

THE MORNING ASTORIAN

Established 1873.

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

By mail, per year\$6 00
By mail, per month 50
By carrier, per month 60

WEEKLY ASTORIAN.

L. mail, per year, in advance ..\$1 00

Entered at the postoffice at Astoria,
Oregon as second-class matter.Orders for the delivery of THE MORNING
ASTORIAN to either residence or place of business
may be made by postal card or through tele-
phone. Any irregularity in delivery should
immediately be reported to the office of publication.
Telephone Main 661.

SCOTT AND SHAME.

The worthy editor of the Oregonian feelingly queries "But is there not a particle of shame in such newspapers as the Salem Statesman, the Eugene Register, the Roseburg Plaindealer and the Astorian?" He adds, "Every one knows why they are sorry land thieves have been convicted, and why the complaint that this monster 'Francis Heney' is not yet satiated."

Mr. Scott, apparently, has not yet recovered from the discomfiture occasioned by an editorial published in these columns some time ago. Like Heney, Mr. Scott is not "satiated." At every opportunity he favors this modest newspaper with spirited attacks and for what?—We were insistent that Senator Mitchell, Mr. Hermann and Mr. Williamson should be tried in court and deplored both the appointment of Francis J. Heney and the removal of Walter F. Matthews. Has Mr. Scott an interest in these matters which impels him to take exception to the policy of this paper? He may be actuated to cry, "for shame" because he is favored with an unusual appreciation of honor.

It is strange, indeed, "that Harvey W. Scott, a man, who for fifty years has led" in this field and has achieved great ends, should resort to such childish means of retaliating. Candidly, was the Astorian in error, when it requested a trial by authorized judges and not by the Oregonian, or more popularly speaking, by Scott, McGinn & Co? Was the Astorian in error when it deplored the removal of Matthews? Is the Astorian wrong in saying that Heney is certainly not "satiated?"

Francis Heney is obligated to do his duty. He also feels obligated to do something for Francis Heney and to this strenuously accompanying his prosecution of the land fraud cases is largely due. Such is the opinion of this editor, formed while on the local staff of the Oregonian and in an interview with Mr. Heney. The Astorian is not housed in a towered edifice nor is it edited by an autocrat, but its appreciation of shame is as intelligent as Mr. Scott's.

COMMERCIAL CLUB

The attachment of the Astoria Commercial Club, apparently deplorable and boding ill for the well-fare of the city may easily be productive of excellent results. Those who were responsible for the attachment should be subjected to no criticism for the attempt to collect moneys justly due them. Such is a recognized law of commercialism. They are the best judges of the motives which impelled the service.

Notwithstanding, the suddenness of the attachment has given the people of the city, generally, an insight into the real condition of the affairs of the Commercial Club, and now that the organization has practically become a thing of the past, its virtues are for the first time wholly appreciated. From out the chaos accompanying the untimely end of this modest body arises all the good accomplished. A place of recreation, cloaked with a garb of genuine respectability, was offered the young men of the city. And now—every sensible citizen of Astoria may with little meditation, draw a mental picture of the miserable hovels, with their peculiarly irresistible allurements, that can appeal to undeveloped minds in the absence of a better place for diversion.

Not only should the Commercial Club be resurrected but it should receive the hearty support of every person who has the city's interest at heart. It should be given an impetus such as it has not enjoyed heretofore. Its scope should be broadened, for an organization of this character, when conducted along the proper lines, can certainly accomplish more for the good of a community than individuals.

CHURCH AND DEPEW.

In a recent interview in the New York Times, Senator Depew expressed

his opinion that the Christian church of today faces many critical problems. He said that in the metropolis fewer of the wealthier classes attend church on week ends. In summer this is especially true, as all who can afford to leave town Saturday afternoon to spend the hours until Monday morning in the open. The preacher of today to draw a metropolitan audience, says Senator Depew must have an attractive personality. He must be a favorite with all classes of his congregation, but especially with the younger people; he must be interested in golf, tennis, and "in everything they are interested in." He must keep in close touch with other things besides his church. "There are a number of things he must not see, much less preach about from the pulpit."

The senator believes that the day of the doctrinal sermon is passed; that it now bores a congregation. He thinks people are no longer interested in what may be styled "technical religion." He declares, too that fewer young men of brains can be induced to enter the pulpit. "When I was graduated, 50 years ago," he said "about 50 percent of my class were intended for the ministry. I do not believe that, on an average, 10 percent of the college classes that graduate today intend to take up the ministry. There is no reason apparent to the minds of young men why they should, with the splendid opportunities that are now open before them in commercial life. Congregations are too small, and the ministry offers such poor reward as far as these world's goods are concerned, that the churches cannot pay young men enough to make it an inducement for them to enter the ministry."

"Theological seminaries no longer have their full quota of students. They are run at a loss. In my correspondence I am constantly getting letters from clergymen in the West and the South, as well as nearer home, asking me why, in my opinion, young people cannot be persuaded to go to church; why ministers of unquestioned ability find it impossible to draw large congregations."

It would be a sad mistake to judge the nation by New York even if it were granted, which it is not, that Mr. Depew's picture of church conditions in the metropolis is faithful. What the senator speaks of at the "wealthier classes" in reality is that portion of the metropolitan smart set in which he moves. These may not attend the service as their fathers did; but they compose an infinitesimal portion of the city and the city is a small portion of the nation. Elsewhere there is no serious complaint that the church is going backward. In the rural districts, a preacher need not be interested in golf, sociology, Ibsenism or pink tea to draw a congregation and the burning questions of soul-saving fought over today on much the same lines as in the days of the Hebrew prophets are still discussed with interest among men. It would be unfortunate should the impression accredited in this interview to Senator Depew be shared generally by the rising generations. Times and manners change; expression of devout thoughts is not the same today as it was in Mr. Depew's earlier day. But it exists in as great proportion, it is safe to say, as when he received his first impressions of things.

COMMENT

Rear-Admiral Dickens is raising the "dickens" with our great cities on the Atlantic seaboard.

In Sacramento, Cal., a man was buried alive in a pile of barley. Fortunately he escaped drowning in the by-product.

Seattle will build its city jail on the City Hall site. In anticipation of political corruption the City Hall will probably be erected within the jail.

A Syracuse, N. Y., census taker was driven from an irate woman's doorway at the point of a formidable rolling pin. We assume he lost his "sense."

The Multnomah county Grand Jury describes the condition of Portland's municipal affairs as "rotten." With apologies to Wex J., they are "putrid."

San Francisco is attempting to close a brothel sanctioned by the fiddler mayor, Eugene Schmitz. Apparently Schmitz continues to fiddle, but not with a fiddle.

"Dam the Missouri River," says a head in the "P.-I." The editor has possibly overlooked the fact that a Missourian conducts the Oregonian's "Oregon Ozone" column.

A Seattle postmaster has been arrested for opening mail. Mails are opened by the postmasters about 9 A. M.

daily. Presumably the Seattle gentleman was working overtime.

Rockefeller at last has driven John Melin, saloon-keeper, from the village of Briggsville. The next issue of Tom Lawson's "Frenzied Finance" should contain something relative to the latest victory of the "System."

Exposition President Goode with a good conception of good common sense may appreciate that a good reduction in the price of admission to his very good enterprise will be for the good of the good people of Portland.

With a severe wound in his stomach a Brooklyn man is wandering about the streets of the city, where, no one seems to know; and across the river hundreds are wandering about the streets of New York without even a wound in their stomachs.

It is reported that a married man was found dead in the apartments of a New York woman. An opportunity is afforded Joseph Pulitzer or William R. Hearst to run a slug head story telling of a clandestine meeting. In the field of yellow journalism the feelings of the woman need not be considered.

Lofty sentiment in the Baker City Democrat is surprising. However, the following from the columns of that newspaper is really wholesome:

"A beautiful and fragrant flower is coaxed into bloom by the genial sunshine of tropical countries. It is called the camelia and is so sensitive and tender that if it be touched with, but a breath, no power on earth can prevent the blight or wipe away the stain. Such a flower is the good name of a woman. One breath of suspicion, one word of slander will leave it marred and bruised forever."

John Orndorff, of Spokane, died while on his way home from Panama. The cause, states a dispatch, was that he saw fancied yellow fever germs in everything. In Spokane every man, woman and child sees a brilliant and successful future. What excellent eyesight these Spokanites have!

Brother McClure of the Seattle "P. L." orone of his worthy colleagues, in way of inducing the Russian and Japanese plenipotentiaries to sit in Seattle states that "the only Japanese daily newspaper in the country is printed in the Washington metropolis." Naturally, a perusal of this unique newspaper would interest M. Nelidoff.

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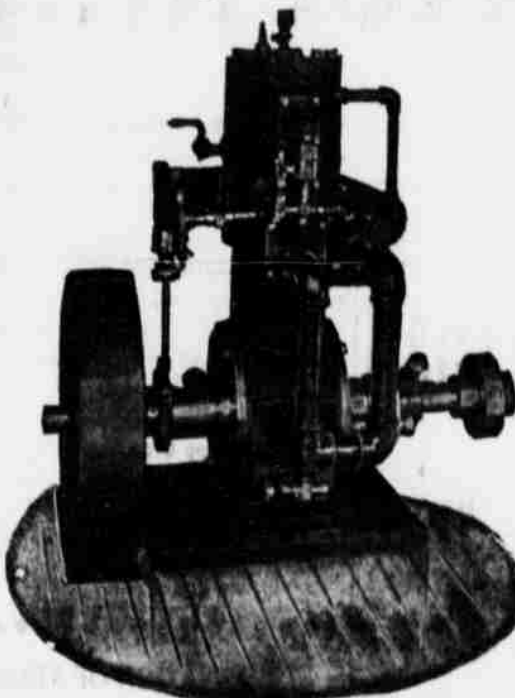
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