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**THE PROHIBITION BILL.**

Astoria, May 26.—(Editor The Astorian.)—In today's issue of The Astorian you have a short editorial in reference to the local option law. You say: "There is a clause in the local option law which is hardly fair, and which leaves an excellent opening for attack by opponents of the measure. The bill provides that if a county votes against prohibition any precinct that has cast a majority for prohibition shall be declared prohibition territory. On the other hand, however, if a county votes for prohibition any precinct which might vote against it will be subject to the will of the majority of the voters of the entire county."

Kindly publish the section of the local option law which contains the clause to which you refer. I am fond of studying the "king's English," and will consider it a favor to one of your subscribers.

MRS. C. A. GEARHART.

The section referred to is No. 10. It provides as follows:

"Said court shall, on the 11th day after the election, or as soon thereafter as practicable, hold a special session; and if a majority of the voters hereon (reference being made, of course, to the proposal for local option) in the county as a whole, or in any subdivisions in the county as a whole, or in any precinct in the county are 'for prohibition,' said court shall immediately make an order declaring the result of said vote and absolutely prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors within the prescribed limits, except for the purposes and under the regulations specified herein, until such time as the qualified voters therein, at a legal election held for that purpose, by a majority vote decide otherwise. . . . The county court shall issue an order of prohibition for each and every subdivision as a whole voting 'for prohibition,' notwithstanding the county as a whole voted 'against prohibition.'"

Mrs. Gearhart may well suggest that the law raises a nice point for the student of the king's English. The clause of the law is capable of the legal interpretation which has been placed upon it. On its face it seems innocent enough and quite fair, but the following construction will present it in a different light. We shall quote from section 10 as follows to show that the law is calculated to render all of the precincts of a county prohibition territory should the majority of the voters of the county vote for prohibition:

"And if a majority of the votes hereon in the county as a whole (or in any subdivisions in the county as a whole, or in any precinct in the county) are for prohibition, said court shall immediately make an order declaring the result of said vote and absolutely prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors within the prescribed limits."

By eliminating that portion of the clause which appears in the foregoing paragraph in parentheses the real meaning of the clause becomes apparent. In other words, if a majority of the voters of the county are for prohibition the court shall declare the county prohibition territory. The law makes no such distinction the other way, merely declaring that, though the majority vote of the county may be against prohibition, those precincts voting for it shall be declared prohibition territory. The king's English, when woven into expressions by lawyers, is oftentimes bewildering, but occasionally other lawyers who are versed in the art of literary deception hunt out these shrewdly hidden meanings and (for a competence, no doubt) show them up.

The Astorian has no fight to make against the local option law, in the first place for the reason that it has not the remotest idea the law will ever meet the approval of the voters of the state, and in the second place because the men directly interested can be depended upon, it is to be presumed, to make their own fight. Our reference to the deception of section 10 was due only to a desire to call attention to the fact that the bill does not provide for "local option," except in the event that the majority of voters of all the precincts of a county are against it, but that it provides for absolute prohibition in the event of the majority of voters supporting the measure. Laws ought to be called by their right names. This law was unquestionably framed for the purpose of deception, and it is only just that the voters should be acquainted with the fact. The evident effort to

secure prohibition under the subterfuge that the bill is a local option measure is downright dishonest. To point out such matters as this is the sphere of the fair newspaper; and Mrs. Gearhart and other women deeply interested in the welfare of city, county, state and nation will doubtless find The Astorian quite fair at all times.

**STATE AID TO GOOD ROADS.**

Several of the eastern states are taking a practical part in road building. New Jersey, the first to make a state appropriation, passed a law in 1891 by which the state pays one-third of the cost of improving the roads. The counties furnish the other two-thirds, with the privilege of charging a part of this proportion to the towns in which the roads are built. At first the farmers were opposed to the measure, but now co-operate with it gladly. A state commissioner of highways furnishes the plans. Nearly 1000 miles of roads in New Jersey have been macadamized since the law went into effect. In Massachusetts the state meets the entire cost, but requires the counties to pay back one-fourth. The state appropriations of \$500,000 a year have reached a total of \$5,000,000, and, as a result, Massachusetts has constructed hundreds of miles of fine roads. Connecticut operates on much the same system, and its \$1,500,000 in appropriations has produced 500 miles of excellent roads. On a smaller scale Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island and Delaware assist in the building of good roads.

By the New York plan the state pays one-half the cost of building roads, the counties 35 per cent and the townships 15 per cent. Appropriations have reached a total of over \$2,000,000, last year's installment being \$600,000. Pennsylvania, at the last session of the legislature, appropriated a lump sum of \$6,500,000 for good roads, the state to pay two-thirds and the counties and townships one-sixth each. But there seems to be a loophole in the law in the matter of determining routes, and the rivalry, or jealousy, of neighborhoods has prevented much headway thus far. The principle of state aid to improved roads has been firmly established, on the ground that the whole people are interested in the best highways and that all citizens should bear a fair proportion of their cost. Already the roads built on this basis in Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey and Connecticut are an impressive lesson on the value of the good roads movement.

**RUSSIA'S GRAVE PROBLEM.**

The most serious problem Russia has to solve is the problem of transportation for men and supplies to the seat of war, says the Tacoma Ledger. The Trans-Siberian railway is completely monopolized by the government, to the discomfiture and ruin of commercial interests along the route, but the railroad facilities are wholly inadequate to the handling of the government traffic. It has been said that the railroad would be able to transport something like 150,000 men to the far east monthly. The military correspondent of the London Times, who is familiar with actual conditions, declares that this is ridiculous, and expresses the belief that Russia cannot send 20,000 men a month to the east in condition to take the field, and regards it as an impossibility to transport provisions enough to feed the Russian force in the east by this route.

To transport a full Russian army corps, consisting of 41,000 men, 124 guns, 3717 carriages and 17,000 horses, including the cavalry division, from Moscow to Mukden, would completely monopolize the traffic facilities of the Trans-Siberian railway for two months and a half, according to the calculations of this military expert. The infantry divisions of the Tenth and Seventeenth Russian army corps are already at the front, and the residue of both corps was to arrive at Harbin April 15, but is more than a month overdue, while the Fourth Siberian army corps is also scattered all along the route. If this is a true report of existing conditions along the Trans-Siberian railway, there is nothing surprising in General Kuropatkin's retreat and concentration of forces at Mukden.

The Trans-Siberian railway is a single track narrow gauge affair, and the crossing of Lake Baikal creates an exasperating delay. The equipment of rolling stock is limited, and it is to be remembered that before the outbreak of the war one through train a week was all that was being sent over the road. The railway upon which the Russians must depend is not to be compared with an American trans-continental line.

Japan, on the other hand, is near her base, and can send two men into Manchuria, and an abundance of supplies, while Russia is sending one to the front. The conditions are unequal, with a decided advantage resting with the Japanese.

President Roosevelt wants the republicans to nominate a strong candidate for governor of Illinois. That's a diplomatic way of declaring against the renomination of Governor Yates.

Japan expects to have no difficulty in securing all the money needed in her business, as she plans to soon offer Port Arthur and Manchuria as collateral for any loan she may seek.

**JUST FOR INSTANCE.**

If I Uz a Gurl 'Nstead.  
Gee! I wish I uz a gurl 'nstead  
'Uv a man! They're in th' whirl,  
Un git all th' nice things that's made  
these days,  
Jest 'cause they fix up their hair differ-  
ent ways  
Un try tu look sweet: un tickle fel-  
lers under th' chin  
Un till they make a killin'—un thin  
They git to go tu all th' shows  
Un have candy un ice cream all their  
days,  
Jest 'cause they spread th' salve on  
Earl,  
Dr Dick, or Tim, or Bill, or Ed,  
Gee! I wish I uz a gurl 'nstead  
'Uv a man!

Gee! I wish I uz a gurl, 'nstead  
'Uv a man! Thin I could go  
A-fishin' an' wouldn't hev tu row,  
Ner bait th' hook—jest fish un fish  
Un make a grab fer th' pickle 'dish  
Fore dinner-time, un whittle un sing  
Un shoot bull-frogs lth my bow,  
'Thout pa ye'llin' fer me to keep still  
Er I'd scare th' fish—yu bed I know  
'Taint no fun to fish like that—yu bed  
I'd like to be a gurl 'nstead  
'Uv a man!

Anxious Inquirer—No; Senator Ful-  
ton is not the man who invented the  
steamboat.

**EXTRA! JUST OUT!**

The American Spanking Machine.  
Warranted  
To Be Better Than Nature  
Special Terms  
To Pestered Mothers  
**UNEEDA SPANK!**

In spite of local option laws we re-  
spectfully submit the statement that  
Astoria will retain the Columbia bar  
"whether or no."

We glean from an official source that  
the sea serpent has been posted at  
Seaside as overdue.

The sweet gurl grad will now pro-  
ceed to hitch her wagon to a star and  
remind us that Italy lies just beyond  
the Alps.

And the dressmaker is working over-  
time.

Also the fond father who has to pay  
for the dress.

Diogenes had just found an honest  
man and blew out his lantern. "I'm  
glad I have you," said the immortal,  
"because Rockefeller has just made a  
donation to the university of Chicago  
and oil has raised 2 cents per."

It was after the battle of Waterloo  
"I only ask one thing," said Napoleon,  
"and that is that you will not let the  
Topeka school directors tamper with my  
fame." Being assured that his wishes  
would be obeyed he went to St. Helena  
with a happy heart.

McCULLEY.

**Weather Indications.**

Portland, May 27.—Western Oregon:  
Saturday partly cloudy and occasional-  
ly threatening; Eastern Oregon, fair.

**GOT HIS HAIR BACK.**

Was Perfectly Bald When He Started  
to Use Newbro's Herpicide.

Frederick Mannell, Maryland block,  
Butte, Montana, bought a bottle of New-  
bro's Herpicide, April 6, '99, and began to  
use it for entire baldness. The hair fol-  
licles in his scalp were not dead and in  
29 days he had hair all over his head.  
On July 2 he writes, "and today my hair  
is as thick and luxuriant as any one  
could wish." Newbro's Herpicide works  
on an old principle and with a new dis-  
covery—destroy the cause and you re-  
move the effect. Herpicide destroys the  
germ that causes dandruff, falling hair,  
and finally baldness, so that with the  
cause gone the effect cannot remain.  
Stops falling hair at once and a new  
growth starts. Sold by leading  
druggists. Send 10c. in stamps for sample  
to The Herpicide Co., Detroit, Mich.  
Eagle Drug Store Owl Drug Store  
351-353 Bond St. 549 Com. St.  
Astoria, Oregon.

T. F. LAURIN, Proprietor.  
Special Agent.

**Sour Stomach**

"I used Cascarets and feel like a new man. I have  
been a sufferer from dyspepsia and sour stomach  
for the last two years. I have been taking medi-  
cine and other drugs, but could find no relief  
for a short time. I will recommend Cascarets to  
my friends as the only thing for indigestion and  
sour stomach and to keep the bowels in good con-  
dition. They are very nice to use."  
Harry Stuckley, Mauch Chunk, Pa.



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Never Sickens, Weakens or Irrites, 10c. 25c. 50c. Money  
guaranteed to cure or your money back.  
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