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HOW TO REMOVE OBSTACLES.

We must confess that we are unable to explain the questions which were propounded by a correspondent signing himself "Subscriber" in The Astorian yesterday morning. Presumably, the writer has lived in Astoria for some time, and he ought to know as much about local conditions as any newspaper man.

Our correspondent complains that well-to-do property owners invariably refuse to assist any project calculated to better the city. He says they "hold back," content to remain at home and clip off interest coupons. He declares, further, that they reap the reward of the energy of others, and that their policy is one of obstruction.

Every man who earns a living in Astoria, every man who lives here, every man who owns a dollar's worth of property here owes a duty to the every other man in the community. Astoria is merely a big corporation, a co-operative company. The Astorian who fails to do his duty is amenable to civil or moral laws, as the case may be. If a resident of this city is wealthy and persists in a policy of obstruction, he should be called to account. As our correspondent suggests, this was done once before, when the famous committee of twenty-one literally "help up" obstructing property owners and forced contributions to the railroad subsidy. The moral pressure brought to bear overcame the backward spirit of the obstructive element, and the railroad was secured.

We take it from our correspondent's letter that some of the rich property holders have declined to assist the hotel project. Presuming that this conclusion is correct, we have two suggestions to offer.

First, we recommend that the incorporation committee named at the mass meeting proceed with the undertaking, just as if the wealthy property owners had passed to the great beyond, and their holdings been scattered to the four corners of the globe. We must have the hotel, and a few mossbacks should not, and will not, stand in the way of the enterprise. There is plenty of idle money here, and the encouragement already received justifies the expectation that the hotel scheme can easily be financed.

Secondly, we suggest that "Subscriber" and other men of his progressive spirit get together and prepare a series of letters. These letters ought to contain proper names, and the signatures should be something more substantial than "Subscriber." Perhaps one of every three persons who read the letter in yesterday's Astorian immediately put it down that the sentiment therein expressed emanated from this office. Had "Subscriber" signed his name his letter would have carried much greater weight with the public. It is a matter of little consequence in this respect that the correspondent's name is known to the editor. The public would be ever so much more impressed if the name appeared.

City-building is a difficult proposition, especially in such a case as that which confronts the people of Astoria. The town has merely outgrown us. Almost before we were able to realize it, Astoria developed into a city. We were not prepared for the sudden change. Just as deferred hope makes the heart sick, so also does it cause the spirit of progress to lag. To be painfully honest, all of us should pray to be delivered from the expansion which is now on. We should endeavor to retard the growth of the city until the streets are widened—the greatest municipal problem which we will have to face. We have a council that knows the need of wider streets—knows the streets are totally incapable of accommodating the present traffic—yet it refuses to act. The problem is too big for it to wrestle with. It will leave the matter for some future council. Meantime, Commercial, Duane and Exchange streets will be built up, and four or five years hence we will have to move back all our buildings. We have grown beyond ourselves.

But, to revert to the subject of the laggard, we reiterate that he should be ignored. If he does not desire to help, then let him stay at home, clip coupons or play solitaire, as he chooses. Go ahead without him. Surely, \$100,000 is a very small sum of

money to secure in a city as prosperous as Astoria, and it is our opinion the men honestly anxious for the hotel will hurt their plan by showing signs of weakness because some laggard declines to come to the front with his part of the wealth.

Go ahead with the hotel. If it is built away from the holdings of the unprogressive element it will enhance property values elsewhere, and the obstructionist will soon realize the error of his way. But remember that the man who "hollers" when difficulties confront him is not the one who succeeds.

THE SITUATION IN WISCONSIN.

Yesterday's Oregonian contained an extended article intended to explain to coast readers the political situation in Wisconsin. The article is for the most part, we believe, a true statement in regard to existing conditions. From a Wisconsin man who, through residence in Madison and personal acquaintance both with Governor LaFollette and his followers and with the leaders of the "Stalwart" faction, we are given some additional facts.

The story of the two conventions in Wisconsin—the split in the party—is comparatively well known. When the supporters of Emil Beansch for governor came to Madison at the time of the republican convention last June, they came with a determination to down the governor at any cost. Several contests had been raised in various parts of the state. These contests were, according to law, decided by the state central committee, and enough of them were decided in favor of the administration to assure an absolute majority in the convention. The opponents of the governor asserted, and with some cause, that the committee was biased. Admitting that such was the case, says our informant, nevertheless the committee acted properly, for the contests were for the most part raised on shallow pretexts by the stalwart faction. Had the contests been decided by the courts, the result would have been similar. Governor LaFollette had a fair majority of the delegates.

After the stalwarts had bolted and nominated their ticket, which was headed by S. A. Cook, the Baensch men casting their votes for him, the republican national committee decided to recognize Cook as the regularly nominated republican candidate. Recently the supreme court has decided that, since it was the function of the state central committee to decide all contests, Governor LaFollette is the regular nominee. And the stalwarts, who now call themselves "national republicans," have put up former Governor Seefeld as their candidate, Mr. Cook having withdrawn.

Robert M. LaFollette will be elected governor of Wisconsin next month. The opposition to him is divided, and while he may not get a majority of the votes, he is sure of a plurality. The governor has many enemies, but more friends. His political methods have been attacked, but his personal record is clean, and that is more than can be said of the other two candidates. He may not be the best man for the office, but there is no better candidate than him.

THE MAN WHO CHEATS HIS WORK.

An employer of thousands of men was asked what thing in all his large operations have him the most concern. "The man who does a little less than is expected of him," was the reply. "He is the dangerous factor in all business. The absolute failure we readily discover and discharge, but the 'almost' escapes detection for months and often for years, and they make our losses as well as our fears," and with a very serious smile he added, "The drip in business is worse than the leak."

It is a condition that is as old as human experience, comments the Saturday Evening Post. Eighteen and a half centuries ago Seneca put it in these words: "Some portion of our time is taken from us by force; another portion is stolen from us; and another slips away. But the most disgraceful loss is that which arises from our own negligence; and if thou wilt seriously observe, thou shalt perceive that a great part of life flits from those who do evil, a greater from those who do nothing, and the whole from those who do not accomplish the business which they think they are doing."

Thousands of men fancy they are fulfilling their duty to their employers and to their tasks by keeping hours and performing just enough to hold their positions. They have an idea that to do more would be to give larger service than their compensation required. They object to what they believe would be extra values. "The old man shan't get more than he's paying for," is the vernacular.

Possibly it never strikes these trimmers that in cheating their work they are doing double damage; they are injuring their employers much, but they are robbing themselves more; they are, in fact, losing everything in life that is worth while. They fare worse than if they did nothing at all, for time with all its precious value slips entirely from them and leaves no substance or satisfaction.

Half doing soon brings undoing. It is the ninetieths doing or the ninety-nine one-hundredths doing that bleeds business and saps character.

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"Mimic War in California" is strikingly described in the October Sunset Magazine. Articles by Gen. MacArthur and others. Beautiful colored drawings. Many industrial articles, sketches, stories, etc. 10 cents from all newsdealers.

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S. Le Quinn of Cavendish, Vt., was robbed of his customary health by invasion of chronic constipation. When Dr. King's New Life Pills broke into his house, his trouble was arrested and now he's entirely cured. They're guaranteed to cure, 25c at Chas. Rogers' drug store.

Notice.

Notice is hereby given that after this date I will not be responsible for any bills contracted by my wife, Mrs. O. Osmundson.

Astoria, Ore., Oct. 15, 1904.
 Signed, O. OSMUNDSON.

Removal Notice.

Dr. J. A. Fulton has moved from his old office to rooms 4, 5 and 6 in the Star theater building, corner Eleventh and Commercial streets, on the second floor.

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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