

\$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. All poems to be handed in before 6 P. M. on February 16, 1905.

CHARLES HEILBORN & SON

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Today's Weather.

Portland, Jan. 19.—Oregon and first insertion and 8 cents for each sub-Washington—Friday, rain.

CITY CHARTER.

From a report current on the streets, additional amendments have been made to the city charter. It is stated that some of the provisions in the charter vetoed by Governor Chamberlain have been incorporated into the present charter. The amendments do not legislate anyone out of office, in fact, they keep four of the present officials in office for six months longer. The amendment proposed provides that the general election shall occur on the first Monday in June instead of December, as at present. If this is adopted the first election under the charter will occur in June, 1906, while the terms of Auditor Anderson, Treasurer Dealy, Superintendent of Streets Kearney and Surveyor Tee expire next December. This will continue all these officials in office until July 1, 1906.

Changing the elections to the regular state and county elections will save the city of Astoria about \$500 a year. Of course the citizens will object to this on account of politics. They do not care what the expense to the city is, as long as they can win all the offices. This is all the interest most of them take in the management of city affairs. By having the city and county elections in June it saves the trouble of registering every time there is an election. Those who register for the June election register for both the county and city election. They are registered before the county clerk and relieve the auditor from keeping registration books. The same judges and clerks of election, the same voting booths, the same ballots and election supplies are used for the one election thereby saving the city hundreds of dollars. All elections should be made as simple as possible both for the candidates and voters and if voters only have to register once in two years they will take more interest in the elections.

The other amendment, as we have been informed, simply calls for the election of three police commissioners at the election in 1906 in order to straighten out the present muddle. As a matter of fact, Astoria is today without any police commission. It is claimed that the amendments suggested are in the interests of the republican party. If it means that the republican party is more interested in cutting down expenses than in holding the office, the assertion may be true. But whether in the interest of the republican or citizens party all the amendments proposed are necessary and beneficial to the city and therefore should be incorporated in the bill to be passed by the legislature. It will do no good to make a kick on any of the proposed amendments, as if the legislature wants to pass them, the citizens and democrats have no power to prevent it. All they rely on is a veto by the governor.

MORAL AGENTS.

The legislative assembly of the state of Oregon seems to be imbued with the idea that "reforms are necessary." It is certainly composed of men who are in favor of removing many of the stumbling blocks that beset the weary traveler and to regulate evils that are considered necessary. All of the reform measures seem to be aimed at the purification of the morals of Portland. It is conceded that Portland is

one of the most immoral cities on the Pacific coast; that the dives, saloon-keepers and gamblers with their coterie of boosters and ward healers have run the politics of Portland for a number of years. Many of them assisted in the election of Sheriff Word, supposing he was their friend. Sheriff Word has proven himself an honest official with the moral courage to enforce the laws as they exist on the statute books of the state. It is claimed by the ward speelers that if Word should run for sheriff again, he could not be elected. In this they are mistaken. Word will be elected by the largest majority ever given a sheriff in Multnomah county. In fact, it would be a deserving compliment if the republicans endorsed him. If the republicans are in favor of enforcing the laws, they will do so.

Among the laws introduced is one prohibiting side doors in saloons. All of the respectable saloons will not object to this measure. It is only the dives that harbor petty larceny thieves that oppose the measure. Another law that is proposed will not only be beneficial to Portland but to Astoria. It is a measure to brand with the odium of felony all male persons who live wholly or in part upon the earnings of fallen women. The law covers the recalcitrant husband who connives at the prostitution of his wife, and provides that she shall be a competent witness against him. The penalty prescribed is imprisonment from one to ten years.

This is a law that will no doubt pass and if the officers have the moral courage to enforce it, will rid the community of some of the vilest specimens of humanity. These vagrants who live off the earnings of fallen women are harbored and protected by the dens of iniquity which they frequent. There are at least 50 of these vagrants in Astoria and at least 1000 of them in Portland. If it is made a state law instead of a municipal regulation, there will be no trouble to drive them out of the city. The police are anxious to rid the community of their presence, but they only have the vagrancy law, and the saloonkeepers assist them in evading this law by giving them light employment, because if they lose the vags their women go with them, and there is no opportunity to hold up a man and rob him. This is the only avocation this class of reptiles follow. When license is refused to these vile dens, it will go a long way in removing the stench that attaches to these dens that harbor criminals.

THE PROGNOSTICATORS.

According to the report of the weather bureau Thursday night predicting the weather for Friday, "rain" was scheduled. The 5000 readers of the Astorian were unanimous in proclaiming the predictions unreliable. Instead of its raining the sun shone bright and clear all day and it was a model winter day. It has been suggested that this "guessing contest" on weather predictions be made the day after the weather has been experienced, so that it may insure its reliability. There is no doubt but the Portland weather bureau is actuated by honest motives in prescribing the kind of weather that will exist, and they have made some good guesses on several occasions. Instances are on record where they have guessed the climatic conditions as often as twice or three times a week. Of course people do not place any reliance on weather predictions emanating from the weather bureau. A man of ordinary intelligence can form a correct idea of what the weather has been after the day is over and these are the only authentic reports that it pays to tie to. From the report of yesterday's weather and the weather as it really was, it is evident that a cog must have slipped in the bureau machinery. Prognosticators are up against it in Oregon and on account of the variable climatic conditions, they ought to have another guess coming.

WHO IS IT?

The politicians connected with the citizens party seem to be perturbed because there are other people in Astoria who desire just a word to say about amendments to the city charter. The Burns-Smith charter is good enough as far as it goes, but it does not go far enough. No one objected to Jack Burns and Tony Smith getting up a charter, although they are not the only pebbles on the beach. The usual procedure in preparing charter amendments is by a mass meeting of the citizens. This is the first year that amendments have been prepared by a political ring. The amendments pro-

posed by Senator Tuttle legislate no one out of office, they simply provide for a police commission, something the people of Astoria have endeavored to secure and have been prevented by the citizens ring. The charter provides for a police commission of three members. Is there such a commission in existence in Astoria? Certainly not, and there never will be as long as the politics of the city are dominated by a political ring who are feathering their nests at the expense of the tax payers. There is a demand among nine-tenths of the people for the amendments proposed by Senator Tuttle and the people propose to have them. If the citizens will not perform their duties, provisions can and will be made in the charter to compel them to do so. This is the whole matter in a nutshell, and the people have some rights that politicians must respect.

ASTORIA CHARTER.

Senator Tuttle Adds a Few Amendments to the Council's Charter.

A great hullaboo has been made in the camp of the citizens party, because Senator Tuttle has added a few amendments to the amendments proposed by the common council to the charter of Astoria. These citizens claim, or at least try to, that no law should be passed in Salem affecting Astoria unless it has the indorsement of the citizens ring, with the label blown in the bottle. The citizens have been trying to maintain a police commission in Astoria for the past four years, with one man, as police commissioner, and one man as dictator. Senator Tuttle proposes to do what the people refuse to do, and that is to appoint a police commission of honorable men, composed of S. S. Gordon, F. J. Carney and R. G. Prael. The only change in the commission is ousting W. J. Cook, a resident of Portland, a promoter of Nehalem coal, and W. H. Barker, a resident of British Columbia, neither of whom have as much right to the office as Carney and Prael. The bill provides that all the police commissioners shall go out of office in July, 1906, and all three of them shall be elected at that time. This is no more than just and equitable. It does not legislate a single man out of office, as both Cook and Barker have been legislated out of office already. It simply appoints two men who are residents and tax payers in Astoria and against whom no one has a word to say. The people of Astoria have put up with the petty policies and political chicanery of the citizens party as long as they are going to, and proposes to see that the provisions of the charter are lived up to.

The only other change is changing the time of the election from December to June. This will save the taxpayers of the city over \$300 annually. It legislates no one out of office, but continues in office a majority of the citizens for six months. Not only will it be a saving to the city, but it will do away with an election every year. It will not be necessary for voters to register every year, as under the proposed amendment registrations will only be required once in two years, and all city and county officers will be elected at the same time. The amendments made by Senator Tuttle will meet the approval of nine-tenths of the people of Astoria irrespective of politics, and the only opposition will be the political barnacles and grafters who live off the public.

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