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PROTECT THE PUBLIC.

The ordinances granting a franchise to W. W. Whipple and J. R. Clinton for constructing a telephone, telegraph, electric light and gas plants, as prepared by City Attorney A. M. Smith are drawn in accordance with the sentiment of a large majority of the people, containing sufficient restrictions to protect the public, at the same time giving the promoters a valuable franchise. The efforts of the promoters to cut the restrictions in half was asking for greater concessions than any city ought to give. It might have been well enough to grant an extension of 60 days in which to accept the franchise, but extending the time to nine months in which to commence work is evidence of weakness on the part of the promoters, and shows conclusively that it is a question whether they will be able to sell the franchise in some eastern money market. They don't want it for themselves, but as a means of speculation. There would be no objection to this, for if outside capital can be induced to come to Astoria to invest in any legitimate enterprise, they will be accorded a hearty welcome.

That the promoters do not intend to build the system themselves, but expect to sell it to someone else, is evidenced by the fact that there has been no engineers, representing any company, come to Astoria to make an investigation, and no city in the world has ever granted a franchise to any company for any purpose, but that the engineers and representatives of that company have gone to that city, made preliminary surveys and estimates and submitted a report to the projectors, before a franchise is asked for. Neither Mr. Whipple nor Mr. Clinton have any idea of what the system will cost, they have no idea of the amount of business they can secure, and have no certain company behind them to furnish the capital for constructing the enterprises. They are endeavoring to get the best terms possible in order to find some capitalist willing to invest in the enterprise.

The proposition to strike out of the ordinance the provision regulating the price of telephones to consumers is of doubtful propriety. If a new company does come here to put in a system, there will be no trouble for them to organize a trust and put up the prices charged for telephones from \$3 per month to \$5 per month. If there are two companies and neither one can pay operating expenses at the price charged, it is morally certain that they will enter into a combination to jump up the price. It has been done in every city in the world, and Astoria will be no exception. If the price is fixed in the ordinance at \$3 for main line service and \$1.25 for party line service, there will be no opportunity of organizing a trust. The price will be always maintained at that price. The new company cannot raise the price because prohibited by their franchise, the old company cannot raise the price because to do so, would be to drive business to the company furnishing telephones at the lowest price.

The members of the council evince a desire to treat the promoters with due and fair consideration, but they should also remember that they do not represent the promoters, but the people of the city of Astoria, and that the franchises they are contemplating is the property of the people and not the property of the common council. They are supposed to represent the people of the entire city in giving away valuable franchises and not their individual inclinations, and the people demand all franchises donated be surrounded with sufficient restrictions to protect the city. The promoters need no protection. They come here with nothing, expecting to secure something, and when it is secured, endeavor to enlist outside capital to construct and develop the system. No one has any objection to this, and both franchises should be granted as provided in the ordinances drawn by City Attorney Smith. Mr. Smith knows the

sentiment of the people and in drawing the franchise ordinances he does so as the servant of the people and to protect the interests of the city, and with the exception of granting the 60 days extension of time in which to accept the franchise, the ordinance should remain as originally drawn. The restrictions in the ordinance will not deter any eastern capitalists from coming to Astoria and building the systems, if they are convinced that it will be a paying investment, and this is a matter for them to determine after their engineers visit Astoria and determine for themselves the nature and probable results of the enterprise.

THE RAILROAD.

The Astoria & Columbia River railroad yesterday paid their taxes, amounting to \$10,173.80, or more than is paid by all the transportation companies in the county combined, and are the heaviest tax payers in the county. One redeeming feature about the company is they never kick about their assessments nor their taxes, but walk smilingly up to the captain's office and settle and thank the sheriff for taking the money. When it is considered that the company disburses \$12,000 each month in wages and supplies, aside of what is purchased at the various stores, the great benefit to the city can be estimated. Of the \$150,000 paid to employees every year, nearly every dollar is spent in Astoria. During the time the railroad has been running, they have more than paid back to the people of Astoria every dollar of subsidy subscribed with compound interest. Not only this, but at least \$100,000 is spent every year in betterments, new rolling stock and improving their service. It is safe to say that every dollar earned by the company, over and above the operating expenses, has been spent on improvements and that the company has not made one cent, as yet, on the investment.

Such enterprise is deserving of consideration at the hands of the public. When merchants realize that every dollar paid by them to the company for freight is paid back to the merchants, directly or indirectly, they are certainly deserving of the public patronage. It is doubtful if the people of Astoria realize the immense amount of money that is annually distributed in Astoria by this company. Instead of antagonizing them, as frequently is done, by people not understanding the situation, they ought to be encouraged and every possible advantage given them. There is no better railroad system in the United States. There is no company that gives any better service, and it is due to the efforts of the Astoria & Columbia River Railroad Company that the population has increased from about 8000 when they first started to nearly 14,000 at the present time.

Not only that, but they have been the means of bringing to Astoria, a large number of men and families possessed with enterprise and eastern vim, who take an active interest in every project looking to the upbuilding of the city and its institutions and assisting materially in developing the resources of the city and county, contributing liberally to all enterprises and a valuable addition to Astoria society. Had it not been for the parsimonious policy of the chamber of commerce, Mr. Hammond would have built a \$500,000 saw mill at Astoria instead of going to Eureka. Had it not been for the obstacles thrown in the way, and the selfish spirit of that now defunct organization, Mr. Hammond would have probably spent \$1,000,000 in developing the resources of Clatsop county, instead of there being about 14,000 population, Astoria today would have been a live, bustling city of at least 25,000. There is no doubt but the chamber of commerce drove Mr. Hammond away from Astoria, with the assistance of some of the individual members. When our Heavenly Father in his infinite wisdom can see His way clear to remove from this vale of tears a few of the members of this obscure organization it is believed that Mr. Hammond will again return to Astoria and take up the work of developing the resources of the county as he contemplated doing when he constructed the railroad. He has several times expressed a desire so to do, but when he thinks of the chamber of commerce, he takes another trip to Eureka in order to forget the past.

The Astoria Commercial banqueted the Portland bowling team at the Hess restaurant last evening at the conclusion of the game.

Poisons in Food.

Perhaps you don't realize that many pain poisons originate in your food but some day you may feel a twinge of dyspepsia that will convince you. Dr. King's New Life Pills are guaranteed to cure all sickness due to poisons of undigested food—or money back. 25c at Chas. Rogers' drug store. Thy them.

CALIFORNIA RESTAURANT.

Reopened Under New Management. John Blasch has leased the California Restaurant and Oyster House and is now prepared to serve the public. The best oysters and meals in the city. Family trade supplied. Good cooks, polite waiters and prompt service.

DAMNABLE OUTRAGE

University Cutthroats Accomplish Their Object

GEORGE GOULD IS HAZED

Sons of Wealthy Parents Who Commit Crimes Receive Immunity from the Law While Poor Men Are Hanged for Less Crimes Committed.

New York, March 11.—Hazers at Columbia university have, it is reported, finally succeeded in exercising their arts on Kingdon Gould, son of George Gould, who caused considerable excitement some time ago by drawing a revolver and driving off a band of sophomores when they attempted to capture him. Six sophomores representing a secret organization of the sophomores, are said to have taken young Gould by surprise as he was leaving the university. They placed him under parole until night when he was duly hazed and the class was avenged for the manner in which he spoiled their plans to make him an unwilling guest at their dinner.

OUT OF THE ORDINARY.

Epitome of Anecdotes and Incidents With Comments by a Layman.

If the drug trust puts the prices up high enough may be everybody will get well.

With both of his wings damaged, Kuropatkin is beginning to feel that he is no longer a "bird."

Easter bonnets are to be smaller this year, but it is too much to hope that the bills will follow the fashion.

It has been discovered that insects are fond of alcohol, and this may explain why it has always been called bug-juice.

A Hawaiian woman has come forward with a name which contains 51 letters in it, and Russia's last glory has departed.

Mr. Morgan got the original manuscript of "The Autocrat of the Breakfast Table" for \$4,000 before the cold storage egg trust had a chance to bid.

The following announcement is posted up on the Warrenton post-office "We are requested to announce an oyster supper for next Wednesday evening. This is to raise money to pay for the new organ. Genuine oysters and no charge for the soup.

Don't be hard on the poor editor. Somebody truthfully says that if a doctor makes a mistake he buries it; if a merchant makes a mistake he never tells it; if a lawyer makes a mistake he crawls out of it; but if an editor makes a mistake he puts it on a large sheet of paper for the world to look at, and in every community there are cranks who think they are models of wisdom because they occasionally discover them.

A prominent Astoria young man answered an advertisement in a Portland paper which offered a salary of \$50 a month for a young man of neat appearance. The boy received a postal card in reply stating that he should send \$5 at once and he would secure a job that would pay \$50 a month. The boy sent the following postal: "Bring your pole and line and come up next April. They are not running yet, but there are lots of the mhere."

HOTEL ARRIVALS.

Occident.

- A. B. Rextol, Portland.
Ralph G. Gunn, Portland.
M. A. Cohen, Portland.
Frahae VanGuin, New York.
Jas. Randall, Portland.
Geo. C. Flanders, Portland.
A. Howard, Portland.
W. M. Jones, Portland.
H. C. Eckenberger, Portland.
Capt. A. B. Graham, Portland.
A. H. Willett, Portland.
E. N. Wheeler, Portland.
M. Fie, Portland.
W. H. Roberts, Tacoma.
Wm. Donaldson, Ft. Stevens.
J. Brown and wife, Portland.
R. M. Miller, Portland.
F. O. Sands, Portland.
Mrs. H. G. Merrill, Skamakawa.
J. A. Merrill, Skamakawa.
D. Jordan, Portland.
Henry J. Pitt, Portland.
G. O. Sabin, San Francisco.
H. G. Lougee, Portland.

The head of a theological school once said, "I've seen so many fools succeed and so many geniuses come to nothing that I have ceased to prophesy."—Christian Register.



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Our First Showing OF Spring Clothing.

Stokes Says

Young man don't neglect your personal appearance when we bring such tailors as

HART, SCHAFFNER & MARKS and CROUSE & BRANDAGEE

to your very door, you may say, to make you a suit that has all the finishing touches that go into swell City Tailoring of the higher order, at one half their price REMEMBER.

P. A. STOKES

KEEPS A DRESSY SHOP FOR DRESSY MEN.

THE STAR THEATER

Astoria's Fashionable Vaudeville house in connection with Star and Arcade theaters of Portland.

Change of Program Monday. Change of Acts Thursdays

MATINEE DAILY AT 2:45 P. M. MONSTER BILL

Week Beginning March 13.

WASHER BROS. The Renowned and Original Boxing Midgets

MONS. SILVANO The Musical Artist and Shadow-grapher

MEANY & ANDERSON Comedy Sketch Artists

THE VOLTONS Urember Acrobatic Introducing Little Fern

Pictured Melodias by ROB KENYON "Boys Are Coming Home Today."

Projectoscope Showing the following subjects: Taking a Port Galin; Corean Execution; Last Attack on Hill; Surrender of Port Arthur.

Admission 10 cents to any seat.

We stand back of everything we sell. You'll find our goods wholesome strictly pure and clean, and you'll find our prices low. You'll always buy here if you once make the start. ASTORIA GROCERY.

Courteous treatment, an abundance of amusement, together with a line of all popular brands of liquid refreshments, has made the LaTosca a popular resort.

Agonizing Burns. are instantly relieved, and perfectly healed by Bucklen's Arnica Salve. C. Rivenbark, Jr., of Norfolk, Va., writes: "I burnt my knee dreadfully; that it blistered all over. Bucklen's Arnica Salve stopped the pain, and healed it without a scar." Also heals all wounds and sores. 25c at Chas. Rogers, druggist.

Grave Trouble Foreseen. It needs but little foresight to tell that when your stomach and liver are badly affected, grave trouble is ahead unless you take the proper medicine for your disease, as Mrs. John A. Young of Clay, N. Y., did. She says: "I had neuralgia of the liver and stomach, my heart was weakened, and I could not eat. I was very bad for a long time, but in Electric Bitters, I found just what I needed, for they quickly relieved and cured me." Best medicine for weak women. Sold under guarantee by Chas. Rogers, druggist, at 50c a bottle.

First National Bank of Astoria ESTABLISHED 1886 Capital and Surplus \$100,000

JAP-A-LAC THE MODEL FINISH FOR FLOORS, WOODWORK, METALWORK AND FURNITURE.

Wears Like Iron. B. F. ALLEN & SON

The Best Restaurant. The Palace Cafe. Regular Meals 25c. Everything the Market Affords. Sunday Dinners a Specialty. Palace Catering Co.

Fine Toilet Soap Which has quality as its keynote. Here are a few samples of the good values your money will buy: Conte's Imported Castile Soap, 65c a bar; fancy Toilet Soap from 25c to 10c a box. FRANK HART, Druggist. Corner 14th and Commercial Sts.

ASTORIA IRON WORKS JOHN FOX, Pres. and Supt. A. L. FOX, Vice President. F. L. BISHOP, Secretary. ASTORIA SAVING BANK, Treas. Designers and Manufacturers of THE LATEST IMPROVED CANNING MACHINERY, MARINE ENGINES AND BOILERS. COMPLETE CANNERY OUTFITS FURNISHED. CORRESPONDENCE SOLICITED. Foot of Fourth Street, ASTORIA, OREGON.