

THE MORNING ASTORIAN

Established 1873.

Published Daily (Except Monday) by THE J. S. DELLINGER COMPANY.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

By mail, per year \$4 00
By mail, per month .50
By carrier, per month .60

WEEKLY ASTORIAN.

By mail, per year, in advance \$1 00

Entered at the postoffice at Astoria, Oregon as second-class matter.

Orders for the delivering of THE MORNING ASTORIAN to either residence or place of business may be made by postal card or through telephone. Any irregularity in delivery should be immediately reported to the office of publication. Telephone Main 661.



STREET IMPROVEMENTS.

The prosperity of a city depends upon the improvement of its streets and the opening up of new thoroughfares in order that home builders can buy a lot and build a house. This is evidenced in Astoria during the past two years.

But the public is informed, that, owing to the financial condition of the city, it will be impossible to undertake any more improvements this year, especially where the assessment against the property will not pay the cost of improvement.

If the property in the city were assessed at its actual cash value, as the law says it shall be, all of this property would be assessed at sufficient amounts to pay for the improvement and every property owner along the street is ready and willing to pay for it.

An illustration of this may show the methods of assessment in the city of Astoria. Four lots on the hill are assessed at \$170. The owner has been offered \$600 for them. It costs to improve the street along one of the lots, \$85.

The usual assessment under the system in vogue, compels the owners of small homes to pay more than their proportion of the taxes of the city and of the county. A man owns a small home worth \$1,000. The property is assessed at \$250, or 25 per cent. Another man owns a lot on Commercial street that is assessed at \$3,500. He has been offered \$21,000 cash for it.

The constitution of Oregon, article 1, section 32, provides that "all taxation shall be equal and uniform." Not only are the laws of the state violated, the oath of office of the assessor violated, but the constitution of the state is violated.

Jackson and Josephine counties will assess the property in those counties as the law contemplates, at its actual cash value, this year. The result will

be that the assessed valuation will be increased 75 per cent and the tax levy will be reduced to less than 10 mills. This will be an inducement for settlers to locate. It will show these two counties to be the wealthiest in the state, outside of Multnomah, and will bring capital there for investment.

WAR NEUTRALITY.

It is a recognized principle of international law that armed ships of a belligerent are to be admitted into the territorial waters of a neutral for refuge, whether from chase or from the perils of the sea, says the P. I. But, as stated by Attorney General Cushing, in the seventh volume of the Opinions of the Attorney General, page 122, "it is a question of mere temporary asylum, accorded in obedience to the dictates of humanity and to be regulated by specific exigency. The right of asylum is, nevertheless, presumed where it has not been previously denied."

The custom has been, in modern times, to limit the stay of belligerent vessels in a neutral port to twenty-four hours, save where she is in urgent need of repairs. This is when the belligerent is merely seeking a temporary asylum, proposing to resume her voyage and participate further in the war then on.

Thus, while the Russian vessels have the right of asylum in our territorial waters of Manila, it would come dangerously near the line of rendering active assistance to Russia to permit those vessels to make such repairs as would enable them to put to sea again in condition to wage war either on Japanese vessels or on Japanese commerce.

If the Russian vessels desire to stay in the port of Manila for a greater length of time than the twenty-four hours established by custom as the limit of stay of a belligerent vessel, they should be interned. It is the duty of the United States to protect them, but to see that they do no take any further part in the present war.

The government of the United States has been sincerely disposed to perform toward both belligerents all of the offices of hospitality enjoined by humanity and the public law and consistent with their friendship for both; but it can not permit, neither under allegations of distress, either real or feigned, to perform acts incompatible with a strict and impartial neutrality.

This might have been written with special reference to the situation now presented at Manila. Humanity and laws of nations both require that an asylum be extended to the disabled Russian cruisers and to their wounded. A strict regard for the neutrality requires that the Russian vessels be interned and permitted to take no further part in the war, unless their commanders elect to leave our protection within twenty-four hours.

A SPLENDID APPOINTMENT.

The announcement that Mr. Charles J. Bonaparte, of Maryland, is to succeed Paul Morton as secretary of the navy will be welcomed by all friends of the Roosevelt administration and by all Americans who desire honest, efficient, intelligent government. Mr. Bonaparte, who by the way is a grandson of Jerome Bonaparte, the brother of Napoleon, is a very able and industrious lawyer, but has found plenty of time to interest himself in various reform movements, is an active member of the National Civic Federation, and, although a genuine republican, who has successfully taken the stump in several national campaigns, has always been so independent of the party machine that he has occasionally been accused of being a democrat.

partment and the Dawes Indian commission, and so faithfully, successfully and courageously did the Maryland lawyer acquit himself that it is not a bit surprising that he should be selected to supervise the navy department, especially as Mr. Bonaparte is known to be in thorough sympathy with the chief executive in his railroad rate regulation and other progressive policies. Incidentally, it may be recalled that the prospective secretary of the navy was the only republican elector chosen in Maryland at the recent presidential election, and it is understood that he is to succeed Senator McComas as the state leader of the party. It is objected by some that Mr. Bonaparte is not conversant with naval affairs, but it is the man of first-class executive ability with broad and liberal views, who makes the best head of a department, not the expert trained in one special service. Gen. Tracy had no training as seaman, yet he became the father of our modern navy, neither was Secretary Whitney experienced in naval affairs, and Secretary Morton himself was a railroad man when he took charge of the service. From the standpoint of past experience Mr. Bonaparte's appointment is a splendid one.

OUT OF THE ORDINARY.

Epitome of Anecdotes and Incidents With Comments By a Layman.

Mary Ellen Lease has been held up and robbed. It ought to be a cinch to rob her she wears pockets.

Mr. Bryan is going abroad to study. He needs it. When he learns more he will talk less and be less tiresome.

Rojevstvensky is not entirely without laurels. There is his victory over the fishing smacks.

A San Francisco woman has sued for divorce because her husband tried to stab her with a hat pin. She probably considers him effeminate.

Philadelphia did not send the liberty bell to the Portland fair. Some enterprising alderman must have that nailed down for his own use.

A Pittsburg constable is to receive 1,000,000 glasses of beer in payment of a debt. There are lots of people who would charge nothing to help him collect it.

It now develops that Smith, the San Francisco defaulter, lost his money by loaning it out at a high rate of interest. There are times when the money lenders get theirs.

"The benefit creator sent the germ to perform a service," says Dr. Gibbs. Can you guess whether he is a doctor of medicine or theology?

A Chicago court disposed of a divorce case in one minute. However hard Dakota tries she can never keep pace with Chicago.

A Lincoln county man requested the teacher in his district not to teach his children physical geography from the text books. He said that the bible gave all the information about this world that it was necessary to know.

Meanwhile the Japs appear to be doing what they can to show that it is more pleasant to be a prisoner of war in Japan than a patriot in Russia.

Rear Admiral Enquist says that he intends repairing the Russian ships. If he is going to make it a business he will have plenty to do.

And you no sooner get through paying for the expenses of the May moving than you have to rustle around buying wedding presents.



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It makes no difference how long you have been sick, if you are troubled with indigestion, constipation, liver and kidney troubles, Hollister's Rocky Mountain Tea will make you well. 35 cents. Frank Hart, Druggist.

REPORT OF THE CONDITION OF THE

First National Bank

At Astoria, in the state of Oregon, at the close of business, May 29th, 1905.

Table with RESOURCES section: Loans and discounts, Overdrafts, U. S. Bonds, Stocks, etc. Total: \$737,933 54

Table with LIABILITIES section: Capital stock paid in, Surplus fund, Undivided profits, etc. Total: \$737,933 54

State of Oregon, County of Clatsop, ss: I, S. S. Gordon, cashier of the above-named bank, do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

S. S. GORDON, Cashier. Subscribed and sworn to before me this 2nd day of June, 1905. V. BOELLING, Notary Public.

REPORT OF THE CONDITION OF THE

Astoria National Bank

At Astoria in the State of Oregon, at the close of business, May 29th, 1905.

Table with RESOURCES section: Loans and discounts, Overdrafts, U. S. Bonds, etc. Total: \$609,442 44

Table with LIABILITIES section: Capital stock paid in, Surplus fund, Undivided profits, etc. Total: \$609,442 44

Total \$609,442 44 State of Oregon, County of Clatsop, ss: I, J. E. Higgins, cashier of the above-named bank, do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

J. E. HIGGINS, Cashier. Subscribed and sworn to before me this 5th day of June, 1905. GEO. C. FULTON, Notary Public.

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