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TELEPHONE MAIN 662.

Official paper of Clatsop county and the City of Astoria.

WEATHER.

Western Oregon and Washington—Occasional rain.

ETHICS, AND COMMON SENSE.

There can be no question but the present agitation of the issues involving the Astoria school board and Professor Kester, on the one hand, and the patrons and taxpayers of the city, on the other, will find early and sensible solution at the hands of the only authority provided by law, to-wit, the directors of the district. It is always deplorable to drag the schools into the glare of the public, and adverse comment, since such action tends to militate against the safe poise and influence of the system, as a whole; and the sooner it reverts to the limits of the board-room and is there carefully and finally disposed of, the better for all concerned.

There is no analogy between the courts and the schools of this country; any circumstance arising in the schools that elicits such resort on the part of pupil, or teacher, is quite worthy the immediate and thorough attention of the trustees, with a view to so arranging conditions as to obviate all chance of its repetition. There is blame attaching to more than one, or two, in the initial incident, and there can be no doubt the board will delve into and discover the sum thereof, and apply disciplinary measures where they are most needed.

There are times and circumstances where ethics give way to the simple and straightforward doctrine of common sense, and this incident furnishes a direct avenue for its employment, not only in the arbitration of the existing difficulty, but by way of preventing its recurrence.

JAPANESE CITIZENSHIP.

We confess our unfamiliarity with the terms of the existing treaty between the United States and Japan, and our information as to the exact status of the "little brown man" on American soil, is, along with the general run of uninformed humanity a bit vague and unreliable; but, lacking these illuminating pre-requisites, we are in unequivocal possession of our own opinions as to the desirable qualities of the Jap as a citizen. Whatever he may be to Japan, in that relation, he is, and will be, of no value to this country because he is, naturally, by every rule of inheritance, in an ethical way, utterly and illy disposed to the honor. In fact, American citizenship has no honors for him, anymore than it has for the Chinaman, and his pursuit of it is, and will be, for all time, based upon the sheer advantages it confers upon him for the acquirement of valuable information which may be used for the advancement, not of this country, but that of his own. He is instinctively wedded to the land of his birth and all her institutions, religious, civic, social and educational, and whatever he does in life, in contravention of his primal, organic attributes, is done for the ultimate glory and progress of Japan. He is seeking every avenue of advancement on earth to fit himself in some proud nook of national life at home, and his insistent thrusting of himself upon American institutions is for that sole purpose. He has no other. He is the Asiatic "yankee" personified and his affiliation with his

western prototype ends right there. The Japanese does not want American citizenship for the inherent blessings of the gift, as applied to life here; he wants it simply to qualify himself for the bolstering of his status at home; to learn the best and wisest and loftiest things the high civic degree confers, and then transmute the benefits to an ever-alien soil.

He is a very shrewd man, the Jap; and the man who deals with him on any hypothesis of real sincerity and perfect faith in this matter of his political merger with this country, is reckoning without his host and will be laughed at for his pains. We are not discounting his real worth; that would be folly; he is too pronounced a success among his class of nations, to overlook; but that he would make a genuine citizen of this, or any other country, beside his own, is the sublimity of imbecile calculation. We would deny him nothing that will help him or his nation to the highest pinnacle of attainment, but we want it known he is not humbugging us during the period of his acquirement. There's just a dash of the "Yank" left in the American system still, and he will find it out, all right!

WATER GRADES TO PREVAIL.

A gentleman who is in close touch with the railway situation as it applies to the mouth of the Columbia river, declares that the "Northbank" system will soon be extended to the mouth of the river, and from there a branch will be thrown northeastwardly through the Shoalwater Bay and Gray's Harbor sections, to Tacoma.

This route will traverse an immense belt of timber country, and all freight originating between the river and Tacoma will come to the mouth of the Columbia and be kept on the water-grade eastward. Instead of going to Kalama across the divide, or the mountains further north.

On the south side of the river the road now beyond Astoria will be continued down the coast and the lumber from the great tracts of forest in Clatsop and Tillamook counties, bound east, will come to the mouth of the river, instead of crossing the mountains to the south, and go eastward on the water-level. The grain of the Columbia Basin will come down the water lines to Astoria, Gray's Harbor and Tacoma, and take its dispatch abroad still upon the easiest of all basic grades for transport service.

EDITORIAL SALAD.

"Love for the land" is spreading.

Iron the first metal found in America, was discovered in Virginia in 1715.

There are 200 companies who make machines for the molding of concrete blocks.

A Chicago minister says: "Keep constantly asking yourself "Why?" Why, may we ask?"

The Bengal canal, 900 miles in length, is the longest artificial water course in the world.

A steer that can get it when he wants it will consume about one-fifth of a pound of salt per week.

An ounce of confidence in yourself is worth more to you than a pound of confidence in some one else.

The Argentine ministry has reduced the estimate of corn to 7,041,910 acres; previous estimate, 7,410,000 acres.

It is said that fully two-thirds of the land in Great Britain is owned by the members of the house of lords.

The coffin trust has again advanced prices. Death may soon be beyond the reach of the common people.

The raising of wages in progress throughout the country should have a good effect upon the Christmas trade.

One automobile every fourteen minutes is the world's factory record claimed by the Ford Motor company.

Standard Oil declares a quarterly dividend of \$10 a share, making the disbursement to stockholders \$40,000,000 for the year.

Not over 30 per cent of the milk produced in this country is made into butter, the other 70 per cent being sold or used for family consumption.

In a recent report it was stated that there are in the United States thirty States that are prominently engaged in dairying. In these States there are over 320,000 exclusively dairy farms, and in round numbers four million other farms on which there is some dairying done.

A Poem for Today

THE TWINS

By Henry S. Leigh

IN form and feature, face and limb I grew so like my brother That folks got taking me for him

And each for one another. It puzzled all our kith and kin; It reached an awful pitch, For one of us was born a twin, And not a soul knew which.

One day (to make the matter worse) Before our names were fixed As we were being washed by nurse We got completely mixed.

And thus, you see, by Fate's decree (Or, rather, nurse's whim) My brother John got christened me, And I got christened him.

This fatal likeness even darg'd My footsteps when at school, And I was always getting flogg'd— For John turned out a fool. I put this question hopelessly To every one I knew: "What would you do if you were me To prove that you were you?"

Our close resemblance turned the tide Of our domestic life. For somehow my intended bride Became my brother's wife. In short, year after year the same Absurd mistakes went on, And when I died the neighbors came And buried brother John!

INSURANCE REPORT

San Francisco Board of Trustees Submit their Report.

ON LOSSES ON INSURANCE

Amount Paid in San Francisco Exceeds Amount Paid at Chicago or Baltimore and Companies Will Liquidate 80 Per Cent.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 7.—The report of the special committee of the board of trustees of the Chamber of Commerce on insurance settlements after the big fire, which has just been published, says:

The total burned area was about 3,000 acres, or about 4.7 square miles, containing 520 blocks, and about 25,000 buildings, one-half of these were residences.

The amount of insurance covering property in the burned district was approximately \$235,000,000 (estimated). All of this had been written by companies authorized to do business in the state, except \$6,000,000, which had been placed outside of the state in some 100 companies.

Value of buildings and contents destroyed in the fire must have been \$350,000,000, being estimated upon the insurance liability, the known ratio of insurance to value (about 70 per cent) and a guess that there was about 5 per cent of property that carried no insurance.

"An immense sum of insurance money has been paid into this city a far larger sum than companies have ever been called upon to pay at one time before. In spite of the earthquake, in spite of the nearness in time of the Baltimore and Toronto conflagration, the company will finally have paid undoubtedly in the neighborhood of 80 per cent of the amount of insurance involved. At Chicago there was 50 per cent paid, and at Baltimore 90 per cent."

DIFFERENCES SETTLED.

Railroaders and Trainmen Come to An Understanding.

NEW YORK, Dec. 7.—The committee of the trainmen and the conductors on the New York Central Railroad completed their conferences with the officials of the road last night, a settlement having been reached.

Neither side would say anything except that an advance of wages had been granted and that the agreement reached was satisfactory.

STAR THEATER.

"Women Against Woman" is proving an artistic success at this cozy theater and the Taylor company is fast gaining friends among our theatergoers.

The company is being strengthened by the engagement of a new leading lady and when the management consolidates with the present company the leading members of the famous Empire Stock company, the patrons of the Star theater will have a double company, capable of acting anything from farce comedy to tragedy.

LONG TENNESSEE FIGHTS.

For twenty years W. L. Rawls, of Bells, Tenn., fought nasal catarrh. He writes: "The swelling and soreness inside my nose was fearful, till I began applying Bucklen's Arnica Salve to the sore surface; this caused the soreness and swelling to disappear, never to return." Best salve in existence. 25c at Chas. Rogers, Druggist.

MUSIC LOVERS!

WE HAVEN'T SOMETHING CHEAPER; BUT OURS ARE UNDOUBTEDLY BETTER.

There is probably not one of our present splendid offering of piano bargains, that could not be, apparently, evenly matched, by any one of several other makes on the market, and at about the same range of prices, too, that we ask for ours. Also, there are plenty of people who would willingly (and do) pay elsewhere much more for the piano they get, than "our price" for the same grade of instrument; thinking, naturally enough, that "Price Proves Quality," and, that paying more, will get more quality. Any piano is actually worth just what it cost to build, plus the freight and a "Fee For Service," or profit.

It is usually quite a momentous thing to both buyer and salesman—this piano matter is; and it is surely a valuable service we perform for our patrons, when we advise them to our best ability, as to qualities of tone, action, durability, and comparative values, of the many makes of pianos now on the market. Then, too, we back up our statements with a guarantee and an exchange agreement, invariably. As a result of our constantly increasing business, we find that a further reduced "Fee For Service" (or profit) will pay us yet better in the end.

Hence these bargains; a really good, dependable second-hand Fischer upright piano can be had for \$135 on \$5 monthly terms. A large size Bailey in fancy oak case, used in a home only three months, at a saving of Sixty Dollars and on \$6 payments per month.

A full size Hobart M. Cable in a rich dark oak case, at Seventy-five Dollars off. All the rest are new but desirable, very much so, at our price on them. Terms are hardly felt. Open evenings.

EILERS PIANO HOUSE.

424 Commercial St. J. M. WARD, A. R. CYRUS, Salesmen.

GIVEN UP TO DIE.

B. Spiegel, 1204, N. Virginia St., Evansville, Ind., writes: "For over five years I was troubled with kidney and bladder affections which caused me much trouble and worry. I lost flesh and was all run down, and a year ago had to abandon work entirely. I had three of the best physicians who did me no good and I was practically given up to die. Foley's Kidney Cure was recommended, and the first bottle gave me great relief, and after taking the second bottle, I was entirely cured." T. F. Laurin.

SUNDAY TRAVEL TO PORTLAND

Increases and \$2.50 Round Trip Rate via A. & C. R. R. is Popular. Travel from this city to Portland on Sunday at the low round trip rate of \$2.50 is on the increase and many enjoy that day in the metropolis each week. This rate will be continued throughout the winter and the volume of travel toward Portland every Sunday would indicate that the public appreciates it. 11-8-tf

WHAT'S

worth doing is worth doing well. If you wish to be cured of Rheumatism, use Ballard's Snow Liniment and you will be well cured. A positive cure for Sprains, Neuralgia, Bruises, Contracted Muscles, and all the ills that flesh is heir to. A. G. M. Williams, Navasota, Texas, writes: "I have used Snow Liniment for sprained ankle and it gave the best of satisfaction. I always keep it in the house." Harris Drug Store.

CASTORIA For Infants and Children. The Kind You Have Always Bought Bears the Signature of Dr. J. C. Hatcher In Use For Over Thirty Years CASTORIA THE CANTON COMPANY, NEW YORK CITY.

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