THE MORNING ASTORIAN

Established 1873.

Published Daily (Except Monday) by

THE J. S. DELLINGER COMPANY.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

By mail, per year	$6 00
By mail, per month	50
By carrier, per month	60

THE SEMI-WEEKLY ASTORIAN.

By mail, per year, in advance ..$1 00

☞Orders for the delivering of THE MORNING ASTORIAN to either residence or place of business may be made by postal card or through telephone. Any irregularity in delivery should be immediately reported to the office of publication.

Telephone Main 661.

Today's Weather.

Portland, Dec. 27.—Western Oregon and Western Washington—Rain; probably part snow; warmer; high southeast winds.

Eastern Oregon and Eastern Washington—Snow; slightly warmer.

MORE LAND FRAUDS.

From the bi-annual report of State Land Agent Oswald West it is evident that apparent land frauds no not exist alone in the government domain, but there is something akin to crookedness in the state land department. While no evidence was adduced implicating anyone in complicity in land frauds under Governor Geer's administration, yet the public was convinced that there was either something mysterious or crooked. Of course the state land office is investigated by the legislature at every session. An expert is employed at $10 a day; two or three stenographers are employed at $5 a day, and some clerks at $3 a day. As a rule neither the expert, the stenographers or the clerks know anything about land business, and this is one reason why they are selected. It requires about 40 days, the length of a legislative session, to make an examination of the books and business of the department. The actual time consumed is probably three days. The report is usually written out by the same person that furnishes an oyster supper for the committee. It is reported to the legislature and usually reads as follows:

"Mr. Speaker: After a thorough and exaustless research and a careful investigation of the affairs of the state land department, we find the books properly kept; the money accounted for, and desire to commend the officers in charge upon their perfect system of bookkeeping. Our bill for making the investigation is $543.25."

The report is filed, the legislature adjournes, the members draw their $3 a day and mileage and have performed their duty to the state. Yet, notwithstanding this "careful investigation," every report of the state land agent suggests crookedness; lieu lands have not been properly selected; the state has been compelled to repay large sums, and foreclose a number of mortgages. This report is submitted to the legislature, a committee is appointed and—well, the same old story. If the land frauds are one-third as great a farce as the legislative investigation they must be the most collosal on earth.

But the state land department is not the only one that is investigated by legislative committees, and the result is always the same. Neither the legislature nor the committees apasylum, the penitentiary, deaf mute school, reform school and other numerous attachments of the state government. The object of making the investigation is not for the purpose of ascertaining the facts, but to give an army of grafters a 40-day job at the expense of the state. There are 90 members of the legislature, and 327 clerks and stenographers. Inasmuch have been known where clerks have been sworn in on the seventh or eighth day and never showed up again until the last day to draw their salaries. Efforts to check the evil and abuse have been tried at each session of the legislature and it is always postponed until the next session. It is estimated that each law enacted by the legislature costs the tax payers $12,500, which is considered a high price for some of the laws.

MORMON SMOOT.

The case of the protestants against seating Reed Smoot, the Mormon apostle, as senator from the state of Utah, is closed, and Mr. Smoot has promised to be ready with his answer on January 10, proximo. In view of the testimony already given, including admissions made by men firm in the Mormon faith, and more particularly the polygamists among them, it is a matter of curious speculation as to what the caliber of that answer can possibly be.

It should be remembered there are many Mormons who do not accept the doctrine, or practice, of a plurality of wives, and yet in some instances they are in good standing. Mr. Smoot is in this category. Polygamy is bad enough and is in contravention of the laws of the land, and also of the state of Utah, that reform being made, by statute at least, as a condition of the territory becoming a state. The evidence shows that it is flagrantly violated, continually. But that is only one count in the indictment against the followers of Joseph Smith and Brigham Young. The most dangerous tenet of their faith and prictice is the ceremony of "taking the endowment." or passing through the endowment house, a feature introduced since Joseph Smith was killed by a mob at Carthage, Ill. This includes an oath to avenge the blood of Smith on "the nation," which was not responsible for the act, and obligates a candidate to hold the laws of the Mormon church and the instructions of the so-called priesthood above the laws of the United States or the authority of its propertly constituted executive, elected to carry out the will of the people. There is the strongest evidence other than his own admission, that Mr. Smoot, although not a practical polygamist, is an offender in the other respect. Should he take the oath required of a federal official on assuming office he would be foresworn, since he has already, under agreement to suffer the direct penalties, sworn to betray the government.

In a country like ours, while the utmost freedom of conscience is allowed, the state must be superior in temporal authority. There can be no divided allegiance. A man may think what he likes, theorize as he likes, but in his acts he must respect the government, or there is an end of government, and anarchy and factional strife will prevail.

Smoot is unworthy to sit in the great lawmaking body of the whole people for he cannot be true to its principles.

SAME OLD STORY.

The Tacoma Ledger is of the opinion that Nan Patterson, the alleged murderess, is not entitled to the sympathy that has been accorded her. It is somewhat curious that "Nan" Patterson should arouse so much sentimental interest. The evidence in the case shows beyond any question that she was the mistress of a married man. She led a fast life and squandered tens of thousands of dollars which he lavished upon her. She encouraged his atentions with absolute disregard of another woman's happiness. The private life of this chorus girl was not such as to command admiration on the part of any one who has regard for decency and respectability. The mad career of Caesar Young ended in a tragedy. If he committed suicide because "Nan" would not promise to follow him to Paris though she was ready to go with him, as she admits, she certainly should not be convicted of his murder. But if she planned to kill him and executed her design because his family and friends were determined to get him away from a woman who in a few months had received and spent $50,000 or $60,000 of his money and had broken up his home, and he would not yield to her importunities to take her along, there is no reason for palliating her culminating crime.

The whole story of her relations with Young is disgusting. She is not a heroine nor a martyr. The world is better for the lives of good, pure women who are to be exalted. The world is made worse by women who are neither pure nor true to themselves nor anyone else. The general public takes an interest in such a sensational, salacious case as the trial of Nan Patterson, but the only service she can render by her present notoriety is as a horrible example. Girls, shun such a career as brought Nan Patterson into the murderers' dock!

A FEW WOULDN'T HURT SALEM.

The Salem Statesman, commenting on an article recently appearing in the Congregational Church Buletin, says:

Rev. Luther D. Mahone, pastor of the Congregational church at Astoria while under the inspirational influence of a streak of progressiveness recently declared that he "would happily officiate at a good many first class funerals in Astoria without exacting any toll for the service."

It is not easy to decide whether this is a special rap at some of our old pioneers who persist in assuming that they have as much right here as some of the more recent interlopers, or a direct stab at the Portland preacher who not long since had some difficulty in collecting his five-dollar fee for officiating at a funeral.

But while we are greatly in need of a new spirit of progressiveness in the state generally, let us exhibit no special hurry to see the departure of the pioneers. The last of them will be gone soon enough, and, after all, it is not certain that we have discharged the debt we owe them for the performance of many brave undertakings from whose forbidding aspects we might have comfortably and permanently shrank.

By the way Rev. Malone's text as to the desirability of a few first class funerals is almost as old as the history of the state and the expression of loyalty to it has long ago ceased to be any proof that its promulgator is noticeably given to actual progressiveness—save in verbs and adjectives.

It is very evident to a man up a tree, that there is something crooked with the city printing ordinance. When the matter is exposed there is very apt to be an accounting demanded by an indignant populace.

HAD STORMY TRIP

General Whittirr Collides With Her Tow.

DAMAGE WAS HEAVY TO BARK

Fullerton Has Rails and Sides Stove in on account of a Hawser Parting Off the Columbia Bar—A Sailor Is Shot—Propeller Lost.

San Francisco, Dec. 26.—The bark General Fullerton, which arrived today from the Columbia river, in tow of the steamer Whittier, was run into by the Whittier on December 22 and damaged to the extent of about $1000.

The vessels were about eight miles south of the Columbia river, bucking a stiff southeaster. The hawser parted and when she tried to put another line aboard the Fullerton, the Whittier's nose poked itself deep into the barkentine's side. The Fullerton's guard planks were stove in and the woodwork in her cabin was much damaged.

Lost Propeller.

San Francisco, Dec. 27.—While entering the bay this morning, after completing a voyage from Grays Harbor, the steam schooner Chehalis lost her propeller. She had on board a cargo of lumber for San Pedro to which port she has proceeded in tow of the steam schooner Norwood.

Sailor Shot.

San Francisco, Dec. 27.—The man who was shot and killed on Pacific street on Christmas night by Elvo Terchetti has been identified as William Druke, a sailor. He at one time was a seaman in the revenue service.

Marine News.

The steam schooner Northlund from San Francisco arrived in last evening.

The French bark Jules Gommes, with a cargo of grain for Europe, arrived down the river yesterday.

The steam schooner Redondo arrived in yesterday morning from California to load lumber.

The steam schooner Aurelia arrived in yesterday afternoon with freight for the local merchants and will load lumber for California.

The steamer W. H. Harrison arrived in yesterday morning from down the coast after having been bar bound for nearly a month.

The El Roscoe arrived in yesterday from Siuslaw with a cargo of salmon consigned to E. L. Hurd.

Captain W. S. Gordon has received a telegram from Senator Fulton stating that the quartermaster general had issued an order that he should be restored to command of the quartermaster's steamer, Major Guy Howard.

Captain McLeod of the British steamship Elleric, will be formally released from the quarantine station tomorrow after having fully recovered from an attack of smallpox, but his face looks like a boiled lobster. He will not rejoin his vessel but will leave for home in England by the way of New York on a leave of absence.

Word was received by Hon. W. L. Robb, collector of customs, that the appeal of the steamer Agnes from a fine imposed by Mr. Robb last July for carrying passengers without a license, had been referred to United States District Attorney John Hall to investigate. The fine imposed was $500. The Agnes brought 18 seiners from the grounds to Astoria, and having no license to carry passengers, the fine was imposed. From the action of the department it is evident that Attorney Hall will be instructed to enforce the fine.

The New York Tribune is responsible for the following:

"The European papers tell of a curious custom among traveling women It appears that the women when staying at hotels or the like do not care to exhibit to the passers along the corridors the exact size of their feet so they carefully carry with them a couple of pairs of tiny, delicate shoes, which instead of the ones they are wearing, they place outside their doors for the servants to take down and clean. All the big boot shops in Paris now make a specialty of this tiny footgear, and a pair or two form a portion of the trousseau of every up-to-date bride. Madrid women are said to have the smallest feet; Peruvian women come next and the American girls are a good third."

The Tribune also remarks that women's shoes from Astoria and Chicago represent a wholesale leather store more than they do a pair of shoes.

There is no complaint about business at the Star saloon. Good goods and courteous treatment will draw trade to any first-class saloon. That's what makes business good at the Star. The best is none too good for our customers.

MEETING WAS QUIET.

City Council Gets Through With a Little Routine Business.

The city council met last evening at the city hall for the purpose of cleaning up a little routine business before the first of the year. All the members were present except Nordstrom and Belland.

A communication was received from City Attorney A. M. Smith relative to the provisions of the new prohibition measure that will rule a certain district over tide water in which John Hendrickson and John Harry are interested as proprietors. The proposition has been made that it may not be necessary to close these places and refund the unexpired portion of the amount paid for license on account of the peculiarity of the locations. The city attorney, in his communication, made no recommendation, except that the matter be referred to the district attorney for his opinion. The matter elicited some discussion, some of the councilmen being of the opinion that the matter justly belonged to Mr. Smith for decision for the council, but, as the city attorney was not present, it was referred to the district attorney as recommended.

An ordinance was passed accepting the Ninth street improvement, between Franklin and Jerome, also one to pay the contractor for the work.

Two applications for building permits for minor dwellings were reported favorably on and passed.

Final action was given the appropriation for the completed improvements on Franklin avenue, between Thirty-sixth and Forty-third street.

The matter of removing the slide that is obstructing traffic on the Smith point road got a word or two from nearly every member present. The city engineer stated that the slide was about 10,000 cubic yards, and that traffic cannot move by it. The recommendation made that a city fire engine be sent to sluice it out did not find favor, and the discussion ended by submitting the matter to the street committee.

The matter of advertising for bids for city printing was put over until another meeting.

Resolutions for some improvements on Duane street and Twentieth street were read. The one for a sidewalk 6 feet wide on Duane between First and Third streets was read and accepted, but the one to establish grade on Twentieth street was allowed to go over to enable the committee to ascertain the views of the property owners interested.

The council then adjourned until the next meeting, when another adjournment will be taken because of a holiday.

KEITH AT FISHERS'.

Company Makes a Hit With Its First Production.

The Keith stock company opened their week's engagement at Fishers' last evening, presenting the great Russian drama, "Slaves of Russia." The play is a powerful one with a rich vein of comedy that kept the large audience in a roar of laughter.

The company is a strong one, each member an artist. Mr. Delf Lawrence, in the part of Ivan Korvich, won the sympathy of his hearers by his clever rendition of his character. A. T. Layne, in the character of Gray, the American artist, kept the audience in a good humor by perfect rendition. Miss Colloma, the leading lady of the company made a fine impression with her audience. Taking all in all, the Keith company is one of the best that has appeared here this season.

Tonight the company will play Nat C. Goodwin's great success, "Brother Against Brother," one of the most popular plays of the Goodwin repertoire. The play is full of comedy and scenic environments. Clever specialties are introduced between acts, making a continuous performance.