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WEATHER REPORT.

Portland, Dec. 13.—Western Oregon and Western Washington, Thursday: Cloudy and unsettled, probably occasional rain. Eastern Oregon: Generally fair and warmer.

DEFEATED, BUT UNDISMAYED.

The people of the City of Astoria have spoken. The Republican ticket and all it stood for, is defeated. Popular opinion in this city is for a wide open town. We rest. We know when we are beaten, and need none of the "hunches" we are certain to get. But we relinquish no atom of the ground we have taken. The Astorian is for municipal decency, now, and always and will be found right there when the fight comes up again as it is sure to do. It is for the City, now, and evermore, on the best lines that we can ascertain for its safety and progress. Let those rejoice that have cause. We would do the same, and our day is yet to come. We fought for what we held to be the cardinal issue of the hour, and have been turned down in the house of our friends. We bear no malice, we take nothing back, we are undismayed, we have our courage, we have our business, and are going to attend to it. We can look all men in the face with a sense of duty well done and have no apologies to make for our program or our canvas. The people have other ideas than ours and have made them manifest. The people are to be obeyed in all things, and we are the Astoria public's obedient servant today, tomorrow and so long as our presses are running. We emerge from the contest with a remnant of victory: Mr. James F. Kearney, for Superintendent of streets, and Mr. C. Leinenweber, Councilman for the Third Ward, were our nominees, and their election plucks the sting of defeat from the bruises of the rout.

GOVERNOR AMONG GOVERNORS.

There appears to have been no doubt whatever that the woman hanged in Vermont the other day was guilty of the murder of her husband and that the crime was committed in a particularly cold blooded, deliberate and revolting manner for the purposes of the most depraved description. There was no feature of it and no circumstance connected with it that in the least degree palliated the enormity of the crime or that suggested the slightest extenuation. It would not be just to dismiss the unwelcome theme without a word concerning the action of Governor Bell of Vermont. Seldom if ever has a chief executive been confronted with a more distasteful duty than that which came to him. The sentiments of chivalry which would move a man to treat with kindness even the most worthless woman, the realization that by executing the law he would make of himself a target for bitter denunciation and obliquity—these and a great array of other motives are doubtless strong in his mind. Above them all, however, prevailed his sense of duty—the obligation to execute the law. It was not for him to try the woman nor pass sen-

tence upon her. Those things were done by another and co-ordinate branch of the government. Neither was it for him, on grounds of sentiment or personal feeling, to set aside the solemn decree of justice. It was for him to execute the law, and in performing that duty, in circumstances of peculiar painfulness, he set an example of official fidelity and integrity worthy of the highest praise and the widest emulation.

VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS.

Advices from Eagle City, Alaska confirm the story received several months ago of the success of the Norwegian explorer, Captain Amundsen, in having located the magnetic pole and having successfully traversed the "northwest passage." Both these achievements are of material interest to explorers and add greatly to our knowledge of that illimitable frozen space bordering the northern extremity of the continent. The magnetic pole, first discovered by Sir James Clark Ross in 1831, is located about 70 degrees north latitude and 90 degrees west of Greenwich, among the islands and peninsular of the broken region bordering on the Arctic ocean. There the dipping needle assumes a vertical position. It is, however, still far to the North pole. The elusive "northwest passage" is even more interesting and has long been the object of particular search of explorers who believed that a route lay clear from the north coast of Europe almost due west to Alaska. Further reports from Captain Amundsen will be awaited with keen interest.

CAN'T HEAD HIM OFF.

The Catholic clergy of Ireland are making an effort to stop immigration to this and other countries. Ireland in proportion to its population has contributed a greater quota to the citizenship of America and Australia than any other nation. In the last fifty years a number equal to the present population of the island has come to America. While these have prospered and today constitute an influential and stable portion of the peoples of their adopted land, Ireland has suffered greatly by the depopulation. Both from a political and an economical point of view, Irish statesmen and priests believe that with home rule and long sought reform in sight the Irish should remain at home. The clergy headed by Cardinal Logue, who has issued a circular on the subject to be read in the churches, point out the dangers besetting the paths of ignorant girls landing in this country. Ireland as a nation is among the most moral in the world and the Irish girl, coming to America unprotected, possesses in her own innocence a menace to her happiness.

CRITERIONS THAT FAIL.

We have become so accustomed to having the English cities cited as an example of the successful working of municipal ownership that it is somewhat surprising to hear it declared a failure in those very places. Professor Frank P. Roberts of the University of Denver, who has been investigating public utilities in Europe, has returned with an unqualified verdict against municipal ownership. He visited Glasgow, Manchester, Liverpool, London, Brussels, Amsterdam, Antwerp, Hamburg and Berlin. He expressed the opinion that public ownership of public utilities was a failure in Europe, and predicted that in a few years, it would have few supporters even in Great Britain, where it has been popular. It would be interesting to know if he thinks it a failure in point of service or economy, or both.

STILL WITH US.

Horse lovers will be gratified to learn from the report of the Secretary of Agriculture that this valuable animal is not disappearing from the land, and that, in fact, there are more horses than ever before, and they are more valuable. The total value set by the secretary is \$1,200,000. This indicates the important fact that horse breeding must be improving in this country. Then, too, there is \$250,000,000 worth of the "equus mulus," a very useful animal in its place.

President Roosevelt won the respect and admiration of every soldier of "the lost cause" by one paragraph in his annual message—that relating to Confederate dead, especially those who died in Northern prisons. Magnanimity is never better displayed than when its results tend strongly toward obliterating sectional lines and making all feel they are brothers of a common household and fellow citizens of one common country.

Speaker Cannon has already intimated that for the present the country will have to get along with the federal

buildings now in use. The "pork barrel" will contain small consolation next year for new Representatives who are gallantly standing "for the flag—and an appropriation."

The new telephone has arrived—in East Orange. And some people still have the impression that Jersey is slow.

The su'tas and the powers seem in a fair way to get together amicably—in appearance at least.

A record breaking slaughter of Maine deer is reported for this season. The mortality among hunters and guides is not disclosed.

President Stickney of the Great Western railway, who indorses President Roosevelt's rate demands, may become known as the Big Stickney—Kansas City Star.

That New York dentist who charged Prince Louis \$1000 for filling four teeth must have been accustomed to treating insurance officers.—Detroit News.

If it is father who urges the children out of bed in the morning, instead of mother, they get up a good deal quicker.—Acheson Globe.

Talk about hitching your wagon to a star! Some men find it too expensive to hitch an automobile to a chorus girl.—Boston Globe.

It is no uncommon thing to see the stork working overtime delivering little white bundles at home where neither parent has enough intelligence to take care of a rag doll.—Acheson Globe.

CHANGE BANKING LAWS.

Illinois Manufacturers Association Suggest Improvements.

Chicago, Dec. 13.—Changes in the national banking laws which will prevent a recurrence of such financial disasters as swept the nation in 1893 were urged at the annual dinner of the Illinois Manufacturers Association last night by President Hamilton of the American Bankers Association. "We need first a properly secured elastic currency under federal control," said Mr. Hamilton. "Secondly, there should be a change in the limitations on the amount of loans, a provision that is constantly violated by all national banks. The third suggestion covers the privilege of loaning a limited amount on not to exceed 40 to 50 per cent of a fair cash value of real estate.

"I recommended also a change in the manner of selecting bank examiners and the payment to each examiner of a fixed salary with such assistants as may be required to properly perform his duties.

"The bankers of America have come to a point where they have to deal with international finance, as we are fast becoming the dominant financial power of the world, and have not only to deal with financial conditions at home, but abroad. This has brought about a new development in banking that must have legislation to protect it."

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