

RAILROAD GETTING NEARER.

Surveyors in the P. N. & R. Working Towards Astoria From Jewell and Olney.

Evidence of progressive work on the various railroads which are running through Clatsop county and have Astoria for their objective point are daily coming to view. At the present time the Lytle interests, which are the Harriman interests, have crews of surveyors working in the district around Jewell.

A surveying party of 15 men under Engineer F. W. Walsh left Astoria yesterday for the neighborhood of Jewell where a camp will be erected. The party is equipped for a considerable stay in that section and its work will consist in running preliminary and location lines down the Clatskanie and Lewis & Clark River Valleys to determine the best route and grades into Astoria or Warrenton or wherever the terminal of the line will be located.

Mr. Walsh has had his party out on the Nehalem and states that although the country is pretty thick with underbrush the lines were run out and that country favorable to constructing a

railroad was struck all the way. The company for which he is working is the Pacific Railway & Navigation Co. and while he is unable to give out any information concerning the work it is in connection with the line that the Harriman interests are building to connect at Tillamook with the line to be built by E. E. Lytle from Portland to Tillamook.

COLLECTORS BUSY.

Man With the Monthly Bills Great in Evidence in Astoria Yesterday.

Good morning! Have you—er, what kind of a tale did you "hand out" to the bill collector yesterday? Bill collectors were the busiest people in Astoria from early yesterday morning until the shades of night obliterated the store and house numbers. The energetic youth in trim clothes, with a black or brown "Morocco" bill-book, was greatly in evidence. A number of the people he was after were not in evidence. The majority, however, were "flush" enough to pay up their just debts and the first of the month passed off successfully, while a large amount of cash changed hands.

WATERFRONT ITEMS

Harbor Busy With Passing Fleet of Vessels.

400 PEOPLE ON T. J. POTTER

Crew on Umatilla Reef Lightship is in Good Health and Have Had Their Pay Increased—River Getting Smoky and Pilots Are Having Trouble.

There was a great crowd of beach-bound passengers on the O. R. & N. steamer T. J. Potter yesterday afternoon. Agent Roberts, the company's representative here, reports that there were 400 passengers although judging from the number who lined the guards of the big steamer as she pulled into the dock it seemed there must be twice as many, for the boat crowded considerably with their weight. They were a happy set and all were looking forward to a jolly vacation at the beach.

Among the passengers who were on the Potter but who did not share the general hilarity of their fellow travelers were 17 riding ponies in charge of James Nicol, of the Portland Riding Academy. They were put off here and will be taken to Seaside and Gearhart Park for the resorters to ride. Horses know that sand is hard on their muscles and that was the reason that their vacation is not the most joyous thing that can happen to them.

Inspector Kerron, of the United States customs patrol, was occupied a while yesterday afternoon in stamping some Chinese tobacco at the custom house which had been held in bond.

The coasting steamer Sue H. Elmore loaded merchandise at the A. & C. R. dock yesterday and at 5 o'clock dropped down to the lower slip of the O. R. & N. dock.

The steamer Jim Butler was reported at the custom house yesterday as arriving in from San Francisco to Astoria in ballast.

The schooner Transit cleared yesterday for San Francisco. She carries away for cargo 650,000 of lumber from the Tongue Point Lumber Company.

The gasoline schooner Gazelle, from Portland, received clearance yesterday for Yaquina Bay where she will be operated this summer.

The oil steamer Asuncion arrived down the river yesterday and passed out bound for California.

Lighthouse tender Heather was up the river yesterday at the Buoy Depot and dropped down again yesterday evening and tied up at her berth at the Sanborn dock.

The Lurline arrived down last night about on time. She would have made the port on schedule but had to stop at Tongue Point for freight.

Captain Nolan, of the Umatilla reef lightship, which is up at the Buoy Depot, was down in the city yesterday and in reply to a question stated that he knew nothing of the report which appeared in several of the San Francisco papers that his ship and the other lightships on the coast were to be equipped with a submarine bell for warning steamers in fog. If such additions to the apparatus of the lightships are to be made by the department the information has not been given to the active members of the coast ships as yet. The submarine bell is an arrangement for warning ships of their approach to each other in thick weather. The principal is the same as a wireless equipment although the bell is less intricate. The lightships on the Atlantic coast are equipped with this bell as are many of the ships. By a system of tubes leading from the pilot house to the ship's hull and making connection with the water the strokes on a hull can be heard for 10 or 15 miles. In this way ships could be warned of the presence of a lightship.

Captain Nolan reports a pleasant trip up and that all the crew are in fine fettle. During the last two months the department has raised the wages of the members of the crew. The master is now getting \$1300 a year, engineer \$1200, assistant engineer \$1000 and mate \$100. Fireman are getting \$55 a month and seamen \$50.

The British steamship Melville Dollar was chartered this morning to transport a cargo of lumber from up river and Puget Sound to Guaymas, Mexico. She is now at Tacoma, where about half the cargo will be received. When it

has been placed on board, the steamer will go to Portland to finish loading. She is expected to arrive here in about two weeks. The Melville Dollar has capacity for handling 3,500,000 feet of lumber.

Smoke from forest fires on the Washington shore back of Stella is already causing the pilots and masters of river steamers considerable trouble. The steamer Redondo, which left here Wednesday evening for Portland, had not arrived at noon yesterday and it is believed that she had to anchor somewhere on the river until the smoke lifted. According to Captain Bailey, who piloted the Alliance up to Portland Wednesday, the smokiest part of the river is between Cape Horn and Rainier.

BANANA FRUIT IN EVIDENCE

The Retail Fruit Merchants Claim That Cost Of Italians Joy Has Advanced Six Times In The Same Number Of Years.

Local vendors of fruit assert that there is a banana trust in the United States of such proportions that it puts all the other trust in the background. According to the present price of this tropical fruit it appears that such an assertion has considerable foundation.

During the past five years retailers of this fruit have been compelled to pay almost six times the price they paid before that period. One reason is because of the trust, according to local men.

In former years the purchaser of a car of bananas paid for only those that arrived in good condition, but under the orders of the trust a carload has to be paid for in advance, and there is no rebate even if the entire load is in bad condition.

As an instance of this local men cite the fact that a Portland commission house ordered three cars of bananas recently. All of them had been ordered from a New York house and paid for, the cars being shipped from New Orleans. When the fruit arrived every carload was in such bad condition that they were utterly useless and unsaleable.

The combine has managed to control the fruit situation, especially the imports from tropical climates, in such a manner that it dictates prices and its policy in a manner which rivals the methods of the Standard Oil company.

This is the assertion of a number of retail fruit merchants, one of whom declared yesterday he was ashamed to ask his customers a price large enough to afford him any profit at all.

NEW TO-DAY.

Golden Oak
Rug filler and bird cages now in Hildebrand & Gor.

☑ Morning Astorian, 60 cents per month, delivered by carrier.

Columbia and Victor graphophones and latest records at 424 Commercial street. A. R. Cyrus. tf.

Attention Rebekahs.
Gateway Rebekah Lodge No. 77 meets in regular session tonight. Members take notice. Miss Mamie Clinton, secretary.

Social Dance.
The Liberty Bell Social Club will give another one of their dances Saturday night, August 3rd. The invitations have been sent out. 8-1-3t.

Cheap round-trip rates to the East from Astoria:
To Chicago \$71.50
To Omaha 60.00
To Kansas City 60.00
To St. Paul 60.00
To St. Louis 67.50
Tickets on sale August 8-9-10, September 11-12-13. For further particulars apply to G. W. Roberts, agent O. R. & N. Wm. McMurray, G. P. A., Portland, Or.

What Flour to Buy.
Housewives who have lived in other parts of the country are often puzzled to know which flour to order, out here. If you want high grade flour, the best and most economical, because it makes the most loaves to the sack and of the very best quality, order White River Flour, always. It is THE high-grade flour of the Northwest. Those not familiar with this flour should give it a trial while the distributors are giving away sample sacks. They will give a two-pound sack free with every full-sized order—one free sack only to each housewife. This is certainly a fair offer and shows the distributors, Allen & Lewis, of Portland, Oregon, have full confidence in the quality of their goods. Details from your Grocer.



One thing about this store doesn't

change with the thermometer or the almanac; Our standard of quality keeps steady in one place; hot or cold, July or January, we mean to sell the best goods made.

As evidence of that purpose we remind you that we are the Hart Schaffner & Marx people of this town; we've got some very fine summer clothes of their make waiting to be used



Leader in Nobby Clothes

Wanted.
A chambermaid for a hotel. Address "J.," Astorian office. 7-12-tf.

Panama hats cleaned and blocked. Leave them with Dell Skully.

More Cheap Rates.
On August 8, 9 and 10 the CANADIAN PACIFIC will again place on sale round trip excursion tickets to eastern points at very low rates. Passengers routed via Spokane, via Seattle and Sumas, or via Victoria and Vancouver. For full particulars call on or address James Finlayson, agent, Astoria.

Oliver typewriters and automatic stenographers at A. R. Cyrus, 424 Commercial street. tf.

Steamer T. J. Potter for Ilwaco, daily except Fridays, connecting with train for all points on North (Long) Beach. Call at O. R. & N. dock for information regarding rates, etc.

Choice of Routes.
The Canadian Pacific offers a choice of routes to the East.

The Short Line via Spokane, or via Victoria and Vancouver, or via Sumas. Choose one of these routes and avoid the heat and dust. Service the best. Passengers routed by the way of the Canadian National Park. For descriptive matter and full particulars call on or address, James Finlayson, agent, Astoria.

IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE.
It makes all the difference in the world to the convivial man where, and what, he drinks. Most men desire beauty and cleanliness, and handsome appointments in the saloon they patronize regularly, as well as the essential pre-requisite of genuine wines and liquors that are served to them. And these things are so particularly and properly conspicuous at Otto Sund's elegant resort, the Commercial, at No. 509 on the street of that name that they account thoroughly for the fixed and splendid custom he enjoys. There is nothing allowed to pass his counter but the best and choicest in every department of indulgence, and the service behind it all, is the most pleasing and satisfying in the city.

Ice Cream....
Made from Pure Sweet Cream, 30c. Quart.

Whipped Cream
25 Cents a Quart

—AT—
TAGG'S PARLORS
483 Commercial St.

Astoria Theatre To-Night
"A Western Gentleman"
Saturday Matinee
CAMILLE
Prices,15c, 25c, 35c, 50c
Matinee prices15c and 25c

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