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Official paper of Clatsop county and the City of Astoria.

WEATHER.

Western Oregon—Fair; slightly warmer north portion except near coast.
Western Washington—Fair; warmer except near coast.

FAIRBANKS' DAY.

There was plenty of pleasure and interest agog hereabout yesterday anent the coming of Vice-President Fairbanks of the United States, together with the presence of the cruiser Charleston, her officers and men, the homing of the troops from the forts and the influx of people from the outlying districts.

Of course, the Vice-President was the central figure of the day, and he was made to realize the real importance attaching to his visit, not only as a prominent and forceful citizen of the land, but as one of its chief dignitaries.

He made a pleasant impression everywhere and current comment was most kindly in every respect, save that of a political sort, of which there was comparatively none.

WHOSE FIGHTING PORTLAND?

There is more or less talk about Astoria "fighting Portland," among Portland people whom we have the pleasure of entertaining here once in a while, and we do not understand the situation in a way that moves us to a conviction; we know there are some points of public, commercial policy on which the two cities fail to agree, and will probably disagree for years to come, but in the sense that we are deliberately "fighting" the metropolis, we deny it, in toto.

Like Portland we have a program of our own and before we attain to it we must cross the lines of communal endeavor thrown out by the big city up the river, and for the time being we shall seemingly be arrayed against her, but as a matter of fact we are striving for that which shall make Portland flourish as she has never yet flourished, if she will but credit us with honesty and common sense.

and everyone of the advantages we possess, if she will but recognize our superior fitness for the post and prospect.

Why can she not make this her port of entry and her exporting terminal and send down the wealth of stuff she despatches to the world abroad? Why does she not recognize the fact that she can command the flatest rail and sea rates in vogue anywhere on earth, if she will but put her tonnage at the docks here within 10 short miles of blue water, and save to herself and the shippers the cost of \$5000 a ship on the towage and delay incident to the up-river voyage from here? The trouble is, she will not even think it out; she has the means to make this the cheapest ocean port on the Pacific and to command the exclusive business for all time, and yet, we contend for it, on account of the correlative advantage it would be to Astoria, she declares we are fighting her an harassing her maritime interests.

She would soon find how eager, how glad, how able we are to cinch this prestige on her forever, if she would but devise the ways and means of establishing it. We are fighting for that which means more to Portland than anything she can possibly do for herself, and we shall continue to fight until Portland sees the point and avails herself of our help in doing that which shall make immensely for the Northwest, the State of Oregon, the City of Portland and, of course, for Astoria.

The Savage Club of New York may thank its unlucky stars that Mark Twain wasn't moved to appear at its dinner in both-robe, slippers and bare legs—if the members really wanted something worth while to talk about.

WAR TALK MAKES WAR!

It may be well remembered by some of the yellow journals of America that war talk makes for war; keys up a people to thought and action that might not be reached were there none of it. There is an element of danger in irresponsible newspaper talk that does not strike one until it has run to a point where its tenor and tone makes for explanations that do not explain.

... The Speculator ...

There are men who may be said to assimilate best with the condition of war, pestilence or famine. They can never do the drudgery necessary to a small beginning. Give one of them the assurance that by working in a humdrum field for a few years he may secure not only competence, but fortune, and he will not be able to bring himself to suffer the restraint and endure the steady labor required.

Bushnell Bugbee was one of this kind. He had been given a splendid opportunity by an uncle to work up from a subordinate position to succeed his uncle, who was childless, in the management of the business. He proved himself incompetent, only distinguishing himself once, when the store caught fire. Then his was the only cool head about the premises, and he saved the place from destruction.

His uncle finally discharged him, and he drifted, doing nothing till, when at the lowest ebb, he married. He said he thought marriage would settle him. Perhaps a better statement of the case would be that the condition of a married man with no income would create conditions under which he could act. At any rate it did.

He had a hundred dollars at the time of his marriage, and he proceeded to lose that at a game of faro. Then one morning when he and his wife had nothing in the house for breakfast he started out to find some means of bettering his condition.

Strolling along a street aimlessly with his hands in his pockets, he came to a stone front dwelling, from the stoop of which protruded a red flag, denoting an auction. There is something in this symbol when hung from such a place denoting trouble. Ten to one those who have lived in the house died or failed in business or met with some calamity to render the sale necessary. Possibly it was some such thought that led Bugbee to enter. He found a splendid house with fine furniture of an olden type that was to be sold under the hammer. He looked the property over with the critical eye of one who was considering whether it was good enough for him.

A crowd was gathering, and presently the auctioneer mounted a table and called for a bid. Some one started with an offer of \$20,000, which was not half the value of the property. The bidding was spirited till \$30,000 was reached, when all but two bidders dropped out. One of these seemed determined to secure what was evidently a bargain, and the other after vying with him till the figure of \$34,000 was reached gave up the contest and withdrew.

At this juncture Bushnell Bugbee felt a stiff piece of paper slipped into his hand, and a downward glance told him it was a bank bill. At the same time a man standing next to him whispered to him to bid against the winner. Bugbee, who was getting hungry for his breakfast, obeyed. He raised

warlike terms; a contingency our people are in no humor for on such an hypothesis. The world may say what it likes, but we know the Japanese, as a whole, are exceedingly friendly to this country and have reason to be, and we have as much reason to count on that national goodwill, the trouble-makers to the contrary notwithstanding. The brains and culture of both nations are for peace and all the amenities inherent therein, and the "war parties" on either side of the Pacific, are made up of the political "outs" and the jingo factions that exist everywhere.

EDITORIAL SALAD.

Why not send "Pitchfork" Tillman and the Honorable John Temple Graves around into the Pacific as a sample of our "preparedness" to fight?

Witness Rockefeller has given a new meaning and force to the aphorism that "you can't squeeze blood out of a turnip."

Obviously, the President didn't move the "Liar!" machine to Oyster Bay with the rest of the White House paraphernalia.

WEIGHED 500 POUNDS.

NEW YORK, July 15.—Mrs. Margaret McMahon, the biggest woman in New Jersey, is dead at her home in Newark.

In order that her body may be taken out of the house this morning for interment, one of the window frames has been removed and 16 inches of brick-work at the side of it. It will take 12 men to carry the coffin to the street and as there is not a hearse large enough to hold it, it will have to be conveyed to the cemetery in a wagon. Mrs. McMahon weighed nearly 500 pounds.

A Memorable Day.

One of the days we remember with pleasure, as well as with profit to our health, is the one on which we became acquainted with Dr. King's New Life Pills, the painless purifiers that cure headache and biliousness, and keep the bowels right. 25c at Charles Rogers' drug store.

A VERY NARROW ESCAPE.

NEW YORK, July 15.—Friends of Judge Alton B. Parker heard today that he had a narrow escape from death in Virginia Saturday night. While riding on a train between Norfolk and Richmond, a bullet crashed through the window beside which Judge Parker was sitting, and embedded itself in the wood-work of the opposite side of the car. It could not be ascertained who fired the shot.

HOUSEHOLD CARES.

Tax the Women of Astoria the Same as Elsewhere.

Hard to attend to household duties With a constantly aching back. A woman should not have a bad back, And she wouldn't if the kidneys were well. Doan's Kidney Pills make well Kidneys.

Mrs. A. S. Cummings, of 244 Clackamas street, Portland, Oregon, says: "Kidney complaint and backache clung to me for a long time and often I suffered very severe attacks of it. Sometimes it was a dull heavy aching over the kidneys, and again sharp acute pain in the small of the back. The kidney secretions passed frequently and often with pain. I had tried several remedies with poor results and was finally induced to use Doan's Kidney Pills. They helped me very quickly and continuing their use I soon found relief from the aches and pains. The action of the kidney secretions was also strengthened to a great extent. I recommended Doan's Kidney Pills in our papers three years ago. I am always pleased to say a good word for this remedy and am glad of this opportunity to confirm my former testimony."

For sale by all dealers. Price 50 cents. Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, New York, sole agents for the United States.

Remember the name—Doan's—and take no other. Plenty more proof like this from Astoria people. Call at Charles Rogers' drug store and ask what his customers report.

FINANCIAL.

First National Bank of Astoria, Ore.

ESTABLISHED 1886.

Capital \$100,000

J. Q. A. BOWLBY, President. RANK PATTON, Cashier. O. I. PETERSON, Vice-President. J. W. GARNER, Assistant Cashier.

Astoria Savings Bank

Capital Paid in \$100,000. Surplus and Undivided Profits \$50,000. Transacts a General Banking Business. Interest Paid on Time Deposits.

168 Tenth Street, ASTORIA, OREGON

Post Cards in LEATHER and PAPER

Largest assortment in city. ASTORIA LOCAL CARDS

30 different views. Seal photos, hand colored, 2 for 5c, or 50c for complete set of 30. These are the finest local cards on sale. See the window.

E. A. HIGGINS CO.,

MUSIC BOOKS STATIONERY

BATTERIES

Astoria Hardware Co., - 113 12th St.