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Today's Weather.

Western Oregon and Western Washington—Saturday rain.
Eastern Oregon and Eastern Washington—Rain or snow.

THE POLICE COMMISSION.

Public opinion is divided upon the expediency of the motives that actuated a certain contingent of the republican party to elect a police commission without the consent and approval of the rank and file of the republican party. There are two sides to this question. Looking at the proposition in the light of present conditions, there is some justification for their actions. Astoria has no police commission at the present time and has had none for nearly a year. One commissioner does not constitute a police commission within the purview of the city charter. According to that document, which is the governing statutes of the city, a board of police commissioners is composed of three persons, who must be residents and taxpayers within the city. Two of the present alleged commission possess neither qualification, and, therefore, a vacancy exists either by operation of law or by general rules of construction of existing vacancies.

W. H. Barker, one of the police commission is a resident of British Columbia. His family also live there, and that is his legal residence. W. J. Cook, another of the commission, has disposed of all his interests in the city and gone to New York. He is neither a resident or a taxpayer. The charter does not contemplate that public officers, elected by a vote of the people, charged with the control and management of the police department, should reside in British Columbia and New York. Exigencies might arise, where a meeting of the board would be necessary, and it would be impossible to secure one. Charges preferred against a police officer or the chief of police, must be investigated by the board of police commissioners, and a majority thereof is necessary to discharge an officer. This is impossible to secure.

This is an outrage, and one that should not be tolerated. If the absent commissioners will not resign, then their office should be declared vacant. The vacancies should be filled in the manner provided by the charter, and not by questionable political methods. If these vacancies are filled, all of the commissioners' term of office will expire at the next election, and a new board can be elected who are identified with the business of the city, and not men whose business is removed from the city, and where they are not in a position to serve their constituents. For this reason there might be some excuse for the actions of the republicans in springing three men for police commissioners at a late hour on the day of election.

The Astorian is republican in politics. In fact, it is only republican daily newspaper published in Clatsop county, but it will never be a party to, nor endorse ulterior motives in securing political preferment by professed politicians. It is opposed to ring rule, star chamber nominations of men for political offices, and questionable methods occasionally used by those who claim the authority to dictate, believing that the interests of the party can be better subserved by leaving the availability of candidates to the party as a whole, rather than to a self-constituted committee, whose actions are, frequently condemned by the rank and file at the polls.

Clatsop county is republican on a straight party vote, and would be so today, if conditions were different. When prominent republicans, identified with the principles of the party, begin to question the motives that have actuated some of the leaders of the party; when one faction insists in naming all the candidates to the exclusion of other factions, just so long will there be a repetition of the result of the election last Wednesday, and its tendency is toward the disruption of the party.

The Astorian does not want to criticize the action of any man, committee or leader; it does not want to dictate the nominations for any office, or the management of political campaigns, but it will certainly insist on a new deal, when exigencies arise making such a change imperative for the suc-

cess of the party. It believes in the highest standard of politics along the line established by President Roosevelt. No one man or set of men should control party affairs, for they become a ring, and political rings are distasteful to the voters of the party which are necessary for success in elections. The Astorian will not lend its aid or influence to any such combination, for to do so would be to put it in the category of a "ring organ," a position that it does not seek and will always refuse to fill.

If the republican party of Clatsop county is to be successful there must be a reorganization. There must be a community of interests, and not the building up of a clique or ring. Experience has demonstrated in elections in Astoria and Clatsop county during the past six years, the republican party has been defeated, and these defeats are the result of lack of confidence in party management. How far they are justified in this belief, it is not necessary to discuss, but past experience should be sufficient to impress upon some of the leaders the lack of party confidence that actually exists in the republican party of Astoria and Clatsop county.

The actions of those in authority last Wednesday, in electing a board of police commissioners is not calculated to inspire confidence in the party. The proper method to have pursued was that when the city convention was held, nominations for three police commissioners should have been made by the convention. But underhanded political methods will not be tolerated, no matter how honest the persons were who believed that a desperate disease required a desperate remedy.

The Astorian will never antagonize the republican party, not any man nominated by it, as long as the conventions are properly called; all conflicting factions permitted to have a vote, and ring rule is eliminated. This is the policy outlined for the guidance of the party in the future, and which will be strictly adhered to, believing that it is for the best interests of the party and will bring victory instead of defeat.

PREFERRED RISKS.

The decision of the big life insurance companies to give lower rates to total abstainers will weigh more as a temperance argument than all the eloquence, tracts and statistics of temperance advocates.

The average man fights shy of a "reformer," whom he considers a suspicious kind of person difficult and unnecessary to follow. But the managers of insurance companies are ordinary business people, who avoid a danger because it is a danger and rate a man as a second class risk because something is the matter with him. Their discrimination against one who drinks can only mean that the drinker is at a physical disadvantage compared with an abstainer, and the discrimination is known to be free from every bias in favor of a "cause." It will surprise many people to learn that the insurance companies have discovered by a series of investigations extending over years and including many thousands of cases that even the moderate drinker is a substantially inferior risk to the man who does not drink at all. Some of the figures make the difference as much as 50 per cent and in no case do they fall below 20 per cent.

The insurance companies are willing to back their opinion with cash, as they are preparing politics at a reduction to total abstainers, and this faith in their deductions will strengthen the hands of temperance workers powerfully. Whether, taking for granted that insurance companies are correct in their belief, a man's right to drink ought to be restricted is an entirely different question. It is often more advisable to regulate an evil than to attempt to suppress it, and many will question the desirability of a long but dry life.

But it is something gained to have the experience of the insurance companies crystallized in an expression of opinion on the question of drink, as a man can now know, with a considerable degree of probability, the effect of his indulgence upon the length of his days.

PENSIONED TOO YOUNG.

German Army Corps Received More Attention.

Berlin, Dec. 16.—During the debate in the Reichstag on the pension bills, War Minister Von Elnen answered the complaints frequently appearing in the newspapers that the emperor caused officers to be pensioned too early in order to keep the officers corps young. The war minister asserted that on the other hand the average age of brigade, regiment and battalion commanders and captains was now higher than in 1877. For the highest rank the German army knows no limit, using an efficient general so long as his strength is intact.

Mother Suicides.

Portland, Dec. 16.—Having been extremely despondent since the death of her husband last November, Mrs. Sarah R. D. Dukehart, of 564 Yamhill street, committed suicide about 6 o'clock last evening by drinking carbolic acid. Dr. Hollister was called, but could not save her life. She leaves two sons and two daughters. Coroner Finley has investigated the case, and has decided that no inquest will be held. The funeral will be from the residence tomorrow afternoon.

JAIL HELD BY WOMAN.

Prisoner Locks the Department Out of Doors.

Chief of Police Hallock is no "matron," and he defies any one to prove the contrary, but a female prisoner, Mrs. M. E. Moore by name, crazed from the effects of drinking pure alcohol, last night attempted to jump into the river, and was only prevented by the fact that her feet had the wrong inspiration and balked at a critical moment until the watchman could get hold of her; whereupon she was committed to the tender mercies of the chief.

Hallock did the best he could. He locked her up, but this morning a large portion of the fumes of the vino had evaporated, and the chief did not secure the woman as closely as might be, under the impression that he, not being a matron, had no right, as a bachelor, to "ride herd" on a woman prisoner. The chief took his two cats out of the office, ensconced them in the vault, and then abandoned the jail.

He returned several times and looked at it from across the street to see that the place hadn't been moved, and then returned to where he could lean up against something and weep till he felt better over the thoughtlessness of misguided policemen who would bring a woman into a matronless jail. Chas. Gamble is the matron, but his motherly instincts failed him yesterday and the chief's faith in the Lord and the protection of his friends was all upon which he had to rely.

Sheriff Linville, however, wanted to hold communion with a prisoner who seems to have secured a divorce from his better judgment, and whom the sheriff wants to examine this morning, so he went down after his man.

The jail was locked. The sheriff was surprised. He knocked. No go!

Peering over the curtain of the chief's private office Linville decried Mrs. Moore sitting in the chief's chair, her feet on his desk, and almost the same air of profound abstraction glooming her features that pervades the countenance of the chief when he is thinking of his sins at 3:3 p. m.

Tom Linville grasps a position very quickly, so he sent a hail to the chief and then tried the effect of persuasion, but Mrs. Moore had the bird cage locked on the inside.

In fine, it took the efforts of the department to break into its own jail, and it would be laying seige to the outside now if Linville hadn't bethought himself to smile, and few women can withstand the sheriff's grin.

Mrs. Moore shot the bolts back and opened the door.

WORK SUSPENDED.

\$1,000,000 Mine Is Lying Idle In California.

Redding, Cal., Dec. 16.—No work is now being done, it is said, in the mines of the Trinity Copper company, located near Kennett, in this county, owned by a Boston corporation, capitalized at \$6,000,000, of which Thomas Lawson is the president and controlling power. This company was organized in 1900 to purchase several groups of copper locations, including some 51 claims, a smelter site and right of way for a branch railroad connecting the property with the Southern Pacific railroad. The price paid at that time is said to have been in the neighborhood of \$1,000,000.

PERSONAL MENTION.

Chris Olsen of Chinook was in town yesterday.

Frank Bonhart came up from Seaside yesterday.

H. W. Smith of McGowan was in the city yesterday.

F. Barteldes of Youngs River was in Astoria yesterday.

Albert Johnson of Seaside was in the city yesterday.

J. P. Holland of Portland was in Astoria yesterday on business.

R. E. Bradbury of Seaside was a visitor in the city yesterday.

Andrew Young was in from his Youngs River ranch yesterday.

Chas. E. DuBois of Seaside was in Astoria yesterday on business.

John Steiner returned from a business trip to Portland last night.

Miss Hazel White of Cathlamet visited friends in Astoria yesterday.

L. Leback, the well-known Chinook trapper, is in the city for a few days.

Hon. C. F. Lester and Sidney Campbell of Warrenton were in the city yesterday.

Al Schroder of Ross, Higgins & Co. has returned from a business trip to Portland.

O. E. Heim is here, after a successful trip in a missionary field of the upper Willamette in the interests of Bethany church.

Wm. Brown of Locksley Hall returned from Portland yesterday and went to Seaside.

Mrs. Martin Ford and daughters arrived from Tacoma last night. The Misses Ford have been attending the Anna Wright seminary and came home to spend the holidays.

Three Are Killed.

Los Angeles, Cal., Dec. 16.—In a fire that destroyed the Eureka Planing Mill here tonight three men lost their lives. The fires spread from some tanks of distillate with such rapidity that, not-

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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."

withstanding the efforts of the other 35 employes of the mill, three were cut off. The loss is \$60,000.

FRENZIED TIME.

(Continued from Page 1.)
The man who was with the Boston tereed the hotel just before 11 o'clock and looked over the register. Chief Watts held a brief conference with the manager of the hotel. When approached by the newspaper men the chief said he had heard of the meeting between Messrs. Greens and Lawson and had come to see that no disturbance was caused by cranks who might be among the spectators. He and the inspector remained in the hotel office for some time.

Police Captain Cain, in charge of the division in which the hotel is located, arrived at the hotel shortly after noon. Captain Cain said "looked in" partly through curiosity. He talked to the other officers for some time.

At noon a small crowd assembled in the hotel lobby, but there was no excitement of any sort.

Later Chief Watts made a brief inspection of the lower part of the hotel and held a further conference with the manager. It was denied that the hotel people had sent for the police. The statement was made that the chief inspector and assistant called to see that order was maintained. They had not expected, however, that their services would be needed. The officers were still in the hotel at noon.

Charles Hayden, a member of a firm of Boston brokers who transact business for Colonel Greene, arrived at the hotel and was admitted to the colonel's room. One of Mr. Hayden's partners, Galen F. Stone, is a director of the Greene Consolidated Copper Company. Shortly after Mr. Hayden's arrival the conference sent out for luncheon.

The conference was still in session at 2:16. Up to that time no statement had been made regarding the line of discussion.

HOTEL ARRIVALS.

Parker House.
R. J. A. O'Reilly, Portland.
W. J. Taylor, Portland.
T. H. Allman and wife, Cathlamet.
Jesse E. Cantrell.
A. Briggs.
C. A. Breeding, White Salmon.
N. R. Whitcomb, Ilwaco, Wash.
E. P. Peck, Kelso, Wash.
H. Scarpati.

Startling Evidence.

Fresh testimony in great quantity is constantly coming in, declaring Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption Coughs and Colds to be unequalled. A recent expression from T. J. McFarland Bentorville, Va. serves as example. He writes: "I had Bronchitis for three years and doctored all the time without being benefited. Then I began taking Dr. King's New Discovery, and a few bottles wholly cured me." Equally effective in curing all Lung and Throat troubles, Consumption, Pneumonia and Grip. Guaranteed by Chas. Rogers Druggist. Trial bottles free, regular sizes 50c, and \$1.00.

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

Worst of All Experiences.

Can anything be worse than to feel that every minute will be your last? Such was the experience of Mrs. S. H. Newton, Decatur, Ala. "For three years" she writes, "I endured insufferable pain from indigestion, stomach and bowel trouble. Death seemed inevitable when doctors and all remedies failed. At length I was induced to try Electric Bitters and the result was marvelous. I improved at once and now I'm completely recovered. For Liver, Kidney, Stomach and Bowel troubles Electric Bitters is the only medicine. Only 50c. It's guaranteed by Chas. Rogers Druggist."

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.

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