

The Morning Astorian

ESTABLISHED 1873

PUBLISHED BY

ASTORIAN PUBLISHING COMPANY.

J. H. CARTER, GENERAL MANAGER.

RATES.

By mail, per year \$6 00
 By mail, per month..... 50
 By carriers, per month 60

THE SEMI-WEEKLY ASTORIAN.

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



THE LESSONS OF THE ELECTION.

There is no other state in the entire union more uncertain politically than our own state of Oregon. The normal republican majority here is fully 20,000 now, out of a total vote of about 102,000, and every county in the late election gave the state republican candidates majorities. In presidential elections some of the counties have given the democratic candidate majorities, but this year every county lines up for the republicans.

Despite the republican complexion of the state, the voters are decidedly independent, at times refusing to support the nominees for whom the strongest fight is made. In Multnomah county Daniel Manning is elected district attorney over his republican opponent by 3500 and Tom Word is elected sheriff by 2200 over Stott, republican. These results were achieved by the democrats, notwithstanding that Judge Thomas O'Day, prominent resident of Portland, received about 8000 votes less in his home county than were cast for Frank A. Moore, republican candidate for justice of the supreme court. The victory of Manning was clean-cut; Word was successful because other aspirants split up the republican vote.

Here in Clatsop county the republican ticket for state officers receives something like 650 plurality over the democratic ticket. The socialist vote amounts to about 225, and practically all of this vote would, were there no socialist candidates, go to the democrats. The increase in the socialist vote maintains the normal republican majority. The city of Astoria cast 802 votes for Williamson, for congressman, and 452 for Simmons, the plurality being 350. The socialist candidate received 141 votes, the republican majority being 209.

Despite this republican lead in the city the democrats carry it for all of their county candidates except one. Burns, for representative, received 789 votes and Laws, for representative, 678 votes, while Lester received but 526 and Palmberg but 586. Burns carries the city by 201 and Laws by 90. Morton defeated Linville in the city by 92 votes, and Allen led Larson, his republican opponent for commissioner, by 65. Heilborn, for treasurer, receiving a plurality in the county of over 400, leads Bergman in the city but 131.

The voters here are evidently not bitterly partisan. This applies to the democrats as well as to the republicans, as those who were present at the various precincts during the progress of the count well know. Voters who cast their ballots for the state democratic candidates voted against the county democratic candidates, and enough such ballots were counted to bring about the election of Thomas Linville. On the other hand, many republicans who voted the state republican ticket voted also for Mr. Morton, Mr. Linville's opponent.

The independent element controls elections. When George E. Chamberlain ran for governor on the democratic ticket this element reduced a majority of more than 700 for T. T. Geer to only 100 for W. J. Furnish, thereby defeating the republican candidate, who was beaten by 276 votes in the entire state.

It is further evident from the vote in Clatsop county that the popularity of candidates has much to do with the outcome of the election, and that personal friendship destroys party lines in most cases.

The outcome of the vote in Clatsop upon the direct primary law is another interesting showing. The Astorian fought this law with all the force it could command. The secretary of the league which fathered the bill discussed the matter with this paper through its columns, and every argument which he advanced in its favor was shown to be of no advantage. Yet the proposal carried by 300 majority. The only conclusion that could reasonably be reached is that the bill would have received about 450 more votes had it not been for The Astorian's fight. Still, where a newspaper makes a stand against a measure of the kind in a small county like Clatsop, and there is absolutely no defense of the bill, it seems singular that the amendment should have been so generously supported, especially in view of the fact that the fight against it was absolutely without political significance, as the term "political" is generally understood. It is to be presumed, no doubt, that the voters expected to get closer to the conduct of political affairs by supporting this measure.

COUNTING THE COST.

The Japanese loss in killed and wounded in the swift engagements which resulted in the capture of Kin Chow and Nan Shan is reckoned at 3500. That estimate comes from Japanese sources, and may be too small, though there is no reason to suspect a deliberate purpose to deceive the world in regard to the number of casualties. The Japanese authorities have not tried heretofore to make light of such disasters as have befallen them or to belittle the cost of their successes. On the contrary, they have chosen, so far as we are able to judge, to let the truth appear as soon as it has been ascertained. Nevertheless, it would not be surprising if their loss, especially in the nine assaults on the fortified heights of Nan Shan, exceeded 3500, or if the proportion of deaths was extraordinarily large. The fact that the Russians held their ground with admirable tenacity justifies the supposition that they made a thrifty as well as a resolute use of their defensive resources.

In consideration of what it cost the Japanese to achieve their object, some distant critics are disposed to condemn the operation. Nor is that unnatural. The human mind is so constituted that the thought of a deluge of blood poured out in a few hours is more distressing than the contemplation of an equal destruction of life by slower processes, attended, perhaps, by prolonged suffering. If the Japanese had captured Kin Chow and Nan Shan after two or three weeks of intermittent fighting, at an even greater cost, those to whom last week's short, sharp and decisive actions seem cruelly wasteful would very likely feel not merely that the result was invaluable, but that it had been economically obtained. Censure of the course pursued by the Japanese after a valid calculation of what was possible to such valor and persistency as theirs reflects a humane sentiment, but it is not logical. If they had failed, then indeed it would have been reasonable to find fault with orders which involved a useless slaughter. But they succeeded, they saved much precious time and they presumptively created an impression on the minds of the enemy from which they may fairly hope to derive advantage hereafter.

General Grant justified the bloodshed of his Wilderness campaign by the practical results which it produced, and deemed it irrational to describe as "butchery" operations which, in his opinion, were less prolific of suffering and less destructive of military resources, including human life, than a long campaign which might have accomplished the same ultimate result would have been. His judgment has not been universally approved by military critics, but it has not been overthrown. Indeed, the argument for which his reputation and his achievements commanded at least a respectful hearing appears to us to have gained a large measure of acceptance since his day. At all events, the considerations which he suggested can be persuasively advanced as often as a heavy sacrifice is rewarded by an important victory.

A series of interesting firing trials recently was undertaken by the Swedish government. The purpose of these experiments was to examine the effect of shooting against pasteboard. The trials were conducted on the wharves of the Swedish navy in Karlskrona, and the target used was a prepared one of millboard, against which fire from revolvers, rifles, carbines and machine guns was directed. The pasteboard, which was three inches thick, resisted completely the bullets fired from the small arms, but was perforated by the projectiles from the machine guns. The experiments may be said to have given very interesting results. Bullets from the carbines used are able to penetrate wooden planks five inches in thickness, but they could not penetrate the pasteboard, which was only three inches thick.

Until a year or two ago the emperor of Japan was an enthusiastic wrestler. He threw our challenge after challenge to the members of the court and his counsel and advisers, and defeated fairly and completely every one who tried conclusions with him until he met Count Tetsu, who proved one too many for him. Since that encounter, although he encourages the sport in every possible way, he has kept out of the arena. "Count Tetsu is now champion," he would say; "I have failed to throw him. Some one else must try."

Professor Palmer of Harvard says that the masculine habit of rigid, logical reasoning is contracted very early, and in illustration he tells the following story: "A little boy and girl of my acquaintance were tucked up snug in bed when their mother heard them talking. 'I wonder what we're here for?' asked the little boy. The girl remembered the lessons that had been taught her and replied sweetly, 'We are here to help others.' The little boy sniffed, 'Then, what are the others here for?' he asked."

The Cincinnati Commercial Tribune of June 4, discussing the approach of Oregon election, says: "Singularity enough, for a presidential year, the contest in Oregon is not attracting the attention that might have been expected." Evidently our Cincinnati contemporary does not exchange with the esteemed Oregonian.

"Our boys need someone to keep them in check," says Russell Sage. Notice, he says check instead of checks.

JUST FOR INSTANCE.

Professor Eyre is going to teach school in Pendleton next year. We trust he will not arouse the Eyre of the pupils!

The Japs have stopped cutting capers long enough to cut a cable!

Japan and Russia have each expended several millions in war expenses. And in the first place the scrap started over a little strip of land worth about \$750,000.

Life is a lottery—and the only thing that keeps it interesting is the hope that tomorrow we will draw the grand prize!

Extra! Extra!
 Port Arthur, June 9.—Your correspondent, Li Li Khel, met one of Admiral Togo's shells head-on this afternoon and as a result will not be able to do his duty for some time. When the accident happened Li Li Khel was busily engaged attempting to discover the number of microbes slain in the admiral's recent bombardment of the outer works.

GENERAL LIESKI.
 In the weather handicap yesterday Oregon Miat won by a neck!

And to think that the last county to be heard from is Push county. Evidently they don't!

Another district under martial law! Wouldn't that make you join the militia?

Cray Z. Mann—No; every man who mans schooners as they sail across the bar is not a sailor!

Just because the Chinook is trying to tear out the Columbia river bar, it doesn't mean that her captain is in favor of local option!

There is one stain on the Stars and Stripes. It is over that star which represents Colorado!

MCCULLY.
HAS DISAPPEARED.
 Friends Think a Man Who Carried Money Was Murdered.

Spokane, June 9.—A week ago Frank Ferrish, a Wenatchee mining man, was last seen in Spokane, and at that time he had on his person a roll of bills amounting to about \$6000. Where he is now and what has become of him is a complete mystery. His wife and his friends have sought in vain to locate him, and the police have failed to find a clue. His friends are afraid he has met with foul play.

Ferrish and his wife came to Spokane in order to make a deal in mining property in Montana. After he arrived in the city he began drinking heavily. When he went to their apartments at the hotel intoxicated he was removed by his wife, who left the room after he had retired. Then Mr. Ferrish dressed and went down town, and that was the last his wife saw of him. She searched for him for some time and then reported the matter to the police. He had left but little money with his wife, but friends supplied her with funds to return home.

Establish Reform Mission.
 As a result of a conference held between Mayor Boyd and Bishop Edward O'Dea, the establishment of a new institution in this city, whose mission will be to reform girls who have gone astray or are in danger of doing so, may be expected in the near future.

Mayor Boyd says: "This is a matter which I have had under consideration for several months. The problem of taking care of young girls between the ages of 16 and 18 years has been one of the most serious questions with which we have been confronted. Girls over 16 years are not eligible to the reform school, and when given jail sentences usually come out worse than when they went in, as they become hardened by prison life and lose what little self-respect they might have had before."

The Home of the Good Shepherd is an institution conducted by the Catholics, but is non-sectarian in its work. Its object, above everything else, is the reformation of young girls, but it makes no restriction as to age, taking in all who are in need of such a home. They are surrounded by good influences and given such employment as will tend to keep their minds in the right channel.

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