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WEATHER REPORT.

Portland, Nov. 19.—Western Oregon: Monday fair, occasional rain.

LICENSE AND LICENTIOUSNESS

There is the widest possible margin between license and licentiousness. It is the margin that exists between Astoria of old, the wild ribald, rotten, sea-coast town that was quoted to the uttermost ends of the Earth by decent ship-masters and indecent crew "scrubs," and the Astoria of today, the habitable, handsome, cheery resort of tens of thousands of inland visitors; the safe and wholesome port to which mariners of all conditions and grades can come without fear of robbery, or shanghaiing, of enforced debauchery, and "knock-out" policies of doing business: That is one of the differences. Rich and poor, high and low, the worker, the idler, the merchant, sailor and the commercial traveler, all are safe now from the onus of the old fear of the crimp, the beach-comber, the drugging syren and his henchmen the murderous thief. And if the sway of honest decency can keep her from a new invasion of crime and licentiousness, it will prevail. The inherent pride of her citizens will see to it.

DIFFERENCES.

There are people in this city engaged just now in foisting upon the saloon-keepers of Astoria the cry and purpose of the harpy. Warning them against the demand of the "Ring," the Republican "Ring," the "Ring Orgon," etc., for campaign stuff, otherwise, money. This was born in its rightful habitat, where that kind of bolstering is sorely needed; but, interwoven in the tirade, is an attempt to ridicule this paper for classifying the saloons of this city, as respectable, and otherwise: The man to whom all places of resort are alike is indeed at a low ebb. The Astorian has no hesitancy in proclaiming the difference between a dive and a decent saloon: The distinction is obvious to anyone, even to a gutter-snipe who is not permitted to do business in the latter, while he has free access, the necessary "free lunch" and free protection, in the former. It is the difference between the "proscribed town" and upper Commercial street. This paper has the moral right to ask that the respectability of these places be maintained by keeping the roster of saloons in that category of decency, and it will insist upon this until the last dive is forced to seek other fields and custom.

MORE TO COME.

Having fixed the partisan responsibility for the "wide open town" policy, now underway, just where it belongs, and having met the issue with a declaration in favor of keeping the city in a condition of decent and righteous regulation, this paper will have a word to say about finances in a few days that will bear reading by the citizens and taxpayers. It is not wholly an issue of police and police court, this time; there are other matters that demand the scrutiny of the men and women who are supporting the treasury of this municipality. They will be submitted in simple and sequent form, and the voting taxpayer may give what answer he or she will to the questions they compel. The leaders in a campaign may have their say and make it as strong

as they will under the proscriptions of law and prevalent custom, but the fiat comes from the citizenry at last, buncumb goes for naught, truth too, at times. When the people have spoken it is presumed they have uttered the wisdom that is theirs, and so they have until they reverse their judgment and their edicts.

CAN'T STAND RESPONSIBILITY.

The Democrats, the Demi-Democrats and the Semi-Demi-Democrats, who ran the recent "Citizens" meeting are doing everything under high Heaven to repudiate the responsibility they voluntarily and ably assumed on last Wednesday night. It is too late, Gentlemen, you are in charge; you stepped into the breach, and there you'll remain until the issues are settled on the evening of December 13th next. If you do not want responsibility of that sort, why seek it? Why butt in? Why pick up the gauge of strife? It is your's. Do your whole duty by the borrowed leadership, and the people will do their whole duty by you. If they stand by you and your "wide open city" policy, well and good. If they don't endorse you, well and good, and better. But stand by your deliberate and conspicuous post of direction, and be certain you attain to all the "honors" of success, for without it you are "indeed doubly damned."

IMPOSSIBLY IMPERSONAL.

Probably the reconstructed French cabinet will hold together until the forthcoming presidential election, not because it is a strong one, but because to make another stronger just at this moment would be difficult. M. Rouvier, who appears to be incapable of good faith in his dealings with his colleagues, has thrown over his minister of war and has made a number of shifts of portfolios in consequence. But great bitterness has been displayed in the debates in the chamber, and the former minister, like M. Delcasse, doubtless has friends who will await their opportunity for revenge. M. Rouvier saved himself chiefly by his appeal to the duties to save the bill for the separation of the church and state from failure. It is not likely that he cares much for the measure himself, but it makes a useful stick to beat the Radical dog with. The real objection of patriotic Frenchmen to his government is its cowardly surrender to German dictation. There never was any reason to believe that they would accept that, however they might seem to submit for the time.

BASIC METAL.

A total output of 22,500,000 tons of pig iron is estimated for this year in the United States. For the first six months of 1905 the output was 11,165,175 tons. The total for the year will be five times greater than the total output in 1885. The blast furnaces of the country are over-taxed to supply orders, and the rolling mills and steel-works are running to their utmost capacity. The index of business conditions is the demand for pig iron. When times are prosperous the demand is large. When business falls off the demand is lessened.

Pig iron is the basis of structural materials for building, and it is the raw material for all kinds of iron and steel manufacture entering into thousands of articles turned out by the industries of the land. Immense orders by the railroads for engines, freight cars and steel rails have helped stimulate the production of pig iron, and these orders are themselves a conclusive evidence of great business prosperity, and a sure indication that it is a permanent prosperity.

HIS FRIENDS SPENT IT.

District Attorney Jerome of New York has filed a statement to the effect that his election cost him nothing. He did not spend one cent to secure his seat again according to his report of election expenses. Since the New York law requiring such statements went into effect, we have had amusing examples of credulity and mendacity. Mayor McClellan's election cost him nothing, he says. Governor Higgins spent nothing. Nobody has spent anything, if the reports filed are to be believed. As a matter of fact, no man has been elected to the most unimportant office, when seeking it, without expense. When Mr. Jerome declares that he did not spend "one cent," he is subservient to the prevailing transient rage for ostentatious righteousness.—Ex.

FOR INDIRECT TAXATION

Frank Wrightman and His Valuable Civic Proposition.

The office of Secretary of State seems to be the only state office that the Republicans of Marion County will make a struggle to capture in the Direct Primary election.

One of the candidates for this nomination, who came to Oregon at the age of 13 years, was raised on a farm in Marion county, and owns and operates a large farm in Linn County.

He has been a stalwart Republican at all times, has held the office of sheriff of Marion County, and has been at the head of the Corporation Tax Department for the past three years.

He was admitted to the bar in Salem and chose for his oration as valedictorian of the large class, "Abraham Lincoln as a Lawyer." All who remember that oration know that Mr. Wrightman, if nominated, will be able to take a full hand in the speaking campaign for the Republican ticket.

Mr. Wrightman has been a student of the subject of indirect taxation, and has made that his political hobby. He believes **IT IS POSSIBLE TO CARRY ON THE STATE GOVERNMENT BY INDIRECT TAXATION.**

He believes that the counties should be left free of all burdens of state taxation, and thus be able to apply their revenues for their own improvement and development.

The people will enjoy learning that one of the aspirants for a state office has positive views on this important question. Mr. Wrightman proposes to make his campaign on this issue, and will be heard from in this direction.

COMMERCE AND TACTICS.

On October 15 the last-rails of the railway connecting Berber, on the Nile, with Suakin, on the Red sea, were laid, thus completing a project much discussed twenty years ago, when Gordon was shut up in Khartoum. Strategic consideration were uppermost in 1885, but economic interests now prevail. The Suakin-Berber line is built to develop industries in the Soudan affording transportation cheaper than that by the Cairo-Khartoum line. The cotton, date and gum arabic trade are expected to expand under the stimulus of higher prices for exports, while new industries will be called into being. At the same time the new railway will be handy for military purposes in case a rebellion in the Soudan should cause a "rush" call for troops.

SOVEREIGN ANYHOW.

It seems we have an American king, of Norwegian lineage, among us, out in Bessemer, Minn., in the person of Louis Muntze, who, it is said, is a descendant of Haakon V., the last independent king of Norway, who died in 1319. The so-called legitimate wing of the Storting has invited him to come back to Norway and prove his claim of long descent from royalty, as they demand the throne shall be filled by a descendant of the ancient royal line. Mr. Muntze, who left Norway on account of political trouble, has been a resident of Minnesota for ten years and has represented his district in the State Legislature. He has declined the crown, partly because of his advanced age, and partly no doubt, because he is an American sovereign.

HAMMERSLY'S LOVE COOLED

Now He Answers to a Breach of Promise Suit.

Colfax, Wash., Nov. 19.—The case of Miss Eva P. Harris against Edward C. Hammersly for alleged breach of promise to wed occupied the time of the Superior Court and jury today and will probably take all day tomorrow.

The girl went on the stand at 10 o'clock this forenoon and was still on the stand when court adjourned this evening. The testimony introduced today consisted largely of letters the plaintiff had received from the defendant during their long courtship at the rate of two each week. The letters are not as sentimental as many shown in court, but tend strongly to show that the couple were engaged to marry and that Hammersly had postponed the date of the wedding on several occasions. One date agreed for the wedding was in November, 1904, and Miss Harris got her trousseau ready when Hammersly again postponed the date and then asked in several letters, which were shown, to be released from his promise to marry and for the return of rings he had given her of which there were six. She

refused either to release him from his promise or to return the rings and letters, and he visited her and asked for his release and gave her \$20 to pay for a wedding outfit she had purchased. Soon after this visit Hammersly married Hettie Moser of Oakesdale, with whom he is now living.

Hammersly claims, in his answer, which was filed in court some time ago, that no definite time for the wedding had ever been fixed and that the engagement was only conditional. He claims it was understood that if plaintiff and defendant continued to like each other as well as when the engagement was made they should marry otherwise the engagement should be cancelled at any time either party became dissatisfied.

Hammersly is a well to do farmer living near Oakesdale. Miss Harris is the daughter of a farmer living near St. John.

Wood! Wood! Wood! Wood! Wood!

For choice dry box-wood, telephone 2064 Black, or leave orders at the Astoria Grocery. O. Nelson, "The Wood Man."

Best Liniment on Earth.

Henry D. Baldwin, Supt. City Water Works, Shullsburg, Wis. writes: "I have tried many kinds of liniment, but I have never received much benefit until I used Ballard's Snow Liniment for rheumatism and pains. I think it the best liniment on earth." 25c, 50c, and \$1.00. Sold by Hart's drug store.

Cured Consumption.

Mrs. B. W. Evans, Clearwater, Kans., writes: "My husband lay sick for three months. The doctors said that he had quick consumption. We procured a bottle of Ballard's Horehound Syrup, and it cured him. That was six years ago. Since then we have always kept a bottle in the house. We cannot do without it. For coughs and colds it has no equal." 25c, 50c, and \$1.00. Sold by Hart's drug store.

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