

THE MORNING ASTORIAN
 Established 1875.
 Published Daily Except Monday by
THE J. S. DELLINGER COMPANY.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.
 By mail, per year.....\$7.00
 By carrier, per month..... .60

WEEKLY ASTORIAN.
 By mail, per year, in advance..\$1.00

Entered as second-class matter July 30, 1898, at the postoffice at Astoria, Oregon, under the act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

Orders for the delivering of this paper to subscribers at other residences or places of business may be made by postal card or through letter-boxes. Any irregularity in delivery should be immediately reported to the office of publication.

TELEPHONE MAIN 661.
 Official paper of Clatsop county and the City of Astoria.

WEATHER.

Western Oregon and Washington—Fair.

A VAST UNDERTAKING.

The word comes from San Francisco, that there will be a tremendous effort made down there in the near future to break down unionism and establish a general "open shop" policy throughout the city. It will never be done.

In the first place the principal of unionism is an integral essence of human activity today and cannot be dislodged, no matter what is resorted to, to effect the rupture. It is part and parcel of the organic life of the people and of the greater part of them, and is cherished too deeply to permit successful invasion. What of annihilation might be attained at one place would be countered by a hundred defeats in other localities; and the only scheme of attack that would carry any weight would be that which is founded upon the inherently had qualities or principles known to exist in the cult, and these, if any do exist, will be found to compare very favorably with the same ugly principles that inspire organized capital at times.

The builders and contractors and capitalists will throw a torch of incalculable evil into the arena of the work-a-day world if they start in on any such program as this, and the end is utterly beyond human reckoning if once such a policy is inaugurated. It has been talked of, times without number, before, but has always subsided to nothingness, when those responsible for its initial demonstration were called upon for action.

Both labor and capital have much to answer for and to amend, in the big adjustments of their differences; capital, far the most, by reason of its holding the primary place of power in the government of conditions which make for work of all kinds; labor, for the riotous violence and vicious destruction of property, the controlling factors of their codes of reprisal. It is up to both great elements to strive for a new and decent basis of regulation of their wide indifference; and since all voluntary overtures have invariably proved abortive, the time may arrive for the interposition of the state.

We believe the situation has reached such importance that the people can no longer ignore it; that some broad provision of law must be made to serve the common interest, by intervening to fix, and finally determine, the great mooted questions that arise, and from which the public suffers as much, if not more, than either of the parties at interest. The day is not far distant when such recourse as this will be imperative, and any steps taken in that direction now, will serve a good purpose in clearing the way for a wise and happy adjustment as time and circumstance shall indicate. It is worth any man's while to carefully review the issue and do what he can to placate the evil tendencies that are brewing under the hateful and disorderly tactics now used by each of these immense elements. The state has been the salvation of many another desperate contention, and may be again.

UP TO THE YOUNGSTERS.

The idea of placing the control and development of the coming Fourth of July celebration in the hands of the young people of the Astoria High School, is a good one and will serve many excellent ends; not the least of which will be the conferring on these clever youngsters a deeper sense of real sentiment behind the great festival and a prouder phase of patriotism engendered by the work of demonstration, but

The Ending of the World.



By
CAMILLE FLAMMARION,
 Noted Astronomer.

IN a comparatively few years, astronomically speaking, this beautiful planet upon which we live, so full of life today, so full of activity, so noisy, so rich, on whose surface generations succeed generations so rapidly, will be dead—more, DESTROYED.

Just as she conceals in her bosom today the elements and dates of her beginnings, so she contains there the germs of her DECADENCE and end.

And not only she, but her companions also—Venus, her younger sister, who resembles her so closely and whose present humanity is undoubtedly centuries behind our present stage of progress; Mercury, fiery and swift; Jupiter, now pursuing his course with noble and majestic movement; Saturn, girdled with his triple ring and guarded by his eight satellites; Uranus, slow and venerable; Neptune, whose years are centuries—**ALL THESE WORLDS WILL SHORTLY HAVE CEASED TO EXIST.**

Inside an infinitely small fraction of eternity they will have lost all heat, water, air, liquids, gases, cohesion, affinity—all the elements of existence AND OF LIFE will have disappeared.

The spots on the sun, which are even now scaring many people, will have increased in number, and this great luminary will have been EXHAUSTED OF ITS HEAT by its long radiation into space.

At first these spots will be seen to spread themselves like two dark zones on either side of the equator of the sun, and meteorologists will observe a sensible diminution in its heat and light.

When millions of centuries shall have passed, this loss of heat will have become so great that ALL ORGANISMS on the planets will perish to give place to new beings constituted to live in the cold.

But an age will come when the sun, first growing dark red, then obscure, will cease to be the source of heat to the family of planets which have so long drawn from it their magnetism AND THEIR LIFE and will shed only a livid and sinister light.

The days shall be turned into nights, and there will be no longer either spring or summer. The worlds, dark and heavy, will revolve like black balls around another black ball.

THE HEAVENS WILL HAVE BECOME UNRECOGNIZABLE. THE EARTH DECREPIT, DRIED UP, DISINTEGRATED, WILL HAVE FALLEN INTO FRAGMENTS WHICH, SPREADING THEMSELVES ALONG HER ORBIT, WILL CONTINUE TO REVOLVE AROUND THE DEAD SUN.

Diminutive skeletons revolving around a giant skeleton, aerolites carrying into darkness the last fragments of a formerly inhabited earth, they will perhaps be enveloped in its passage by some hyperbolic comet which, carrying some of them with it in its course, will scatter them IN ANOTHER SYSTEM on some unknown planet, whose inhabitants, gathering them up to preserve them under glass in a museum, will analyze them without finding in them any clue to the history of the globe from whence they came.

it will be a lesson in original devising of schemes of entertainment appropriate to the day, and another in actual responsibility for the general and genuine success of the commemoration.

It will be an occasion they will never forget, and the greater their success the dearer and more effective that memory will be to them in years to come. They should be encouraged on all sides, but so far as it is possible to leave the details and plans in their own hands, this should be done, so that the entire measure of credit shall inure to them when the work is done and the honor is due.

There is no doubt about their doing the whole thing well and their eagerness to achieve the glory of the hour will be the best incentive of the occasion. Give them the money, all that is needed for a first-class display, just enough advice to keep them from disaster, and leave the rest to them. They will make good!

A TROUBLE-BREEDER.

The Port of Columbia law, which is presumed to go into effect today, is proving one of the worst trouble-breeders ever devised at the Oregon metropolis, and before it is done with, the average Portlander will wish he had never heard of it. (Apropos of this, it may have been observed that the Morning Oregonian has never given the measure the support its authors and backers had expected and which might have been due to any just and popular measure, but has treated it locally, half-heartedly and with grudging commendation that has, at last, convinced the thinking people up there that there is nothing in it, save another tax-tug in the burdensome harness they are hauling in.)

They have some to the conclusion that it was devised solely for the benefit of a few commercial houses and are beginning to rebel against it on the ground of the \$300,000 the already over-borne taxpayer will have to pay to help hold an element of business that must sooner or later, pass from them, to the natural and neighboring port of Astoria. They find the new scale of taxes arranged for them this year fearfully

exacting and are not disposed to put up with any phase of it that can be dispensed with upon any pretext whatever, and as this Port of Columbia law has any number of disqualifying elements about it, they intend to invoke the last of them in ridding themselves of, at least, that much extraordinary taxation.

We are of the opinion that when the act issues from the courts to which it will surely be taken to test its legality and constitutionality, the trouble of the taxpayer will be at an end, so far as that item of imposition is concerned. At the first sign of its being foisted on the public in any of its provisions, it will be haled into court and subjected to the sharpest overhauling ever undertaken and there will be no let up as long as there is a plea, or a court, left to invoke, against the rankest piece of demagoguery ever uttered in the Oregon legislature.

EDITORIAL SALAD.

The congregationalists must be proud of the Rev. Mr. Clark. Any man who expresses such positive opinion on one of the most important matters the church had to deal with and changes that opinion without argument when he sees it isn't going to be popular with his people is a dangerous man to lead a flock. He is more likely to preach that which is popular than that which is needful.

Every man believes that the women of his own country are the best and most beautiful, and while we know that American women surpass all others in every particular we ought to feel ashamed to compel our visitors to unblushingly lie about it.

The yellow journals are neglecting a splendid opportunity by failing to produce several thrilling columns on the result to little old New York's steel forests if the fleet of warships in the North River turned all their guns loose at once upon us.

Inquiries that are being made of the

Tennessee Coal & Iron Co., the only manufacturers of open-hearth steel rails, for 1900 delivery indicates a coming popularity and a present belief in the superior excellence of this manufacture.

When a rich widow of mature years marries a young man "because he loves her" she will save trouble by immediately employing a detective to collect data about the correspondents.

Cotton and grain are attracting attention and the poor, suffering railroads will get a rest, also the weary stocks on the big exchange.

Wouldn't be surprised any minute to hear of an army of green bugs marching down Broadway to assault the produce Exchange.

Women suffragists find some consolation in the relection that all the biggest and finest ocean liners are "she."

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