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WEATHER REPORT.

Western Oregon, Western Washington—Occasional rain.
Eastern Oregon, Eastern Washington—Probably fair.

HISTORICAL PRE-EMINENCE.

Astoria, outside of San Francisco, holds the most remarkable historical prestige of any city on the American line of the Pacific Coast, and its pre-eminence in this way presupposes a very definite interest in the perpetuation of the sites and relies upon which her conspicuous notability is founded. There is, however, a noticeable dearth of genuine interest here, or, at least, in the higher expression of it, that is to be deplored, and the recent steps taken by the Oregon Historical Society to fix, and embellish the great sites of historical value in this neighborhood, should be a palpable hint for the open exercise of a larger and broader local concern in this direction. No stone should be left unturned that offers even the remotest influence in furthering the success of the memorial now under way, asking Congress for an appropriation for the erection of a suitable monument on the site of Fort Clatsop, and in the earnest efforts of the membership of that organization here, for the other and minor things that are so peculiarly essential.

TOADYISM RAMPANT.

Now comes some sycophantic ass in Eastern Oregon, with Baker City for a habitat, who proposes to raise a popular subscription of \$800,000 as a national wedding gift for Miss Alice Roosevelt, to be delivered to her on the eve of her marriage to Congressman Longworth, in February.

The idea is sickening to the normal American mind, and a hideous insult to the young lady and her prospective groom. Miss Roosevelt has carried herself with the inherent dignity and modesty of a true American girl since her father was called into the lime-light of national life, and has studiously repelled all overtures, and opportunities, for undue personal exploitation, and now, at the most serious, and happiest, juncture of her life, to thrust such an unheard of suggestion upon her is a deliberate insult and one that has been promptly and unequivocally resented, since it reached dimensions that called it to the notice of her family.

The spirit of a today is behind such a proposition.

LOTS OF GOOD THINGS.

The Astorian is not opposed to a seawall. It believes in the scheme entirely, and will foster and urge it under proper conditions and at the acceptable time, but it has other and better notions of local development; it does not believe in a seawall until it has ships to range along its entire length whose manifests shall show them to be in their port of

destination and departure. In other words we believe, first, in securing terminal advantages for this city; this is primarily essential to the use and maintenance of a sea-wall. Why build a \$300,000 improvement for ninety-five per cent of the shipping to pass by unwittingly? Spend that same handsome sum in securing a forty-foot channel on the bar and establishing permanent terminal facilities here, and the seawall, and all other commercial advantages, will accrue as if by magic. There is such a thing as consecutive order in public development and enterprise.

EDITORIAL SALAD.

There is still danger of foreigners being Shanghai'd in China.

This general Russian strike is believed to be the real thing—no imitation.

Among other crop items it is noticed that the Dakota divorce crop holds its own.

And Robert Fitzsimmons knows that the paths of glory lead but to the solar plexus.

The National Cotton Association has the rest of the winter now to patch up its reputation.

Another general strike, to illustrate the great statistical fact that everybody works but Russia.

Iron ore is patiently legging it along to keep in the running with copper ore, and is doing very well.

This is a terribly anxious moment for Charlie Murphy. McClellan is "considering" the Boss' slate "on its merits."

Dr. Osler is now reporting on how men die, but the principal feature probably is that they do it too tardily to suit him.

The action in-itself may be hasty, but it also sounds fast to say that the people abroad are in a rush to sell Russian securities.

It is due for some irrational economist to complain of the immense amount of money spent for the entertainment of children at Christmas.

It is darkly hinted that if the Assembly of the State of New York is not good it will be held down and made to listen to twenty-seven columns of a President's message.

The Omaha Bee speaks of Julius Hahn as the member of Congress "who was an actor." Some of Mr. Hahn's enemies insist he is more of an actor now than he ever was.

"Scotty," the Death Valley miner who holds the Pacific Coast heavyweight championship as a fast spender, is missing and the Society of United Bunco Steerers is greatly perturbed.

The District Attorney of New York county is now hunting up some insurance testimony, which will doubtless result in Mr. W. T. Jerome laying bare some fault in our system of government in a rattling speech.

A mass convention of farmers in New York has called upon Senators Platt and Dewey to resign. This action may encourage Benjamin B. Odell to call for the resignations of President Roosevelt and Governor Higgins.

The people of Richmond are to be congratulated. They have at last voted to form a municipality which is not a mere side-show to certain manufacturing plants. They have taken the initial step toward building a real city.

A New Zealand author wrote a book and then shot a Chinaman to get some advertising. There will be one author less in the antipodes. Still, even that inexpensive method of calling attention to a weak exclusion law cannot be commended.

F. Nakamura, of Japan, agent there for the Standard Oil Company, and a heavy flour importer, visited Portland last week as the guest of Theodore B. Wilcox, president of the Portland Flouring Mills Company. Mr. Nakamura is on a tour of the world.

Mr. Perry Belmont is at pains to write to a leading Manhattan paper which printed his name as one of the guests at James Hazen Hyde's dinner to Sarah Bernhardt that he wasn't there, and wasn't invited. The Divine Sarah socially, plus Mr. Hyde, is more even than the sporting Perry can stand.

German socialists are holding Russia

up as a horrible example to the kaiser. If the versatile German ruler has the wit to read the signs of the times he will loosen up on some of that God-given rulership before these same socialists begin to tell him to step lively.

Plainfield, N. J., has decided against the wicked and demoralizing game of golf on Sunday. How dare anyone wish to go out and tramp over yards and yards of grass, swinging their limbs and breathe the pure air when they had the privilege of remaining at home and maintaining a long face!

The Chico Post says Senator DOLLIVER of Maine has introduced a railway rate bill. Has Maine been accorded the unconstitutional privilege of sending three Senators to Congress? We were not aware that Senators Hale and Frye had a colleague. But perhaps the Post has Senator DOLLIVER of Iowa in mind.

The American railway interests are reported to have come to the decision to co-operate with the government in the enforcement of the laws to prevent the giving of freight rebates. The Western Railway interests are largely instrumental in the move and it is said that the new policy will be put into effect by January 1.

China is sending to this country a commission to study commercial and political situations. Tsiang Fong, governor of the province of Hunan, will head the section of the delegation coming to New York. Another section including Prince Tsai Chai and Grand Counselor Hsu Kwon Chi will arrive in Seattle next February.

No people have even been so badly plundered as the people of the United States during the last ten years, exclaims an indignant exchange. Possibly so, possibly so, and no other people on the earth have had so much left after being robbed. Thank God the trust barons and gold-bribe salesmen have left enough in our jeans to buy a few Christmas presents. Things are not nearly so bad as they might be.

The deplorable tragedy at Ukiah, which cost Sheriff Smith of Mendocino county his life and came near adding the Superior Judge to the list of victims, was the direct result of official carelessness. The Sheriff brought a desperate, half-breed maniac into court to be examined for insanity without taking the ordinary precaution to

search him for deadly weapons. He forfeited his life by his negligence. His fate should be a warning to other peace officers who are disposed to be careless and negligent in dealing with lunatics and criminals.

A rural postman in France, with clever, patient fingers, has just completed the building of an extraordinary miniature palace. His name is Ferdinand Cheval of Hauterives, in the Department of the Drome, and it took him twenty-six years to achieve his design. This palace has been the dream of his life, which he realized it with the help of stones picked up by the wayside when making his rounds. The eastern and western facades of this marvelous structure are each twenty-eight yards long, the northern facade is fifteen yards long, and the southern ten yards. In height it varies from nine to ten yards. The whole exterior of palace is covered of plants, animals, and human beings, real and mythological, chiseled in the stones. The entrance to the palace is in the form of an Arab mosque, with crescent and spires.

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