

Morning Astorian AND Astoria Daily News Established 1873

DAILY EXCEPT MONDAY.

Entered as second-class matter December 8, 1903, at the post office at Astoria, Oregon, under the act of Congress of March 3, 1879.



RATES:

Sent by mail, per year, \$6.00; Sent by mail, per month, 50c; Served by carrier, per month, 60c.

THE SEMI-WEEKLY ASTORIAN.

Sent by mail, per year, in advance \$1.00

ASTORIAN PUBLISHING CO.

MUNICIPAL OWNERSHIP.

In the Sunday Examiner, William J. Bryan, who is now on his return home from Europe, writes interestingly of municipal ownership of public utilities in the cities of England.

To Mr. Bryan, with his interest in government, the municipal ownership problem in England proved a valuable study. He enthusiastically praises the advanced ideas of the English cities and expresses the confidence that the United States would take a long stride in the right direction were it to more generally adopt the municipal ownership plan.

It is not to be doubted that municipal ownership, even on a large scale, is a good thing. Here in Astoria the city owns its water system, and, while rates at present are somewhat higher than other American cities charge, the service is excellent. Rates will be lowered when the system is paid for, and the city will then derive a large monthly revenue from its investment.

Nottingham is a good example of English municipal thrift. Its gas works lets \$120,000 yearly, with gas at 50 cents per 1000 feet; its electric light plant lets \$45,000 yearly, while its street car service with its vast improvements, higher wages and shorter hours, pays \$90,000. Rates are placed at the lowest figure consistent with sound business management, yet in Nottingham alone there is small need for taxes.

We Americans will get around to it in time, and because we have neglected as yet to assume control of all our public facilities we should not be blamed. We are making a better start than England made, and will eventually accomplish more than the mother country.

A GREAT NEWSPAPER.

The New Year's Oregonian is a great newspaper success. Within its 64 pages can be found all that is interesting to the people of the Pacific northwest and those whom favorable showings are apt to attract to our section of the country.

Only a newspaper man can have any accurate idea of the endless work necessary to the successful publication of an edition such as the annual Oregonian. Sunday newspapers of 64 pages are common nowadays in America, but they are made up of miscellaneous matter, which is easily obtained. There is no work more difficult than the compilation of statistics and estimates, which calls for the most painstaking efforts of the brightest newspaper writers and public men. Oregon is a big state—one of the larg-

est in area in the union—and her resources are varied and widely separated. The men who planned the New Year's Oregonian had to deal with every section, and to prepare all the matter was a task which few men could successfully undertake.

Oregon has every reason to be proud of the showing which appears in the annual Oregonian. Every county has forged ahead, adding to its population and increasing its wealth; our manufacturers have reached out for trade, until our products have found their way to the uttermost corners of the globe; we have gained in every department. It has been a most prosperous year for our productive state, and every indication points to increased prosperity in the future.

TWO NEW NAVAL BUILDINGS.

Two bills have been introduced into congress, each having for its object the establishment of an auxiliary force for the navy. One provides for a naval reserve, the other for a naval militia. The naval reserve bill is the more important one, for the force which it proposes to create is purely a federal one; not in the slightest degree under state control, and therefore is a departure from all previous suggestions for the creation of an auxiliary naval force.

The naval reserve bill provides for the creation of a naval force of 20,000 men all officers of which are to be appointed only after rigid examination into their professional qualifications; preference being given graduates of the naval academy and to those who saw service in the navy army or marine corps during the war with Spain.

A term of enlistment of five years is provided, during which time all officers and seamen must hold themselves in readiness to enter the service on call. When called into service officers and men are to receive the same pay as those belonging to the regular navy. An appropriation of \$200,000 is made for the organization and instruction of the naval reserve.

The navy militia bill provides for the organization of a naval militia along lines similar to the army militia and makes provision for bringing the militia more immediately under the control of the navy department than is the case with the present naval militia. It provides for inspection and instruction under regulations to be provided by the navy department.

The Seattle Times is not so sure Russia would lick Japan if war were to ensue. The Japanese, the Times believes, are quite equal to any emergency. Says the Seattle paper: "As we have remarked before, war between Russia and Japan would not be one-sided—for Japan is Russia's superior upon the ocean, no matter how the battle might be waged. Moreover, Japan is a continuous island, and even though Russia may have three million men which she could put into active service, they would be no match for Japan's million men as an invading army—for one would have to cross seas and oceans to reach Japan, while the other would be on the defensive with a well equipped and aggressive navy that could stand off all the armies of the world unsupported by a sufficient naval force to protect them."

It is not clear that anyone in particular was to blame for the terrible Chicago holocaust.

Large advertisement for 'Loremo' cigars, featuring a large cursive logo and the text 'is a good 5 cent cigar. If there was a better one Loremo would not be the largest seller in the world.'

Chicago holocaust. Perhaps the stage arrangements were responsible in a measure for the rapid spread of the fire, but from all accounts the theater was as safe as human agency could make it. Despite all the precautions that may be taken, people become madened at the cry of "fire," and the throng that crowded the Iroquois playhouse on the afternoon of December 30 no exception. The calamity was one of those rare disasters that happen occasionally to mar our lives, and perhaps will continue to happen in spite of all the care that may be observed in the construction of places of public gatherings.

The sixth annual cannery edition of the San Francisco Trade Journal is of 70 pages, including an illuminated cover, and is one of the most complete publications of the kind which has ever come to this office. It deals with the salmon, fruit and other industries in a complete manner, and will prove of great value to the trade. Its information concerning the salmon industry is of especial interest to the fisheries of the coast, and the issue is a creditable one in every respect.

During the past year lumber shipments from Astoria (exclusive of Knappa) amounted to about 2,500,000 feet. During 1904 shipments will exceed 25,000,000 feet; in 1905 will exceed 100,000,000 feet. In the next six years Astoria will be the most extensive lumber manufacturing point in the world.

To Cure a Cold in One Day. Take Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. All druggists refund the money if it fails to cure. E. W. Grove's signature is on each box. 25c.

Subscribe for the Astorian.

Advertisement for Miss Rose Owens, featuring a portrait and text: 'MISS ROSE OWENS, No. 720 Seventeenth St., WASHINGTON, D. C. "If every suffering woman has the same experience with Wine of Cardui that I had, your medicine will be most popular. About a year ago I began to have a worn out tired feeling with lassitude, pains in the back and head which kept increasing every month. I felt that I needed something, but to get the right medicine was the trouble. I finally decided on your Wine of Cardui and only needed to take three bottles when I was fully recovered."'

THE LOUVRE. CHAS. WIRKALA, Proprietor. JAMES GARDNER, Manager. LUCY CUNNINGHAM, Pianist. Program Week Commencing December 7. Overture, Mr. Volunteer, PAUL DRESSER. The Sweet Singer, Miss Blanche Lewis, in new ballads. Bobby Boyle, will hand out a few knockout drops. Overture, Princess Pocahontas, March, RICHARD F. HOYT. BOYLE and LEWIS, in their funny sketch, "The Tramp and the Lady." Overture, Soul of the Rose, Waltzes, HENRY FRANTZEN. The Peer of Song Illustrators, LUCILE CUNNINGHAM, singing Harry Von Tiltz's success, "When the Harvest Days Are Over."

PRAEL & COOK TRANSFER COMPANY. Telephone 221. DRAYING AND EXPRESSING. All goods shipped to our care will receive special attention. No. 538 Duane St. W. J. COOK, Mgr. The Germania. WM. BOCK, Prop. WINES LIQUORS and CIGARS. Weinhard's Celebrated Beer. Corner Bond and Tenth - - - - Astoria.

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RUSSIAN BATHS. Only the better class of patronage is catered to. Try one and you will come regularly. Price, 25 cents. Ladies' Private Apartments. 217 Astor Street.

KOPP'S BEER HALL. Astor Street. Pool and Billiard Parlor. Astoria's Most Popular Resort... Kopp's Celebrated Beer Always on Draught. Imported Goods; Foreign and Domestic Cigars. AL. SEAFELDT.

O.R.&N. OREGON SHORT LINE AND UNION PACIFIC. 70 hours from Portland to Chicago. No change of cars.

Table with columns: Depart, TIME SCHEDULES, Arrive. Rows include Chicago, Portland, Salt Lake, Denver, Ft. Worth, Omaha, Kansas City, St. Louis, Chicago and East.

OCEAN AND RIVER SCHEDULE. -From Astoria- All sailing dates subject to change. For San Francisco every five days. Columbia River to Portland and Way Landings. Steamer Nahcotta leaves Astoria on tide daily except Sunday for Iwaco, connecting there with trains for Long Beach, Tigra and North Beach points. Returning arrives at Astoria same evening. G. W. ROBERTS, Agent, Astoria. New Equipment Throughout. Palace and Tourist Sleepers, Dining and Buffet, Smoking Library Cars.

ASTORIA AND COLUMBIA RIVER RAILROAD. LEAVE PORTLAND ARRIVE. 8:00 a.m. Portland Union Depot for Astoria and Way Points. 7:00 p.m. Astoria. 7:45 a.m. For Portland and Way Points. 8:10 p.m. SEASIDE DIVISION. 8:15 a.m. Astoria for Warrenton, Flavel, Fort Stevens, Hammond and Seaside. 7:40 a.m. 4:00 p.m. 10:45 a.m. 8:15 a.m. Seaside for Warrenton, Flavel, Hammond, Fort Stevens & Astoria. 12:50 p.m. 7:30 p.m. 9:25 a.m. Sunday only. All trains make close connections at Goble with all Northern Pacific trains to and from the East and Sound points. J. C. Mayo, General Freight and Pass. Agent.

A DIRECT LINE to Chicago and all points east; Louisville, Memphis, New Orleans, and all points south. ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD.

NORTHERN PACIFIC. Time Card of Trains. PORTLAND. Leaves Arrives. Puget Sound Limited, 7:25 a.m. 6:45 p.m. Kansas City-St. Louis Special, 11:10 a.m. 4:45 p.m. North Coast Limited, 3:30 p.m. 7:00 a.m. Tacoma and Seattle Night Express, 11:45 p.m. 2:05 p.m. Take Puget Sound Limited or North Coast Limited for Gray's Harbor points. Take Puget Sound Limited for Olympia direct. Take Puget Sound Limited or Iwaco-St. Louis Special for points on South Beach branch. Double daily train service on Gray's Harbor branch. Four trains daily between Portland, Tacoma and Seattle.

"As the Crow Flies" The shortest line between Minneapolis, St. Paul and Chicago is THE NORTH WESTERN LINE. THE TRAIN FOR COMFORT. every night in the year. Before starting on a trip—no matter where—write for interesting information about comfortable traveling. M. L. SISLER, General Agent. 132 Third St. Portland, Oregon. T. W. TRANDALE, General Passenger Agent, St. Paul, Minn.

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