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Official paper of Clatsop county and the City of Astoria.

WEATHER.

Oregon, Washington, Idaho—Fair.

ANTI-EARTHQUAKE CURRENTS.

That four splendid steamships should have gone ashore almost in a group in the mid-Pacific in the brief period of sixty days, vessels whose masters have been traversing those lines of navigation safely and successfully for years past, indicates the existence of new currents of tremendous force in operation thereabout, and it is morally certain the federal hydrographic service will soon divine the trend, impetus and origin of the troublesome agencies and chart the same so that the volume of disaster shall be reduced to the minimum. That it is an anti-earthquake influence and due to the recent vast eruptive forces on this hemisphere, is conceded at all scientific sources now, and it only remains for the governments of the world to take full and final note of the fearful conditions and place the facts before the men who have to contend with them on the high seas to the west of us. Whatever the trouble is, it is likely to make some wide divergencies in the old familiar lines pursued by the trans-Pacific bottoms and cause some wonderfully close study by those men who "go down to the sea in ships."

ASTORIA'S SUPREME ADVANTAGE.

Whatever of delay and disappointment and defeat, Astoria, may be, (and has been) called upon to face in her development as a seaport, she has always, and forever, the supreme advantage of her real and ready locale. All the tricks of commerce, all the passing foibles of politics, all the jealousy, the contention, the achievements of her neighbors cannot rob her of the commanding position she occupies at the gateway of the northwest. What of baffling agencies she has had to face in the past, none have been able to discredit her pre-eminence in point of nearness and advantageous qualities that make for marine mastery; and it is the trump-card in the game of commerce; it must be called some day; an when she plays it, there will be no room for interference from any city, town, or section of the state, to gainsay the winning she will make. We can wait yet awhile for the bar-depths that are to be the lucky turn in the great game, and the compensation will far outstrip the negative losses of her interminable patience, pluck and faith.

IN SEVENTY DAYS.

The people of this city are expecting something very far in advance of the present organic law of Astoria at the hands of the present charter commission and there are yet seventy days in which that body may formulate the new doctrine of municipal administration and present it for popular approval. The work of charter-building is no child's play; it is a task, which, if well done, warrants the grateful consideration of every property owner and citizen, since it is the sole reliance and guide in the development of the city commercially, politically and socially, and makes or mars the future as it shall furnish or deny the legal predicates upon which that progress is urged. Under the present conditions Astoria looks hopefully for an up-to-date law which will make for expansion and permit the doing of things that should have been done long

ago; and she will not be satisfied with less. She invoked the best men and minds in her midst, and did it in ample time for results this fall, and she is expecting those results. We do not believe she is to be disappointed, either.

EDITORIAL SALAD.

Clinton Merwick, of Forest City, Ia., known in Iowa as the "king of bachelors," is chairman of the old bachelors' committee which has called a convention of old bachelors and maids at Forest City, Iowa, on July 25, to nominate a full state ticket to run on a race suicide platform, which will declare that too many babies are being born, and that a shortening of the baby supply would be good for the country.

The loss on the Palace Hotel building at San Francisco has been adjusted at \$3,202,010. This is more than the insurance companies will have to pay, for the total insurance of the building was only \$1,265,000. It being a total loss therefore a liability of a trifle over a million and a quarter will be distributed among ninety-eight companies involved in the loss. This is said to have been the largest loss upon a single risk ever adjusted in this country.

Did you ever stop to think that when a business man looks for a clerk that he does not hunt for the youth who talks "sassy," uses slang, smokes cigarettes or taps beer kegs? They look for the boy who is neat in appearance, gentlemanly in his actions, clean in his talk and courteous to those whom he meets. Although you may think no one watches you, or knows your character, it is safe to say that there is not a business man in town but who knows the character of every boy in it. If you wish to become a useful man, it is you and you alone that must accomplish it.

Agriculturists are watching with intense interest the development of the process claimed to have been discovered in Norway of extracting nitrogen from the atmosphere by mechanical and chemical means and utilizing it for the manufacture of nitrate fertilizers—since it will mean unlimited quantities of fertilizing material at low cost. The next important advance will be the devising of a method which a Massachusetts man is working on, of using water for fuel—that is, of course decomposing it and applying the oxygen, which forms eight-ninths of its weight, to assist in the processes of combustion.

To millions of people news of the loss by sinking of the island of Juan Fernandez off the Chilian coast during the recent earthquake, will cause a sense of personal loss, for the island was made famous by Daniel Defoe, the author, as the scene of the romantic story of Robinson Crusoe, a story dear to all readers, both young and old. The story is not wholly a work of fiction, as it was based on the adventures of an English privateersman, named Alexander Selkirk, with whom Defoe became acquainted after he had been rescued from his long residence on the island. The story first appeared in the London Post in 1719 as a serial.

Uncle Sam's dinner pail is full and overflowing and filling other people's dinner pails. Exports and imports for the year just fell short of \$3,000,000,000, the actual amount being \$2,969,000,000. But the exports far outran in magnitude the imports, the excess of the former being \$517,000,000. This is a magnificent trade balance in favor of the United States and excels that of any other nation in the world. All parts of the country contributed to the great whole. The south sent its millions' worth of cotton and the west sent its corn and wheat, while the east sold vast quantities of manufactured materials or mineral products.

There is a great difference between a home-maker and a home-keeper. There are women who are good home-makers and failures as home-keepers. In the flush of excitement incident to forming a new home, it is a pleasant task to arrange furniture. Everything is new and the housekeeper has little to do aside from suggesting the proper place for each article; and it is with pride she looks upon her home, be it ever so humble. This is especially true when an appreciative husband gives his earnest approval of every suggestion, but as the years go on the wear and tear incident to use is plainly to be seen, and then the battle begins that discourages so many homekeepers. Faded carpets, tarnished furniture meet her eyes. Vigilance gives place to indifference; discouragement takes the place of determined effort; the home is neglected and the homemaker is no longer homekeeper. This is the crucial fact that tests a woman's fidelity to duty. Many die with an unworried life work, but God's benediction. "She has done what

The Snob In England's High Social Circles



By H. E. MARRIOTT WATSON, English Author

PLUTOCRACY spells snobbery ALWAYS. The class which has established itself on top always will receive deference from the class which is struggling up to gain admission to those ranks. There is no hope of admission to them without money, and hence PLUTOCRACY MEANS SNOBBERY. As we are the most plutocratic nation in Europe, we are also the most snobbish. If one wished to be amiable one might plead that the snob is by way of being an idealist. He reverses a social status which he does not possess. In comparison with certain other failings characteristic of other nations than ours our national weakness may be considered venial. Snobbishness is not crime. But, on the other hand, it is one of the most offensive properties to the superficial eye of the observer of social life. "Tommy," said Byron of Moore, "dearly loves a lord." YOUR SNOB DEARLY LOVES A LORD. But that is a detail in his character, for he has a perfect social code by which he directs his life. He has been in existence so long now that he has organized himself. He has become almost respectable by reason of his antiquity. And his opinions and ideals have obtained currency in all classes of the community. They have tainted the once independent and autocratic views of the aristocracy. However stupid the aristocracy might be, it at least developed its own ideals and habits in former days. TODAY IT HAS ACCEPTED THE TRADITIONS OF THE SNOB.

To the snob (and through him to the English social world generally) it is essential to have gone to a public school. One recalls Du Maurier's picture of Sir Gorgius Midas regretting he had not had the advantages of Eton to the duke, and his grace in turn regretting that he had. The public school has been taken over by the snob. In the famous Victorian days there were pursuits definitely barred to "gentlemen," who must either enter army or navy or become barrister or parson or doctor if in want of a profession. But changing times have changed all that, although the snob still has his preferences. These professions are the "safest;" THEY CONVEY RESPECTABILITY.

The snob remains with us with certain altered characteristics. Once he aspired to reach an aristocracy which was by no means founded on wealth, and his aim was thus NOT WHOLLY IGNORABLE. But the wealth of the middle class has contaminated society, and the old ideals have been supplanted by the new ideal of money. Plutocracy reigns supreme and unshamed in London society, and the snob no longer merely loves a lord; HE LOVES A WEALTHY MAN.

If one is to judge by the papers, London society is made up of Americans and continentals. Occasionally English names appear, but the cosmopolitan element bulks largest in importance. The cosmopolitanism of society only became possible by reason of the snob. He pushes his way in, and the social circles which once would have been shut against him open to receive him warmly. The PLUTOCRAT is master of the situation and is beginning to dictate terms.

IT IS HE NOW (OR SHE) WHO BREEDS INDEPENDENT OPINIONS AND STARTS NEW FASHIONS AND GENERALLY IMPOSES HIS (OR HER) WILL ON SOCIETY.

she could," is more blessed than the world's applause bestowed upon an aimless life.

Alfred Mosely, a wealthy Englishman, says American boys are brighter than English boys. He does not appear to know why. One of the chief reasons why young America is bright is because it tips the cap to no squire, squireling or other condescending man. And, in addition to this he may find by listening to the conversation of Uncle Sam's sons and daughters that each and every one has a towering ambition; not one is satisfied to stay in a particular class if he or she can see a way of getting higher.

TWO SERIOUS FIRES.

NEW YORK, Sept. 19.—Two fires early today, one in a building on West Broadway, adjoining the Cosmopolitan hotel, the other in a six-story flat house in Harlem, caused a loss of \$50,000, drove the guests from the hotel in alarm and witnessed some gallant rescues from the flat house by firemen. The building adjoining the hotel was occupied by manufacturing firms. Their loss is \$30,000. The flat house, located at Amsterdam avenue and 125th street, was swept by fire from cellar to roof. The tenants hastily aroused from sleep, in many instances found escape cut off and fled to the fire escapes. The firemen rescued a dozen persons from dangerous positions. Several persons were burned or suffered from shock and had to be cared for by ambulance doctors, who were called to the scene.

You are wasting your time if you are waiting for nature to do all the work. Everybody needs a little help, so does nature; assist her by taking a course of Hollister's Rocky Mountain Tea. Tea or Tablets, 35 cents. For sale by Frank Hart.

PROSPECT OF SETTLEMENT.

Strike on Wabash Road May Be Settled Soon.

CHICAGO, Sept. 19.—While the prospect of an early settlement of the Wabash Railroad strike developed yesterday, another road—the Chicago Great Western—became involved in a similar labor controversy and its repair shops at Oelwein, Iowa, were crippled by a strike of boiler makers.

The other employees of the Great Western's mechanical department are ready to go out as soon as contracts under which the men are working have expired. The machinists and blacksmiths have served notice on the officials of the road that failure to meet demands for an increase in wages will result in a general walkout, extending over the entire system.

It was said at the Chicago headquarters of the Machinists' Union that the strike on the Great Western has no direct connection with the Wabash strike, except that it is part of a general move of the railroad mechanics to secure better pay. Only fifty boiler-makers were taken out by the strike order, but between 400 and 500 men may become involved later.

BEAUTIFUL WOMEN.

Plumb cheeks, flushed with the soft glow of health and pure complexion, make all women beautiful. Take a small dose of Herbine after each meal; it will prevent constipation and help digest what you have eaten. Mrs. Wm. M. Stroud, Midlothian, Tex., writes, on May 31, 1901: "We have used Herbine in our family for eight years and found it the best medicine we ever used for constipation, bilious fever and malaria." Hart's Drug Store. Morning Astorian, 60 cents per month, delivered by carrier.

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