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Today's Weather.

Western Oregon and Western Washington—Tuesday rain. Eastern Oregon and eastern Washington, rain or snow.

TAXES ON TIMBER.

The filing of five suits against Clatsop county, injuncting the sheriff from selling the timber lands belonging to the plaintiffs for delinquent taxes, will result in calling the attention of the people of Clatsop county to the necessity of protecting its forests against the encroachment of syndicates who buy timber lands for speculative purposes, and who are not identified with the commercial interests of the county.

These syndicates have not purchased these lands for the purpose of engaging in the lumber business, fostering or building up any industry, but for purely speculative purposes. They purpose holding them until such time as saw mill men and lumber manufacturers are compelled to buy them, paying a fabulous price therefor.

These are the men that have filed suits in the circuit court of Clatsop county, complaining of the assessments made against their property. They claim that their property is assessed at more than its actual cash value, and that the estimates made by the cruisers employed by the syndicates, as to this last contention there can be no doubt. Timber syndicates employ cruisers to cruise claims, with the instructions to cruise them at half or two-thirds of their actual products.

Their contention will never be upheld in any court of Oregon. They will be compelled to pay their taxes, with interests and costs, and in justice to the county the assessor should double the assessment on every timber claim in the county, and even then it will not be in proportion to the amount the owners of small homes are compelled to pay.

and equal proportions of taxes. This the people will not submit to, and it should not be tolerated in the courts.

A PERNICIOUS VICE.

Gambling is the most pernicious of all forms of vice. It is demoralizing in its effects, is productive of crime, and many young men are ruined in endeavors to make a living without work. This does not apply simply to those that play at the ordinary games in vogue in small cities where gambling is allowed, but in the great gambling games conducted in the Chicago wheat market and on Wall street.

The gamblers of the Chicago wheat pit, and on Wall street, are not confined to young men who rob their employers to take risks against professional gamblers, but even by prominent members identified with the churches of the large cities, business men, and even laboring men, who can ill afford to hazard their hard-earned money against the sharpers of the gambling pit.

The dispatches announce that Thos. Lawson of Boston, author of "Frenzied Finance," backed by John W. Gates, and a number of other grand larceny thieves, cleaned up in one day on Wall street last week \$114,000,000. In other words, they robbed hundreds of men out of all the money they had in the world. Men were ruined, families thrown upon the cold charities of the world, and a financial panic barely averted.

There is no sympathy due the unfortunate who lost their all in the great onslaught on Wall street last week. They went into the game to win, and defraud someone else. Instead of winning they lost, and they are deserving of the consequences. No sympathy should be extended to any man who bucks a gambler's game with the expectancy of winning, and then turns turtle and has the man arrested for violating the law, the same law that he was violating. Had they won from the gambler not a world would be said, but when they lose, a howl goes up; appeals to officers are made and in many instances the gamblers are compelled to disgorge the amount won.

If it were not for gambling the crusade against saloons would not be as bitter. If gambling were not tolerated, there would be no advocates of local option laws. As a rule the gambler who robs those who play at his game is not as bad as the player. No man ever plays at a game that he does not expect to win, but when he loses he appeals to the officers of the law for reimbursement, and to the moral element to close up the games. This is similar to deathbed repentance. These facts are becoming self-evident, with the result that gambling has been prohibited in many cities and towns in Oregon, and the crusade if persisted in will soon wipe gambling from every city, town and hamlet in Oregon.

In this age, and generation mankind shows a selfish disposition which becomes more intensified, by efforts to prohibit gambling. They talk about the inalienable rights of man, and they quote from the declaration of independence, that "all men are created equal and endowed with certain inalienable rights, such as life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," and the pursuit of happiness is the foundation stone of the gambling fraternity. They are happy when they are robbing some poor man out of money that he needs for the support of his family and the education of his children. The example is set by the wealthy men of the nation, without a word of objection from either clergymen or the lawmaking power, and as long as grand larceny is permitted, petty larceny is certain to exist.

Richard Canfield, the patrician gambling house proprietor of New York, whose gambling establishment is regarded as the most aristocratic in that city, was recently convicted and fined \$1000 for maintaining a gambling house. There is a lax sentiment upon the subject of gambling, and the prohibition of it, all over the country that is a curse to society and will continue to curse society until it is rooted out. The Canfield conviction may mark merely an isolated and sporadic revulsion against the sentiment of the "open town," which sentiment prevails in nearly all the great cities. It proves, nevertheless, that at the base of the American theory of government is a true view of public morals and public policy, and it indicates that there is always a danger of its coming to the service, to the cleaning up of the social and political house and the inauguration of an era of great public decency and good sense.

TARIFF REVISION.

From a poll that the New York Herald has made among members of the senate and house of representatives on the subject of tariff revision that newspaper draws the conclusion that the present congress will take absolutely no steps toward changing the tariff—except, perhaps, in the case of duties on products from the Philippines—and that probably the Fifty-ninth congress will follow the same policy. This poll, however, is by no means convincing on that point. It re-

presents the views of ninety-nine republican members of the senate and house—seventy-seven of whom are opposed to tariff revision—whereas the total republican membership of the two bodies is substantially 270. In other words, this poll represents the views of only about one-third of the republican members of the present congress. In addition, no attempt was made to ascertain the views of the democratic members; numbering in both branches of congress over 200, and all of them. It is safe to assume, in favor of some modification of the tariff.

That the growing demand for tariff revision is making a deep impression on congress is evident from the way in which some of the hitherto "stand-pat" leaders express themselves on the subject. In Senator Lodge's opinion, "undoubtedly some of the schedules might be changed;" while Senator Beveridge declares that he is "not yet ready to talk on tariff revision for publication," but he believes that "the Indiana delegation is willing to follow the lead of the president in the matter." While insisting that the "principle of protection must remain," Senator Fairbanks, vice president-elect, affirms that "the principle of protection must remain." Senator Fairbanks, vice-president-elect, affirms that "the republican party will not hesitate to change schedules when the necessity for such change becomes evident." Senator Aldrich has no "time" just now to talk about tariff revision, but he believes "the republican majority in congress may be trusted to do the wise thing." Other expressions of opinion by recognized "stand-pat" advocates are of a similar tenor and indicate, like the foregoing, that their authors are beginning to see a great light.

It is evident from this wavering in the lines of the protectionists radicals that the matter of an early revision of the tariff rests largely in the hands of President Roosevelt. Should he sound the signal for a reasonable measure of tariff reform, there is hardly a shadow of a doubt that a majority in both branches of congress would rally to his support and that the "stand-patters" who have threatened to "fight to the last ditch" would acquiesce in the inevitable. The matter is now "up" to the president, and if he shall refuse to heed the increasing tide of public sentiment for a reformation of archaic and burdensome tariff duties that we now maintain, he need not be surprised if popular confidence in his political independence and courage and in his statesmanship were to be rudely shaken.

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

Very Little Business Transacted at Last Night's Meeting.

An adjourned meeting of the common council was held last evening, all the members being present except Councilman Belland.

Petition from Otto Michaelson for liquor license was referred to the committee.

Petition from A. Rickards and 35 others for a street light at the foot of Ninth street was referred to the street committee.

Petition from D. H. Welch to pay for street improvements on the installment plan, was allowed.

Petition from B. Wistar Morris offering to pay the original assessment for construction of a drain in Upper Astoria was referred to the street committee.

Petition from the O. R. & N. Co. for a building permit for the building recently erected on Commercial street was reported adversely upon by the street committee, as it provided for a wooden roof and being in the fire limits, wooden roofs are not allowed—except occasionally.

An ordinance accepting the improvement of Grand avenue was passed under suspension of the rules.

An ordinance accepting the improvement of Ninth street was laid over, Councilman Burns stating that the street had not been completed in accordance with the specifications.

An ordinance confirming the special assessment on Grand avenue was laid over to give property owners who desired to take advantage of the installment plan an opportunity to do so. It will be passed at the meeting next Monday night.

The superintendent of streets was instructed to repair the sidewalk on Eighth street going to the schoolhouse.

George C. Flanders of the Standard Oil Company appeared before the council to make a statement relative to the contemplated building of an oil tank at the foot of Fifth street. According to his statement oil tanks were preventative of fire, a thing of beauty and a joy forever.

There being no further business the council adjourned. The regular meeting will occur next Monday night.

It may be as well for the baking powder and chewing gum manufacturers to await a determination of the manner of making awards at the St. Louis fair before advertising prize products.

O'Donovan Rossa, the bold Irish-American agitator, is visiting the old sod, where he has been tendered the freedom of Cork by the town council. That means that the cork will be out.

"Money is plentiful," says Secretary Shaw, "and it's cheap, too." Now, isn't that tantalizing? But, then, talk's cheap, too.

Swell Togs For Men.

P. A. STOKES

Home of Swell Togs



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TIME

you were seeing us about your Winter Suit or Overcoat if you expect to be in the "running" with the fashionably dressed men around town. These garments are "chock full" of good quality, and style that is only produced by a first class City Tailor. To buy your clothes here is to be well dressed, and to be well dressed is half the battle of life.

We Fit Anyone

P. A. STOKES

Money Back if Dissatisfied

PERSONAL MENTION.

John Finley of Portland was in the city yesterday.

M. J. Kinney was down from Portland yesterday.

Ralph Wooden of Jewell was in the city yesterday.

Judge Dalton of Chinook was in the city yesterday.

Nate Anderson of Mishawauka was in Astoria yesterday.

Link C. Burton of Cathlamet was in the city yesterday.

Lewis Cunningham of Clifton was in the city yesterday.

Louis Wilson of the Lewis and Clark was in the city yesterday.

R. A. Seaborg of Bay View was a visitor in Astoria yesterday.

George C. Flanders of Portland was in the city yesterday on business.

Captain Whitcomb of Chinook was a visitor in Astoria yesterday.

J. C. Rierson and wife of Elsie are in the city visiting with friends.

Captain George Goodale went to Ft. Stevens yesterday on official business.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Meserve of Grays River were in the city yesterday.

J. W. Cook of Portland is in the city to attend the meeting of the cannerymen.

Carl M. Greene of the United States revenue cutter service is in the city on official business.

Mrs. Emily Roseburg and her mother, Mrs. T. J. Kelly, left last evening for Pittsburg, Penn., where Mrs. Kelly will spend the winter with her daughter.

Captain A. C. Anderson and wife returned yesterday from Gardner, where they have been the past four months. Mr. Anderson will leave in a few days for a visit with friends in the Nehalem.

Editor Hofer of the Salem Journal again offers his annual advice, editorially, on how to make sauer kraut—and it pays sometimes to take a Dutchman's advice.

San Francisco reports feeling an earthquake, which came in several sharp jolts. That wasn't an earthquake; that was Seattle pushing for breathing space.

It is estimated by those close to the administration throne that there will be few vacant seats at the old pie counter. The holdovers are lauding in their pie.

"My goodness!" exclaimed Mrs. Plumpton, "I wonder if that isn't what makes me so awfully fat?"

A Massachusetts clergyman says that prayers have brought him riches. "Brethren, let us pray."

"Your trouble, madam," said the physician, "seems to be due to an excess of adipose tissue."

Colonel Watterson has fled to Europe to get away from the slaughter house smell.

INDIAN LEATHER NOVELTIES

Burned ASTORIA Calendars, Banners, Pipe Racks, and Novelties of all sorts—the inexpensive article you can send East and know it will be appreciated.

J. N. GRIFFIN

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT.

The Baltimore & Ohio Railroad's New Through Service. Effective November 27th, 1904, and thereafter, a new daily train will be inaugurated, leaving Grand Central passenger station, Chicago, at 10:30 p. m., for Akron, Cleveland, Youngstown, Pittsburg and intermediate points, connecting at Pittsburg with "Duquesne Limited" for Philadelphia and New York, and with train No. 10 for Washington, D. C., and Baltimore.

Advertised Letter List.

List of letters remaining unclaimed for 30 days at Astoria postoffice, December 12, 1904:

- Ball, Alex Mr.
Barr, T. M.
Barnett, J. A. Mr
Brown, Anton Mr.
Brummer, Bell Mrs.
Carlson, John Mr.
Carlson, Lillie Miss
Darrah, G. R. Mrs.
Davis, F.
Davis, Wm.
Erickson, Abram.
Galvin, Garrett, Mr.
Gardner, Frank M.
Gardner, Roger F. Mrs.
Gordon, W. J.
Hansen, Flora Miss.
Henry, Frank Mr.
Hultanen, J. N. Mr.
Jenkins, J. H. Rev.
Jones, M. W.
Kidd, Tom J.
Kellogg, A. J. Mr.
Merrick, Frank Mr.
Olsen, Hueda Miss.
Remikka, Aldrich.
Ruotsalainen, Daniel.
Snow Crick Mines Office.
Taylor, W.
Taylor, H.
Unland, Charles Mr.
Wood, George Mr.
Wooden, C. L.
Foreign.
King, E. Mr.
Salamansen, John Mr.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.

A Large and Varied Assortment at Ekstrom's.

Here are a few articles which will make suitable and handsome Christmas presents for anyone. All popular and stylish, cheap in price, but high in quality. Read: Silver novelties in numerous different patterns, handsome cut glass pieces, sterling silverware, ebony goods in brushes, glasses and toilet sets, fancy umbrellas and canes, match boxes, tableware, fine chains, chafing dishes, carving sets, special watches, diamonds, broches and a thousand other things. It will pay you to consult our prices before going elsewhere.

H. EKSTROM, Astoria, Ore.

Next Time

You need a pair of Men's, Women's or Children's

SHOES

Honest, Durable Shoe s

For less money than you have been paying try

S. A. GIMRE

543-545 Bond St.