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Today's Weather.

Portland, March 15.—Western Oregon and Western Washington, Thursday, showers. Eastern Oregon and Eastern Washington, cloudy and threatening, with probably showers.

CRIME AND CIVILIZATION.

We never know in these days when one of our cherished beliefs is going to get fatally knocked on the head. For a hundred years we have believed that yellow fever was due to unsanitary conditions and transmitted by contagion, or infection by fomites in the clothing, bedding, or other belongings of those who were victims of the yellow scourge.

After that comes a man with a book in which he tells us that the multiplication of crimes is an evidence of advancing civilization. To have that is heightened crime is lessened, a strike you off hand, would it not jar you sensibly? Yet he has the audacity to produce an array of proofs that make our old idea, that as civilization is heightened, crime is lessened appears as absurd as the proposition, "if butter is worth 20 cents a pound how many teeth are there in a hand-saw?"

The author does not use the word crime in the restricted sense of a personal injury, or tort, or sin against human and divine principles of righteousness. He speaks of those things which society commands or prohibits by laws made for the protection and betterment of the general welfare.

Law, as we learn at the threshold of the science, is a rule of action prescribed by a sovereign authority commanding what is right and prohibiting what is wrong. While we often complain of over legislation and being too much governed, yet history testifies unimpeachably that the march of civilization is measured by the multiplication of commands and prohibitions, called for by the complex relations that ramify the social compact.

A notable instance adduced is that of Massachusetts. It is from that state we oftentimes hear the riot act read to other states and sections for moral and social delinquencies. Thinking of that idiosyncrasy only one would naturally expect to find Massachusetts as free of crimes and it is of indigenous cast.

The case seems plain. Crime is the gauge of civilization and Oregon is not lacking in keeping pace with the procession if the murders and hold-ups in Portland is any criterion.

THEOSOPHY.

Theosophists have commissioned Providence to avenge their wrongs. Some time ago a Theosophist in Portland went voluntarily insane and renounced Theosophy. Last week the same man was violently kicked by a mule. Theosophist declare that the mule was inspired. He must have been

if he thought he was kicking the stuffing out of a Theosophist. Two of a trade can not agree. Theosophy arrived and found every avenue to mania plugged. Everything that could be gone crazy over had been monopolized.

So Theosophy went crazy over nothing, and that is the extent of its originality. These cranks know they believe nothing old. Everybody else knows they know nothing new. A Theosophist's mission is to convince others of his own idocy. That is the extent of his logic. He is an intellectual anarchist waging war on every old something that objects to being a new nothing. He devotes his walking hours to telling what he knows. This accounts for his everlasting talk without saying anything. If ever there be waste jaw motion it is when a Theosophist expounds his wisdom. Theosophy is spiritualized Socialism, disembodied Prohibition, etherialized idocy, the most incontestable testimony to infinite insanity within the realm of emotional insanity.

SECRET OF BEAUTY GRATIS.

A wealthy society woman of Orange, N. J. whose physician has sold her the prescription of a wonderful scientific discovery, means to secure for herself a niche in the hall of fame by supplying gratis to her American sisters the secret of beauty. The lotion she advertises removes freckles and all un-beautiful spots, clears the complexion and softens and whitens the skin with full deleterious results. It is not for sale, and the prescription cannot be purchased at any price. A lover of her race the lady will send the lotion in sample bottles to all those who wish it, and if they find the treatment efficacious she will send larger quantities, absolutely free.

Mr. Carnegie, with his libraries, his medals for heroism and his bequests to schools; Mr. Rockefeller, with his princely gifts to churches and colleges; even Mr. Heinze, with his unfulfilled promises to donate to church fairs and monument funds before election has done nothing nobler than this Education is essential; religion elevates; hospitals and asylums for the unfortunate are worthy; honor and reward for heroism are commendable; but none is more important than the good looks of our wives, our sweethearts, our sisters, our cousins and our aunts. If the Orange lady's prescription aids the complexion without destroying the skin, if it may be applied without advertising itself at 500 yards, its dissemination should be encouraged and forwarded by every true patriot.—Butte Inter Mountain.

OUT OF THE ORDINARY.

Epitome of Anecdotes and Incidents With Comments by a Layman.

A Chinook couple have named one of their youngsters Theodore Roosevelt. Henry Clay Payne Brandebarr. He will probably be known as "Brandy."

Dr. O. B. Estes says that radium will shed light two years without an appreciable diminution of energy. Just what many an Astoria man has long felt the need of for his nocturnal keyhole.

It is pretty hard to predict the advent of the robin, but it is stated on good authority that the Bock beer will be in full bloom in a couple of months.

A couple were married by mistake the other day in Portland. That's a mighty commonplace thing in matrimony.

The ice trust says the price must advance because it needs the money for dividends. Wouldn't such candor make your clock stop?

Ella Wheeler Wilcox declares a woman who loves will not disobey her husband. There now!

The man who wrote a book on "How to live to be One Hundred" has just died prematurely at 55.

Andrew Carnegie says he has not signed a note for thirty years. That is another reason why he has money for libraries while some other business men are going through the bankruptcy courts.

During the 19th century 200 ships unnumbered lives and over \$20,000,000 were lost in vain attempts to discover the north pole. Still the greatest polar explorer extant says he can take \$50,000 and bring the pesky thing back with him.

A Michigan rural deliver patron has written the postal authorities complaining that a skunk had encamped himself in his mail box and asking that the government exterminate the varmit and fumigate its late residence. Right now the government is fully occupied in following up a polecat smell at postal headquarters.

EXPLORING ORIENT

Excavating Ruins at Bagdad Has Been Commenced

EXPEDITION ARE AT WORK

Adab of Ancient History One of the Most Ancient of Babylonian Cities Identified Inscriptions Said to Be 5,000 Years Before Christ.

Chicago, Mar. 15.—Prof. Robert Francis Harper, of the University of Chicago, who is director of the expedition of the Oriental Exploration Fund, now in Assyria, has received a telegram announcing that work of excavating the ruins of Bismya, which was suspended last autumn, is to be resumed. The dispatch was from Victor Persons, engineer in charge, and stated that the sender started for Bismya from Bagdad on March 9.

The excavation was begun in December, 1903, and continued until several months ago, when it was abandoned by order of the Turkish government. The permission to resume work is the result of Dr. Harper's recent trip to Chicago.

Bismya, which has been identified as the Adab of ancient inscriptions, is one of the most ancient of Babylonian cities and flourished possibly as early as 4,000 or 5,000 before Christ. No history of the place has ever been discovered and tradition does not record the name of its ruling dynasty.

The site of the excavation is between Tigris and Euphrates rivers, ninety miles southeast of Bagdad. It is a large ruin, second in size only to Nippur, Warka, and possibly Babylon. The length of the entire mountain under which the ruins are buried in the northwest and is 1665 and width 349 meters.

COUNTY COURT.

Road Matters Discussed at the Meeting Yesterday.

An adjourned meeting of the county court was held yesterday. Most of the day was devoted to considering petitions and discussing road matters, to decide how much work will be done on county roads during the summer. The clerk was instructed to advertise for bids for improving the sections of the Lewis and Clark road near Heckard mill and near the Reith place. The bids will be opened on April 5th. Also for constructing a road from the Universal sash and door factory at Smith's point to a connection with the county road.

An order was made authorizing James Jamison, supervisor of road district No. 15 to sell the waste lumber cut by the county saw mill at Jewell for \$6.50 per thousand.

PROGRAM.

Given on St. Patrick's Night at the Opera House.

Introductory remarks, G. C. Fulton. Cedilian quartet, "Nordine Maureen" Misses Benoit and McCann, Messrs Graf and Lerner.

Selection, medley Irish airs, violin and Piano, Miss Ireneus Parker. Address, Mrs. Excellency, Hon. George E. Chamberlain, Governor of Oregon Tenor Solo, "The Harp That Once Through Tar's Halls," John Shields Oration, "The True Irishman," Hon. Hennessy Murphy.

Soprano Solo, "Killarney," Mrs. J. H.

Died From Fright.

New York, March 14.—Mrs. John Fletcher, 60 years old, is dead from fright at her home in Lakewood, N. J. Her grandson had set fire to a brush heap in the front yard and Mrs. Fletcher, fearing it would spread to the house, hurried out with a pail of water. A puff of flame caught the bottom of her dress and she fell dead with a scream of terror.

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.

Dress as Well as You Can.

By having your spring suits made by Strauss Bros., Chicago. Great display of new spring styles at C. H. Cooper's on next Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

DON'T

Neglect to inspect our "swagger" stock of Clothing for spring, built for Man or Boy

The Man

Who is fond of good clothes is the man we like to see come into our store. Once he tries on one of our easy, neat fitting, double or single breasted suits, 'tis a sure sale

\$10.00 to \$30.00



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The Boy

Who is fond of garments that is "chock" full of style, and quality to withstand the strain that a boy full of life and vigor is bound to put them to, will be delighted with such clothing as we are showing

\$2.00 to \$13.00

Every garment guaranteed to give entire satisfaction or your money refunded

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

MOTHS, SILVANO The Musical Artist and Shadow-grapher

HANSEN & DREW Comedy Sketch Artists in "Breaking Up House-keeping"

Pictured Melodies by ROB KENYON "Boys Are Coming Home Today"

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

Admission 10 cents to any seat.

BUSINESS LOCALS.

Danziger & Co. are open for business.

Just received, some fancy smoked bloaters. ASTORIA GROCERY.

Just received today, a fresh shipment of fancy creamery butter—Watsonville brand. Foard & Stokes Company.

The Occident tensorial parlors and bath facilities are equalled by none. Everything modern and up to date. See Peterson.

Do you know that the McCrea-Ford Co., 635 Commercial street, are making a big reduction on all photographs during the Lenten season?

R. M. Gaston, at his feed stable No. 105 14th street, offers for sale a Landis harness machine; one butcher's wall scales, will be sold cheap.

Jap-a-Lac, the finest finish for floors has proven both durable and makes a fine finish. B. F. Allen & Son have received a complete assortment.

Now is the time to order your clothes so as to have them by Easter Sunday. Call at C. H. Cooper's on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, and select your suit and have it made to please your own taste and satisfaction.

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

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. Palace Catering Co.

Pin your faith to us. We will supply you with the best and freshest quality of drugs and druggist's sundries that your money can buy. Just now we would call attention to the sale of Fine Toilet Soap

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.