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TELEPHONE MAIN 661.

Official paper of Clatsop county and the City of Astoria.

WEATHER.

Oregon, Washington, Idaho - August showers.

QUITE NORMAL, THANK YOU!

The affected solicitude of the Oregonian as to the mental status of the editor of this paper in his recent dealings with the grave question of the permanent and genuine improvement of the Columbia river and its bar, is no sort of answer to the argument laid down, that Portland is diametrically and selfishly opposed to the actual deepening of the sea channel on that bar.

Is Portland honestly in favor of a 40-foot channel from the sea to the river side of the Columbia bar? That is the question we want answered without equivocation or frills of any sort! We want an answer that will stand in the record of her future dealings with this vital issue, minus all sophistry and double-dealing and narrow prejudices. That's what we want!

And while the Oregonian, or any of its compeers, shall propound the plain statement desired in that connection, we urge a nequally honest response to this problem: If the O. R. & N. can haul grain 140 miles to the Puget Sound ports and pay a joint-rate to the Northern Pacific, why can it not haul the staple 100 miles to Astoria and pay the joint-rate to the Astoria & Columbia River road?

If, as the Oregonian has declared, the building of the Hill lines down the north bank of the Columbia, ensures his terminal the advantage of the common-point rate on wheat, why has Astoria, with a good railroad for the past eight years, been denied that commercial benefit?

There are several other pertinent things to be asked before the last of this is heard from, and Portland and her press may as well be decent about it. If it be a sign of insanity to insist on an equitable deal in the commercial development of the state, then we confess ourselves "away off" but for the time being we will exercise what little gumption is left us and cling to our text.

MR. BRYAN'S ABSENCE.

We concur heartily in the conviction of the Bryan leaders that his continued absence from the country will conduce to his popularity as a presidential candidate; the farther he goes, and the longer he stays, the more popular will he become; and if time, and distance, and non-participation in the current politics of the nation are to be the gauges of his success, Australia is not half far enough nor the schedule of the trip half long enough, to do the business. If he will settle in the Antipodes and send back the assurance of his permanent abandonment of all ambitions for office and commercial relations with this country, his popularity will be transcendent, and he can have anything he wants (out there). During his absence the country will endeavor to wriggle along in some desultory fashion, however hopeless, and strive to be good enough to make him glad to say he once lived over here. There are some blessings so infinitely rare as to inspire a very dread of their coming, and this is one of them.

EDITORIAL SALAD.

About the nicest way to acquire a good complexion and keep good health is to belong to a walking club. If there isn't one in your neighborhood start one. Several walking clubs throughout the country are pursuing health and happiness afoot. The members pledge themselves to walk at least 400 miles a year. At this average of a little over a mile a day anybody with feet should be able to live up to the regulations. Once a week the members take a cross-country tramp of from five to thirty miles in company. Generally their summer vacation includes a walking trip through some section of country worth seeing. All the club members are said to be good looking and possessors of perfect health, which is a recommendation, besides the very strong one that this is a good deal more accessible source of fun to the average person than automobiles and yachts.

Many stories have been told about the long telegraphic messages sent by women, as if the feminine mind were incapable of expressing itself concisely. How false and slanderous such an impression is is well known by the following incident. A gentleman went to London on business. As he left he said something to his wife about buying her a new dress. Just before starting homeward he wired to his wife: "Which shall I bring you—a diamond ring or a silk dress?" The reply was concise and explicit—"Both."

Another western millionaire has married a humble hotel maid. It was love at first sight as she twirled a feather duster with careless grace in the corridor. This infatuation of our capitalists for the hotel help is a theme to which only a Whittier could do justice. The American heiress, however, is not on record as marrying a bellboy or a porter. She doesn't care so much for a uniform as for a title.

The paramount object in the culture of the grape in most parts of the world has been the obtaining of wine. The extent of this will be surprising and hardly believed by those not acquainted with the statistics. Thus, for instance, there are annually produced on the globe over 4,000,000,000 gallons of wine. Of this amount the United States produces only about 50,000,000 gallons.

It is said that the hides of the American live cattle sent to England to be killed and eaten are by prearrangement all sent back across the Atlantic, there to be tanned and mayhap reshipped to England as leather or in boots and shoes.

A New Orleans recruiting officer finds that cigarette smoking and late hours have unfitted most of the young men of that city for military service. There are some other important things that cigarette smoking and late hours unfit young men for.

Maxim Gorky says it is not the torch of liberty but the dollar that is blazing in the hand of the statue on Bedloe's Island. Perhaps this is Maxim's way of insinuating that we have money to burn.

Chicago has more prisoners awaiting trial for murder than any other large city in the world with the exception of St. Petersburg and Rome.

It estimated that there are 770,500,000 postal cards used annually in the United States, while Germany uses 1,161,000,000 and Great Britain 613,000,000.

A New York man who has failed in business says he needs half a million dollars to put him on his feet. That amount of cash would put this writer on golden wings.

When Paul Morton sees the railroads getting soaked \$40,000 apiece for rebating he probably notices that things were different when he was in the railroad business.

Fifteen million umbrellas are said to be manufactured in this country every year.

In a few years from now we will be hearing of reunions of people who once were incubator babies.

During the last 20 years nearly 1,000,000 subjects of the czar have crossed the ocean in search of liberty.

The Angora Goat Society of Kansas City has butted in and will endeavor to popularize goat meat as a table delicacy.

NEW MILL STARTS UP.

CENTRALIA, Wash., August 21.—The big new mill of the Eastern Railway & Lumber Company started Monday morning for the first time. The new mill has been built at an expense of over \$100,000, and is one of the finest inland plants in the state. Everything is of the most modern equipment. The only thing that is bothering the directors of the company now is the car shortage, and this is a serious question.

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Often a person is sized up by his appearance; by the tone that surrounds him. And more often a business house is sized up by the stationary it uses. A cheap letter head or a poor bill head gives a mighty poor first impression and makes business harder to transact. Good printing costs no more than poor printing. The first impression is half the battle in business. You wouldn't employ a "sloppy" salesman; why put up with "sloppy" stationery, that gives a wrong impression of the importance of your business. Let us do your printing and help you to make that ten strike.

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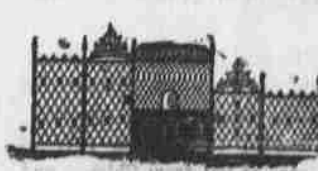
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