

Fresh Meats and Groceries
OUR SPECIALTY
 Low Prices and Satisfaction
Ross, Higgins & Co.

THE MORNING ASTORIAN
 TELEPHONE 661.
 TO DAY'S WEATHER
 PORTLAND, 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 *Udine* 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.

It is strenuously desired that President Roosevelt visit Astoria while on his western tour and an invitation has been mailed him to do so. Mayor Suprenant and the commercial bodies are doing the inviting on behalf of the city.

Local boat builders have examined the plans submitted for the construction of a launch to be used in the customs service at this place. The opening of bids will not take place as soon as formerly intended, having been deferred until January 15.

Arthur J. Tee, formerly of this city, but for some years a resident of Portland, has been appointed as steward of the club, Harry W. Dean having resigned. Mr. Tee at one time was clerk of the Occident hotel, and is very popular with the club fraternity of this city.

The newly elected councilmen will assume their offices tomorrow noon at a meeting of the city club called for that purpose. The other matters to be brought up will be the appointment of standing committees, a delivery of the mayor's annual message and the fixing of a time to hold meetings during the coming year.

O. H. Bellinger, who is connected with the Portland office of the O. R. & N. Co., was down yesterday looking after the improvements that are being made to the dock here. The entire front is to be renewed, entailing a large expenditure. Mr. Bellinger, who is a son of Judge Bellinger, returned to the metropolis on the night train.

The following bids were received yesterday afternoon by the street committee for the construction of a drain on Eleventh street: C. E. Johnson, \$47.45; W. A. Goodin, \$45.00; C. G. Palmberg, \$45.00. The contract was awarded to Mr. Palmberg after he and Mr. Goodin shook dice over the matter. Mr. Palmberg was also awarded the contract for repairing the bell tower for engine house No. 24. The only other contestant was Birch & Jacobson, \$75. Palmberg's bid was \$74.

The Margarita Fischer company concluded its week's engagement at Fishers' opera house last evening with the stirring melo-drama, "A Noble Outcast." While the company is not, in two or three respects, up to a Richard Mansfield aggregation, the members, nevertheless, do work that receives enthusiastic notice wherever they go. Miss Fischer is quite young and has not been on the stage a great while, but her admirers are very confident that a great future is in store for her.

Tomorrow night the great musical farce comedy "The Irish Pawnbrokers" will be presented at Fishers' opera house. The fun is of the rip-roaring, mirth-compelling order, yet never descends to buffoonery or caricature. The company is an unusually strong organization for this special production, first and foremost among whom may be mentioned Miss Trumbull in her captivating interpretation of the star soubrette role of Angeline. Those who would enjoy three hours of heartiest laughter should exchange their cares for the chunks of enjoyment handed out by the "Irish Pawnbrokers." Seats now selling rapidly at Griffin's book store.

The reported removal of G. W. Lounsbury from the Astoria agency of the O. R. & N. to Pendleton caused much surprise among Mr. Lounsbury's friends here. When called on yesterday afternoon he said that he had heard nothing of the reported change, but believed an error had been made in the use of his name. Mr. Lounsbury did not care to discuss the matter, in the absence of authentic information or advice from headquarters, but it can be stated that he would probably not leave Astoria, even if a better position were offered him, as his interests center here. He has lived in this city for about 20 years, owns considerable property, and has many other reasons to feel that Astoria should and must be his home. That the report of his transfer was erroneous appears quite probable, and there is little danger that the popular agent will find a home elsewhere.

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 101.40 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 1.5 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.

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:

Ladies' Jackets All \$5 and \$6 coats, sale price \$3.48 All \$7.50 and \$8.50 coats, sale price \$5.50 All \$10 and \$12 coats, sale price \$7.98 All \$14.50 and \$15 coats, sale price \$11.48 All \$18.50 and \$22.50 coats, price \$14.48	Ladies' Silk Waists All \$3.50 \$4. and \$4.50 silk waists at \$2.50
Ladies' Flannel Waists All \$3 and \$3.50 waists, sale price \$2.69 All \$2.50 and \$2.75 waists, sale price \$1.89 All \$2 and \$1.75 waists, sale price \$1.39 All \$1 and \$1.25 waists, sale price 89c	Walking Skirts All \$1.25 skirts at 89c All \$2.25 skirts at \$1.35 All \$4 skirts at 2.50 All \$5 skirts at 3.00
Ladies' Tailor Made Suits All \$10 suits at \$7.48 All \$12.50 suits at 8.48 All \$15 and \$17.50 suits at 10.00	Men's Underwear All 50c and 60c underwear, sale price 40c All \$1 underwear, sale price 80c All \$1.25 and \$1.35 underwear sale price 41c All \$1.50 and \$1.75 underwear sale price \$1.25 All \$2.50 underwear, sale price \$1.75 All \$3.50 underwear sale price \$2.50

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

Art squares, best quality granite in new Oriental patterns at reduced prices. 2 1/2 x 3, reduced from \$4.75 to \$3.25 3 x 3, reduced from \$5.25 to \$3.75 3 x 3 1/2, reduced from \$5.75 to \$4.25 3 x 4, reduced from \$6.75 to \$4.95	\$3.50 Iron Beds, sale price \$2.50 \$4 Iron Beds, sale price \$3.00 \$5 Iron Beds, sale price \$3.75 \$7.50 Iron Beds, sale price \$6.00
15c Matting, sale price 10c 18c Matting, sale price 13c 20c Matting, sale price 15c 25c Matting, sale price 20c 30c Matting, sale price 27c	\$1.25 Feather Pillows for 75c \$1.50 Feather Pillows for \$1.00 \$1.75 Feather Pillows for \$1.25 \$2.50 Feather Pillows for \$2.00
50c Carpet, sale price \$7 1-2 c 6c Carpet, sale price 50c 7c Carpet, sale price 55c 8c Carpet, sale price 65c 9c Linoleum, sale price 50c	\$15 Bedroom Suits to go at Sale price \$11.95 \$15 Oak Sideboards, to go at sale price \$11.95

Good High Back Dining Chairs, sale price 65c
Hard Wood ooking Chairs, for sale price 75c

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
 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.
IRON, STEEL, BRASS and BRONZE
Scow Bay Iron & Brass Works
 Cor. 18th and Franklin Aves.

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.

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