prevalence of contagious disease in the city. The physician is strongly in favor of the schools being closed and expressed himself on the matter in a decisive manner.

"Scarlet fever," said Doctor Estes, "exists at the present time in this city in a more virulent form than at any period during my residence here and I have lived here for nearly 20 years. Doctor Cordiner, in his recommendation as city physician that the schools be not reopened next Monday, is eminently correct and I stand shoulder-to-shoulder with him on the proposition. Public schools should be kept closed for at least two weeks longer. The welfare of the city demands it. If they are opened next Monday and the children are permitted to intermingle and come and go at will, a condition of affairs is more than likely to visit this community that is fearful to contemplate."

OCEANS OF RAIN.

More than seven feet of rain fell in Astoria during the calendar year 1902, and it wasn't a bad year, either, the summer months having been particularly fine. The month just passed, December, contributed its full share to the seven feet, and then some. The total rainfall for 1902 was 86.46 inches, according to Weather Man Johnson's records. In 1899, the year during which the rainfall was heaviest, the total precipitation was 101.46 inches, or about eight and one-half feet, while the precipitation for 1904, the low record year, was "only" 49.38 inches. That it can rain in Astoria, and rain hard, is evidenced by the fact that the precipitation for 48 hours ending at 5 o'clock yesterday morning was almost 6 inches. December was a bad month right from the start. The maximum temperature, 59 degrees, was recorded on Christmas day—a sort of present, as it were, from Mr. Johnson—while the lowest mark reached by the glass, on the 18th, was 33. The mean temperature for December of all years is 44.1, so December was 1-2 degree colder than usual. The precipitation for the month was 15.77 inches, or 2.53 inches more than average. The weather bureau year begins September 1, on which date in 1902 the rainfall showed a deficiency of 3.48 inches. However, it did not take December long to wipe out the deficiency, and the excess at the end of the month was 5.66 inches, the gain having been 7.13 inches. Of the 31 days rain fell on 24; there were two clear days (due to an oversight on the part of the observer, no doubt); two days were partly cloudy, and 7 were cloudy.

COOKS AND WAITERS, NOTICE.

The cooks and waiters' union will hold a special meeting at labor hall on Sunday evening, January 4, at 8 o'clock. Business of importance. All members are requested to be present. A. J. KLAFPKI, Pres. S. M. GALLAGHER, Sec.

YOU CAN'T STOP THEM.

The inclemency of the weather has no terrors for shrewd buyers; if one can judge by the crowd which attended the great close-out sale of dry goods and men's furnishings at Shanahan's on Saturday. The sale will be again resumed on Monday, and last for 30 days.

DISSOLUTION NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that the firm of McIntosh and Ross has dissolved partnership. All accounts due the firm must be paid to W. R. McIntosh, who will continue the business, and will settle all claims. W. R. McINTOSH. A. M. ROSS.

FIRE SALE.

Damaged Stock Now Selling at Reduced Prices. "The damaged stock of clothing, wraps, cloaks and millinery is now being sold at remarkably reduced prices in order to make room for an entirely new stock coming. Don't fail to call and see the goods. Almost have them at your own price. MRS. INGLETON, Welch Block.

Grand January Clearing Sale

Has begun and lasts all through the month. Remember we handle nothing but first class goods, and our low prices cannot fail to please you. Below are a few of the many things we are offering:

Table listing various clothing items and their prices, including Ladies' Jackets, Ladies' Silk Waists, Walking Skirts, Ladies' Flannel Waists, Men's Underwear, Ladies' Tailor Made Suits, and Ladies' Tailor Made Suits.

If a sale is not right—return the goods and get your money back.

Morse Department Store

OUR REDUCTION SALE

BEFORE INVENTORY—COME EARLY AND GET YOUR CHOICE

- 20 per cent off on Fancy Crockery
25 per cent off on Bisque Vases and Figures
10 per cent off on Fancy Stand and Hall Lamps
10 per cent off on Floe Blue and German China Ware and Dinner Sets.
10 per cent off on all Plated Ware except 1847 goods.

FOARD & STOKES CO. Astoria Ore.

First Great Annual Clearance Sale Of Furniture, Carpets, Stoves and Bedding

Table listing furniture and bedding items and their prices, including Art squares, Iron Beds, Feather Pillows, Matting, Carpet, and Dining Chairs.

Great Eastern Furniture Co. SHANAHAN BUILDING 376 COMMERCIAL STREET

A MESSAGE To every Man, Woman and Child: SHOES

Fancy Slippers, Rubbers, Rubber and Canvas Boots, Newest, Largest, Latest Stock. PETERSON & BROWN

THE ASTORIA Opened January 1, 1903 ASTORIA'S NEWEST HOTEL

Best Entertainment at Moderate Prices Corner Seventeenth and Commercial Sts. JACK DENCK Proprietor

Castings IRON, STEEL, BRASS and BRONZE

We are prepared to make them on short notice and of the best materials. Let us give you estimates on any kind of castings or pattern work. Lowest prices for first-class work. TELEPHONE NO. 2451. Scow Bay Iron & Brass Works