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Today's Weather.

Eastern Oregon and Eastern Washington—Fair.

NEEDED IMPROVEMENTS.

There seems to be a diversity of sentiment between the report submitted to the war department by Major Langfelt, and the opinions of prominent men, identified with the commercial interests of Astoria, relative to the expense attending improvements on the bar. The Astorian published a synopsis of Major Langfelt's report submitted to a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce, with the exception that the difference between the cost of dredging on the river by the Ladd and that done on the bar by the Chinook was stated, not with the view of discrediting the work done by the Chinook, but to show the necessity of the construction of a new dredge adapted to dredging in front of the city and on the bar as well. There is no one in Astoria, but wants to see the Chinook continue its operation on the bar, because, in the opinion of men in a position to know, this is the only feasible plan of deepening the channel. But at the same time there is a strong effort being made to secure the construction of a dredger to take the place of the Chinook, as soon as it can be constructed. Through the efforts of the Astorian and a number of prominent citizens, a bill has been introduced in congress by Representative Hermann for the building of a dredger adapted to the improvement of the river and bar as herein indicated.

When the Astorian discusses these questions, it is with the view of providing the best devices for accomplishing the results necessary to secure deeper water on the bar, and not to dispense with the Chinook until such a time as a new dredger can be provided. There is no politics in the controversy, as a few disgruntled democrats allege. While the Astorian is republican in politics and in thorough accord with the present national administration, and its opinions have weight with the departments at Washington, the republican party of Clatsop county nor the state of Oregon are not responsible for the editorial opinions expressed. This is not intended as a salvo for the wounded feelings of one or two persons too ignorant to understand the position of the Astorian, and who persist in charging the editorial opinions of the paper to the republican party.

Everyone in Astoria, irrespective of political affiliations are interested in the improvement of the Columbia river and bar, but there may be a difference of opinion as to the best means of accomplishing the necessary results. The opinions of the Astorian are based, as a rule, on the reports of the officials in charge of the work, and not with the intention of jeopardizing the interests of Astoria in its efforts to secure the commercial supremacy to which nature has entitled it.

THOUGHTS OF WAR.

Cruel war and the killing of thousands of men has been a theme for discussion by men of humane instincts, who deplore the terrible slaughter of Russians and Japs in efforts to maintain supremacy over disputed territory. While it is true that both Russians and Japs have their loved ones at home who mourn their loss; that many a fireside is made desolate by the loss of father and brother, widows and orphaned children are thrown on the cold charities of the world, yet the race that is being exterminated do not appeal strongly to the sympathies of the more enlightened countries, as though they were a civilized nation of high intellectual attainments; whose empires are based upon efforts to better the conditions of society. The soldiers of Russia are laying down their lives for a codfish aristocracy that place no value upon a man's life. They are considered merely as surfs, whose rights to enjoy the tranquillity of home and earn a competence is of secondary importance to the happiness of a tyrannical king.

It is not so much the horrors of war that shock the sensibilities of the civilized nations, but the flimsy pretext and cause that lead up to the war. Not that the soldiers will ever be benefited by the results of the war, but that the czar and his horde of aristocratic cohorts may enjoy the fruits of war. Wars are solely for the self-aggrandizement of the hard-hearted, cold-blooded rulers of pagan nations. If the Japanese could successfully attack St. Petersburg and murder every man, woman and child connected with the aristocracy of the czar's household, it would receive the unanimous approval of every civilized country. It would be far better for the world if the cold-blooded aristocrats could be wiped off the face of the earth, than to have thousands of poor families suffering destitution and want by the killing of fathers, brothers and husbands in order to perpetuate a government founded upon tyranny, with no respect for its subjects.

The poor soldiers are rushed to the front, while the czar is revelling in luxuries supplied by his slaves, as he considers all the subjects of Russia. Very few generals are killed, because they remain in the rear. It is considered in war, that the life of one aristocratic general with royal blood flowing through his veins, is worth more than the lives of 20,000 of the common herd. What is true of Russia is also true of Japan. If all the men of both countries were killed in the war, they would not be missed anywhere in the civilized world, outside of their home precincts. They are a non-assimilative class; serfs and slaves of an aristocratic czar or mikado, who have nothing in common with the more advanced countries along the lines of civilization. In order that the aristocracy of Russia may revel in luxuries, under the alicutions of a false society, the soldiers are compelled to contribute a large portion of their earnings to the imperial families, and to sacrifice their lives for lust and gain.

Thousands of dollars have been contributed by the American people in vain endeavors to Christianize and civilize the pagan hordes of Russia and Japan, with no perceptible results. Christianity cannot cope with the edicts of a tyrannical ruler, whose subjects are subservient to his whims and fancies. A few may be converted, and the results would be more gratifying, if after they have been converted they would leave the Russian empire and migrate to the United States, or some other civilized country. As long as they remain under the subservience of the czar, their conversion is only temporary, and the cost is not worth the products. If all the Japanese and Russians were swallowed up and their countries thrown open to civilization and advancement, the result would be more beneficial to mankind, and their loss would not be felt. Their representation in heaven would be even smaller than the democratic representation in the electoral college. Today they stand a poorer show of a glorious immortality beyond the grave than the republicans of Astoria in a city election. Even though heaven is all that it is painted, the fact that those who aspire for a seat at the right hand of the throne, will not feel at home, associating with barbarians and heathens of uncivilized countries like Russia and Japan, has a tendency for mankind to lose an interest in the home streets and diamond-studded walls, sapphires and precious stones sparkling with transcendent beauty through the fields of Elysian.

A COINCIDENCE.

There seems to be a striking similarity between the opinions of the Oregonian and the press of Astoria relative to the necessity of a number of first-class funerals of persons whose health and happiness would be better subserved in the next world than this. The following editorial in yesterday's Oregonian will read like a chapter from the history of Astoria in years gone by, but the exigencies that existed in Astoria, like Portland, do not seem to exist at the present time. The Oregonian says:

It looks as if the time has passed when the most obvious need of Portland appeared to be a number of first-class funerals. This was merely a polite euphemism for the desire, once almost universal, that a few gentlemen who rejected is a chronic condition of moribundism might withdraw from the affairs of this world and go to heaven, where they could rest for all eternity; for there progress is unknown and undesired, and the existing order suits everybody. Truth is that some of our pioneers have been our most enterprising citizens, and others have not been enterprising; but it is a significant fact that in great part the leadership in commercial, industrial and financial circles in this city has long remained in practically the same hands—a remarkable advertisement of the solvency and sanity of our business methods and a standing tribute to the intelligence and breadth of our local captains of industry. We can perhaps find no real fault with the ways of the people who are here, and what they have done. The only trouble has been that there have not been more of them, because there are opportunities waiting for new blood, new enterprise, new wealth, in Portland and throughout the northwest. We might have done more to invite and attract men of push and resource from elsewhere; but they are the spirit of making a long pull, a strong pull and a pull altogether pervades all Portland as it never did before. Everybody, the old-timer and the newcomer, has a move on.

In discarding the doxology; there is a suggestion that Chicago university will substitute the hymn beginning "Praise John from whom all blessings flow."

SCHOOL LEVY MADE

Rate is an Improvement Over Last Year.

NO DISCUSSION WAS RAISED

Interesting Report of the Clerk of the School Board is Tabulated for Those Interested in the Progress of School Work.

At the Shively school last night an important meeting of the school board was held and the report of the clerk, which provides for the necessary appropriations for the ensuing year, was adopted as it stood, and the tax levy established as scheduled.

The rate of 8 mills was taken as the basis of the levy, that for last year having been 10 mills.

The members of the board who were present were P. J. Goodman, F. J. Taylor, J. A. Eakin and J. E. Higgins. W. H. Barker was not present. To the Board of Directors of School District No. 1, Gentlemen:

I herewith submit to you my report of receipts and expenditures of the district for the 11 months ending November 30, 1904, together with the estimates for the coming year; also showing indebtedness statement:

Receipts table with columns: Description, Amount. Includes items like 'To cash on hand January 1', 'From county treasurer', 'From county school superintendent', etc.

Disbursements table with columns: Description, Amount. Includes items like 'Warrants Drawn', 'Supplies', 'Moving & repairs, Adair Sch.', 'General Repairs', etc.

ESTIMATES table with columns: Description, 1904, 1905. Includes items like 'Source of Income', 'County school fund', 'State apportionment', etc.

ESTIMATES table with columns: Description, 1904, 1905. Includes items like 'Source of Expense', 'Teachers' salaries', 'Janitors' Salaries', etc.

ESTIMATES table with columns: Description, 1904, 1905. Includes items like 'Source of Income', 'County school fund', 'State apportionment', etc.

Drouth Continues. Columbus, O., Dec. 14.—Drouth has lowered the Scioto river to a low stage, and the river from which Columbus secures its water supply is today frozen solid. The superintendent today issued a warning to the people to hoard their water supply.

Captain Dies. New York, Dec. 15.—Disease of the spine attributed to an injury received in a football game has caused the death at Lakewood, N. J., of August F. Holly, Jr., a former Captain of the Princeton team.

P. A. STOKES "Swell Togs for Men." MERRY YULE-TIDE And our store jammed full of everthing that goes to make the man or boy happy. We will be pleased to help you in your selections. FOR WINTER LEISURE there's a world of satisfaction in the Store open every evening till eight o'clock. Smoking Jackets, House Coats, Lounging Robes. Not High-Priced Goods, for Gift Purposes Only, but Popular Novelties, in Popular Fabrics, at Popular Prices—to supply the wants of the every-day man who appreciates House Comfort. Let us show you the lines—you'll be willing to pay more than we ask. REMEMBER everything guaranteed to give satisfaction or money refunded. P. A. STOKES "Swell Togs for Men."

Statement of indebtedness table with columns: No., Amount, When Due, Total. Includes items like '10 Bonds', '12 Bonds', '35 Bonds', etc.

ESTIMATES table with columns: Description, 1904, 1905. Includes items like 'Source of Income', 'County school fund', 'State apportionment', etc.

ESTIMATES table with columns: Description, 1904, 1905. Includes items like 'Source of Expense', 'Teachers' salaries', 'Janitors' Salaries', etc.

ESTIMATES table with columns: Description, 1904, 1905. Includes items like 'Source of Income', 'County school fund', 'State apportionment', etc.

HOTEL ARRIVALS. Parker House. George C. Dufur, Kalama, Wash. A. Young, Youngs River. H. W. Smith, McGowans, Wash. R. J. Young, McGowans, Wash. S. S. Cummins and wife, Portland W. C. Harris, Eugene. J. J. Watson, Eugene. Covington authorities are threatened with heart trouble over the fact that a taxpayer of the city insists that he isn't assessed on all his taxable property.

INDIAN LEATHER NOVELTIES Burned ASTORIA Calenders, Banners, Pipe Racks, and Novelties of all sorts—the inexpensive article you can send East and know it will be appreciated. J. N. GRIFFIN

The Louisiana Post throws a fit of delight over the fact that one whole week has passed in the criminal courts of that city without a murder case being up for trial. Louisville must be improving wonderfully. But The Post ought to have explained whether the unusual occurrence was due to cessations from killings or whether it was just because there wasn't a murder case ready.

The Washington Post is authority for the statement that "a Cincinnati girl horsewhipped the man who jilted her and then ducked him in a pond." If the Post will kindly give a diagram of the locality of that horse pond the rest of the item may go unwhipped of justice. The sight of water in this parched balliwick would work forgiveness of very much.

The ladies of the M. E. church will hold their annual sale next Friday, the 16th, in the basement of the Presbyterian church. Fancy and useful articles, especially adapted for Christmas, delicious sweets and refreshments for sale.

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. Best meals in town at the New Style Restaurant.

Now is the Time To ORDER CHRISTMAS POULTRY. The best Turkeys, Geese and Chickens in the city, fed on wheat and corn, at the BOND STREET MARKET. We keep our Poultry alive and dress them as needed; do not handle cold storage Poultry. PHONE 2183 Res.

The Grotto will supply patrons with delicious Tom and Jerry every day. The superior quality of goods which has made the Grotto popular, will be supplied.

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.

This train will be equipped with first-class day coaches, Pullman sleepers and dining car service. On all through tickets stop-over will be allowed at Washington, Baltimore and Philadelphia, not to exceed 10 days at each place.

For further particulars address, Peter Harvey, General Agent, Room 1, Hobart Bldg., San Francisco. D. B. Martin, Manager Passenger Traffic Baltimore, Md. B. N. Austin, General Passenger Agent, Chicago.

Next Time You need a pair of Men's, Women's or Children's SHOES Honest, Durable Shoes For less money than you have been paying try S. A. GIMRE 543-545 Bond St.