

Morning Astorian

Established 1873.

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RATES.

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 By mail, per month 50
 By carriers, per month 60

THE SEMI-WEEKLY ASTORIAN.

By mail, per year, in advance \$1 00

ASTORIAN PUBLISHING COMPANY.

SOME WORK FOR THE HEALTH BOARD.

The board of health of the city of Astoria has a big job on its hands. The work has been neglected for years, and it's none too soon to undertake it, notwithstanding the summer season is approaching. That nothing has been done in the past is a matter of very little concern at the present. Conditions demand that something be done now, and the board should not put it off any longer.

During the two winters just past contagious disease has been epidemic in this city, and, while the death rate was low, the health of thousands of people was endangered. Diphtheria and scarlet fever were most in evidence of the diseases which cause the greatest number of deaths. The two epidemics were due directly to the negligence, as a rule, of persons with large families. Those persons evidently entertained not the least regard for the health of their own children or for the health of other children. Their carelessness has brought to the attention of the health authorities scores of cases of diseases, and that the mortality was not greater was merely our good fortune.

A brief stroll about the city would suffice to convince the veriest skeptic of the danger to which the people of Astoria are subjected from scarlet fever and diphtheria. Along Bond street, for instance, from Sixth to Seventh half the block is covered with water. In the winter this pool is filled with water coming from higher ground, and during the summer months is stagnant. The property is filled with rubbish of all descriptions, and the spot is a veritable disease-breeding hole. It has been a menace to health for years, yet no action has ever been taken by the authorities, so far as the public records show, to compel the owners of the property to observe the health regulations.

There are scores of other such places in the city. At those spots originates the disease which closes our schools. The city pays its health officer a salary to attend to quarantine restrictions, but there has never been the slightest effort to get at the root of the evil, so far as the public knows. We have devoted our attention to the disease, with never a thought of the cause.

About 1,400 children attend the schools of this city, and six pupils suffering from diphtheria or scarlet fever might cause the illness and death of the entire number. Generally speaking, people want their children to live, and it would not be reasonable to suppose they sent them to school to contract diphtheria or scarlet fever. Yet every child who goes to school during the winter months is liable to infectious disease, and during the period of inoculation liables his brothers and sisters to the ailment with which he is afflicted. Once the diseases secure a foothold, it is difficult to stamp them out, especially in the schools, where scores of children are congregated together each day in the same room. The people of the city need no health lecture; their experience during the past two winters has been sufficient to bring them to realization of the dangers which exist.

The best way to prevent disease is to stamp out the cause. Every one knows that the filthy spots about town are responsible for our annual epidemics, and it is the duty of the city officials to see that the owners of the premises are required to obey the law. There are ample means at the disposal of the officials and they will be derelict in their duty if they fail to employ them. These annual epidemics of contagious disease are more or less unnecessary, and it is just about time the officials devoted their attention to the matter.

THE PRICE OF NEWSPAPERS.

The New York Commercial makes the price of newspapers the subject of an interesting text. As is well known, many of the larger dailies are sold much below the actual cost of the paper upon which they are printed, and, through the medium of a well

organized trust, the paper manufacturers have been putting the screws to the publishers. Many of the recent dailies discuss with much seriousness the action of the American Publishers' Association in demanding that the president of the United States and the attorney-general proceed against the manufacturers on the alleged ground that they are charging an unfair price for print paper.

The advice of these newspapers, the Commercial declares, is preposterous. Practically, the publishers admit that they are conducting a money-losing business, and what they demand is, virtually, that the print-paper manufacturers shall come to their rescue. With equal sense and justice they could insist that the manufacturers of ink or of printing presses or of type-setting machines should come to their aid. For that matter, they might, with the same propriety, demand that the typographical labor unions and the news dealers and newsboys and women should share their burdens.

These publishers have an effective remedy for their troubles right in their own hands. Let them raise the price of their wares. That is the way that other business men and concerns do when they find that their business is not paying. When, for instance, your cotton manufacturer discovers that the price of raw cotton has risen, he doesn't rush to the cotton planter and demand that the latter shall sell him that staple below the market value. Like a sensible man he proceeds forthwith to mark up the price of his own product. So, too, with the baker, when he discovers that the price of flour has risen; and with the butcher, when he finds that the wholesale price of meat has advanced. If the public feels that it is getting its money's worth, in such instances, it will usually pay the increased price. It is nonsense to suppose that, because these publishers are silly enough to sell their goods below cost, the concerns from which they obtain supplies must follow their example.

The situation can be summed up in a few words: These publishers have been trying to cut each other's throats and, having reduced the price of their product to the final penny and worked advertisers and the newspaper-reading public to the limit, they are now attempting to force print-paper manufacturers to help them out of their hole. Their demand is not only absurd, but it ought to cover the supporters of it with humiliation and shame.

The American Newspaper Publishers' Association should never have passed that resolution, which it did, calling on the administration to take action against the paper-maker's association, the Commercial concludes, and for the sake of their reputations as business men of sound sense, the members of that body should rescind the resolution at the very earliest opportunity. They ought to be the very last men in the country to talk seriously about raising \$100,000 to fight the "paper trust."

A Port Arthur policeman committed suicide because he failed to apprehend certain elusive newspaper correspondents that were making life miserable for the military authorities. The unfortunate man assumed his unwelcome duty with too serious a notion of its gravity. The correspondents who may be in Port Arthur have proved themselves to be absolutely harmless. If they know anything about conditions there they have kept their knowledge a secret.

Joseph F. Smith, the Mormon, summarizes his impression of United States senators, gained while on the grill in the Smoot inquiry, by characterizing the solons of Washington as good fellows. This is the subtlest attack yet made upon our national legislative luminaries. Anybody that rests in the opinion of Joseph F. Smith as a good fellow will do well to find time to mend his fences. Something is wrong somewhere.

One of our local actors, possessing something more than local fame, says he intends to close his career as a farmer in the peace and quiet and rest of rural life. Why in the good name of all that is thespian can't he induce some of his fellows to take his highly charitable course at once? We can well afford to miss a few farmers now on the boards.

B. D. Sigler, whom the Multnomah county republicans have nominated for assessor, is one of the most progressive of the young business men of Portland. He is conservatively vigorous, and in the office of assessor, which his nomination assures him, he will undoubtedly be a valuable public servant. Mr. Sigler has been a member of the city council for about two years.

The first issue of the Sunday Journal is handsome and replete with interesting features. Its advertising columns indicate that the merchants of the metropolis appreciate the city's new paper, and the departure of the management promises to be a popular one.

It Holds Reception.

New York, March 21.—Marquis Ito has held a large reception, which was attended by the foreign legation officials, cables the Seoul correspondent of the Times. He expressed the belief that under Japanese guidance, Korea will advance commercially and intellectually, it being his intention to use her influence that the Koreans will never regret their connection with her. The marquis will return to Japan March 25.

Dies at Friend's Door.

Pasadena, Cal., March 21.—A. W. Colgate, of Morristown, Mass., a wealthy soap manufacturer, aged 65 years, dropped dead as he was about to enter the residence of a friend on Orange Grove avenue. Death was due to heart failure. Mr. Colgate has been staying at the Hotel Raymond since December 19 and was apparently in the best of health. His body will be taken east for burial.

Officials Commit Suicide.

New York, March 21.—News has been received from Fort Arthur that several officials of the garrison, under the strain caused by the bombardment have committed suicide, says a World dispatch from Shanghai. The total number of casualties in the town to date is 265.

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LEAVE	PORTLAND	ARRIVE
8:00 a.m.	Portland Union Depot	11:10 a.m.
7:00 p.m.	Portland Union Depot	9:40 p.m.

ASTORIA		
7:45 a.m.	For Portland and Way Points	11:30 a.m.
6:10 p.m.	Way Points	10:30 p.m.

SEASIDE DIVISION		
8:15 a.m.	Astoria for Warrenton, Flavel, Stevens, Hammond and Seaside	7:40 a.m.
11:35 a.m.	Portland, Flavel, Stevens, Hammond and Seaside	4:00 p.m.
6:50 p.m.	Hammond, Stevens & Astoria	10:45 a.m.
6:15 a.m.	Seaside for Warrenton, Flavel, Hammond, Stevens & Astoria	12:50 p.m.
9:30 a.m.	Portland, Flavel, Hammond, Stevens & Astoria	7:30 p.m.
2:30 p.m.	Hammond, Stevens & Astoria	9:25 a.m.

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Chicago Portland Special	Salt Lake, Denver, Ft. Worth, Omaha, Kansas City, St. Louis, Chicago and the East	5:25 p.m.
Atlantic Express	Salt Lake, Denver, Ft. Worth, Omaha, Kansas City, St. Louis, Chicago and the East	9:00 a.m.
St. Paul Fast Mail	Walla Walla, Lewiston, Spokane, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Duluth, Milwaukee, Chicago, and East	8:00 p.m.

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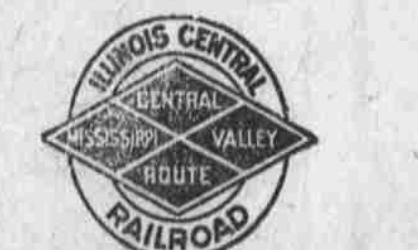
NORTHERN PACIFIC

Time Card of Trains

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Leaves	Arrives	
Puget Sound Limited	7:25 a.m.	6:45 p.m.
Kansas City-St. Louis Special	11:10 a.m.	6:45 p.m.
North Coast Limited	8:30 a.m.	7:00 a.m.
Tacoma and Seattle Night Express	11:45 p.m.	3:05 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 Kansas City-St. Louis Special for points on South Bend branch.		
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