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Today's Weather.

Western Oregon and Washington—Tuesday, showers, cooler except near the coast.

GRANTING FRANCHISES.

The Astorian is not antagonizing any person, firm or corporation applying for a franchise to establish any needed industry in the city, but it is opposed to granting franchises to persons that have no financial standing, for the reason that it savors too much of granting a franchise for speculative purposes. Every person applying for a franchise who has not the means to carry out its provisions, ought to divulge to the common council the parties who are backing the enterprise, and it should not be from their statement alone, but by some respectable bank or corporation who will vouch for the reliability of the promoters and that there is sufficient capital back of the enterprise to insure its completion.

The city of Astoria has no franchises to give away for speculative purposes. If a franchise is so valuable that it can be taken over to the sound and hawked around for purely speculative purposes, in order to make a profit of a few thousand dollars, the common council ought to appoint a committee for that purpose and let the city make the profit instead of promoters. If telephone, telegraph, gas and steam franchises are so valuable that they will command a ready sale in the money market, let the city of Astoria derive the benefit. The city needs the money just as bad as do the promoters.

The franchise applied for by W. W. Whipple does not disclose that any responsible company or banking institution is behind the scheme. It asks for a franchise for 35 years, but does not even agree to complete the conditions of the franchise within that time. It does not even state that work will be commenced within any given time or completed within a time certain. It promises absolutely nothing, and looks as though it had been drawn with the evident purpose of misleading the common council and inducing it to grant a franchise without a thorough understanding of its object, possibly with an idea that the members of the common council may be dull of comprehension and not give due consideration to its objects and purposes. There is no one but would be willing to grant a franchise to Mr. Whipple and Mr. Clinton if they were assured that they meant business. Both gentlemen have friends in Astoria that are willing and anxious that they bring capital to Astoria and invest it in an enterprise that will redound to the benefit of the city. Personally they are our friends, but what the public wants, what it expects and what it is entitled to is, to know who is back of the project, with a guarantee from responsible parties that the project will be carried out to its fullest capacity. It matters not whether either of the gentlemen have the money themselves, as long as it is known who is back of them. This has not been divulged.

Last week an application was made by a prominent syndicate in Portland whose financial standing has a rating with Dunn and Bradstreet, and whose names were divulged to the common council in an application for a franchise, for an independent telephone service. Not only does the applicants name who is behind them, but they submit letters from the company stating that if the franchise is granted they will furnish the money to put in the system and as an evidence of good faith they offer to deposit \$50,000 with the city treasurer as a forfeit if they fail to carry out the provisions of the franchise. This is business and is the only way that franchises ought to be granted.

It will be noticed that there is a conspicuous absence of any statement as to who is to supply the funds to carry out the provisions of the Whipple franchise, and absolutely no provision wherein the applicants promise to build or complete the system or when they will commence work.

For this reason the Astorian is of the opinion that there is something crooked, and that the city of Astoria

is being asked to give away valuable franchises without any consideration whatever. The same gentleman was in Astoria about eight months ago with a proposition to build a hotel. He was told by C. H. Page that if he would deposit \$10,000 in some bank as an evidence of good faith, he, Page, would consider the proposition. This meant that if Mr. Whipple had any faith in the project and was willing to back up that faith with metallic substance of the realm, that Mr. Page would guarantee the balance of the money necessary to build the hotel. Was it done? There is no record of it, and the hotel project is as dead as Hamlet's ghost. Applications from such sources then should be looked upon with suspicion.

There is no objection to granting a franchise for an opposition light and telephone service, but it should only be granted to responsible persons and not upon gentle gephyrs with the velocity of a cyclone. Too many enterprises have been built in Astoria on wind and all there is in evidence of them, is a vacuum in the memory of man. The Astorian is unalterably opposed to the passage of the Whipple franchise ordinance in its present form, and insists that if the ordinance is amended, a condition should be inserted requiring a deposit of \$25,000 as an evidence that it is not being secured for purely speculative purposes.

Anyone that shows good faith—and business stability, will be granted concessions and will receive the support of the press and public.

WHOSE FAULT IS IT?

It is with a degree of dividence, usually an unknown characteristic of a modern journal, that occasion demands the "calling down" of the weather bureau. About the only redeeming feature of this adjunct of the national government is the number of sinecures it provides for indignant politicians afflicted with itchy bacillus. It is possible that owing to a superabundance of egotism, an impression prevails in the weather bureau that its prognostications are correct, but the common herd of humanity who has been afflicted with erroneous reports as to weather conditions, has formed a unanimous opinion that the weather bureau has been misnamed and that it is a misnomer, or department of prevarication.

An illustration of the total unreliability of the weather bureau, whose office is in some dome in Portland, as near heaven as the man behind the gun will ever get, is in the telegraphed report to the Astorian Saturday night. At 9:46 the following dispatch was received:

"Western Oregon and Washington—Sunday, increasing cloudiness, followed by occasional rains and cooler."

Sunday was one of the most pleasant days of the year. Not a cloud was in the sky, the sun shone brightly every hour of the day, and the evening was beautiful. Not a drop of rain, but a perfect summer day. Among the 5000 subscribers of the Astorian who read the weather report the editor was accused of wilful prevarication, something that he has never been guilty of. The fault was with the political attaches of the weather service of Portland. The Astorian simply published what was sent. There is a sort of distant rumbling in our think tank, that the man who makes the weather in Portland must have procured a cheap brand of hop, or the booze foundry is too close to the weather bureau to be productive of reliable results. What the weather bureau knows about the weather is commensurate to what a hog knows about theology, only the hog has the best of the game. Such reports as are usually sent out are misleading and conflicting. They are misleading and prevent a large number of people from making arrangements for a Sunday outing. They are conflicting for the reason that the reports and the weather are directly opposite and don't dovetail worth a cent.

It doesn't make much difference to the Astorian what kind of weather is predicted, but it does to its subscribers. In a circular letter issued by the United States postoffice department, newspapers were denied admission of the mails that publish "guessing contests." The weather reports are more in the nature of a guessing contest, with the exception of prizes for the successful guesser are eliminated. Just what effect it will have upon the newspapers that publish the weather bureau guessing contests can not be stated until an opinion is received from the attorney general of the United States.

The weather bureau must, however, be given credit for one thing. It guessed the weather right one day last week, and one day in the fore part of January and it always has another guess coming, because if it should ever stop guessing, the salary would stop and a probability of this school of prevarication and bad weather be abolished. This brief dissertation on the United States weather bureau is simply published to inform Astorian subscribers that while the report appears every morning, the management will not be responsible for the accuracy of any of the predictions emanating from the Oregon branch of the government weather bureau, even if it is under a republican administration.

OUT OF THE ORDINARY.

Epitome of Anecdotes and Incidents With Comments by a Layman.

The Oregon weather bureau has established a weather guessing contest. A ticket to heaven will be given the man who beats the weather bureau in the art of prevarication.

Now comes the news that Texas has endorsed President Roosevelt's policy. Let's see, how much majority did Teddy get in Texas.

In the east there is dust on the ice cream freezer, and the lawn mower is getting rusty, but the snowshovel looks like a washboard that has been in constant use since the year the owners got married.

The demand for the abolishment of grand juries in Oregon is almost as strong as the demand for the abolishment of grand dukes in Russia.

Nan Patterson says she will devote herself to church work after her next trial. Nannie may be a little premature. What she does after her next trial will depend chiefly on the temper of the jury.

You cannot legislate virtue into people. There is no man ever any better than he wants to be.

An ounce of performance is worth a pound of preaching.

While the council is considering the new telephone franchise, it might take a day off and find out what has become of that hotel project. Windy Willie is evidently trying to become the father of twins.

Chief Hallock remarked to a 4-year-old Astoria boy: "Why, Johnnie how much you look like your father." "Yes'm," answered Johnnie with an air of resignation, that's what everybody says, but I can't help it."

"The air is full of rumors," says a St. Petersburg dispatch, but what keeps the grand dukes in is that it is also full of bombs.

R. M. Gaston, at his stable, No. 105 Fourteenth street, offers for sale a Landis harness machine, one Smith-Premier type writer, one 10 horse power motor and starter box and 500 good sacks. Will be sold cheap.

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There is no case on record of a cold resulting in Pneumonia, or other serious lung trouble, after Foley's Honey and Tar had been taken.

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Remember the name—Foley's Honey and Tar—and refuse substitutes that cost you the same as the genuine. Do not take chances with some unknown preparation.

Contains no opiates.

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N. Jackson of Danville, Ill., writes: "My daughter had a severe attack of La Grippe and a terrible cough on her lungs. We tried a great many remedies without relief. She tried Foley's Honey and Tar, which cured her. She has never been troubled with a cough since."

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Foley & Co., Chicago. Dana, Ind. Gentlemen:—Foley's Honey and Tar cured me of Consumption after I had suffered two years and was almost desperate. Three physicians failed to give me any relief and the last one said he could do me no good. I tried almost every medicine I heard tell of without benefit, until Foley's Honey and Tar was recommended to me. Its effect right from the start was magical. I improved steadily from the first dose and am now sound and well, and think Foley's Honey and Tar is a God-send to people with Throat and Lung Trouble. Yours very truly, MRS. MARY AMBROSE.

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