

# \$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**

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

Entered at the postoffice at Astoria, Oregon as second-class matter.

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, Jan. 21.—Western Oregon and Western Washington—Sunday, rain.

Eastern Oregon and Eastern Washington—Rain or snow.

### CHARTER AMENDMENTS.

An impression seems to prevail among the half-dozen manipulators of the democratic party that next to the immaculate conception, they are "It." Paradox as it may seem, there is a wide diversion of opinion as to this claim among the more intelligent people of Astoria. There is and always has been an undercurrent of feeling antagonistic to political bosses. This feeling has become more intensified since Jack Burns and Tony Smith got up their little harmless charter in the interest of the democratic party, an organization composed of politicians who are afraid to come out under their flag, but endeavor to ride into office on a citizens ticket by republican votes, which have been freely accorded them by republicans too ignorant to understand the situation.

Whenever there have been any amendments to the city charter they have usually been prepared by a mass meeting or a joint committee composed of the chamber of commerce and the common council. This year the common council delegated to itself the authority to prepare these amendments. Efforts were made on several occasions to induce the democratic party to fill by appointment, the vacancies existing in the police commission. This it invariably refused to do. When changes were demanded, they were referred to the city attorney, who misconstrued the charter in the interests of the democratic police commission, notwithstanding the law and charter were against his judicial determination. In order to get quick action in the matter, the republicans elected three police commissioners at the last election, hoping the citizens would see the error of their ways and provide a police commission as contemplated by the charter. They still remained obdurate and refused to accede to any reasonable demands.

Mayor Surprenant agreed, in case a vacancy were declared, to appoint one republican and one democrat to the commission, leaving it the same as it was originally. The republicans agreed to this, but the democrats refused, insisting on holding onto the Nehalem coal promoter, who by his actions has forfeited every right he ever had to hold a political office in Clatsop county. He never attended but two meetings of the commission in four years. He sold his property and moved his family to Portland and does not even dare to make Astoria his home on account of crookedness in the Nehalem Coal Company transactions. Notwithstanding this, the democrats are determined to continue him in office in direct violation of the provisions of the city charter. It was this action that actuated the republicans to obtain a redress of their grievances by appealing to the legislature. Senator Tuttle introduced a bill, or amendment, in addition to those proposed by Jack Burns and Tony Smith. One was appointing two police commissioners to take the places of Cook and Barker to hold office until the next general election, when all three are to be elected. Is there anything unfair in this? It simply carries out the provisions of the charter that the police commissioners must be residents and taxpayers within the city of Astoria. Neither

Barker or Cook possess any of these qualifications. The democrats who are in the majority in the common council positively refused to declare these two offices vacant or elect new members, and the republicans were compelled to go to the legislature to carry out the provisions of the charter.

The only other amendment proposed is changing the time for holding the city elections from December to June, at the same time the state and county elections are held. Nine-tenths of the people of Astoria demand this change in the interests of economy. Under the present charter, a city election is held every year. Voters are compelled to register for every county and state election and every city election. This year there were three elections held. A county election in June, a presidential election in November and a city election in December, besides school elections. At every election voters are compelled to register and a large majority of them are becoming disgusted with the law. By changing the election in Astoria from December to June it does away with the annual city election, voters are only compelled to register once in two years and when registered can vote at a city or county election. It saves the expense of appointing judges and clerks of election, supplying ballots and election supplies, and the expense of registering voters, which cost the city over \$300 for the last December election. The Tuttle amendments are fair to both parties as they legislate no one out of office. They lengthen the tenure of office of Auditor Anderson, Treasurer Dealy, Superintendent of Streets Kearney and Surveyor Tee six months. They shorten the term of Tony Smith six months; provide for the election of councilmen for four years; continue the present council in office until the expiration of its present term, except that it continues in office Kaboth, Belland and Stanglund for six months longer. They straighten out the present tangle whereby no councilman is elected in the second ward every other year and two councilmen in one year. They make the office of city attorney elective at the same time the other city officers are elected. Tony Smith has no kick coming on this for he legislated himself in office one year extra by a misconstruction of the charter, and for his especial benefit. There is not a man of any political faith, except the boss dictator and his coterie of political henchmen who oppose the charter introduced by Senator Tuttle. It is just and reasonable; the people demand it, and it should be passed. A charter was passed two years ago covering the same points and had it passed it would have straightened out the present tangle. But Tony Smith induced Governor Chamberlain to veto it in the interest of the democratic party. The democratic party does not want politics engrafted into the administration of city affairs—unless it is for their special benefit. The charter is just and equitable and should be passed.

### SUNDAY SERMON.

There is a tendency toward a higher standard of morals prevailing every city and town within the state of Oregon. There seems to be a desire on the part of the lawmaking power to provide by legislative enactment radical changes for the government of committees and eradicating certain evils whose existence has made every community in which they have been tolerated festering sores on the body politic. There seems to be a determination to relieve the immoral element from the burdens of running city and county governments and placing the power in the hands of men who have to enforce all the laws against immorality and crime. These changes in public sentiment have been brought about by the women of the state, assisted in many instances by the pulpit and the press. In has required a campaign of education in order to gain any accessions to their ranks.

In many instances the business men and leading citizens of the community are only interested in securing business and as long as places of questionable character contribute liberally they are inclined to foster rather than antagonize them. They are moral cowards and do more to hinder the accomplishment of necessary reforms than the immoral element do. The pulpit is a great aid in accomplishing needed reforms and regulations of certain trades and avocations that are regarded as a necessary evil. The only support they derive is from the women members of the church. Attend any of the churches of Astoria and you will notice that the male population is conspicuous by its

absence. Their time is too much taken up with business affairs and the acquisition of wealth, that they give no time to their spiritual wants. It is certainly not very encouraging for the ministers to preach to empty benches. A minister prepares his discourses with great care and communicates from the pulpits doctrines calculated to benefit mankind and tend to the betterment of society.

It is very seldom that a prominent business man or citizen identifies himself with any movement or crusade inaugurated for bettering the moral conditions of the community. This work all devolves upon the minister and the women. For this reason the work is retarded and it throws out the impression that the business men of the community do not endorse any of the needed reforms. Not only does the minister and his coworkers, the women, have to inaugurate reforms, but they have to appeal to the officers of the law to enforce the laws. As a rule, an officer elected to observe and enforce the laws is guided more by public sentiment than by the law. If the business element of a community is adverse to closing down gambling because it derives some pecuniary benefit for its existence, the officers are influenced by it. This disinclination to enforce necessary regulations for the betterment of society permeates every branch of industry, and public sentiment is formulated on a false basis, and if a man is arrested for gambling, it is impossible to secure a jury that will convict him. Thus the mock sentimentality of the business element overshadows and sets at variance the work contemplated by the churches and the moral elements of the community.

There is no use in passing stringent laws to alleviate the immoral sufferings of a community, as long as officers refuse to enforce the laws, backed up by a public sentiment actuated by the greed of gain, rather than by efforts to purify the morals of the community, just so long will statutory remedies remain dead letters. Even the press of a city is afraid to stand with the better element for fear that it will lose a subscriber or advertiser. There should be a community of interests in all social reforms. The pulpit should receive aid and encouragement from the business element and the press. As long as they withhold their support will vice and crime continue rampant and young men fitted for terms in the penitentiaries instead of becoming honorable and useful members of society.

The young ladies of Astoria are to blame to a certain extent for the immorality of young men. High collared dudes who assay to sneak into good society by the back door, are frequenters of disreputable joints in the tenderloin districts. Notwithstanding this, they are received into the "400" and fondled and carressed and become a component part of society. Attending socials and parties among the respectable element of Astoria and frequent questionable resorts are not conducive to good morals or the building up of society. For this reason the arguments advanced by the lower element of society that reforms should begin with the "400" has its weight and influence. Remove the temptations and reformation is only a matter of a short time. Elect officers who dare enforce the laws and you remove the temptations. Change public sentiment against the existence of disreputable houses and support the newspapers that are working to secure these reforms, and it will be but a short time before there will be large accessions to the ranks of decency and church attendance will be largely increased.

### Fat Folks.

I have reduced by weight 55 pounds bust nine inches, waist eight inches and hips nine inches in a short time by a guaranteed, harmless remedy without exercise or starving. I want to tell you all about it. Inclose stamp and address, Mrs. Charlotte Woodward, Oregon City, Ore.



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