

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



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS.

In this enlightened day people are wont to accept innovations and improvements as a matter of course, and our progress is perhaps not as generally recognized as it deserves to be. We are prepared for almost anything, after what has transpired during the past 10 years, and even aerial navigation, wireless telegraphy and similar wonders excite only brief comment among the people.

Perhaps one of the most wonderful accomplishments of the present age is America's remarkable news-gathering system. Ten years ago newspapers were rather indifferently served, because the system had not been perfected. People seemed content to wait until the news reached them, and interest in the world's happenings was not as acute as it is now. But the average American citizen of today wants to know all about everything that is going on, and he wants to know just as soon as he can possibly find out.

The Associated Press has successfully undertaken to meet this demand. It has perfected its news-gathering system until today it exceeds any other institution of the kind in the universe. Its scope is limitless. In the remotest corners of the globe Associated Press correspondents will be found, and every happening of interest is transmitted to district headquarters, there to be disseminated to the newspaper publications enjoying the benefits of the Associated Press service. This wonderful news-gathering concern aims at accuracy, impartiality and promptness. It does not hesitate at expense nor balk at effort. While the world sleeps it watches the progress of events, and accurately and promptly records universal history. It is the world's greatest educator. It destroys distance and brings the nations into touch with each other, daily placing before the people of one the record of the people of all others. It requires the best efforts of thousands of the brightest men and expends hundreds of thousands of dollars in the collection and distribution of news.

Most of us have remarked how early the result of the recent presidential election was known, and many have no doubt marveled at the circumstance. The men connected with the Associated Press would have no difficulty in explaining the reason. They know that the association made this early news possible. From every city, town, village and hamlet there came immediate returns to Associated Press headquarters, with the result that the outcome of the election was known almost as soon as the polls had been closed. In point of completeness, no other election was ever so fully "covered" as that just held. The Associated Press gave the fullest accounts of the elections in the various states, having access not only to the information gathered by its special correspondents, but also to that collected by the newspapers which it numbers among its members. In every essential detail the collection of election news was carefully prepared for.

The situation should not escape the appreciation of the people of Astoria. Every morning in the week The Astorian places before them a complete account of the happenings of the world, the progress of the war raging 8000 or 10,000 miles away as well as the news of the nearby communities. Never before has this record been so complete, and the people who look to the morning paper for their information should appreciate the effort which is necessary to this magnificent service. The Associated Press is brilliantly handled, and there is no more capable district manager in the country than Mr. S. B. Vincent, of Portland, whom the people of this city have to thank for the excellence of their news service.

THE NATIONAL MUNICIPAL LEAGUE.

There has just been published and circulated throughout the larger cities of the country a circular report of the proceedings of the recent Chicago conference held by the National Municipal League. Incorporated therein is a great deal of material significant of the work this association is doing for civic reform and municipal improvement throughout all of the cities in which it has representation. Reports of work actually accomplished give cheering evidence of the growth of concerted effort in the beautifying of municipal environs and the purification of municipal governments.

The aims of the National Municipal League deserve to attract all that have pride in the appearance of their home city and a keen interest in the administration of the machinery of government.

The twofold object of the league, the adornment of municipalities by parks, driveways and such works of a public character, and the reorganization and modernizing of city charters on models insuring economy of effort and the permanency of solid business system, has found justification in successful application in many eastern cities.

In New York a branch of the league has trained men to keep in close touch with legislation at Albany concerning the city's common municipal interests. The work of the committee of the league in preparing for Milwaukee the most serviceable method of municipal accounting and the collection of municipal statistics has served as a standard for similar revision of method in many other cities. In the matter of civic adornment and reform of all unsightliness Kalamazoo, Michigan, has set the standard for clean streets, and Cleveland, Ohio, has passed severe restrictive measures against the obtrusive signboard.

The record of achievement which the National Municipal League has to show for its efforts is a good one. It works for the betterment of city life and the economy of city government and consequently it should receive every encouragement.

PROGRESS IN AFRICA.

But few of the wildernesses of the globe are left to conquer. A quarter of a century ago no one would have dreamed that any generation then living would see the heart of Africa opened to travel by any of the modern means of transportation. The great Victoria cataract on the Zambezi river was little more than a myth. Today the canyon just below the falls is being spanned by a modern cantilever steel bridge like that which crosses Niagara, says the Post-Intelligencer.

Cecil Rhodes dreamed of a Cape to Cairo railway. Most of it is still on paper. Some of it is in actual existence. The Rhodesian railway is one of the principal links of the larger enterprise. It has reached the Zambezi river at Victoria falls, and now furnishes a continuous line extending 1643 miles from the Cape toward Cairo. The falls themselves are far greater than Niagara, and the chasm below is but 400 feet wide, while the river broadens to over a mile above the cataract. The energy going to waste there is capable of developing 35,000,000 horse power. A portion of this will be utilized, and Victoria falls, like Niagara, will descend from the higher level of sentiment to the more useful commonplace of business and industry.

The benighted jungles of the "dark continent" will become a future seat of civilization. The march of empire from the lower Nile will meet the tide of human progress coming up from the south. And then new problems will confront the world of industry and commerce. Africa is densely populated in places. The records of history give us tales of the rise and fall of ancient empires on that continent. Mythology seems to give us a clue to an existence that antedates history; a hint of lost civilizations and empires destroyed that flourished away back in the dim beginning of human affairs. Present development in Africa will be more than a restoration or regeneration. It is planting modern civilization in what has always been one of the earth's most prolific and fruitful spots.

Judge Bowlby's recommendation that a county fair be held ought to meet with the hearty approval of the people of Clatsop county. Almost every other community in the state holds a fair and Clatsop surely should do likewise. As Judge Bowlby points out, the failure to develop local resources is the result of ignorance of our agricultural and dairy possibilities. No other county on the coast is better adapted to dairying than Clatsop, and there should be a large dairy industry here. The suggestion for a fair is an excellent one, and if the matter is properly taken up the fair will be held next fall. Now, here's something really commendable for the local commercial bodies to arrange for.

A remarkable series of experiments has been carried out in the Swedish army to test the effects of alcohol on rifle marksmanship. A battalion of 500 men was selected, and doses of alcohol ranging from strong to weak, and from immediately before practice to long intervals, were administered to the men under conditions calculated to test the effects of liquor on nerve and muscle. In the result even a moderate quantity was found to effect injuriously both eye and hand, and the experiments, as a whole, are stated to be greatly in favor of total abstinence.

In 1892 Mr. Cleveland secured electoral votes in 26 states; in 1896 Mr. Bryan was supported in the electoral college in 24 states. Four years ago the democratic candidates carried 17 states, and this year Parker and Davis are assured of the electoral vote of only 13 states, while Roosevelt and Fairbanks carry 32 states of the Union.

The populists are going to start a new party, the democrats are looking around for one, and the republicans are going to stick to the old organization. Certainly, the election left something for the politicians to do.

Mr. Cleveland's silence since the late unpleasantness is decidedly golden, quite in line with his monetary views.

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CENTENNIAL NOTES.

There will be no exhibits permitted in festival hall at the Lewis and Clark Exposition at Portland next year. The building, which will seat more than 2500 persons, will be used for concerts, lectures and conventions.

Californians are taking an encouraging interest in the Lewis and Clark exposition at Portland next year. The California development committee is arranging for an excursion of several hundred people of that state to be present on June 1, the formal opening day.

The New York buildings at the Lewis and Clark centennial will cost \$20,000, and the state will expend an additional sum of \$15,000 for the collection of a suitable exhibit to be contained in the building. Massachusetts will spend in all \$30,000, of which sum \$20,000 will be used for the building, and \$10,000 for the exhibit.

Historic names will be given the streets, avenues and courts at the Lewis and Clark centennial. The street leading to the "Trail," which is the name given to the amusement street, will be called Astor Drive, in honor of John Jacob Astor. Plazas and courts will be named for Senator Thomas H. Benton, a staunch friend of Oregon; his colleague, Senator Lewis F. Linn; President Jefferson and President Monroe.

A novelty in the way of a labor-saving device is the electrical whitewashing contrivance, which is being used

In finishing the interiors of the buildings now in course of construction for the Lewis and Clark centennial exposition. The machine consists of an electric engine, a giant traveler, and long lines of hose, through which the whitewash is squirted against the roof and sides of the buildings.

Notable men and women from all parts of the world, exponents of many creeds and beliefs, will deliver addresses at the exposition. Famous exponents of Buddhism, Mohammedanism and the religion of Confucius will be among these.

The management of the Lewis and Clark exposition is planning for a "Trail" which shall be second to none of those in the past. Indications are that there will be a general migration of the Pike shows at St. Louis to the western fair.

The government life-saving station at the Lewis and Clark exposition will be fitted up in the same manner as a Frederick Neil Innes, leader of the famous band that bears his name, has been engaged by the authorities of the Lewis and Clark fair to furnish music for the exposition from the date of the opening, June 1, to June 25. Mr. Innes plans to organize an adult chorus and a chorus in which the school children will take part.

The Jacksonville, Ore., Board of Trade, at a recent meeting, decided that the Jacksonville mining region should be properly represented at the Lewis and Clark exposition next year. The exhibit, according to present plans, will embrace gold, silver, copper, lead, platinum, cinnabar, plumbago, iron, asbestos, chrome, slate, marble, limestone, granite, sandstone and cement. There will be a number of the crude mining implements, relics of the early

days in Jacksonville, represented in the exhibit.

large service station. There will be the regulation complement of life boats and a crew to attend them.

A complete set of rules governing the use of exhibition grounds by exhibitors and concessionaries has been issued. The charge for lighting and power and other accommodations are included in the pamphlet.

Progress in construction on the grounds and buildings of the Lewis and Clark exposition is far advanced and everything points to a complete fair on June 1.

Orders from eastern points for Lewis and Clark souvenir dollars are daily increasing in number. The coins sell for \$2 apiece.

Not A Sick Day Since.

"I was taken severely sick with kidney trouble. I tried all sorts of medicines, none of which relieved me. One day I saw an ad. of your Electric Bitters and determined to try that. After taking a few doses I felt relieved, and soon thereafter was entirely cured, and have not seen a sick day since. Neighbors of mine have been cured of Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Liver and Kidney troubles and General Debility." This is what B. F. Bass, of Fremont, N. C. writes. Only 50c, at Chas. Rogers Druggist.

A Runaway Bicycle.

Terminated with an ugly cut on the leg of J. B. Orner, Franklin Grove, Ill. It developed a stubborn ulcer, unyielding to doctors and remedies for four years. Then Bucklen's Arnica Salve cured. It's just as good for Burns, Scalds, Skin Eruptions and Piles. 25c, at Chas. Rogers' Drug Store.

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