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Today's Weather.

Oregon and Washington, Tuesday occasional rain.

RUSSIAN CRISIS.

There seems to be a difference of opinion as to whose is the next move upon the chessboard of war and peace. From Russian inspiration, that Russia The statement is made apparently would welcome peace, but will not ask for it, expecting Japan to offer it on moderate terms. It is easy enough to understand that Russia is reluctant to cry "Enough!" in a war which she so jauntily and confidently provoked, and to sue for peace from a power which she affected so much to despise. The logic of the case would seem, however, to place that onus upon her. It is for the beaten party to ask for peace. That is the rule in war. The victor has no need to seek an armistice or to ask for terms. Of course if Russia does not consider herself beaten, or sufficiently beaten to need a respite from the strife there is no reason for her ever welcoming peace if Japan should offer it. We observe that some of her diplomats are still talking bravely, as is becoming to them. But when they say that the sequel to Mukden will be like the sequel to Liao-Yang, not peace negotiations, but reinforcements, they should remember that despite these reinforcements, Mukden itself is the real sequel to Liao-Yang. Kai-Ping and Hai-Cheng were not avenged, but were repeated in increased severity at Liao-Yang, and Liao-Yang has not been avenged, but has been repeated in still worse form at Mukden. Is the series to be continued at Tie Ling? Or at Kirin? Or at Harbin?

It is not difficult to appreciate Russia's feelings in the matter. It is galling to be beaten and to acknowledge defeat. We can understand the demand that, in whatever terms of peace are made, "Russia's position in the far east must be recognized." We sincerely hope she will be dealt with generously. Nevertheless, it might be asked whether Russia and her allies recognized Japan's position in the far east ten years ago. Japan certainly seemed to have, logically and morally, a stronger position there than Russia has now. Yet she was compelled to sacrifice and to abandon it. If then the victor was not permitted to retain the legitimate fruits of victory, it might be asked upon what ground she vanquished should now be permitted to retain the position she had before the war. It is to be assumed, however, that Japan will show in the terms of peace which she may dictate the reasonableness, the courtesy and the generosity which have marked her conduct from the beginning of this tragic controversy. She will hereafter herself be the dominant power in Eastern Asia. But she realizes that there are other powers seated there, Russia among them, and that it is to her interest to be on good terms with them. She does not mean to deprive Russia of Siberia, and she knows that for the sake of her own commerce and industries she ought to be friendly with the sovereign of Siberia. We look, therefore, for a modus vivendi in the terms of peace that will put the present belligerents upon a neighborly footing and not keep them glaring at each other over double shotted guns.

The historic fact of record must be remembered, too, that in the negotiations before the war, when Japan was so earnestly and so patiently endeavoring to effect an amicable and equitable settlement of all disputed points with Russia, it was Japan that took the lead. It was Japan that pressed for settlement. It was Japan that proposed the terms. It was Japan that sent the letters with Russia, with what seemed like arrogant scorn, delayed to answer. It was Japan's move then, and she made it. Now Japan might well insist it is Russia's move. It is for Russia now to send messages and to ask for terms. We do not know that Japan will insist upon it. She may generously offer the armistice which her beaten foe is too proud to

ask, and by thus sparing Russian feelings may facilitate the conclusion of a lasting and honorable peace. But what is evident and indisputable is that it is at least as much Russia's move as it is Japan's. It may well be that it would be to Russia's advantage to make the move without delay. To do so would probably ingratiate the government with the people at home who have from the first been opposed to the war and who have long been demanding that the government shall seek peace; and it should be evident, even to the "war party" at St. Petersburg, that the good will and loyalty of the Russian people and the maintenance of the integrity of European Russia are, after all, more to be desired than the acquisition of a Manchurian province. United and prosperous Russia without a single rood of Manchurian ground might be a great and powerful empire, while the possession of all Manchuria and Korea to boot could not redeem Russia herself from revolt and anarchy.

HOME INDUSTRIES.

There is a growing sentiment in Astoria and Clatsop county to patronize home industries and home institutions. This sentiment has been stimulated by the press of the city, whose support comes from home merchants and are interested in keeping the trade and money at home. By patronizing home merchants means those that are actually engaged in business here and are not a branch or in any way connected with any Portland or San Francisco house. There is no difference in patronizing Portland or San Francisco merchants than in patronizing their branch stores in Astoria. All the money, over and above the legitimate expenses, is sent to the home house.

Among the institutions in Astoria that are not home merchants, but belong to San Francisco, is the Great Eastern Tea Company. This company is owned in San Francisco. Its manager lives there. All the money spent at its store is sent to the home office and Astoria does not receive any benefit from the concern. It seldom contributes to any local entertainments—Fourth of July celebrations, regattas or any enterprise for the benefit of building up the city or encouraging manufacturers—because the clerks have no authority to contribute and the manager lives in San Francisco. They simply take trade away from the home merchants, who live here, pay taxes, contribute to all entertainments and celebrations.

Another thing, their prices are as high as the home stores. They have a sale every other day of some kind, as a bait to catch suckers, but there is no reduction in the prices. There is not an article of goods sold by the Great Eastern Tea Company that cannot be purchased at Ross, Higgins, Foard & Stokes, The Astoria Grocery, A. V. Allen, as cheap, and you get fresher goods, because they do more business in one day than this itinerant company does in a month and their stock is turned over oftener.

If Astoria is to grow and its resources developed, and new people brought in to cultivate our lands, it must be done by giving the support of the people to strictly home concerns. If an itinerant coffee and spice outfit will not contribute to entertainments, celebrations or regattas, the people should not patronize them. There should be a community of interests actuate everyone interested in Astoria, and no one should receive a dollar's worth of patronage who is not willing to assist in building up the city, and the Great Eastern Tea Company has seldom contributed one cent to any enterprise in which Astoria is interested, and never will. They are simply here to make what money they can and take it to San Francisco. They are not an Astoria concern, but simply a branch house, and no branch house is worthy of the patronage of the people. Patronize your home merchants and they will patronize you, and the money will be kept at home. The money that is sent out of Astoria for goods than can be purchased at home and of home merchants, is so much money taken out of the circulating medium of the county.

PIE OF COMMERCE.

The Anti-Adulterated Pie League of Chicago has filed a complaint with the office of the Illinois State Food Inspector, who is raiding metropolitan restaurants to see whether their pastry contains substances injurious to the human organs. Nearly 100 lunch counters in Chicago have been investigated and the pies, especially the mince pies, have been shown to contain rubber boots, overalls, embalmed beef, and as much as one raisin to the pie. In this they resemble some of the pies found at the Astoria restaurants. The bottom crust of the pie has been discovered to have been made of galvanized cement, more suitable for street pavements than for internal digestion. The upper crust is made of asbestos and is guaranteed absolutely fire proof.

It is possible that the investigation was ordered on account of the increase in crime in Chicago. Instances have been discovered that where a mild-tempered man has eaten one slice of Chicago pie he has gone home and walloped the stuff out of his mother-in-law, to say nothing of many less

heinous offenses. It is stated by professors in the Chicago universities, where all new ideas are promulgated, that the beef trust is back of the pie foundry concerns, and that eggs that have been through an incubator for nine months and failed to hatch, comprise some of the component ingredients of the Chicago pie. We have detected something similar to this in the Astoria pie, but the salt air from the ocean has acted as a sort of disinfectant, so that the results have not been as bad here as in Chicago.

The membership of the organization, which has been widely advertised in the Chicago papers, increases enormously, so great is the proportion of the Chicago people who have suffered from improper pie. It is a fact that Chicago, while distant from the New England "pie belt" is the center of the pie-manufacturing industry. The daily consumption of pie in the city and state is said to be astounding. As a matter of consequence if the pies are adulterated the digestion, good humor and prosperity of the commonwealth is at stake. The food inspector has been so aroused to a sense of his duty that the raids are continued night and day the unalloyed evidence of pie-adulteration being preserved for criminal prosecution.

END OF MAN.

It is always some Chicago professor that is discovering something new under the sun. They have discovered everything of importance during the past few years, except why the policemen never catch a murderer or hold-up artist. Prof. Samuel Williston, occupying the chair of paleontology of the University of Chicago, recently delivered a lecture upon the "Future Inhabitants of the Earth," declaring it to be his belief that man will be extinct on this earth in three million years. The word paleontology means "the science which treats of the ancient life on earth, or fossils which are the remains of such life."

The result of this prophecy will no doubt lead to the paralyzing of human industry. Such enterprises as the Astoria hotel, the Panama canal and the Astoria Civic Improvement League, will scarcely have time to formulate their plans during this brief period in which man will inhabit the earth. It will also have a tendency to prevent some men from paying their bills, as they will be barred by the statute of limitations by that time.

If man is to pass away in 3,000,000 years what is the use of fighting socialism, battling against demagogues, downing the trusts or insisting on police Commissioners Cook and Baker resigning. It will all be forgotten soon. What avails fame, since glory is to fade in 3,000,000 years. With birds owning the earth who will reach "Frenzied Finance," or Mrs. Chadwick's Confessions?" Prof. Williston's prediction, if generally accepted, will put a damper upon human ambition.

There were many improvements in contemplation in Astoria, like the sea wall and building the approaches to, the west side of the Lewis and Clark bridge that will have to be abandoned. It won't even give congress an opportunity to pass a resolution on the effect of the Santa Dominick treaty on the clam industry of Clatsop county, and other important matters that have been under consideration since Lewis and Clark made salt at the Seaside salt cairns. If simply means a continuation of republican rule in the United States until the last man is out of office and the birds of the air inhabit the earth. It is possible that the event would have come sooner had it not been for the fact that so many birds have been killed off to supply the demand for trimmings for easter bonnets.

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