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WEATHER REPORT.

Portland, Dec. 20.—Western Oregon and Western Washington: Occasional rain. Eastern Oregon, Eastern Washington: Generally fair.

EDITORIAL SALAD.

Christmas and politics do not jibe. For the present we prefer the holiday spirit.

Rain, fog, hail, snow, ice—what more do you want to make Christmas realistic?

Bob Fitzsimmons feels, on December 21st, a good deal like some others felt on December 14th. What?

Tom Linville is still sheriff of Clatsop county. We merely suggest this as there are those who are inclined to forget it.

It is hoped that Portland will confine that common point rate to the three-mile coast limit, else it is likely to get away from us.

Astoria is to have a sea-wall, and a ship canal from Seaside via the Skipanon, and a Democratic administration in Clatsop county. All are expected to mature about the same time.

The next thing we know our exchanges will be referring to this place as the "Democratic City of Astoria." Very consoling, that. It is inevitable, though, if the Republicans don't organize and go after their birthright.

"Slowly, gentlemen, slowly. It takes time to 'open up' a city. Everything comes to him who waits. Those that have paid for the policy will not see their god money wasted. Slow, but sure, it is.

Well, well! How about that reorganization? It has got to come, and the sooner the better. Clatsop county is no "hand out" for the Democrats however generous the people of Astoria have been to them. Get your "thinkers" at work, and never mind overtime.

Astoria, and all the other Portland suburbs, are supposed to get in line to make a common point of the high seas just west of the State. It would never do to make this port amenable to such an advantage. To admit Astoria to the privilege would be open confession that she was on the map, something Portland has never done yet.

Who's got the sand to tackle the Black Sand proposition as it should be tackled? Is Astoria going to dawdle away her golden opportunity in this relation? Is she to have the supreme values inherent in this marvelous development, or are they to be frittered off into foreign hands and pockets? It is her's to say. NOW. It will be too late in a short time. Dr. Day has made her chances very manifest and has done it in season for her acceptance. It is up to Astoria.

There is just about time enough to get that famous new hotel in line for the coming tourist season. All it takes is a site, some building materials, some skilled workmen, a little money and a good deal of public spirit. "The last shall be first" in this proposition, however.

Why not make Astoria a common rate point and haul the wheat here from the interior by rail. It will save a lot of trouble, and the towage will then be absorbed sure enough.

Yes, Miss Alice, if one can't have both, Longworth is better than long green.

With her banks full of money and her granaries overflowing, nobody is now asking, "What ails Kansas?"

Now that the pass has been ordered up, its holder will have to discard and take up the spade.

It looks as if the "big stick" would show numerous dents before the end of the Congressional session.

We suggest that as a substitute for football the colleges buy a lot of old locomotives and have collisions on the gridiron.

The country will be filled with widows after February 27th next. Johann Hoch is to be executed on that date.

The best remedy for the hostile Boston gentleman who has been trying to lift himself by his bootstraps is to try wearing shoes.

Also football is the only game in which every dub who ever wore a uniform is styled "famous" by the discriminating young sporting writers.

And if in two or three years the national Democracy sees a man at the front door with a crutch, it can ask Mr. W. R. Hearst in to tell about the awful accident.

They are closing up hotel bars in Boston because they are within 400 feet of a school. You can't get close enough to see a Boston man without being within 400 feet of a whole university.

The Kennebec "Journal" says the Secretary of the Navy has discovered that the subject of "Old Ironsides" is loaded. It was, it was; and great was the recoil thereof, commonly called "kick."

A Cincinnati man committed suicide right after writing a poem. If some way could be fixed to have the poems all killed, the country would be willing the Cincinnati poets should continue to walk the earth.

Word comes from Ontario that all the cadets in the Royal Military College at Kingston are under orders to raise mustaches. "Orders is orders," but what if hair refuses to be coaxed out, as sometimes happens? Would a court-martial for disobedience of orders follow?

It's funny how the nervous speaker at a banquet thinks he is the only sufferer, while his hearers have to keep their minds fixed on the bills coming due the first of the month, in order not to appear disrespectful.

We imported one hundred and fifty million dollars' worth of sugar this year to sweeten our dispositions and ruin our teeth. Our insular possessions benefited largely by having grown a portion of the crop.

Karl Brill, Harvard tackle, renounces football after ten years in the game—can't see that it requires any gray matter and calls it brutal. Took a long time for this to percolate through his gray matter. Until Mr. Brill grass up a little for speed, he'd better stay close to the Panama Canal.

When cotton bolls run the price up on the strength of rain in Texas, after the crop has been ginned, is it any wonder that a few of us occasionally send money over to Spain to support the beautiful young heiress whose guardian is locked up in a Spanish dungeon.

The removal from the payroll of the crew of Relief Lightship No. 58, at Nantucket, from the moment their ship sank, is perhaps the most extreme exemplification of the beauties of red tape yet afforded to an admiring public. The Lighthouse Board is responsible for this brilliant stroke of discipline and economy. But the prompt action of Secretary Metcalf in ruling that "red tape don't go in this matter," or words to that effect, is the right word in the right place. He intends the men shall not be forgotten nor any injustice done them.

There is a little two-story brick house in Philadelphia in which more than a million Americans, scattered all over the United States, own a share. It is No. 239 Arch street, and is the house in which the first American flag was made. This little building, with its million owners, may be cited to Secretary Bonaparte as showing the sentimental and patriotic side of American character, to which Old Ironsides also makes a powerful appeal.

Representative Golden expects to introduce a bill appropriating \$25,000 a year to light the Statue of Liberty in New York harbor. Whether or not that is a proper sum is a question for electricians to decide. But one thing is certain—the statue ought either to be suitably lighted or left in darkness.

NEW PRIVATE SYSTEM.

Chicago Municipal Water System Does Not Pay.

Chicago, Dec. 21.—A plan for a privately owned system of water works inside of and independent of the municipal ownership water plant is now being worked out by the stockyards interests. It contemplates a plant supplying nearly one billion gallons of water a month.

The promise is that if the franchise can be obtained the water will be furnished to the company's consumers for not more than 2½ cents a thousand gallons and probably two cents. The city's rate to wholesale users is now four cents and runs from that to ten cents to those who buy less quantities. The city is losing money on the four-cent rate.

The advantage the proposed company would have over the city would be the fact that it supplied but a limited territory with the water close at hand and this territory would contain some of the largest water users in Chicago.

As far as figures have been made out they show that water can be furnished at from two cents to 2½ cents a thousand gallons. This would mean a loss in supplying the small consumers but that would be a small part of the business. The plan is that the large packers shall be the stockholders and they would get their profits out of the reduction in the price they have to pay for water.

CHANGE OF TIME

The Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Commencing Sunday, November 19, train No. 6, the Royal Blue Limited, will leave Grand Central passenger station, Chicago at 5 p. m., instead of 3:30 p. m. and will arrive in Pittsburgh at 6:35 a. m., Washington at 4:40 p. m., Baltimore 5:50 p. m., Philadelphia, 8:19 p. m., New York 10:40 p. m. the same as with the old schedule, thus reducing the time one hour and thirty minutes. No excess fare will be charged on this fast limited train. All other trains will arrive and depart the same as formerly. Stop-over is allowed at Washington, Baltimore and Philadelphia, not to exceed ten days, at each place, on all first-class through tickets.

DIES IN LONDON.

New York, Dec. 21.—Word was received in this city yesterday of the death in London, of Horatio Ray Miller, of this city. Mr. Miller died of pneumonia on the eve of his departure for this country, after a tour in Europe.

TORTURE AND HUMILIATION

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"I was afflicted with sciatica," writes Ed. C. Nud, Iowa, Sedgwick Co., Kan., going about on crutches and suffering a deal of pain. I was induced to try Ballard's Snow Liniment, which relieved me.

I used three 50c bottles. It is the greatest liniment I ever used; have recommended it to a number of persons; all express themselves as being benefited by it. I now walk without crutches, able to perform a great deal of light labor on the farm" 25c, 50c and \$1.00.

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