

\$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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THE MORNING ASTORIAN

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THE SOCIAL EVIL.

The statutes of Oregon are burdened with statutes attempting to suppress what is known as the social evil. In this category is included petty crimes, hardy houses, gambling and the liquor traffic. Remedial statutes are proposed and often enacted making the acts complained of a crime. Notwithstanding this, all of the quasi crimes are still committed and efforts to suppress them have signally failed. The principal reason for this is, that public sentiment is against the enforcement of the laws. Astoria is what is known as a "wide open town." It has that reputation all over the coast. It means that selling liquors, maintaining houses of ill repute and gambling are sanctioned by public sentiment. It is a difficult matter for a newspaper to advocate the enforcement of the laws when public sentiment is against it. The Astorian has endeavored to create a public sentiment in favor of Sunday observance; against the existence of prevailing vices, but has never received a word of encouragement. When public opinion is formed and officers are backed up by it, all efforts to check existing evils are fruitless.

A very large number of the people of Astoria are at heart opposed to gambling, but as long as it provides a revenue of \$10,000 a year from a class of people that pay no taxes and contribute in no other way for the support of the city there is a strong undercurrent of opposition to the enforcement of the laws. A majority of the people believe in police regulation of what are termed necessary evils. Prostitution is confined to one section of the city. Were the laws and ordinances enforced it would be driven to the residence portion of the city. It is impossible to stop it. The same is true of gambling. If gambling in public houses is suppressed in the saloons, it will be driven under cover of clubs and private residences. It is tolerated because it provides a large revenue which is needed for the support of the city government. Prominent business men are in favor of licensing and regulating evils that cannot be eliminated. It always has existed, it always will exist. As long as cards and poker chips are made they will be used for the purposes intended. As long as whisky and beer are manufactured they will be drunk. Prohibitory statutes are simply dead letters. Public sentiment prevents their enforcement.

Two years ago the state of Washington passed a gambling law making gambling a felony. It did not suppress gambling. It is still carried on in all the leading cities, backed up by public sentiment. Men are bound to gamble and all laws that may be passed will not check the desire. A similar law will be enacted by the legislature of Oregon, but it will not be enforced, except possibly in a few small cities and towns where it does not exist.

In the opinion of a large number of people, the only way to check the evils is by license and police regulations. France has a social evil law which has been in force for many years. The laws are very strict and are enforced. All women coming to any city for immoral purposes are compelled to register with the chief of police. All op-

erators of gambling games are compelled to register in a similar manner. In this way the exact location of each one is known and they are subject to strict regulations. This law would be beneficial to this country if men had the courage to voice their opinions in legislative halls. It is the only way the evils can be checked. It is impossible to suppress them and the sooner the public understand this, the less trouble will there be.

There are a considerable number of people in Astoria that are opposed to gambling but it is safe to say that at least nine-tenths of the people favor police regulations and the license fines which are collected every month from the games. A newspaper is virtually butting up against a brick wall in any attempt to suppress the vice. It is under strict police surveillance and brings in a revenue of about \$10,000 a year. If it were suppressed it would drive out of existence a number of saloons and the city would lose a large revenue from this source. It would compel the vacating of a number of buildings, depreciate the value of property used for this purpose hence the merchants and the owners of property are opposed to any enforcement of the laws. This question has been practically settled in Astoria and the only way to do is to submit gracefully to the determined wishes of the public. To preserve peace and harmony it is better to side in with the large majority and give the question a rest, with the hope that some time in the future there will be a change of public sentiment.

The merchants will not favor the suppression of the certain vices because they derive a revenue from it. The property owners are opposed to it because they receive rents for their property. The churches do not attempt to enforce it, because the business element of the church are opposed to it. It cannot be stopped, but it can be regulated and the Astorian voices the sentiment of a large majority of the people of Astoria in favor of regulating it and let it go at that. No law can be enforced when public sentiment is antagonistic to it. This is the condition of affairs in Astoria today and there is no hope for any change.

What pathos there is surrounding the little czarvitch of Russia! His birth occasioned rejoicing, but how gloomy are the early days of this child's life. Can it be that this little one, born to throne heirship of a racked and distracted empire, plays and prattles as other babies do? Can it be that, nurtured tenderly though he is, the little czarvitch is never roused from slumber by dread fears and that his baby eyes see no strange shadows flitting about his royal bed?

What destiny has the czar's wee heir? What of human strength or weakness is locked up in the "tiny entity"? Are the seeds of cruelty or of kindness unfolding in his little heart? Will he love the knout that makes his people bleed and become a slave to the vicious counselors that will surround his throne if he ever comes to it? Will he live to reign or will the autocracy stand until his day? These are some of the queries about the little czarvitch. None can answer them. The key to the riddle of his life is safely hidden away.

The old man may not recall all the experiences all the struggles and triumphs of his early manhood, but every feature of his childhood home, every little playhouse that he helped his sister to build, is a photograph on his heart's tablet and can never fade away. Perhaps the golden light of eternity will not dim the brightness of that picture. What else the heart may forget, it cannot forget the place of its birth; it cannot forget the little broken cart, the sled and the kite, the sister's fond caress, the brother's generous aid, the father's council, the mother's anxious prayer.

A Grim Tragedy.

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ASTORIA COMMERCE

Reasons Why Members Should Attend Meetings.

DEVELOP OUR RESOURCES

Efforts Should Be Made to Induce Homeseekers to Come to Astoria and Take a Look at Our Wonderful Resources.

The chamber of commerce will meet Monday night in regular session. The organization is composed of some of Astoria's most progressive business men and citizens, many of whom are endeavoring to encourage capital and immigration. As a rule the business is transacted by a dozen members, that being about the number that usually attend. There is an apparent apathy on the part of most of the members which makes the work difficult for those who do take an interest. There are many questions of vital importance coming before the chamber at every meeting, many of which are neglected on account of lack of interest. There is no reason why the meetings should not be attended by every member. It only meets once in two weeks and certainly the members can afford to give an hour or two to the discussions of timely subjects looking for the advancement of the city and county.

There are so many diversified interests in Clatsop county; so many chances and opportunities for investment; so many resources of unestimable wealth that are undeveloped that should be given consideration by every business man and property owner in the city. It is impossible for a dozen men to give all the attention required to these different projects. When no one takes an interest in the meetings, these resources lie dormant. If Astoria is to grow and expand, as it is entitled to do, it will have to be through the united efforts and harmonious actions of the representative business men. Being a member and paying dues, but not attending meetings, does not help the cause any, but rather retards the work of the organization. Matters of importance come up for consideration where the suggestions that could be made by members would redound to the benefit of the city and county. How to best advertise our resources is a question that is being considered at the present time, and it is a matter that should receive the support and encouragement of all the members.

What Clatsop county needs most at the present time, is immigration. It needs farmers and dairymen to come here and cultivate the lands. No other county in the state offers as good inducements; has so many acres of fine tillable land; offers so many advantages for dairying, with a market for everything that can be produced and where lands are as cheap and as productive. Clatsop county needs one thousand farmers and can offer better inducements than any other county in the state. To devise ways and means to secure this immigration is a question that must be determined by the chamber of commerce and it needs the attendance of every member to bring good results. There will be thousands of eastern visitors come to Astoria and Clatsop county this year. Arrangements must be made for their entertainment. Committees should be appointed to explain and show the wonderful resources of the county. This work cannot be accomplished when members do not attend the meetings. It is a matter of vital importance and will not require much effort to be productive of good results. All that is required is that the members take an interest in the meetings. An hour or two twice a month will be profitable and if every member would attend it would be appreciated by the officers who are devoting their time to bring these important matters to the attention of visitors. Clatsop county will have no exhibition at the Lewis and Clark fair, and some means must be devised to interest homeseekers and homebuilders and attract them to one of the best counties in the state.

There is no reason why the county should not receive its share of the homeseekers that will come to Oregon this summer. All that is required is united effort on the part of those who will be directly benefited. Clatsop county possesses the most healthful climate in the world.

It is surrounded with magnificent timber, wonderful scenery, situated at the mouth of one of the largest rivers in the world, easy accessible to all parts of the United States and the world and its boundless resources makes it an ideal residence place. An influx of eastern people will stimulate and build up our resources and establish industries, all that is required is concerted action on the part of the chamber of commerce. If the members

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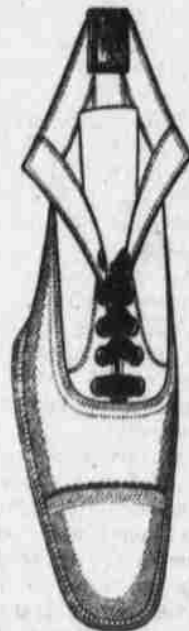
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