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Local Brevities.

August Juhn yesterday tendered his resignation as water bailiff to Fish Warden Van Dusen. His successor has not yet been named.

The county court adjourned yesterday until June 16, when the session will be continued. During the day the court attended to no business of interest except the court house proposal.

C. R. Morse yesterday received word that his brother, George C. Morse of Detroit, Mich., had died there yesterday of grippe. The deceased had been ill for some weeks. He was one of Detroit's most prominent attorneys, 58 years of age, and is survived by Mrs. Morse and two sons.

Because the launch Agnes, chartered by the Tallant-Grant Packing Company, brought down several persons from up river seining grounds yesterday, she was fined \$500 by Collector Robb for violation of the regulations covering the carrying of passengers. The boat is owned in Portland. It is likely an appeal will be taken to Washington.

In the circuit court yesterday Judge McBride handed down decrees of divorce in the case of Edgar M. Stahl vs. Martha Stahl, Maude Gardina vs. Vincent Gardina and Annie E. Tolvonen vs. Arvo Tolvonen. Court was adjourned until next Monday, when Judge McBride will return to the city. Nothing special has been set for that day.

The Fourth of July awards committee yesterday held a meeting for the purpose of considering the protest made by the order of Eagles that the Eagle float in the parade was entitled to one of the prizes. The prize was given to the Foresters. The committee decided that its original award was correct and declined to alter its decision. The controversy hinged on the meaning of the word "float," and it was decided by the committee that the Foresters really had a float in the parade and were entitled to the award.

During the past few days the run of fish has shown decided improvement, but salmon are still quite scarce. It is the opinion of packers and fishermen that the heavy runs are now not far off, and it is believed the

hatchery fish will begin to make their appearance in the river within a week. The gillnetters are making better catches than at any previous time during the season, but the hauls of the seiners are still light. The recurrence of the hatchery runs is anxiously awaited, as the season thus far has been a flat failure. Should the big runs reach the river earlier than last year, the canners can easily make up for the present shortage.

Plans and specifications for the improvement of Commercial street were filed yesterday by City Engineer Tee. The estimated cost of the work is \$3269.74. Councilmen Morton and Robinson and others stated last evening that they would now oppose immediate improvement of the street, as they will not agree to have the thoroughfare torn up during regatta week. It is probable the council will defer letting the contract until after the carnival, notwithstanding the street is really in dangerous condition.

Henry Spellmire, William Joplin and P. Jordan yesterday filed a remonstrance against the construction of the proposed drain on the north side of Franklin avenue between Twelfth and Fourteenth streets. This drain was intended to afford relief to a taxpayer on Franklin avenue, who has no sewerage connection. The remonstrators own three-fourths of the property in the improvement district, and, as a basis for their remonstrance, contend that the drain should be toward some other street. It is likely the remonstrance will have the effect of preventing the improvement.

For the first time in ages, the police yesterday failed to make stick a charge of vagrancy. Some days ago men named Reilly and Connors became engaged in a scuffle on Bond street, and during the struggle the first-named went through a store window. He was fined \$50 for malicious destruction of property, and is now serving 25 days in jail in default of the sum. Yesterday the police arrested Connors, who was charged with vagrancy. The man showed that he was working and living in a respectable portion of the city, and the case against him was dismissed for lack of evidence. It seldom transpires that the police fall down on vagrancy charges, and yesterday's case was therefore a notable exception.

Rev. A. T. E. Rydquist, the new

pastor of the Swedish Lutheran church of East Astoria, arrived in the city yesterday to take charge here. Mr. Rydquist comes to Astoria with his bride, having only recently been married. He is a graduate of the Augustine Theological seminary of Rock Island, and was ordained June 5. He was in Astoria three years ago, while a student, and for a time occupied the pulpit of the East Astoria church. He was called to the local pastorate before he graduated. Last evening the pastor and his bride were tendered a reception at the church by the members of the congregation. A musical program was carried out, and at its conclusion refreshments were served. Mr. Rydquist will preach Sunday in English and Swedish.

Owners of three-story buildings have failed to comply with the terms of the ordinance regulating the construction and equipment of buildings, recently enacted, and the city authorities mean to go after them. Chairman Hansen of the public property committee has asked City Attorney Smith whether or not it will be necessary to serve written notice on the delinquent owners, and has been assured that verbal notice will be sufficient. "Notify them to observe the regulations, and if they refuse to do so proceed against them," advised the city attorney. "All right, sir; I shall do so," replied Mr. Hansen. "Meantime, prepare to start some legal proceedings for the city, as I intend to see to it that the terms of the bill are lived up to." Thus far persons desiring to build have secured permission from Mr. Hansen to go ahead with the work, but hereafter blanks will be furnished, and when buildings are completed certificates will be issued by the municipal authorities.

"The financial condition of the city of Astoria is not so distressing when one stops to consider some of our resources which are not included in our periodical statements of our assets," said Auditor Anderson yesterday afternoon. "Our real estate account shows that we own property to the value of \$43,165, which includes the cost of the old city hall and the brick engine house. Then we have fire apparatus of the estimated value of \$19,850, which estimate is very low. The No. 3 engine house cost \$4624.59, and the improvements to Oceanview cemetery represent an investment of \$3318.26, a total of \$70,897.85. Add to this the cost of the new city hall site, \$4000, and deduct from the grand total the sum of \$15,000, which we have just received from sale of the old city hall, and we have \$59,897.85. This sum represents what the city owns, but, as only cash can be considered as an asset, the amount stated, almost \$60,000, can not figure in our reports. If it did, we could make a very fine showing."

A good joke is told on Captain Speler of the bar dredge Chinook. On the glorious Fourth the captain determined to entertain some of his friends with a trip over the bay, and went to some trouble to fit out a small boat, aboard which he mounted a cannon. It was his plan to take the party out on the bay and there have the cannon roar out the glory of the occasion. The party showed up in due season and soon was bounding away over the bay. "My, but this is bully!" the captain said to himself, as everything went along nicely. Eventually it came time to fire off the cannon, and the captain made a little speech to the party in announcing the program of events. "We will fire this gun," he said, "and I hope the sound will be heard around the bay." But the captain did not finish his speech. It suddenly dawned on him that he had neglected to secure a supply of gunpowder. Somewhat abashed, he explained that he had forgotten something, and pleaded with the members of the party to keep quiet about it. All promised, and all were silent until yesterday, when one of the captain's guests gave out the story.

The matter of adjourning until Friday night, in order to confer with Architect Schacht regarding the city hall plans, was discussed by the council last evening. Mr. Hansen had heard from Mr. Schacht during the day, the architect saying he could not be here until next Friday. Mr. Nordstrom objected, as the regular meeting night would be but three nights off. It was agreed that no further meeting should be held until a week from Monday, and the public property committee will confer with the architect about the plans. The local plumbers have asked the council to alter the specifications, which provide that Cooper's goods (Cooper is an eastern manufacturer) shall be used in the city hall. The plumbers say it would require much time to get figures on Cooper's goods; that they never heard of Cooper and have not received any of his catalogues; that they have only 10 days in which to figure on the work, and that

the coast jobbers can provide equally as good material as the easterners. The protest has been referred to the public property committee, with power to alter the plans in accordance with the recommendation of the plumbers.

The attorneys representing the parties to the action yesterday argued the case of Jacob Kamm vs. Normand Bros. before Judge McBride. The plaintiff was represented by John M. Gearin and Frank J. Taylor, while John H. Smith and Clyde Fulton presented the case for the defendants. The attorneys commenced their arguments at 9 a. m., and from that hour until 2:30 the court listened to their summaries of the action. One of the attorneys for the loggers, whom Kamm seeks to have enjoined from logging on the north fork of the Claskanine river, was quoted in The Astorian yesterday as saying that the suit was of far-reaching importance, and the newspaper article prompted Judge Taylor, in summing up the situation for Kamm to remark that he had read the argument of the defense in the morning paper. However, there was nothing improper about the publication. The attorneys will submit briefs in the case, and Judge McBride stated yesterday that he would make another visit to the stream when he returns to the city. He has already been there twice, but desires to observe for himself some of the conditions to which his attention was called during the presentation of the evidence. As the manner in which about \$5,000,000 worth of timber is to be logged is involved in the suit, the outcome of the action is awaited with great interest.

The city council met last night in adjourned session for the purpose of considering the ordinance providing for the time and manner of improving Commercial street between Fourteenth and Seventeenth. This measure had been prepared for presentation at the regular meeting held last Tuesday evening, but the plans and specifications for the improvement had not been filed. Adjournment was therefore taken, but it was found that the council could not consider the matter. The charter specifies that the plans and specifications for a street improvement must be filed before the ordinance providing for the improvement is passed, and, as an adjourned meeting does not differ from a regular meeting, it was just as impossible to consider the ordinance last night as had been the case at the meeting of Tuesday night, notwithstanding that the plans were in the meantime filed. The predicament in which the council found itself last night led Mayor Surprenant to suggest that the council should hold weekly meetings, especially in view of the fact that the city fathers have much business to transact. Mr. Hansen said he thought the council should meet weekly until October, but that semi-monthly meetings during the winter would be about the right thing. City Attorney Smith stated that no action could be taken now affecting the meeting night, as the charter provides that the time of meeting shall be fixed at the first meeting of the year. He said further that the council could not gain much by meeting weekly, as street improvements require eight days' advertising, which would throw the matter over the week. He believed adjourned meetings would suffice to meet the difficulty. Mr. Smith added that he would like to have more time in which to rule upon the legality of changing the meeting night at present, and will render a decision at the next meeting.

CHURCHES TOMORROW

Congregational—Dr. Joseph Kosha-ba, a native Persian, will speak at the Congregational church on Sunday morning at 11 o'clock on "Persia, Its People, Customs and Religions." He will appear in native costume. A free-will offering will be taken for his work at the close of his address. He comes highly recommended, and all who hear him are guaranteed a rare treat.

Swedish Lutheran—Rev. Rydquist will occupy the pulpit Sunday. Morning services in the Swedish language and evening services in English.

SUNDAY EXCURSION.

Steamer Nahcotta leaves at 7 a. m., Sunday, July 10, connecting with trains at Ilwaco for points along the beach. \$1.00 round trip. Returning, leaves Ilwaco 2:30 p. m. Tickets good returning on steamer Potter leaving Ilwaco 7:30 p. m. G. W. ROBERTS, Agent O. R. & N. Co.

Notice to Water Consumers.

Saturday, July 9, is the last day on which to pay water rates to avoid the penalty charged all delinquents, as the 10th falls on Sunday this month.

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