

Morning Astorian

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THE ASTORIAN PUBLISHING CO.

GAMBLERS AND GAMBLING

CHIEF of Police Hallock resents the publication of a fact brought out at the meeting of the city council last Monday night concerning the administration of his important office. He says, in substance, that if the mayor and city council "instruct" him to collect fines from the illegitimate sources from which this city derives a large portion of its revenue, he will carry out their instructions, and if they tell him to refrain from collecting such tribute from certain people in the city, even though others may be paying for police protection for the same illegal privilege, he will abide by their wishes. We infer from this that Chief Hallock wishes to perpetuate his name in the annals of legal police history as a faithful servant, ever willing to serve his master, or two masters if necessary, as in this instance.

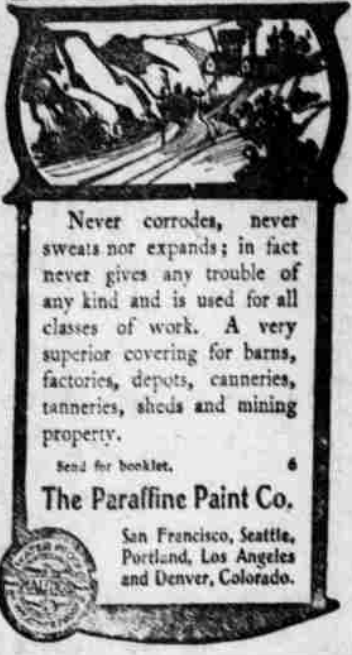
Chief of Police Hallock points to the high moral standard of the city as shown by the records of his department, and with an emphasis that is intended to banish all criticism remarks: "I did it with my little force." He even takes a keen delight in reading accounts of the holdups that are daily occurrences in the city of Portland and tells himself what a Foxy Quiller-Sherlock Holmes of a police chief Astoria has. We are indeed fortunate in being able to feel that we can retire at night without our slumber being disturbed by some midnight marauder who has received a "hunch" that we might be able to provide him with money, jewelry and silverware. The chief of police is indeed entitled to our thanks. It is a balm to wounded feelings to know that not every man we meet on the streets after dusk is armed with a jimmy for our special benefit. But even in the enthusiasm of our gratitude we feel that the chief of police is doing no more than he is paid to do when he drives out of the city crooks and vagrants, and for this reason he is not entitled to the thanks of the community in any greater measure than is the man who cleans the streets. Both are public servants, performing the duties to which they have been assigned.

The comment of The Morning Astorian at this time is not to reflect on the great chief's record as a criminal chaser. He is no worse at the game than any other man who has been in the service as long as he. Neither do we seek to close up gambling in Astoria with one fell swoop. We appreciate the impossibility of such a move in the face of the state law which deals so leniently with gamblers and the city charter that is at once so generously disposed towards them. To close up gambling, action by the legislature will be necessary, and when that body places it in the category of felonies then, and only then, can we expect to fight along the lines of eradication.

Our efforts at this time are in the direction of keeping out of the city "visiting" gamblers who come here expecting to ply their vicious traffic under the protecting wings of the municipal officials for a cash consideration, paid six months in advance. The law abiding element of this city protests against any addition to the present army of gamblers and other forms of vice; there are altogether too many gamblers and their like operating now and the temptation for the working-man to squander away his hard earned money that should go to the support of his family, and also the young men of the city, is already too great for the average man with inclinations in that direction to resist. The Morning Astorian seeks to prevail upon the municipal authorities to refuse any more gamblers the privilege of operating in this city.

As Chief of Police Hallock, The Morning Astorian has no quarrel with him. As an appointee of the police commission it seems to us that he is responsible to that body solely, the mayor and city council to the contrary notwithstanding. We believe in view of the fact that one class of people pay tribute for one illegal privilege it is only fair that every other class, whether they be located in the restricted district or in the back rooms of uptown saloons should pay for similar police protection, and we do not think it is necessary for the

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ASTORIA

7:45 a.m. For Portland and 11:30 a.m. 6:10 p.m. way points. 10:30 p.m. 12:50 p.m.

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8:15 a.m. Astoria for War- 7:40 a.m. 11:30 a.m. Astoria, Flavel, Ft. 10:30 a.m. 11:25 a.m. Stevens, Hammond, 4:00 p.m. 5:50 p.m. Seaside, 5:50 p.m. 12:55 p.m.

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