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MISCELLANEOUS.

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**Feminine
 Snapshots**

**Co-operative Housekeep-
 ing, Like Marriage,
 Sometimes a
 Failure**

Lately there appeared in a newspaper an amusing account of how some girls tried to realize the harmony of community housekeeping. They began beautifully—new furniture, pretty china and stuffy little "cozy corners" till you couldn't rest. It was so sweet, so homelike, so restful and all that, they said. Presently one girl determined to make all the others keep their rooms, even to their closets and bureau drawers, in the exact apple pie order in which her own were maintained. Of course there was a grand kick, and feminine irritation followed. Next the girl who managed the co-operative housekeeping purse invited one week several of her friends to dinner, thus entailing added expense. Of course her sense of justice should have prompted her to pay the added expense herself. But she apparently had no sense of justice, so she told the co-operative family they must economize the next week, and that girl was mean enough to cut down the meals and skimp all the rest to pay for her hospitality. Next there was a girl whose special brand of theology was not approved by some of her mates, and they undertook to reconstruct her. If there is one thing the powerful feminine mind is strong on it is theology, and the girl refused to adopt a more fashionable creed than the one she held already. More friction. At length some of the women undertook to tell one of their number how she should dress herself, and that was the last drop in the bucket. "Harmony flat" broke up in disorder. Will women ever learn to mind their own business and not meddle with one another?

If you are obliged to speak disagreeable truths, practice gentle ways of uttering them, that you may give as little hurt as possible.

"There's an old lady here who looks like a perfect picture. She's one of our saleswomen," said a girl in the suit department of a great store. "She must be seventy years old. She has been here years and years, but she never misses a day or an hour from her work. Some of the girls give up and stay away from business if the least little thing gets the matter with

them. Mrs. Blank goes right along. She's got more grit and more endurance than a dozen young girls." Later I saw Mrs. Blank. Really, seventy years old though she was, she had the handsomest face on that floor, although it was the suit department, where the good looking saleswomen are generally placed. She had fine features, softly waving gray hair and a smooth, pretty complexion. She had also a sweet, gracious manner that was mightily taking. Here, then, was a woman who had passed through all life's storms and sorrows and come out at seventy years of age handsome and peaceful faced, her powers of body and mind perfectly held and she earning her living as a cloak and suit saleswoman. This item is for girls.

Note this remarkable clipping from a newspaper. "During a fire in a hotel a woman dressed herself in less than fifteen minutes." The unfeeling editor adds, "This record is likely to stand for at least a century."

Among the cabled dispatches at the beginning of the St. Petersburg outbreak was the following highly significant one: "It appears that the women are becoming a highly important element in the situation. The feminine half of the common people has become rabid for revolution, and government officials say this is the gravest development thus far."

Somebody asks whether public officials and employees are paid to be civil. If they are, then certainly no more than half of them earn their money. It always pays to be civil, whether we are paid for it or not.

Miss Martha S. Bensley, a graduate of Vassar and a teacher, adopted the role of nursery governess and went about investigating the child question in the families of the very wealthy. She found almost everywhere a disposition on the part of rich American parents to shunt off their family duties and hire others, almost anybody, to take care of their children. Mothers in fashionable society see their children once a day, the fathers often not for days together, Miss Bensley says. Well, if this is what we are coming to, the next move will be the fashionable infants' hotels that are talked of, where babies and little ones may be cared for night and day at a stated price and a good high one. Thus they will be no bother at all to their parents except perhaps when some of them die and require a funeral.

Here is something women should bear constantly in mind: In so far as we depend on others to that degree we weaken our own powers. If a wife lets her husband manage all her financial affairs, she being in utter ignorance as

to them, she will suddenly find some fine day that he has managed them into the ground and there is nothing left for her.

ELIZA ARCHARD CONNER.

MIDDLE AGED FOLKS.

**The Change Which Has Come Over
 the Spirit of the Times.**

In the middle of the nineteenth century a man of forty-five was regarded almost elderly, and a woman of the same age was expected to have long since cut herself adrift from all ties binding her to her youth and to assume the appearance and deportment of a staid, exemplary matron. All this has changed in a particularly interesting way, of which the prominent feature is a seeming contradiction. If the three-year-old child of today is as knowing as was the six-year-old of half a century ago, and the ten-year-old boy of today is in many respects quite as much a man as was his grandfather at eighteen, one might naturally expect that in due gradation the modern middle aged man should be old beyond his years. But such is not the case.

Middle age, so far from hurrying on into senility, so far even from standing still, would seem actually to have stepped backward and marched alongside of youth. There is a jauntiness, a buoyancy, an elasticity, about the middle age of today at which our fathers would have shaken their heads as unseemly. The gulf which once separated the middle aged parent from his children has been filled up. The curtain which shrouded the middle aged man generally from the eyes of youth and which caused him to be regarded with respect if not with awe has been lifted, and in obedience to the same influences which have made the schoolmaster the friend of the schoolboy and the regimental officer almost the comrade of his men the middle aged man of today is never so happy as when working, or playing upon an equality and actually in competition with youth.

As with men, so it is with women. Social statisticians tell us that the age at which women are considered most eligible for marriage has been very notably advanced of late years, and we know that the lament of many a match-making mamma is that the most dreaded rivals of her darling are not to be found so much among the girls of her own age as among women who not many years ago would have been relegated to the ranks of hopeless old maidhood. The fact that the middle aged woman of today is much younger in manner and tastes is, of course, not the only reason for this, but it is among the most potent.—London Spectator.

Families desiring either Colonial or Shoalwater bay oysters can always secure them fresh at the Imperial oyster house, which makes a specialty of supplying families or parties.

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FACTS ABOUT ASTORIA AND ITS INDUSTRIES

Astoria today is a bustling, cosmopolitan city of 15,000 people. Its population represents almost every nationality on earth, in consequence of which it is a lively center of business activity. Its advantageous location at the mouth of the great Columbia river makes it the trade mart of the vast productive region of northwestern Oregon and southwestern Washington, and it is the supply point for fully 25,000 people. It is Oregon's second city in size and importance.

The estimate of population here given is conservative. The 1900 government census accredited the city with about 9,000 people, but the launching of new enterprises, together with the natural growth, has added many hundreds to the population in the past five years. Failure to develop local resources has resulted in slow growth, but a new era of commercial activity is dawning and the prospects for the city's future are very bright.

On its magnificent location and wonderful natural advantages Astoria bases its expectations of future greatness. Situated on the only fresh-water harbor of importance in the world, with the broad ocean but 10 miles from its wharves, it enjoys marked advantages as a shipping center. The gravity route of the Columbia river is nature's highway for the great inland empire, the immense product of which must be exported from the ocean port. At Astoria the largest ships may find safe moorings, and its harbor will accommodate all the shipping that may ever come to the northwest coast. It is pre-eminently the Pacific slope port, as New York is the Atlantic port, and must soon receive from the transcontinental railroads the recognition which its advantages justify, as has New York on the Atlantic coast.

Development of the lumbering industry will alone make Astoria great. There are 75,000,000,000 feet of timber standing in the forests near the city. This vast timber supply is great enough to keep in steady operation for 20 years 100 large mills, and to afford employment during that period to 15,000 persons in the manufacturing plants, to say nothing of the army of workmen that would be employed in the forests. The first steps towards the development of lumbering have now been taken, and four mills, with a daily output exceeding 200,000 feet, are in operation. The forests are only a short distance from the city, and the cost of

bringing logs to Astoria is light, marking this a most desirable point for the manufacturer of lumber. The advantages offered by this city as a milling point are beginning to attract the attention of millmen who desire to operate economically, and before long Astoria will rank as the largest lumbering producing port on the Pacific coast.

The growth of the salmon industry will likewise prove of great benefit to Astoria. By means of artificial propagation, this magnificent business has come to stay. It will be built up, within a few years, to four times its present magnitude, and will then mean more than \$10,000,000 annually to the city. Several Alaskan salmon canneries are owned and operated here and each year bring large sums to their home office. The possibilities of Astoria as a fishing port or center in other lines of fishing industries are also of great importance, and the attention of capitalists is called to this city as a deep-sea fishing center; also to the great runs of genuine French salmon which come into the river by the hundreds of billions every year.

The lower Columbia river district, with its mild climate, offers unsurpassed inducements to dairymen, farmers and small-fruit growers. While small-fruit growing has not been extensively engaged in, those who have followed it have been most successful, and one enterprising grower is now harvesting two strawberry crops a year—the only instance of the kind known in this section of the country. Settlement of the productive lands of the county will work wonders for the city and assist materially in its up-building.

There are many other resources which will combine to bring about the future greatness of Astoria. Here are to be found opportunities for men in every walk of life—capitalists, small investors, farmer, dairymen, fruit-grower and laborer. This new country, where fortunes await the energetic, offers to those seeking location the best advantages of any section of the west.

In every respect Astoria is metropolitan. It enjoys splendid facilities of all kinds, is a pleasure-loving city and thoroughly up-to-date. Thousands of strangers visit Astoria every month, and during the summer season it is the Mecca of those who live in the interior. It has its different quarters, like the larger cities, and, best of

all, it is the healthiest spot on earth.

Astoria wants more people. Its natural resources will easily support from 250,000 to 500,000 population, yet there are only 15,000 people here to reap the benefits that nature has so generously placed at their disposal. The homeseeker will find no better place to locate, and few equal places. Labor is always in demand, at the highest wages, and there is much encouragement for the man who wishes to engage in business. Strangers often remark the uniform courtesy of the people and the general effort on the part of Astorians to make matters pleasant for visitors. The home-seeker or investor who fails to visit Astoria will make a great mistake, for no other community in the Pacific northwest offers such opportunities as the lower Columbia river district.

Astoria has a \$200,000 gravity water system, a paid fire department, first-class street car service, gas and electric lighting systems, free public library, unexcelled transportation facilities, complete school system, 40 civic societies, three daily and six weekly newspapers, excellent telegraph and telephone service, three banks carrying deposits of about \$2,000,000, two express offices, first-class theaters, 14 churches, labor unions representing every branch of trade, two energetic commercial organizations, two social clubs, admirably conducted hospital, miles of manufacturing sites, plenty of fine residence and business property; is the only fresh-water seaport on the Pacific coast; is situated at the mouth of a river that drains an empire; has a harbor large enough to accommodate the combined shipping of the Pacific coast; has a trunk-line railroad connecting it with four transcontinental railroads; is the uttermost railroad extension point on the American continent; is 200 miles nearer Yokohama and other oriental ports than any other Pacific coast port; is 160 miles nearer the Cape Nome mining country than any other port on the Pacific coast; is the salmon shipping center of the world; is the center of one of the greatest possible dairy industries that the country today possesses.

It is the only place where the royal chinook salmon is packed; has substantial public and business buildings, factories and handsome residences.

Astoria's School System.
 Astoria's school system is not surpassed by that of any other city of the size in the west. At present there

are six large school buildings here. The schools are conveniently located in all sections of the city, and in every respect are modern in their appointments. Well-appointed schools are to be found throughout the county, and children living on farms and in villages enjoy educational advantages almost equal to those afforded city children.

Astoria's Water System.

Astoria possesses a \$300,000 gravity water system, which is not equalled in equipment by any other system in the Pacific northwest. The water works are operated by the municipal government as represented by the water commission, and constitute the city's most valuable asset. The water is brought from Bear creek, about 10 miles distant, which has its source in the mountains.

The reservoir is situated on the plateau back of the city, where the supply is regulated. The water system of Astoria is extensive enough to supply the needs of 100,000 people, besides affording fire protection to all parts of the city.

The Lumbering Industry.

The mouth of the Columbia river has the greatest body of timber tributary and available of any point in the world.

The lumbering business is the largest in the Pacific northwest; it outranks in value of product any other line. Production of wheat is a close second, being worth \$17,000,000 a year, while the value of the lumber output is \$18,000,000. Coal, gold and silver, fruit, cattle and sheep, wool and fish, all of which are produced in great abundance, fall far below, nor hardly equal in the aggregate, the wealth derived from the forests. The town, therefore, that commands the greatest resources available of fine timber must have a great outlook. Demand for timber will not decrease, but become greater with every year.

The timber trees of the forests tributary to Astoria are, in order of quality: Douglas fir, commercially known as Oregon pine; hemlock, spruce and cedar. There are also soft, or birdseye, maple, vine maple, alder, wild cherry, willow, etc.

The fir is both red and yellow. It grows five to 14 feet in diameter, and 150 to 200 feet tall; 351 feet is said to have been measured on one fallen tree in the coast mountains. Considerable noble fir, or larch, and some white pine are found on the highest of the coast

mountains, but little near Astoria. The spruce, of the tideland species, is found only on the west slopes of the coast mountains. It attains a diameter varying from about an average of six feet to 16 or 17; and specimens 57 and 63 feet each in girth have been measured—12 to 21 feet in diameter. Hemlock occurs as a mixed or smaller growth with fir and spruce, trees seldom being of great height, although often very large. Yet cedar is found mixed with the other timbers, the trees seldom being of greater height, although often very large. Yet cedar is not plentiful in this section. In general estimates of timber production 20,000 feet to the acre are allowed. Single acres have been known to produce ten times this amount. Quarter sections of timberland on the market are usually estimated at 3,000,000 to 8,000,000 feet each, board measure.

Mills and Manufacturing.
 Although manufacturing is as yet in its infancy in Astoria, more than 4300 persons are employed in the institutions now doing business here. The salmon industry employs by far the greatest number of persons, but the seasons extend over a period of only about six months, and at other times those engaging in it follow other lines of pursuit. The lumbering industry, including box factories, barrel factories, etc., is rapidly assuming proportions and will, within a few years, outrank the fishing interests.

Astoria wants more manufacturing concerns, and offers the very best inducements to capitalists. Here are to be found unexcelled sites, with the advantage of both rail and water connections, and the intending investor in western properties should look over the Astoria situation. Sites can be secured at very low prices.

More than \$5,000,000 is invested in manufacturing plants here, while the value of the yearly product exceeds \$6,500,000. In all, 4341 persons are employed, receiving annual wages that aggregate \$2,059,600.

Salmon Industry.

Astoria owes its existence largely to the great salmon industry of which it is the center. Year after year the Columbia river has given up its wealth of fish, and in the past 25 years has yielded \$75,000,000, nearly all of which has been placed in circulation in this city. Where other crops have failed, the salmon supply has maintained its average of production, and in this respect can be classed as one of Oregon's

greatest resources.

The annual salmon yield of the Columbia river is valued at \$3,000,000. The spring fishing season lasts only about four months—from April 15 to August 25—so it means \$750,000 monthly to those interested in it and those who live at and near the seat of the industry.

The Dairying Industry.

Dairying in Clatsop county is in its infancy, and very few dairymen realize the natural advantages of this country. The climate, coupled with the productivity of the soil, makes it an ideal district for production of butter and cheese; dairymen are taking more interest in the breed and care of stock. With the genuine butter cow, such as few here have as yet, much better results may be obtained, though even now the luxuriant pasturage enables the cows to furnish an abundance of rich milk, with more than an average of butter fat. A modern equipped creamery is in operation in Astoria, furnishing the farmers a ready sale for their cream, at an average price for the year of 22½ cents per pound for butter fat, and the cows yield, under good care, about 225 pounds of butter fat per year. There is general interest in increasing the dairy business; many of the dairymen are preparing to enlarge their herds, and new dairies are being started. Ever-growing grass and the best market in the world make this an inviting field for those who understand the care of cows.

All the Oregon coast country, especially that near the mouth of the Columbia river, is very similar to the great dairying sections of Europe, such as Denmark, Holland and the Channel islands. The winters, however, are milder and the summers drier.

The lands best adapted to grass-growing are the tidelands, which are river bottoms adjoining the Columbia or its branches, and overflowed by the highest tides. These lands may be reclaimed by diking, at an expense of about \$10 per acre. By diking large tracts by machinery—with steam dredges—the expense may be reduced, and more substantial dikes erected. One acre of tideland has been shown to be ample for keeping one cow the entire year. There are still in Clatsop county about 20,000 acres of tideland to be diked, much of it being easily cleared after the diking is done. This is no experiment, as many of the best dairy farms have been made on diked tideland.

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