

\$10 REWARD

We shall give \$10.00 in gold as a first prize, and \$5.00 as a second prize, to the boy or girl under eighteen years of age writing the best poem of two or more verses, using the MONARCH RANGE as subject of the poem. A 1 poems to be handed in before 6 P. M. on February 16, 1905.

CHARLES HEILBORN & SON

Complete House Furnishers 590-592 Commercial St.

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 other residences or places 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, Jan. 12.—Western Oregon and Western Washington—Friday, snow and continued cold. Eastern Oregon and Eastern Washington—Occasional snow and continued cold.

FLAT SALARY BILL.

One of the most important bills introduced in the legislature is the flat salary bill. It puts all of the state officers on a flat salary, the salary provided being commensurate with the duties of the office. Oregon has been suffering from political legalized graft for many years. There are two offices that make the incumbents wealthy after four years of service, and in many instances they hold the offices for eight years. The office of secretary of state pays over \$25,000 annually, and the office of state printer equally as much. If these officers were placed on a salary and the fees turned into the state treasury, the business of the state would be self-sustaining. There are hundreds of competent men in Oregon who are willing to take the office of secretary of state on a salary of \$5,000 a year.

The salary of the state treasurer is only \$800 a year, but the perquisites attached to the office bring the emoluments up to about \$12,000 a year. Some of the emoluments are questionable. The funds of the state are loaned out at a certain rate of interest, but the state does not receive the interest. Article 13 of the constitution of the state of Oregon, provides as follows:

"The governor shall receive an annual salary of \$1500. The secretary of state shall receive an annual salary of \$1500. The treasurer of the state shall receive an annual salary of \$800 dollars. They shall receive no fees or perquisites whatever for the performance of any duty connected with their respective offices."

The provisions of the constitution are violated by the very officers who are sworn to obey it. There is no legal construction to be placed upon it whereby the secretary of state and state printer can rake down \$25,000 annually, but they do. If a poor man was in prison and a constitutional question was raised as to the legality of his imprisonment, the constitution is strictly construed. If a politician is elected to an office, the constitution is liberally construed, not only construed but warped all out of shape so no one would know that it was a part of the constitution of the state. Laws are not made for poor people. They are made for politicians and are worked for every dollar they will stand. By creating commissions and appointing the governor, secretary of state and treasurer as commissioners, salaries are provided. The commissions are worthless, but being of political origin and for the purpose of perpetuating the graft, they are tolerated by an overburdened tax-paying community. As long as politicians make the laws just so long will the people be robbed by their progenies.

When a man first starts in on his political career and is a candidate for some local office, he has a smile and a hand-shake for every man in the community. After he is elevated to an office out of the graft of which he becomes wealthy, his blood becomes like a cold storage plant, and his acquaintances are only numbered among the codfish aristocracy and political nabobs. Men who assisted in elevating him to the position are forgotten and he has no further use for them. Politics is not only a science, but it is a

colossal graft. The gentlemen who have filled the various offices are not to blame. They accepted the positions with the emoluments that have always gone with the office. The fault is in the law. It will probably never be remedied until a new constitution for the state is adopted.

URSURPATION OF TIME.

Some men elected to the legislature have an idea that they are not serving their constituents unless they introduce a large number of bills. In their efforts to thus serve their constituents many bills absolutely worthless are introduced. They have no merit and nine out of ten of them are never reported from the committee. The present session of the legislature is no exception to the rule. A man named Smith, who hails from Josephine county has already introduced more bills than any other 20 men, and not one of them has any merit worth considering. Smith formerly represented Josephine county in the legislature as a republican. This year he is a democrat. When he served his first term in the legislature he introduced 63 bills, only one of which passed and that was a bill to incorporate a small town.

One of the bills that this urban legislator has introduced is requiring "political machines" to file an itemized account of the expense of conducting a political campaign in the office of the county clerk of the county and publish the same in two newspapers published in the county. If this bill had been introduced in the Kansas legislature nothing would have been thought of it. The information gained by publishing campaign expenses would interest no one and could be evaded by the campaign managers. They could divide \$1000 up between ten men, and all that would be necessary would be to publish the names and the amount, as the committee would have no knowledge of what was done with the money.

Another foolish measure is allowing members to file bills and resolutions with the secretary of state prior to the meeting of the legislature so they could be printed and ready when the legislature convened. This would entail an unnecessary expense and burden on the state printing office. A large majority of the bills are not prepared by the time the legislature convenes unless it is the 40th or 50th bill prepared by such Kansas freaks as Smith of Josephine. Another bill is to prohibit railroad companies issuing passes to members of the legislature. If Smith is sincere in this reform, he should immediately return the pass issued to him by the Southern Pacific railroad, without which he might have had to borrow money to go to Salem.

He is also the father of a bill to place the state printer on a flat salary. If he would read the constitution of the state of Oregon, and had sufficient intelligence to comprehend it, he would discover that the only way to place the state printer on a flat salary is by a constitutional amendment. If he is so considerate of the state's expenses he would best conserve the interests of the state by introducing fewer bills, as every bill costs money to print and the tax payers have to pay the printer. But every state legislature has its freaks and Smith of Josephine seems to be the representative of that contingent in the state legislature.

CIGARETTE SMOKING.

There seems to be an inclination among members of the legislature to introduce a bill regulating the selling of cigarettes. Everyone knows that smoking cigarettes is pernicious and demoralizing, but the entangling alliances of the members with the dispensers of cigarettes seems to be bound by the common ties of kinship. While very few of the legislatures ever indulge in the filthy habit, they do not seem to take into consideration that effects upon the rising generation. Rev. Mr. Struble, who is taking an active interest in the anti-cigarette crusade, requested the Multnomah delegation to introduce the bill prohibiting the sale of cigarettes in the state of Oregon, but on account of the large number of cigarette fiends among their constituency, they declined to introduce the measure, but sluffed it off on some representative from the cow countries.

It seems strange that men of good judgment and endowed with ordinary common sense should take so little interest in the habits of the young boys of Oregon. They know full well that hundreds of young boys in the state of Oregon are ruined by smoking cigarettes. The report of the superintendent of the state reform school is evi-

lence of this fact.

Employers of the state engaged in mercantile or manufacturing pursuits have it in their power to break up this evil to a great extent. If they will refuse to give employment to boys that smoke cigarettes, not only will they secure more competent boys, but will make it an inducement for boys to quit the habit. No boy that smokes cigarettes can perform the duties incumbent upon him. His nerves are shattered, he is listless, lazy and shiftless, and in many instances dishonest. He has no ambition and his disgusting habits become nauseating.

These facts are well known by representatives and senators in the state legislature, and their duty is to their constituents and not to the tobacco and cigarette trust. Any man that will vote against a law prohibiting selling cigarettes to minors is a disgrace to the country he represents and a festering sore on the body politic.

STATEMENT OF FACTS.

Some of the journalistic rascals of Oregon, who still adhere to the democratic doctrine of "to the victors belong the spoils," are amusing themselves by publishing that fact that the state legislature will have to face \$234,000 more liabilities than assets. They do not attempt to explain how the indebtedness was incurred, but simply publish the fact for the purpose of misleading the public. This is characteristic of that class of newspapers. They have no principals of their own worth emulating, and they advocate a policy of tearing down instead of building up. For the enlightenment of that element of society that regards a democratic newspaper as divinely inspired, it may be stated that the indebtedness created received the unanimous approval of every democrat in the state legislature.

This indebtedness was created by the legislature of Oregon during the session of 1903; \$500,000 was appropriated for the Lewis and Clark fair; \$100,000 for the Indian war veterans; \$160,000 for the Cello canal. Taking these appropriations out and instead of the state being in debt it would have \$476,000 in the treasury. If the state legislature had been democratic instead of republican, the same appropriations would have been made. The amount appropriated for the Lewis and Clark fair will be returned to the people an hundred fold. Those who pay the taxes are not complaining, it is only the poor democratic newspaper editors who never miss a meal or pay a cent and have no property subject to taxation, who are doing the knocking. It will require a dispensation of divine providence to convince some of these country journalists of the error of their way.

P. A. STOKES

"Swell Togs for Men."

Having made a Successful Slaughter of our Men's Clothing we now proceed to put the knife into our

CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT

Remember; Everything in Boys' and Children's Clothing below cost.

35 Per Cent Off

This Sensational Slaughter

Includes all the bright and nobby patterns and styles that have made this store the center of attraction for the fashionably dressed Man or Boy.

P. A. STOKES

"Swell Togs for Men."

JUST ARRIVED!

IMPORTED NORWEGIAN Anchovies, in barrels and cans, also

IMPORTED ITALIAN Olive Oil, Cheese, Paste, etc.

at the BOND STREET MARKET Phone 2183 Red.

ANNUAL BOOK SALE

Another Annual Clearance Sale, all new goods that we have only one of a kind or wish to close out for some reason at

25 to 75 per cent discount.

See the show window, then come in and look over the Bargain Counter.

J. N. GRIFFIN

Beginning Today!

Special Sale Underwear

Ladies', Men's, Infants' and Children's.

SUCH remarkable value giving as we inaugurated this morning was never even attempted by any Astoria store before. Our Bargain Tables are literally piled high with choice underwear of all descriptions. We've just consummated a mammoth purchase whereby we become the owners of **two immense sample lines of Underwear.** We purchased these at a discount of 33 1/3 per cent on the wholesale cost and our patrons will reap the full benefit of our most fortunate purchase, so get out your shopping bag Mrs. Housewife and come here prepared to participate in the grandest money saving event you've ever witnessed. **Sale starts this morning** and lasts until every garment is sold.

Here are a Few Specials from the Pure Food Department.

- Griffin's High Grade Catsup, per pint, 20c.
- Griffin's Concentrated Soups, 3 cans for 25c.
- Mission Black Figs, 3 lbs. for 25c.
- Pure Fruit Jelly, per pail 30c.

Special Reduction in Cook Stoves and Air Tight Heaters.

Foard & Stokes Co.

ONE PRICE TO ALL, THAT THE LOWEST.