

The Morning Astorian

ESTABLISHED 1873
PUBLISHED BY

ASTORIAN PUBLISHING COMPANY.

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



WHY TEACHERS ARE SCARCE.

As illustrating the general tendency of school boards throughout the state to reduce the salaries of educators, we reproduce the following from the Albany Herald:

"Some time ago word was sent out from Baker City that a number of school districts in that county would not be able to hold regular terms of school this year owing to the scarcity of teachers, and now the cry for more teachers comes from Lane county, where several districts have thus far been unable to secure the teachers they require—not but that there are enough teachers here to supply the demand, but they are not the kind required, and the county superintendent's office is overrun with requests for a certain class of teachers that are not readily available. There are five school districts in this county that want experienced teachers, three of them having expressed a desire for male instructors only. The salaries paid in the districts asking to be supplied are from \$40 to \$55 per month for terms of from six to eight months. Four of the districts have eight months' school."

It is not surprising that teachers should be scarce in Lane county. Indeed, if the salaries mentioned prevail generally throughout that prosperous county, it is remarkable that there is a teacher within its borders.

School teaching requires thorough education. It is one of the least agreeable tasks imaginable, and yet one of the most important vocations of all. Educators have much to do with formation of the character of pupils, and generally shape the lives of the members of the rising generation. Yet we find Lane county school boards offering \$40 to \$55 for school teachers! Why, the proprietor of a livery stable would not have the temerity to offer his stable boy such wages! The common laborer makes more money, else he could not exist.

If a school teacher is worth anything, he is worth more than Lane county wants to pay. Competent teachers should be employed. Low salaries necessarily mean incompetent teachers, and incompetent teachers mean incompetent educational facilities. The standard of the schools can be raised only by increasing the wages of educators. We pay our public officers fairly good salaries, and there is no valid reason why teachers should not be paid quite as well.

AMERICAN THRIFT.

The statement that was made the other day by Chairman Tuttle of the savings bank section of the American Bankers' Association, to the effect that the aggregate of savings bank deposits in this country now amounts to over \$3,000,000,000, constitutes pretty conclusive evidence that the American people are a very "fore-handed" race. These deposits are owned by over 7,000,000 persons—nearly one-tenth of the entire population of the United States.

Encouraging and impressive as this evidence of American thrift is, however, it only partly reveals the whole story. In addition to this legion of savings bank depositors, 7,200,000 persons in the year 1900 owned homes of their own in this country, and of this number of homes about 5,000,000 were free of incumbrance. Furthermore, in 1903 nearly 5,300,000 persons connected with assessment life insurance companies and orders were carrying policies aggregating \$6,500,000,000, and 17,600,000 persons were carrying policies in the regular, old line, life insurance companies amounting to \$10,500,000,000. It is well known, too, that a large number of persons of moderate or small means have investments in real estate, railroad, bank and other classes of securities. After making due allowance for the duplication of names of persons in the foregoing categories, it will be readily seen that a very large percentage of the population of the United States consists of persons who have made, or who are making, material provision against the future.

That this widespread spirit of thrift is contributing vastly to the upbuilding of the nation can not be denied. It is conducive to the greater stability of the republic. It is the foe of riot, lawlessness and disorder. It is opposed to anything resembling anarchy. It is conducive to the increase of good citizenship and to the development of the best that there is in each individual.

A great deal has been said of late in denunciation

of the prevalence and dominance of the spirit of "commercialism" in the United States. This widespread tendency of the American people to provide against the proverbial "rainy day" is, however, only a manifestation of the same spirit. What individual who is "safe and sane," would think of denouncing this form of "commercialism?"

OATS FOR THE WORLD.

W. J. Armstrong, one of the enterprising farmers of Skagit county, recently harvested 710 bushels of marketable oats from a four-acre field, says the Seattle Post-Intelligencer. The yield averaged a little over 177 bushels per acre. It is probably entitled to go on record as the greatest oat yield ever known in the history of agriculture. The field is situated in the famous Swinomish flats and in the center of the most wonderful oat-growing district on earth. The farmer who does not produce over 100 bushels per acre is considered a poor man in handling the soil.

The Swinomish flats comprise one of the richest sections of Washington. The soil is perfect and has the appearance of being forever fertile. Fields that have been cultivated for 30 years continue to give annual returns of the best cereals. The straggling travel for 15 or 20 miles in any direction before reaching the borders of the great oat field. It is dotted with modern farms, carrying all the marks of prosperity. The homes are large and finely furnished. Every modern convenience possible for ruralists may be found in profusion.

Estimates made by the department of agriculture and published in the September issue of the Crop Reporter place the oat crop of the United States at 60,219,217 bushels. Of this output of the great cereal nearly 2,000,000 bushels will be shipped from the little county of Skagit. Fenced in by dikes, and divided into scores of individual tracts, this miniature world is the wonder of agriculturists. It is the home of the intensive farmer. Dairying and fruit-growing have their places in the commercial fields. Every avenue of soil culture is occupied to its fullest possible limit.

The success in oat culture in Skagit county simply illustrates what may be accomplished in other sections of Washington. With a climate for all purposes and a variety of soils for producing every grass and cereal, there are no bounds for possible future growth and development. What the farmers of the Swinomish flats have done may be duplicated in scores of similarly situated localities. The country is open and bidding for settlers and home-builders. Nature has made a paradise in the forest and called to men and women of the world to come and build homes within its enclosure.

The Korean emperor has for a number of years had an American adviser, the son of the American admiral Sands, but the young man has now quit on account of the ascendancy of Japanese influence at the Korean court. He was appointed by President Cleveland as second secretary of the legation at Tokio, and was continued in that service by the succeeding administration, but left it shortly to assume the advisory duties mentioned. Little is known of his performance in that capacity, but, as the ruler named has kept out of the war raging on either side of him and even in his own territory, he was probably the recipient of sensible counsel, and gave heed to it till a change of circumstances made a change of policy desirable. Korea began by fearing the Russians more than the Japanese, making stronger efforts to propitiate them. It now seems that the Japs are stronger than their foes, and, moreover, that they mean the Koreans no harm, but rather stretch forth a hand of protection over them. The returning counsellor brings back a fund of diplomatic and statesmanlike experience not common in one so young, and if he chooses to write a book about it can probably tell us a good deal more about the politics of the land of the Morning Calm, only a few years ago remote and mysterious as the mountains of the moon, than we have ever known before.

A moral wave has struck Seaside, which will drive out the gamblers and close up all places that have been violating the Sunday law. There is no announcement as yet as to what means will be employed to control the Sabbath breakers of the Pacific ocean.

There must be something wrong when 200 persons turn out to listen to Senator Depew while 2000 listen to a strike leader speaking in an adjoining hall.

The Russian calendar is two weeks behind that of the Japanese, but the Russian army is a few hours more than two weeks ahead of its calendar.

Secretary Wilson is now assuring us that the apple crop will be a record breaker. We suspect that he has designs on the pie belt vote.

A Kansas man drank carbolic acid, thinking it was whiskey. He discovered his mistake from the mildness of the results.

It is simply marvelous how well these political managers foresee things after they happen.

SOLD FIFTY TONS CASCARA.

The Alsea Pool Bought \$5.30 per Hundred.

Corvallis, Sept. 23.—The Alsea pool of cascara bark has just been disposed of to J. E. Henkle of Philomath. The deal was consummated Saturday. There are 50 tons of the bark, and the price paid was \$5.30 a hundred, which is considered good for the present time.

The work of hauling the chittem from Alsea to Corvallis, where it will be put aboard the cars, begins today, but the shipping destination is not yet given out. This is the largest deal in cascara that has so far been made in this section this year, Alsea being the principal district hereabouts where chittem peeling is made a profitable industry.

Jewish Concessions Likely.

Vilna, Russia, Sept. 23.—The unveiling of the monument of Catherine the Great today was particularly interesting because of the last public appearance of Prince Sviatopolk-Mirsky, former governor general and present minister of the interior. He was received everywhere with the utmost enthusiasm by Jews and Christians alike. In fact, he is extremely popular. It is confidently expected important concessions to the Jews will be announced shortly.

Many Fish Planted.

Butte, Sept. 23.—A deputy game warden has returned from a trip taken over the Oregon Short line for the purpose of stocking the streams in Montana. During the week 300,000 fish were placed in streams. The deputy left again today with fish to stock the streams along the Northern Pacific and Great Northern. The fish are from the government hatchery at Bozeman.

Strawberries in the Market.

Walla Walla, Sept. 23.—Strawberries are yet on the market, coming from the mountain district near the state line, selling for 12½ cents a box. A few are being gathered at Milton and Freewater of the second crop, which is beginning to ripen. Berries are also being offered at Pendleton at 20 cents a box.

Herrera Substituted.

Butte, Mont., Sept. 23.—The Goodman-Attel fight has been abandoned and instead Herrera will meet Goodman October 17. Attel's failure to arrive in time to train for the match was the cause for calling off the bout.

Bucklen's Arnica Salve.

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Bryan Will Stump for Parker.

Butte, Mont., Sept. 23.—William J. Bryan will make a speaking tour in Montana in the interests of the national democratic ticket before the end of the campaign. The date of Bryan's visit was not given.

Fearful Odds Against Him.

Bedridden, alone and destitute. Such in brief was the condition of an old soldier by name of J. J. Havens, Versailles, O. For years he was troubled with kidney disease and neither doctors nor medicines gave him relief. At length he tried Electric Bitter. It put him on his feet in short order and now he testifies: "I'm on the road to complete recovery." Best on earth for liver and kidney troubles and all forms of stomach and bowel complaints. Only 50c. Guaranteed by Chas. Rogers, druggist.



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