

SET BACK TO VICE

Correspondent Gives Views Upon Local Question.

MORALITY AND DECENCY

Believes the City Will Be Benefited by the Elimination of Vice and That Morality and Decency Are Stepping Stones to Future Success.

Editor Morning Astorian:

A few words, please, in regard to the all important question of taxation. We do not profess to be able to solve the riddle of the universe nor to know it all, but we know just enough to know that no one else knows it all. Ideas are very prevalent nowadays, yes, thanks to our "glorious constitution," we all, even unto the meanest of us, have a right to air opinions. Fools and their opinions are, of course, included everywhere. There are many opinions, but few of them count. However, let us stick to the tax question, for it will surely stick to us, and see what our aggregated ideas will work out. There are many views of things; short views and long views, side views and back views, front views and r-views, but the tax view is a present view. Recently, in this city, vice had a set back. It is well, the lawless must be made to know that we have laws, those who live in disregard of laws are anarchists and those who thrive upon vice are the veriest anarchists. So the statute books must be posted up now and then, at least to let some people know that they are under certain moral and legal obligations to society at large. This was done and the office holders and their kin set up a howl that our patriotic citizens are not willing to support morality and decency; we deny that proposition, but if true, they have very little respect for their families. Vice may make noise and excitement, but it does not build cities and towns that stay, and the revenues shut off from that source are more than compensated for in the victory of morality. We can estimate in dollars and cents the benefit that comes from vice, but the benefit that comes from good and morality is inestimable. A man's physical strength can be determined and registered, but the real value of his mind is an unknown value and quantity. Physically man may be known but psychologically he is a guess, an estimate, an opinion merely. Just so, we can not calculate, at present, the good of the movement Astoria has so long been in need of, but virtue is a more productive soil than vice and the results in dollars and cents will also, in the end, prove itself. We are not trying to sermonize, but state those things we do know.

If we are going to dedicate this dear old world over to a tax gathering party we would better set aside or trample under foot all the beauty and truth of it; that is lovely and fair and let a high carnival of vice reign that a few dirty dollars may be garnered from evil sources. Now, to be practical, if we had a direct tax, an income tax this dilemma could be readily solved; for instance let those who receive the most profit from society and their dealings with society pay a proportionate tax or a tax commensurate with the gain they receive from the public, for all their gain comes from the public, and those most able should bear the greater measure of tax. That is your simple form of taxation, but our system of indirect taxation is complex and society is full of tax escapers and evaders, so it is difficult to handle the question. But to go along content to fasten a certain proportion of tax on crime and increase the crime by tax and allow the wriggling misers to suffer out such an existence does not appeal to sense or virtue. The system is bad; now is the time to fix a proper system. Life is but an educator, simply a school—all the while each and every one of us is in it and your council has now a good chance to study the tax question, exercise their brains a little and work out a decent standard by which revenues may be got. This furore about the town being stuck is all folly, the alarmists are yelling fire where there is even no smoke. They are simply misconceived, because vice has been unseated. Let them cast about like strong men and sensible men and fix a system that has merit and stability in it. Astoria will be here many years after all these little fellows leave the undone work to others.

COMMON SENSE.

Breaking Fish Laws.

There are a few fishermen who persist in breaking the law, no matter what concessions are granted by the legislature. They have no respect for the law, for society and are virtually anarchists. Deputy Fish Warden Webster captured two nets Sunday in the river near Maygers and confiscated them. There was not sufficient evidence against the owners to warrant

their being arrested. The time will come in the near future, when the legislature will have to pass a law authorizing the fish wardens to shoot on sight, all men violating the fish laws. Any man who will persistently fish in violation of law, ought to be given the full limit of the law. They are natural born criminals and a disgrace to the community.

Ordinances Not Signed.

Mayor Surprenant has not signed any of the ordinances passed by the council Friday night, but will probably approve all of them except the ordinance imposing a license of clothing, dry goods and boot and shoe merchants. None of the merchants interested are in favor of the ordinance unless all merchants are included. Some of the councilmen would not have voted for it, but they read somewhere that the merchants had been consulted in regard to it and were in favor of it, when as a matter of fact, none of them were consulted.

Crowded Houses at the Star.

Two crowded houses greeted the Star last evening and many had to be turned away. Those who were able to get in speak in the highest terms of the show. The De Moiers, brother and sister, as the king and queen of seven silver circles, was something new in Astoria and is one of the best numbers ever produced in the city, and their versatility and conception of their turn won for them continued applause. Mustard & Cook, high-class vocalists, are the best ever seen at this house. Bert Newhall, the female impersonator, is very clever. The Knox brothers in their musical comedy act eclipsed anything of the kind ever produced in Astoria and are certainly world beaters. The Star this week is unusually attractive.

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WONT STAND WORK

Portland Jobbers Dissatisfied With Action of Railroad.

PROPOSITION IS DECLINED

Another Meeting of the Jobbers and Railroad Officials Will Be Held in Portland Thursday When it is Expected an Agreement Will Be Made.

Portland, April 10.—The North Pacific Coast Jobbers' Association, representing the wholesale jobbing interests of Portland, Seattle and Tacoma are dissatisfied with the compromise proposition offered by the transcontinental railroads at a meeting between the association and railroad men last week, regarding a readjustment of the freight tariffs between coast points and the interior.

It is stated that the jobbers will at the meeting with the railroad men, which is expected to occur Wednesday or Thursday of this week, decline to accept the proposition and will renew the request for the concession asked for at the meeting between the jobbers and the traffic men held in January last.

Cheated Death.

Kidney trouble often ends fatally, but by choosing the right medicine, E. H. Wolfe, of Bear Grove, Iowa, cheated death. He says: "Two years ago I had Kidney Trouble, which caused me great pain, suffering and anxiety, but I took Electric Bitters, which effected a complete cure. I have also found them of great benefit in general debility and nerve trouble, and keep them constantly on hand, since, as a find they have no equal." Chas. Rogers, druggist, guarantees them at 50c. See the window display in the Owl Drug Store of the celebrated Eastman kodaks and supplies. New stock just received.

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