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WEATHER.

Oregon and Washington—Fair.

ELECTRICAL TRANSPORTATION.

Electricity is the last and best potentiality in human affairs. It is in its incipient stages as yet, and its development, meagre as it is, gives infinite promise to all men, of mitigating their burdens at the lowest element of cost, in the early future. The application that has been made of the tremendous force, to date, is raw and crude, to the ultimate, finished processes yet to come; and the limitless possibilities of its use are beyond the conception even of its closest students. At present, it finds most graphic and serviceable expression, in the speed and power incident to short-haul transportation. It is supplanting steam on every hand, even at the hands of the company's flourishing under the steam system. It is entering every field in the world, in this behalf, and has made its debut in the world of Astoria. Electric trains will at an early day be whirling in and out of this center on a radii that shall leave no adjacent community unserved and unconnected with the outer sphere of commercial life. We don't know much about the details of the present alleged scheme that has been hatched here for the past few months, and we cannot find anyone that does know (though many make a pretense of knowing, and peddling the information for certainty), but we do know that it is obvious and logical and right, that such a development should attach itself to a community of this size, and are not worrying over the lesser features of ownership, direction, equipment and ultimate service. These are matters that will adjust themselves to the exigencies of business demand. The chief concern with any community in such behalf, is that it is to have the benefit of such an utility in its midst as a permanent and organic attribute.

THE IMPROVEMENT CLUBS.

The organization of the four local improvement clubs in this city is a step on the road to development, and the compass of the work done by these clusters of live citizens, may reach even beyond the limits of the city itself and accomplish something, or at least launch something, that will be of still larger and more potent interest than the mere embellishment and equipment of the municipality. Anything, done by anybody, that has the goal of Astoria as an incentive, must of necessity awaken an active sense of her requirements, both local, and contributory, and the results will not be long in making themselves manifest in very practical fashion. It is high time the spirit of improvement and progress should assert itself in this city, and if the new clubs are to take the initiative and open the avenues of advance, then so much more will the credit for the departure by Mrs. Every man in Astoria should be a membership in the new agency, pushing the town to the front, and he who has not, must account himself remiss.

EDITORIAL SALAD.

This is a bad year for the "grafters." Also for the faddists and fanciers.

It is announced that "Japan won't buy the Philippines." That is fortunate, especially as they are not for sale.

Of course, is Odell were a suspicious man he might think the President did not like him.—Chicago News.

Some very interesting interviews are being obtained from Western football coaches on how it feels to be abolished.

Apparently a majority of Congress think Arizona and New Mexico will make fine States; but would any of them promise to live there?

Still, Senator Lodge would better be careful how he denies a third term to President Roosevelt without consulting Mr. Jacob Riis.

Furthermore, Mr. Bryan has the good taste to represent himself in the Orient as a newspaper reporter, and not a journalist.—Kansas City Times.

A drought is reported from New Jersey. What, not let the suffering people have water in those New Jersey corporation stocks?—Atlanta Journal.

Senator Gorman has decided to retire from the leadership, which has been showing a strong proclivity for retiring from him.—Brooklyn Standard-Union.

"What is it," demanded the preacher, "that brings the most comfort to a man in time of trial?"

"An acquittal," grunted Judge Grubbs, waking up suddenly.—Cleveland Leader.

Canada joyously claims prosperity, which doubtless means that some of our own is being crowded over the border.—New York World.

Most of the Tammany leaders must have lost their voices. Don't hear any of them shouting, "Four, four, four years more."—New York Herald.

The proud Philadelphia's Christmas boast and toast: "Here's to us! We stuff our turkeys still, but not our ballot boxes."—Philadelphia Record.

A Cincinnati millionaire has undertaken the job of cleaning that city's streets. Another man who thinks it a disgrace to die rich.—Chicago Journal.

The country now waits to see whether or not the grave and reverend Senate will forbid the banns in the case of Arizona and New Mexico.

President Castro, like the boy waiting in the woodshed, would probably be glad to know what France is going to do and have it over as soon as possible.

Now that it is discovered that one member of the Taft party to the Philippines failed to register for the passenger list, it is explained that Cupid did not know whether to hail from Cincinnati or Washington.

"You wouldn't think of watering your milk."

"No," answered Farmer Curntassel. "The best I can do now is to capitalize my dairy business and water the stock."—Washington Star.

The French government is said to favor disciplining Venezuela by laying an embargo on Venezuelan products. Is this to be construed as a delicate compliment to our great inventor of non-intercourse and other warlike war methods, the Hon. Thomas Jefferson?

Among the changes brought by the whirligig of time the announcement that Dr. Jameson as Prime Minister is willing to grant representative government to the Transvaal and Orange River Colony is one of the strangest from the point of view of a decade ago.

"Don't you ever have moments when you feel like doing something absolutely ridiculous?"

"Oh, yes. For instance, when you proposed to me the other day there was a minute when I had an insane impulse to accept you."—Cleveland Leader.

William Allen White in the Emporia Gazette says that "until the Kansas delegation in Congress is graded up, until the rants and sermons and long-horns are culled out of the delegation, Kansas will not amount to much in the nation." It strikes us that what's the matter with several other States in the Union besides Kansas.

The influences that moulded the English style of Henry James and Grover Cleveland have evidently reached the uttermost parts of the earth. The Behmanland News proposes to leave certain people "in the tenorosity of their brutality, grotesqueness and barbarism."

Of course it is a matter of interest that a new substitute for tobacco is reported to be found. It certainly is more cheerful news than the most frequent announcement that, despite all efforts of the family physician, a new substitute for the tobacco user has had to be found.

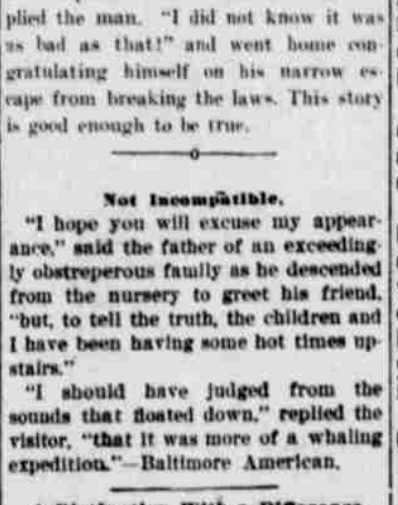
Is there danger in diamonds, or only hazard in handshakes? The question is an interesting and important one. The mayor of Mount Vernon is suffering from blood-poisoning and a badly swollen hand, and attributes it to having had the knuckle of his forefinger scratched by one of the diamond rings of a woman caller. The mayor, who is also a doctor, is reported as saying he will probably "cut out" handshaking at public receptions, or with official callers in future. The idea is a good one. No other people but ours practice promiscuous handshaking, and it certainly has its disadvantages.

A man 62 years old is a prisoner in one of Brooklyn's hospitals on a charge of attempted suicide. This is a penal offense, under New York law, but they are more severe, it appears, in France, according to the story of the policeman who intercepted a despondent citizen who was about to plunge from the Pont Neuf into the Seine. "What are you about to do?" inquired the gendarme. "To end my unhappy existence," replied the man. "Do you not know," asked the officer sternly, "that suicide is a capital crime?" "Mon Dieu," replied the man. "I did not know it was as bad as that!" and went home congratulating himself on his narrow escape from breaking the laws. This story is good enough to be true.

Not incompatible. "I hope you will excuse my appearance," said the father of an exceedingly obstreperous family as he descended from the nursery to greet his friend, "but, to tell the truth, the children and I have been having some hot times upstairs."

"I should have judged from the sounds that floated down," replied the visitor, "that it was more of a whaling expedition."—Baltimore American.

A Distinction With a Difference.



The Traveler—Are these all the sandwiches you've got to eat? The Refreshment Room Attendant—I've got to eat 'em, bless yer. I've got to try and sell 'em.—Punch.

Thoughtful of Him. Anxious Mother—What did you do with the medicine the doctor left for you, dear? Tommy—A poor little sick boy around the corner didn't have any, so I gave it to him.—Brooklyn Life.

Evidence. Briggs—Do you mean to say that you slept outdoors all winter? Aren't you cold? Griggs—Cold! Why, when the doctor took out my appendix the other day it was chapped.—Life.

Good Time For Will. Patience—Will proposed last night. Patrice—I expected as much. "Why so?" "There was a bargain sale in engagement rings advertised yesterday."—Yonkers Statesman.

A Very Short Time. Mrs. McCall—They haven't been keeping house very long, have they? Mrs. Hiram Offen—Gracious, no. Why, she can recall the names of all the servant girls they have had.—Baltimore News.

The Question. "If I were to ask you a question, what would your answer be?" "I said one day to a lassie gay, 'I really don't know,'" said she.

"It depends on the kind of question." "It's a secret," I replied. "Concerning us two, but chiefly you." And I looked in her eyes and sighed.

"If I were to ask you that question, what would your answer be?" She smiled, "I guess it would be 'Yes.'" And she archly looked at me.

"I thought I was not mistaken," said I, "my lady fair." "I guessed 'twas so. What I wanted to know was this: Do you dye your hair?" The Morning Astorian, 65c a month.

The Yellow Fever Germ. has recently been discovered. It bears a close resemblance to the malaria germ. To free the system from disease germs, the most effective remedy is Dr. King's New Life Pills, guaranteed to cure all diseases due to malaria poison and constipation. 25c, at Chas. Rogers' Drug Store.

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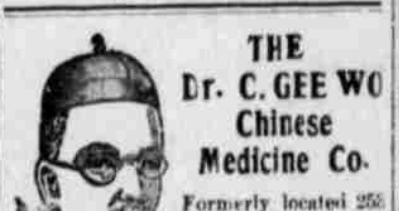
E. H. Jones, Pastor M. E. Church, Grove, Md., writes: "About seven or eight years ago I had a very severe cold which physicians said was very near pneumonia, and which they afterwards pronounced consumption. Through a friend I was induced to try a sample of Foley's Honey and Tar, which gave me so much relief that I bought some of the regular size. Two or three bottles cured me of what the physicians called consumption, and I have never had any trouble with my throat or lungs since that time."

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