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### ASTORIA'S GREAT NEED.

Astoria's greatest need is a modern hotel. Everyone who follows the progress of the city will realize this, and everyone with the interests of Astoria honestly at heart will assist in every possible way to secure for the city a large modern hostelry.

Just how the people of Astoria should go about it to secure a hotel can better be determined at a public meeting. Certainly, there is no scarcity of money, for a comparatively trifling amount is required. If the 7500 people who contributed so liberally at the time could secure so great an enterprise as the Astoria railroad, surely the 15,000 or more present-day residents of the city can be depended upon to furnish \$125,000 for the hotel.

The growth of a city rests largely with the public spirit of its citizens. City-builders are usually public benefactors, who erect magnificent buildings without any hope of immediate reward. The people of Portland built the Portland hotel and for 15 years never received a penny in return. But their hotel advertised their city and was largely instrumental in making it a great metropolis. The late Henry Weinhard was actuated as much by a desire to build up Portland as by the hope of financial return when he covered the Oregon metropolis with handsome structures. So it has been with all other large cities—their wealthy men have liberally furnished the money to build up their towns.

In small communities like Astoria concerted action upon the part of the people is essential. The sum named as necessary for the hotel would perhaps be too large to expect one man to furnish, but 50 men could advance this amount without any inconvenience. The people of Astoria have been afforded another opportunity to show their public spirit, and for Astoria's welfare it is sincerely to be hoped the hotel proposition will immediately take definite shape.

### TO PREVENT PNEUMONIA.

The municipality of New York has appropriated \$10,000 with which to pay for an investigation of the alarming spread of pneumonia in recent years, with a view to formulating measures that will operate to check the ravages of the disease, says the Commercial of that city. The work is to be done by a special commission of expert bacteriologists under the direction of the department of public health the first session of the body to be held about the middle of October. This investigation is a most timely and important one, and the results expected of it will no doubt have a beneficial influence far beyond the confines of the metropolis that provides for and pays for it.

Health Commissioner Darlington says that the records of his department show that, while the death rate from most diseases is steadily decreasing, the death rate from pneumonia in New York has been steadily increasing for the past 20 years. Pneumonia is known to be due to infection and the microorganisms responsible for the disease do not multiply to any extent outside of the human body. As these germs are communicated directly from one person to another, the disease certainly must be preventable, Dr. Darlington declares. "The difficulty lies," he explains, "in the wide distribution of the germs and in the fact that they are often present in the normal respiratory tract. They produce no symptoms until developed by some outside influence such as exposure, cold, a surgical operation, injury, extreme fatigue or a spree." Any of these conditions may so reduce the resisting power of the individual that the germs will multiply and thus infect. And it is likely, therefore, the commissioner says, that the methods of prevention to be finally recommended by this expert commission will be of a simple sort, that any one can follow. "There will doubtless be recommendations as to cleaning, disposal of dust and ventilation," he adds.

Now, inasmuch as "exposure to cold" is given as the first and chief condition that develops the dormant pneumonia germ—as all the world knows, pneumonia grows almost exclusively out of "colds," so called—why not adopt preventative measures right there? Why should not the department of public health adopt a system of inspection that would compel the proper heating of apartment and tenement houses throughout the eight cold or cool

months of the year—that is, of course, houses whose owners sell heat to their tenants? In this matter hundreds of thousands of flat-dwellers are absolutely at the mercy of landlords every winter, and many deaths from pneumonia are due to the indifference of owners in providing the heat that the tenants buy and pay for—in advance, too.

No crusade against the spread of pneumonia in New York will be effective that does not take cognizance of the criminal neglect of landlords in providing the necessary heat for apartment houses. While there are notable exceptions, as a class flat-house owners are notoriously delinquent in this regard. The health department can bring them up with a round turn, if only it exercises its rather extraordinary powers.

### ALL-TIMES FOR PEACE.

Objections to the president's peace conference proposal as ill-timed, such as are reported to be made in the Russian press, are not well taken, says the New York Tribune. The idea seems to be that a peace conference while two great nations are at war would be improper, and would seem to be an attempt to meddle between the belligerents. The latter suggestion may be dismissed at once. There is no thought of meddling. America, in common with other powers, deprecates the present war, and would be glad to see it ended. It would doubtless be glad to use its good offices as a mediator, or as a means of restoring peace, if such was the desire of the belligerents. But it has had and will have no thought of intruding into the quarrel. More than six years ago this country gave European powers to understand that its controversy with Spain, then tending ominously toward war, was one in which it could not recognize the right of any other power to intervene. It accords to Russia and Japan the same right to fight their quarrel out between themselves without alien interference.

As to the idea that a time of war is not a suitable time to talk of peace, it does not appeal to reason. All times are fitting to talk of peace. It has long been proverbial that in times of peace men should prepare for war. Logically, then, in time of war they should prepare for peace. Why not? A peace congress would not be retroactive. It would not meddle with a war that began before it was summoned, any more than did the former congress at The Hague attempt to dictate a settlement of the dispute between Great Britain and the Boer States, which was then rapidly moving toward war. It may be a question whether Russia and Japan would be willing to send representatives to be fellow members of such a congress, though no convincing reasons appear why they should not do so just as they both send representatives to be fellow ministers at various seats of government. With the clear understanding that they would not be called upon to compromise their independent standing as belligerents, or have their conduct in the present war called into question, there is really no good reason why those two powers should not take part in the proposed conference—provided it is called before their war is ended, as it may or may not be. Certainly we cannot subscribe to the theory that no peace congress can properly be held as long as there is war in the world.

Neither can we agree to the declaration of the Novosti of St. Petersburg that international law is a polite myth of which every item is violated whenever it suits the convenience of some strong nation to do it. We are under no illusions concerning international law, but have frequently pointed out in these columns its vagueness and the difficulty of enforcing its putative provisions. Nevertheless, we believe it is true that many of its important principles are respected by civilized powers, and are obeyed by them, even to their own inconvenience. We are certain that in the Spanish war this country obeyed prescriptions of international law when it would have been to its advantage to ignore them, and we believe that in the present war both Russia and Japan are doing the same. We are, moreover, inclined to think that out of this war will grow a more definite and explicit international code for the regulation of belligerent operations in future and that it will be accepted and respected by the nations of the world.

The cause of the scarcity of agricultural students goes about as far back as total depravity. The trouble does not begin in the college, but in the kindergarten. Almost as soon as the boy goes into school he finds a schoolma'am who tells him he is too good a fellow to be a farmer. If he is bright he must go to college and be a minister. So he goes to a classical college, and in just about 60 cases out of 100 turns out a nonentity. It is to be feared that some of the teachers in the agricultural colleges exert the same influence as the schoolma'am alluded to.—Levi Stockbridge.

In the death of Postmaster-General Payne the nation loses one of its best officials and the state of Wisconsin one of its best citizens. General Payne was a man whose honor had never been impeached, and his official career will endure as a monument to his useful integrity.

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### Run After a Husband.

Pretty girl catches a husband by a strenuous race at the Star.

### Confessions of a Priest.

Rev. Jno. S. Cox of Wake, Ark., writes, "For 12 years I suffered from yellow jaundice. I consulted a number of physicians and tried all sorts of medicines, but got no relief. Then I began the use of Electric Bitters and feel that I am now cured of a disease that had me in its grasp for 12 years." If you want a reliable medicine for liver and kidney trouble, stomach disorder or general debility, get Electric Bitters. It's guaranteed by Chas. Rogers. Only 50c.



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