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TELEPHONE MAIN 66.
 Official paper of Clatsop county and the City of Astoria.

WEATHER.

- Western Oregon and Washington—Showers.
- Eastern Oregon and Washington—Showers and thunder storms.

EVERYTHING PROPITIOUS.

Mercantile groups have no trouble in affiliating for the purpose of controlling a local market price upon given commodities within the purview of the group's line of business; there is no tangible, nor legal row raised over such schemes, until they become utterly unbearable; it is the very thing the insurance companies have done, in the matter of the 25 per cent advance in the western rates of insurance, and against which the merchant and every other man of affairs and property is kicking vigorously; what is sauce for the insurance goose is sauce for the uninsured gander, and there never was a more propitious moment for the application of the retaliatory principle; the law makes it possible, or, at least, it does not forbid it in terms. Therefore, it is wise to set about the organization of mutual insurance circles in this and all other local spheres where the advance bears with undue weight, if only to prove that men of integrity and snap can and will carry the burdens that move others to rob. Think it out, for a while, and call a mass meeting. There is wisdom in numbers!

EDITORIALETTES.

Stand from under! This is the season for appointing charter committees!

There is a swinging differences in Astoria under her clouds and Astoria flood the other with an intensity not applicable to all places. There are towns on this blessed coast that even the sunshine cannot warm nor liven.

The Columbia bar is not as sociable as some bars we know of, but it is dreadfully lonesome these days when the Seamen's Union of San Francisco is butting in so successfully on the fleets that are wont to pass it with regular frequency.

There is a patent need of more public music in this city. A fine band, with some degree of permanency, would be a God-send. There is such a thing as starving for music; it is as much an element of human indulgence as thousands of things that are worse.

If there is a "citizen" in Astoria who deprecates the utter "wide-openness" of the city for which he strove so hard last fall, we will give his name all the prominence it deserves. But we forget; there are no "citizens" left since the last democratic rally.

All that Astoria needs just now is a new charter, a seawall, a modern hotel, the common point rate on wheat, some flour mills and an elevator, a few steamship lines terminating here, some more people and business to match, and a republican common council. She can wait a while for the larger things, and things harder to get.

This is, apparently, a dubious season in the fishing world about here. Seven drowning fatalities, and practically no fish running to date. But the average fisherman has all the pluck and endur-

ance of his calling, and will be brave under all conditions. It is a man's trade.

OPTIONAL SUFFRAGE FOR WOMEN.

Owing to the wide divergency of opinion as to the feasibility and necessity for woman-suffrage, why not put it upon an optional basis, allowing those who really desire it, to take out their papers, even as the alien does? That would take the onus of its constant defeat from the shoulders of the men who are doing the voting on the question, and leave it exactly where it belongs, with the women themselves. There are hundreds who desire the franchise and thousands who would not use it if it were thrust upon them. The law of option would, it strikes us, temper the situation to a point of toleration and fulfillment that would cover the whole ground of favor and disfavor, and fix the responsibility where reproach would not reach anyone save through the conscience of the user. At least it could be tried, and if it were to grow to be of general usage it would do so through the agency of those most nearly affected, and vice versa.

COUNCIL CANNOT DISCRIMINATE.

The fool story that the common council of this city will discriminate against the upper wards because they went "dry" at the recent election, and deprived the city of a certain amount of revenue, besides compelling it to refund a certain portion of saloon license money, is an insult to that body. Street improvements paid by the abutting property has no possible bearing upon the situation, and if such was the case, the council would not be so idiotic as make a deliberate case of reprisals against a community for expressing its own corporate desires under the terms of a law made and provided for that express purpose. The council will do its entire duty by that and every other section of the city without regard to such matters. And if it did not, it would soon hear from the people discriminated against, as well as from all other citizens who stand for fair play.

EDITORIAL SALAD.

Is it really necessary for the American people to lose their heads in order to protect their stomachs.

If the muck rakers ever reach the whisky trust there will be things doing to delight the bromide makers.

A movement has been started in Philadelphia to raise a fund of \$100,000 with which to carry on a campaign for just automobile laws, a fair field and no favor.

Local inspection by Chicago officials tends to confirm the suspicions of the president that the hog pens at the stockyards are not the pinks of propriety in cleanliness.

The home merchant should be patronized by the home people and he in turn should patronize his fellow tradesmen when in the market for goods not carried in his own stock.

Snow flurries and chilly winds in June may be unseasonable, but they are highly preferable to the sunstrokes and cyclones which are seasonable in some of the states of this glorious republic.

Secretary Taft is clearly right in his contention that the Panama canal never can be completed in an eight-hour work-day. At the rate of progress thus far it cannot be done in an eighty-year day.

In his message to the Cuban congress President Palma said that in four months in Cuba there had been 22,252 births. The people of the new republic do not appear to have yet reached the race suicide stage in the march of progress.

Congress has passed more than 2000 special pension bills during the present session. Probably 1000 more will be passed. This legislation has occurred as a rule in cases highly meritorious, but which have been deferred, because of technical defects.

A Favored Instrument.

The story is told of a newly rich woman who on the occasion of her daughter's wedding gave a large reception, for which music was furnished by an orchestra of twelve pieces. The leader of this orchestra was a violinist who had achieved a social as well as a professional success, and the rich woman evidently wished to recognize this fact and make clear her knowledge of it. When the evening was half over the butler approached the musicians, who were having a short intermission, and in his loftiest manner he said after referring to a paper in his hand: "The viola eats in the dining room; the rest of the instruments eats in the pantry."

COMMON SENSE NEEDED.

Able Review of Fire Insurance Business. From San Francisco.

With rare tolerance, and a perspicuity born of careful research, and experience of the largest sort, right on notable ground, the San Francisco Chronicle speaks as follows of the present fire insurance break for advanced rates: "The one thing which the people of this city will not endure from insurance companies is trickiness and sneaking. However hard the companies have been hit there is but one honest thing to do and that is to face the situation squarely and honestly. That is the essence of insurance and the corporation which, by refusing information to owners of burned policies, raising technical points as to forms of proofs, time or place of filing or any other trick and device known to unscrupulous insurance lawyers thereby proves its unfitness to be called an insurance company and should be driven out of business.

"The insurance companies have no reason to find fault with the insurance business. In the nature of things there must from time to time occur great calamities whose resulting loss may wipe out the profits of two or three years, but even then there is no reason for complaint for in ordinary years the profits of insurance are very large. The average rate of dividends of American companies for the last ten years has been 10 per cent. The Boston Transcript recently printed a list of twelve companies whose average dividend rate has been 17 per cent, one company having paid an average dividend of 40 per cent for the last ten years. The value of the business is made evident by the anxiety of the companies to retain it and continue in existence. And the way to do that is to act honorably in the face of disaster.

"This calamity discloses a fundamental defect in insurance financing in that exorbitant dividends are paid while making no adequate provision for a surplus to provide for a calamity. The company in the list printed by the Boston Transcript which had divided 40 per cent annually for the last four years, has a capital of only \$500,000 and a surplus of but \$534,000. It has been doing an enormous business on insufficient capital, and dividing the profits. If the dividends of insurance companies had been confined to a reasonable rate and the remaining profit put into a surplus fund—which is the practice of some companies—the San Francisco losses could be paid from that fund without causing the companies to pass a dividend. The disaster in this city has not changed the conditions of insurance or made it any more risky. There is no occasion for any increase in premiums, here or elsewhere. What is needed is better insurance financing. And that will have to come if the business of fire insurance is to escape such an overhauling as the life insurance business has received.

SAN FRANCISCO SCHOOLS.

How It Is Proposed to Continue the Service and Put Up Buildings.

The San Francisco School Reconstruction Committee consisting of the mayor, board of education and superintendent has organized a bureau for the dissemination of information regarding the widespread movement to rebuild the schools of San Francisco by the contributions of the school children and teachers of our land. Through the assistance of thirty-five pupils of the Commercial High School personal letters have been sent to all the leading educational people in the United States. Articles have been written by the teachers of San Francisco for the educational publications of the country. Printed matter has been prepared carefully suited to the different grades of the public schools, with illustrations of the tent schools in Golden Gate Park and other interesting features of present conditions in the school department.

Through California and the Pacific slope the feeling of sympathy for and

the desire to help San Francisco is more natural than anywhere else. Certain states, as Missouri, Oregon, and Maine, have expressed their intention to erect buildings to be named after the respective states raising the money.

The further idea has been advanced that where a county or a community do not raise a sufficient amount to erect an entire building their gifts be appropriately recognized by tablets in the different class rooms. One can readily imagine the close relationship between the children attending their daily recitations in a room built by a certain county and the children of that county. Letters would be interchanged between these children. Counties would rival each other in the attempt to be first in sending fruit blossoms for the purpose of decorating the class rooms in which they were particularly interested each year. Visitors in San Francisco would have their attention called to these counties and the generosity of their inhabitants in rebuilding schools for the children of stricken San Francisco.

In many states a "San Francisco School Day" has been set aside for the gathering of the children's offering to help the children of San Francisco in their quest of education. Never has the world seen so great and so practical demonstration of the truth that all mankind are brothers.

An Example at Hand.—To those who are bitterly opposed to the encroachment of the fire insurance companies' new 25 per cent advance rates on Astoria risks, it may be comforting to know that one of the great industries of the northwest, namely, the lumber and mill men, are carrying their own insurance, in a well organized mutual company of their own and have, for the past two years, borne each other out, losses included, upon a rate not exceeding four per cent; a line of business that would have cost them six per cent if covered by the old-line companies; and what is more they have done this while saving up a surplus, now on hand, of a sort that is likely to bring about an early reduction in the four per cent rate. Of course this was done only by the application of the strictest and most careful business methods, but that would not be lacking in any other business line that should adopt the mutual policy of carrying each others' risks. Think it over a bit!

Improving All the Time.—The Clatsop Milling Company has started the building of its new drykiln and when it shall have been completed probably in another month the company will have a dry-kiln capacity of 90,000 feet per day; the last addition contributing 30,000 feet daily. The company is also installing two new 72-inch boilers to their power batteries, this for additional power to drive the new sash and door machinery. On a double-shift, daily, the company is now turning out 150,000 feet of merchantable lumber each day.

COAST BABE BALL SCORES.

Pacific Coast League.
 At Oakland—Oakland 1-2, San Francisco 7-1 (two games).
 Northwest League.
 At Spokane—Gray's Harbor 3, Spokane 6.
 At Butte—Butte 4, Tacoma 5.

Deadly Serpent Bites are as common in India as are stomach and liver disorders with us. For the latter however there is a sure remedy: Electric Bitters; the great restorative medicine, of which S. A. Brown, of Bennington, S. C., says: "They restored my wife to perfect health, after years of suffering with dyspepsia and a chronically torpid liver." Electric Bitters cure chills and fever, malaries, biliousness, lame back, kidney troubles and bladder disorders. Sold on guarantee by Charles Rogers, druggist. Price 50c.

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