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TELEPHONE MAIN 661.

WEATHER.

Oregon and Washington—
Rain, south to easterly.

TILLAMOOK-ASTORIA-ABERDEEN.

The Astoria initiative that is to become responsible for the early construction of the railway line, hence to Tillamook, will prove an incentive in the hastening of the Northern Pacific plan of building from Pe Ell southward to Knappton. This would give direct and quick transportation between the Gray's Harbor metropolis and the lively city on the south of us, and make Astoria an entrepot for the whole traffic of that belt of coast country. There is everything to gain and nothing to lose in the quick handling of this advantageous improvement, and the quicker the better for all concerned. Dawdling never brings realization. It takes snap, and snap means getting there the first, possible moment. The first, possible moment is the present moment; and the present moment is just as available as any other and a whole lot more so, because you cannot tell what instant some one is going to butt in, and a "butter" with a snap is just as effective as far as initiative goes, as any other agency. Take hold, somebody!

TO BE COMMENDED.

The fact that the (dominant) Democratic party is wholly committed to the opening up of the city has never been doubted for a single instant; in fact, there is unequivocal evidence on all sides to support the conclusion. This being the case, they are to be commended for pursuing the doctrine along the "licensed" line they have adopted. Licensed vice, is vice practically controlled, and controlled vice is better than vice unrestrained. It is also a source of some gratification to know that the vicious element of the city is to be compelled to "ante" to the public revenue, in behalf of that exceeded limit of municipal debt; that police revenues are not alone to be rehabilitated, but that the bulk of the vice-money is to find its way to the city treasury through the more reputable channel of the business office of the city; there is a very practical deficit to be made up, and as bonding the current warrant indebtedness is out of the running, the next, and most feasible plan is the one to which the Democratic administration is now undeniably pledged.

WELL! WHAT ABOUT IT?

In an humble way the Astorian has endeavored for the last few weeks to place before the reading public the vital question of building a railway hence to Tillamook, via the Nehalem, and will continue to keep the enterprise in the center of local consideration until it is forced to realize that the road is not wanted, or that there is no initiative here to build it; but as it goes, it would like to hear from some other sources in relation to the matter, if, even, in the way of direct opposition, for that would give us something to scrap for; nor would it be averse to a word of encouragement in the premises, for that too would furnish a text for further argument in behalf of the project; or if some one would raise a doubt, or a

dubious chain of conjecture, or a half-hearted protest, or any old thing to fasten to, as a basis of debate, it would be appreciated, for a one-sided, single-handed, lonesome fan-fare however notable and excellent the theme, becomes monotonous and loses its efficacy and point. Let go somebody, and give us a fighting chance! We mean business!

DEATH NO TERROR.

The old saying "Lazy men take the most pains," has had a curious exemplification out in St. Louis by the confession of a man who was the principal actor in an exhibition of supposed mesmerism which mystified hundreds last summer. For six days this man, George Hausman, lay in a coffin under ground, apparently unconscious, without food or drink, under mesmeric influence. Hausman now says he never was really unconscious, but was constantly supplied with fresh air through a tube inserted ostensibly to allow the curious a view of the body lying in the coffin. At night food and water were lowered through the tube, and the lid of the coffin, by an ingenious contrivance, could be moved in the box enclosing it. Hausman admits it required great patience to lie there for six days, but says there was no danger or great discomfort attached to the task, showing how much rest some people can stand. He got \$1 a day for the job. To any one but a person with the hobo tendency this would seem harder than work.

THE WHITE SCOURGE.

Latterday theories of the cure of consumption scout the idea that it is always necessary to send the patient to another climate. One may have consumption on the top of the Rockies, for the disease primarily is the result of improper food and the breathing of impure air. Cabin recluses on Mount Blanc may have consumption and sufferers from the scourge may be cured in almost any climate, if scientific treatment is administered, although moist air is not so beneficial as dry air. But air, air, plenty of air, breathed deep into the lungs, is the prime essential. Segregation, cruel as it is, is becoming known as essential and this theory is generally adopted will put on stop to the practice of sending consumptives into the southwest and to the Pacific; where they communicate to others a disease which would spread far less if there were no intercourse. The Great White Scourge carries off more people annually than any other malady; its treatment must be not sentimental but practical. Under the advancement of science, it grows steadily less fatal and the day may come when it will disappear almost entirely.

FUR EXAMPLE.

"I toss this apple into the air," said Carlyle. "The earth rises up to meet it and the stars bow down to do it homage." No more interdependent for position are the earths of this solar system than the civilized nations of the world. A current incident strikingly illustrates this truth. The prices of furs have fallen because the Russian nobility long the chief patrons of the industry, are too busy saving their own skins to purchase those of lower animals. In consequence, the American matron is a gainer and the North American trapper must smoke a cheaper grade of tobacco.

NERVE WILL DO IT.

Uncle Sam's big steel dry dock, which is likely to be a pretty wet dock before it arrives, is fairly on her way to the Philippines, a journey of 12,000 miles. This is the first attempt at transporting so huge a structure so great a distance, and not a few doubts of the success of the experiment are expressed. But let us hope Uncle Sam's good luck will follow him in this matter as in others. Then, too, there's the name of the thing, "Devey." That should count. At the same time a huge raft of logs is on its way from the California coast to the islands. After all it is audacity that wins, as Bonaparte was wont to say, and these feats are certainly audacious to the limit.

A Chicago woman has solved the problem of loafing husbands. Her old man could not be begged, coaxed or driven to work, so she bought a gramophone with a single record which played all day "Everybody works but father, he sits 'round all day." In a few days it "got to his nerves" and he struck out and got a permanent job. Seems to be entirely cured.

A Mr. Gowdy has achieved some notoriety by asserting that American homes are overheated. It is perfectly plain that Mr. Gowdy never lived in a Portland flat.

Men who swore off are thankful that New Year's does not come oftener than every twelve months.

A professional cistern cleaner tells that at least once a year each housewife should put a cupful of common baking soda into the cistern. It not only kills all insect life that may be within the water, but renders it softer and better for all purposes, even for drinking. It will make cleaning unnecessary unless trash has been dropped into the cistern.

A gentleman tells of a school teacher in Rochester who had difficulty with several mischievous boys. One day, when one of them had given her a great deal of annoyance she said to him: "I wish I could be your mother for just one week; I would rid you of your naughty disposition. "Very well, I will speak to father about it," promptly replied the lad.

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