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Official paper of Clatsop county and the City of Astoria.

THE WEATHER.

Oregon, Washington, Idaho—Fair.

CONFIRMATION PILING UP.

The news of the great purchase, by the Hill interests, of the Flavel and Hammond properties in the West Side, comes with cheerful and confirmatory assurance that is full of meaning for this city and county. We forecasted this same transfer three weeks ago and did it heartily on the simple predicate that the lands in question could not, logically, go to any other buyer, as they were incontestably the ideal layout for the Hill terminals. With the whole city we rejoice in the consummation of the big deal because it adds immensely to the prestige conferred by the entry of this great transportation system into this territory, especially as it comes with the vast accretion and influence of a sea-terminal, a status that carries the promise of marine extension and equipment that is certain to be fulfilled at the earliest possible moment.

Any community that gets a Hill railway and steamship terminus may count itself wonderfully fortunate, because the spirit that actuates the typical expansionist at the head of the great properties is of a sort that builds always and wisely and never permits the mould of inertia to grow by so much as an atom upon the work of his brain and hand. Therefore this master-stroke, which has given him indubitable command of another superb highway from the mountains to the sea, and athwart seas to the uttermost corners of the earth, will be made into one of the most notable of the great depots of the world. James J. Hill will see to it that his splendid command of the Columbia Basin suffers nothing for want of equipment; from the Snake River to Clatsop Spit, he will have all that the huge new highway demands for its widest development. Elevators, docks, warehouses and all the elements of traffic and cargo handling will be in evidence just as each are required for service, and the end of the coming year will see an incalculable change everywhere on the long route. Especially will this be proven at the sea end of the system. For it goes without saying he has not bought 2200 acres of waterfront land to lie barren and useless at the mouth of one of the greatest rivers in the world, while he commands the rail mileage to the uttermost reaches of the interior, along its course.

The effect on Astoria and her county cannot be measured in terms nor dollars. This is a matter of rich and constant development, and all that may be said in dependable fashion at the moment is, that it will have a tremendously stimulating results in the realty market, without forcing it to an altitude at once ridiculous and dangerous, but yet, commensurate with the incontestable advantages that such news as this warrants. It gives new impetus to hundreds of dormant energies and industries and opens up the local field to outside, as well as to home capital, in a myriad ways that would not have been attempted with anything less assuring. It is altogether good and gratifying; and deeply as all Astorians feel on the prime question of the hour, it will not be permitted to overwhelm us to any degree of idleness as too good a thing to be frittered away in rabid, speculative plans, and will be used as the greatest, most tangible and effective basis this section ever possessed, for sensibly and honestly exploiting the advantages of the port, the city, and the county.

"BUSINESS IS BUSINESS."

There was no lack of critical comment on the streets yesterday morning when it became known that the promotion committee of the Chamber of Commerce had passed another baffling proposition up to William Reid, on the right-of-way deal which he had come down here to close on the basis of the original understanding between these factors in the Portland-Oregon & Seacoast Railway negotiations; the general tendency be-

ing to sharp stricture of the committee for failing to make good on the prescribed plane, rather than piling up the additional, and wholly foreign embargo, of "a \$200,000 bond to protect the workmen who may be engaged in the construction of the road".

It is held by many in the city that if the promotion committee is not capable of closing up a deal like this, in a businesslike way, promptly, and without permitting the intervention of similar, though rival interests, in an affair of such moment as this; and that if the full committee of nine, is to delegate its influence and authority to a third of the membership, the sooner the Chamber takes up the power it has delegated, the better for all concerned.

Mr. Reid came down here prepared to perform the share of his principals in the matter of the money-and-deed-escrow and that was the end of the transaction, so far as it has proceeded, of act, and record. There was no call for the shallow farce of the bond to protect the men who are to do the construction work; the transparency of the thing indicates that it was a pretext and a bluff, and it bears a decidedly inspired look to level-headed business men about town.

Everybody knows that William Reid is not operating, this time, as an actual promoter and builder; but is here as the agent and representative of people and interests presumably safe and respectable, and, until proven otherwise, entitled to full faith and credit. And since he came as an agent and has not posed as anything else from beginning to end, it were the better part of communal decency not to deliberately and pointedly pile up barriers for which there is no call nor excuse.

That there is a contention afoot as to the prior claim of the Lytle interests in the right-of-way, by reason of their having first surveyed and staked out the unbought grade, is beside the matter as it was presented to this community by the Hawgood people; that issue is up to the parties themselves to settle in, or out, of court, as best suits their ends and aims. We do not have to adjust that nor any other controversy; all we had to do was to keep faith with Mr. Reid so far as we have pledged our faith; and the outcome does not bear too close scrutiny on this score, so far as we are concerned.

What Astoria wants is more railroads. It does not make any difference who brings them in here, so they come; and it is the plain duty of the biggest committee in the Astoria Chamber of Commerce to see to it that their coming is assured in so far as the people of this city can assure it. Not man, nor three, are qualified or commissioned to arbitrarily set up barriers against Mr. Reid, nor any other man, duly sent here to treat with this community; and the nine members of the promotion committee may not do it either, if the policy is directly antagonistic to the public good.

It is not a question of what Mr. Reid can or will do, but what his principals will do; and as much is known of them and their purposes as is known of Mr. Lytle and his. We have certain things to offer and certain compacts to make and keep; and our communal honesty is not to be jeopardized at the behest of any antagonistic interest, in nor out of Astoria, and the sooner this is understood, the better for all in touch with public matters of this sort.

EDITORIAL SALAD.

An aged Connecticut man says he has waited over eighty year for his automobile. But then, it's better to wait for trouble than go looking for it.

A Kansas City wife complained that she never received a cent of her eight-dollars-a-week salary. He must have been a high roller then!

Senator Tillman is said to be a great lover of flowers. Still he cannot pluck many from bouquets thrown at him.

Isn't it about time for the goose-bone or chrestra to give us music suggestive of a long, cold winter?

The Japanese will soon trust us implicitly enough to let us bid for their next loan.

Prosperity's watchword for the future should be: "Nationalize the Mississippi."

Rest is defined as a change of occupation. But this is not definition of rest that represents the side of the bears as they lope through Louisiana canebreaks.

Secretary Taft is the first war minister to go around the world and talk peace. The Hague Conference may accomplish nothing, but the Taft mission is doing well.

A novelist is said to be the mother of the most beautiful girl of 14 in England. The critics will all be complimentary for once when they review this sort of authorship.

Harry Thaw proposes to appeal to the Supreme Court because his trial is delayed. Caleb Powers has been waiting seven years for a trial in Kentucky, with a prospect of serving a life sentence without reaching a final legal result.

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.85 12-ft. wide; best grade linoleum.....	" .65	20.00 Bed Couch, imitation Spanish leather.....	" 15.00
.65 6-ft. wide; good grade linoleum.....	" .475	17.50 Combination desk and bookcase.....	" 11.95
.50 6-ft. wide; best grade oil cloth.....	" .35	20.00 Hair Mattress	" 13.75
.35 Matting	" .225	18.00 Hair Mattress	" 11.00
32.50 Body Brussels rug, 9x12.....	" 26.25	12.00 Felt Mattress	" 8.85
25.00 Axminster rug, 9x12.....	" 19.75	40.00 Turkish Rocker, leather.....	" 32.75
25.00 Best Grade Velvet rug, 9x12.....	" 19.75	10.00 Oak Rocker, spring seat.....	" 6.35
16.50 Reversible Brussels rug, 9x12.....	" 12.25	3.00 Oak Rocker, cobbler seat.....	" 2.25
11.50 All Steel Folding Beds.....	" 7.35	6.50 Music Cabinet	" 4.25
7.50 All Steel Folding Couches.....	" 4.85	2.00 All Feather Pillows.....	" 1.35
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