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**WEATHER.**

Oregon and Washington —  
Light rain or snow.

**AMONG OTHER GOOD THINGS.**

The constitution, the code and tradition have imposed upon the people of Oregon in the frequency and multiplicity of elections. It is time amendments were being pushed forward for the mitigation of what is really an evil in more ways than one. The electoral latitude should be reduced as fast as time will permit the adjudication, until the national, state, municipal, school and district elections shall all fall on the first Monday in June. The year 1906 is an apt period for beginning a crusade for relief from the burden of constant and annoying friction, for nearly all the cities will be preparing charter amendments for consideration in the coming legislature and there ought to be a general movement throughout the State in this behalf. As electoral conditions are at present, the people have no rest from the demands that cannot be negatived nor ignored without an impeachment of local spirit and good citizenship. Elections are all right, and very necessary, but they are too numerous; they disturb business, and agitate and unsettle communities, besides involving the various governmental elements in far greater expense than is necessary. There is everything to urge a revision in this matter, and it is hoped the charter commission of this city, and all others similarly engaged in revising and amending the laws incident to elections will bear in mind the express advantage of merging the whole system under one, uniform, electoral date.

**GETTING INTO LINE.**

Postmaster-General Cortelyou, who is understood to make no concealment of his aspirations to be the next Republican nominee for President, is pretty sure to have at least the support of that large and respectable body, the postmasters of the country, in whose behalf he puts in an earnest plea for an increase in their pay, saying: "While in recent years the rate of living has increased, particularly in large cities, there has been no corresponding advance in the remuneration of postal employees, as there has been in the case of persons employed outside of the service. This is a subject that should receive the earnest attention of the congress and it is hoped that a scale of salaries and a system for their adjustment can be devised that will place the question of compensation on a more satisfactory basis." Just as though the postmasters and employees are not receiving enough pay. Find some other excuse.

Uncle Sam's next battle ships are planned for 18,000 tons and a speed of twenty-one knots. Naval strategists are working for greater swiftness in all classes of war vessels, battle ships having been moved up to the speed formerly obtained only in cruisers. Anything that makes a ship faster will be approved, even by the peace societies.

**EDITORIAL SALAD.**

The fire loss in Chicago in 1905 was \$3,986,720.

There have been all-told 750 lives lost in an endeavor to reach the north pole. The first expedition was made in 1533.

Try and make this year 1906 the best year you ever lived. You can do it if you will only say it and then try hard.

Over \$5,000,000 revenue will be produced as a result of the first year's operation of the stock transfer law in New York State.

All Uncle Sam's soldiers, in every quarter of the globe, were treated to turkey and plum pudding on Christmas by order of the government.

A California man thinks he has found out how to make hens lay whether they feel like it or not. Isn't this taking a mean advantage of poor dumb things?

Emperor William has put an additional tax of \$15,000,000 a year on beer. If Germany survives this despotic oppression she is certainly revolution-proof.

Rev. John Scudder of New York, pastor of the Congregational Church, is going to teach the women of his flock how to shoot and thus prepare them to fight burglars.

A recent visit of the stork to the home of Secretary and Mrs. Loeb shows that the secretary is determined to hold his place in the affections of President Roosevelt.

In Russia a red flag may have a double meaning: either that another war has broken out or that somebody has thrown the government into an auctioneer's hands.

Philadelphia horses are suffering from azoturia, a disease said to be due to too much rest and overfeeding after the Christmas rush of hauling. The holiday diet is trying to man and beast.

Missouri's valuation for taxation this year is \$1,358,000,000. Ten years ago it was \$938,000,000. The taxable property in St. Louis as returned in 1905 exceeds that of the entire state in 1867.

Statistics show that the amount of beer consumed in the United States would allow six glasses to each individual. If every person had drunk their pro-rata share the course of intemperance would be unknown.

Joseph S. Neave, whose fortune is estimated at several millions, has accepted the post of the street cleaning department of Cincinnati, declaring that he desired the office to give the city the cleanest streets possible.

Postmaster-General Cortelyou advocates the revocation of the franking privilege, which cost the government a loss of nearly \$20,000,000 last year. The postmaster-general may now expect to be severely snubbed by the garden seed congressmen.

Herbert H. D. Peires, third assistant secretary of state, who will be the first United States minister to Norway, entered the diplomatic service in 1894 and has since held important posts. His first appointment was as secretary of the United States embassy at St. Petersburg, where he stayed until 1898.

A new kind of slavery which has grown up in the last few years is the employment of young children. In southern mills there are 50,000 children under the age of 14, working from ten to fourteen hours a day, besides being compelled to work alternate nights. Four or five years ago there were only 24,000.

Secretary Shaw and the United States treasurer are defendants in a suit instituted in the federal court to recover from the government the value of twenty-five steamboats alleged to have been taken from James E. Montgomery during the civil war by men representing themselves to be military officers of the United States.

**Cured Lumbago.**  
A. B. Canman, Chicago, writes March 4, 1903. "Having been troubled with lumbago, at different times and tried one physician after another then different ointments and liniments, gave it up altogether. So I tried once more, and got a bottle of Ballard's Snow Liniment, which gave me almost instant relief. I can cheerfully recommend it, and will add my name to your list of sufferers." Sold by Hart's drug store.

**GRADES COME FIRST**

Important Work Necessary By the Common Council.

**SEAWALL PRIME FEATURE**

But Essential That Base of Grades be Changed, and Established so as to Permit Building of Pretensions—Edifices With Serviceable Drainage.

That a seawall along the Astoria waterfront is to be built sometime, goes without saying. It is one of the cherished plans of local development, and has the tacit sanction of every progressive citizen here; no one doubts its ultimate construction and when the time is ripe it will take definite and workable shape. It is among the predestined things that belong, inherently, to the community.

But there is much to do before it will be realized; preliminary and pre-requisite steps that must be taken to pave the way for its proper fulfillment; and among these, is the re-establishment of the municipal base of grades, to a point sufficiently high to permit the raising of the business houses in the business portion of the city, say between Grand, or Franklin avenue, on the south; Sixth street on the west, and Fifteenth street on the east.

This district well covers the commercial center of the city and probably will do so for years to come. The lower levels of this territory are far too low, even now, for the purposes of proper drainage, and to put that sewer output into the harbor channel, at a point not below highwater mark, beyond the seawall, and give adequate flow from cellars that must be built underneath the larger and more modern structures contemplated, will raise the entire business level of the city from four to nine feet;—this demands a brand new and radical change in the official grades incident to the area named.

There is now an important projected structure that must await the determination of these newer grades before it can be safely proceeded with, as a large sum of money is to be laid out on the building, and until it is known just what the new levels are to be, it is practically held up.

There is still another building venture, involving a big outlay of money for a thoroughly modern structure that is now in abeyance because its projectors dare not proceed, until the maximum and minimum grades incident to the construction of the seawall, and of the business section, are determined. These are potent facts. The principal cause for the withholding of these valuable schemes of commercial improvement, lies in the fact that these (and all other future) buildings are to be built with deep basements, to accommodate the storage and machinery facilities of the houses. Elevators are included in the plans for all modern buildings, and heating plants, furnaces and other accessories that belong to basement and of such outfits; these cannot be supplied unless there is an adequate fall to the tide levels beyond the wall that is proposed.

Therefore the grades of the city must first be looked to, and put upon a basis of points of reception, carriage and discharge as to make them practicable and potent for the exacting duty required.

There are other matters needed, in the preface work of the seawall, but this being the most imperative, is suggested first; the others will be tried in due time.

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