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TELEPHONE MAIN 561.

Official paper of Clatsop county and the City of Astoria.

WEATHER.

Western Oregon and Washington—Occasional rain.

TEDDY'S INNOVATION.

The President, with his usual practical good sense, has illustrated his Panama message to Congress with a lot of sketches illustrating the points he desires to make in inviting the interest of the national assembly to that great project. It is all right, that idea. It is Rooseveltian entirely, and it is business-like. There is nothing like a photograph to tell tales of things as they are, in such a momentous matter as this great water-way, for which the United States stands sponsor, and it is well and wise that Congress should have every atom of correct information it can get, in order that it may know what it is doing, and how far to go, detail by detail. It is not only immensely creditable to the man, but wholly like him to do it. We trust the idea will become a fixture in the traditional documents and that henceforth, the salient points of presidential messages will be illustrated so clearly and keenly as to make it essential for Congress to do its whole duty or give ample reasons for neglecting it. If this photographic trick had been in vogue during the long years in which the millions of the people have been wasted on the jetty at the mouth of the Columbia river by useless work and extravagant contracts, the mighty and essential work would have been finished long ago, and the inland floods of that great stream would have been pouring into the sea today over magnificent and available depths on the bar. But, this to the ash-heap! What we want to do is to commend the innovation and bespeak its continuance; unless it shall run to the stage of the 'comic supplement' in which event we will deny ever having said a word in its favor.

CHICAGO'S GREAT VENTURE.

Chicago is about to enter upon the tremendous application of the municipal-ownership-and-control theory. She is to take over all her street railways, in the name of the people, and run them for the people, upon the basis of the amplest service at the minimum of cost. Nearly 100 millions of public money are to be invested, and the transit systems of the city are to be created into a separate and distinct department of government. The whole country will watch the progress and issue of the venture with intense interest, since it means much to the nation if it shall prove a genuine success, and nothing at all if it fails. Its treatment will be, necessarily, the best and highest, that Chicago can give so critical an enterprise and in default of large experience upon which to rely for success, the management must move and build with wondrous care and foresight, since every turn of the problem will be experimental, in a large degree and we can safely credit the "Windy City" with a desire to make a howling success of a proposition already widely discredited in this country. If it shall be carried to prosperous and practical achievement, it will set the pace for a thousand hazards of the same sort; and then—well, then we shall see what we shall see!

"FROM GRAVE TO GAY."

Tomorrow Congress will adjourn for the Holiday recess of two weeks, taking up its work again on the 3rd of January. For fourteen days these men charged with the big affairs of the nation will turn from the grave and arduous tasks the peo-

ple have set them, and enter the social realm for all the fun incident to the season and the doing of those things inspired by Christmas and the dawning of a new year. We believe in the holiday. It is a safety-valve in tens of thousands of ways, and should never be discredited nor overlooked. It is just as essential for the man borne down by cares of state and business, as it is for the student and the younger weary of the strain of learning, or for the worker in the routine elements of life, high and low. It changes the spirit of the nation, for a time at least, and tends to ameliorate the swift-rushing and often jarring, stream of human endeavor, softening the impacts and cushioning some of the falls that all must take in the tremendous struggle for existence. And it is especially the day and the province of the little people, than whom we have nothing more precious to nourish, guard and make happy. It is their own dear time, and it is up to us to see that no scintilla of its joy is denied them.

EDITORIAL SALAD.

The Japs are only 40,000,000 and not ten times that number, as might be supposed after reading some of the jingo writers.

Divorce is touched on in the message, sage, but nothing is said of the double life Washington proofreaders are compelled to lead.

Paris looks for two Castellane weddings shortly, but not of two heiresses to two noblemen. That combination is out of repair.

Hawaii was annexed with a debt of \$4,000,000, which has been paid off. Some of these Republican financial achievements may be overlooked.

One of Mr. Carnegie's recent gift is an artificial lake. A Carnegie ship canal somewhere in the interior of the country would be a great monument.

It may be that the north pole was planted in such an out-of-the-way place in order to provide ways and means for disposing of the surplus dog population.

An Alaska town has 3,300 inhabitants, but now lawyer. In an unorganized territory there seems to be no better way than to talk over a difference and settle it amicably.

The present warlike spirit of the Japanese ought to be repressed. Uncle Sam is averse to war, but the few fights already forced upon him have invariably resulted disastrously to the enemy.

Maryland has averted the threat that Fort McHenry will be turned into a cattle quarantine. The state will make it headquarters for the naval reserves and militia combined with a public park, while at the wharf a fine gunboat will be anchored. Our flag is still there.

A Democratic paper remarks that the message sailed into everything except the Dingley law. That editor has a strange notion that an assault ought to be made on a measure identified in every way with the country's greatest era of prosperity.

The president refers to the statement that "river regulation is rate regulation" as a meaty epigram. A good cause produces such things and a bad one is knocked out by them. The improvement of the waterways is a grand subject, and calculated to give rise to many gems of thought.

A Charleston (S. C.) paper suggests that the proposed fair to show the resources of the whole south should not be held at Washington, D. C., but at a more central point, close to northern farmers. The idea is good and St. Louis has more advantages for the purpose than any other city can offer.

COUNTERFEITING LABELS.

New York Packer Arrested by Secret Service Agents.

NEW YORK, Dec. 18.—John T. Walker, a preparer of meat extracts, was arrested yesterday by a secret service agent on the charge of having used counterfeit United States meat inspection labels on his beef extract. Walker was arraigned before United States Commissioner Shields and held in \$7,500 bail for a hearing today.

The arrest was the first of the kind since an act providing that all meat or meat products must bear a label showing that they had been inspected by government inspectors went into effect July 1 last.

Manzan Pile Remedy put up in convenient collapsible tubes, with nozzle attachment so that the remedy may be applied at the very seat of the trouble, thus relieving almost instantly, bleeding, itching or protruding piles. Satisfaction guaranteed or money refunded. Sold by Frank Hart's drug store.

REPLIES RECEIVED

Inter-State Commission Investigating Fuel Shortage.

COMMISSION IS SURPRISED

Statements of Coal and Fuel Famine Have Not Been Overestimated and Railroad Companies are to Blame.

MINNEAPOLIS, Dec. 18.—The Interstate Commerce Commission which is investigating the car and coal shortage in the northwest has been startled by replies sent out to the country districts which have been suffering from the lack of fuel as well as the lack of cars to transport grain to market. From the reports received the scarcity of fuel is wide-spread and far-reaching in its effects and is serious in the extreme, as is indicated by the commission's reports. The testimony today regarding the car shortage, delays in transit and its effect brought out the matter indicating the condition of affairs in the general sense, even more worthy of attention than the commission at first supposed when they decided to take up the inquiry.

FRITZ SONTAG.

President of Grand Pacific Hotel Dies in Chicago.

CHICAGO, Dec. 18.—Fritz Sontag, president of the Grand Pacific Hotel Company, and one of the most prominent German Americans in Chicago, died yesterday from a complication of diseases. For the last year Mr. Sontag, who was 60 years old, had been in poor health. In addition to being at the head of the Grand Pacific Hotel Company, Mr. Sontag was the manager of the Chicago branch of the Anheuser-Busch Brewing Association, a director of the Saratoga Hotel Company, and interested in a number of other business enterprises.

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." Harts Drug Store.

Mr. E. G. Case, a mail carrier of Canton Center, Conn., who has been in the U. S. service for about sixteen years, says: "We have tried many cough medicines for croup, but Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is king of all, and one to be relied upon every time. We also find it the best remedy for coughs and colds, giving certain results, and leaving no bad after effects." For sale by Frank Hart and Leading Druggists.

Pine Salve Carbollized acts like a poultice; highly antiseptic, extensively used for Eczema, for chapped hands and lips, cuts, burns. Sold by Frank Hart's Drug Store.

FOR THIS WEEK CHRISTMAS "EXTRAS"

Don't read too fast to let your mind see what you are passing. Remember that Christmas is only one week away and that every day counts. Check off the items that please you and come and get them at once. You will get the choice selections and less hurried service than later on.

HANDKERCHIEFS. Women's Hemstitched Handkerchiefs in pretty designs 5c to 50c each.	DOLLS. Handsome jointed Dolls with eyes that close and curled hair; \$3.00 dolls at\$1.50	TOILET SETS. Fine imported line of Toilet Cases different designs, set 25c to \$5.00
MEN'S SLIPPERS. Opera, Everett and Nullifier Slippers, black and tan, 75c to \$2.00 pair.	MUSIC ROLLS. Fine Black leather Music Roll; \$1.00 and \$1.25 quality at.....25c	PICTURES. Fine collection, each5c to \$1.00
LINEN DOILIES. Large Collection of Linen Doilies, special, each5c to 50c	GLOVES. Very fine quality Pique Gloves, pair\$1.00 and \$1.25	WOOL BLANKETS. \$10.00 White Blankets.....\$7.50 \$8.00 Wool Blankets.....\$6.00 \$7.50 Wool Blankets.....\$5.00
HAND BAGS. Hand Bags in a dozen different styles, each.....25c to \$2.50	FURS. \$7.50 Furs at.....\$5.00 \$10.00 Furs at.....\$7.50 \$15.00 Furs at.....\$12.00 \$20.00 Furs at.....\$15.00	UMBRELLAS. Best kind of a Christmas gift in Oregon, each\$1.00 to \$5.00
TOY TEA SETS. 50c set at.....25c \$1.00 set at.....75c \$1.50 set at.....\$1.00 \$2.00 set at.....\$1.50	LUNCH CLOTHS. Japanese Hand drawn lunch cloths, beautiful designs.....\$1.00 to \$5.00	WAIST GOODS. Fine Washable materials in all colors, yard25c to 75c
SUIT CASES. Suit cases to suit every one, each\$2.00 to \$12.50	DRESSER SCARFS. Hand-drawn Dresser Scarfs, fine quality.....\$1.25 to \$5.00	REBONS. For Hair Ribbons, Bows, etc: \$5a Ribbon25c 25c Ribbon15c
CUFF AND COLLAR BOXES. In different designs, each 25c to \$1.50	GOLF GLOVES. Golf Gloves in all colors and sizes.	KNIT SHAWLS. Handsome Shawls in all colors each\$1.00 to \$2.50
ALBUMS. In all kinds and descriptions, 25c to \$4.50 each.	LADIES' BATH ROBES. Fine assortment of patterns, \$7.50 value\$5.00	LINEN TABLE SETS. Fine hemstitched sets; make finest kind of Christmas gift.

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The Old Stove Man, will heat your house with stoves, Steam, Hot Water and with the assistance of the Editor of this paper, with hot air. No bum work done in our shop.

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