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Official paper of Clatsop County and the City of Astoria.

WEATHER.

Western Oregon and Washington—Rain.

THE OREGON CONUNDRUM.

The people at large are smiling, many are laughing, at the coterie of Portland bankers, who, on Monday night last, chartered a special train at the metropolis, rushed to Salem at top speed, and beseeched the Governor for a five-day proclamation instituting a "legal holiday" in order that they might get a line on their call loans in the East and lighten-up a visionary stress in the money-market herabout; and who, within twenty-four hours from the utterance of his declaration in favor of their plea, opened up their banks and began to do business, as though the Governor and his extraordinary concession were not in existence.

The only thing we blame his excellency for is that he did not take time to consult some of the out-lying bankers of the state and satisfy himself that there was really something, beside the unaccountable timidity of a few Portland financiers, to warrant such signal action on his part. However, he cannot be blamed with reason, since he believed he was doing a safe and timely thing at the behest of representative citizens. What of blame there is in the premise, they must bear with what face they can. But we are making a side-bet, at "16 to 1," they will never trap him into like precipitation again.

The news from the East is that things are fast becoming normal; the news from Portland is that things financial are normal there, with no sign of excitement or uneasiness; and things here are as quiet as they can well be, save for the general half-humorous, half-bewildered status evoked by the inexplicable action of the Portlanders, a condition matched all over the state by communities equally surprised and measurably amused. The result of the untoward movement of last Monday is the universal tying up of current business and compelling the merchants and dealers and business men to await the issue of Monday next, when, without doubt, the atmosphere will be purged of all cause for conjecture and disadvantage in the prompt resumption of the common and authentic activities.

WHY NOT AT ASTORIA?

Uncle Sam has just about determined that he is going to need new facilities on the Pacific Coast for docking, repairing, equipping, and generally caring for the ships of the great fleet soon to be headed out here. He need not look far for an available site charged with all the raw materials incident to such an enterprise, including easy access, fine harbor room, superb channel-ways, and the inseparable elements of safety and quick despatch. All he has to do is to nominate this port and harbor as the place and go ahead with his work.

Aside from the natural essentials so complete and ready at hand here, he already has three forts in existence here, lacking nothing by way of invincible protection except some additional men and supplies; and as for docksites they are lying around loose all over the lower reaches of the Columbia River.

We respectfully insist that this is the best, in fact, the only admirable, place on the upper coast, for such an establishment; and that if it is properly handled by our representatives in Congress, the splendid advantage can be secured for the government and for Oregon; and, incidentally, for Astoria.

POSTAL EXPANSION.

We are glad to note that the postmaster-general is to recommend the adoption of the parcels post in this country, and that he may urge, in a limited fashion, the adoption of the postal savings bank. Both these steps have been needed in America for years, and will take readily whenever they are inaugurated. They may interfere, at first, with the express and banking systems as they are operated now, but in the end they will contribute mightily to the further success of those organic phases of business, by creating an infinite larger clientele in both departments of

business. There is no sound reason why either should be denied the people, and manage the influence of the powerful agencies commercially engaged in the two lines, they will not be!

DO A CHEERFUL STUNT!

When in doubt about anything that cannot be explained just at the moment, do the optimistic thing and put it on a cheerful level anyway! Do a cheerful stunt; it makes one feel better, and forms a kind of mental cushion for the reactionary blow when it does arrive! Good cheer has saved many a forlorn situation, and created many a new chance to recover from what looked to be irretrievable loss and discomfiture.

Patience and courage and confidence have won more battles than steel and strategy ever engaged in; and they are almost invincible qualities if they are cultivated constantly as part and parcel of one's philosophic armament, and are not left merely for adventitious recourse at some special crisis. Good cheer has a definite money-value if one hunts closely for it. It has a light all its own, whereby one may guide one's self, and others, to the blessed realities of achievement. It is a gracious habit, and it grows like a weed when it is given a chance. Try it on, once; do a cheerful stunt and see where it ends!

We make too much of our doubts and disappointments and the dubious things of life; we use our imagination far too much, and build far too hastily of flimsy materials such as fear, fool-questions, irritability, self-consciousness, alleged incapacity, and all the other agencies that make for defeat. Fight when you must; but laugh always, and if you can't laugh, smile!

It may be libellous to call a Berlin aristocrat a rascal, but when it comes to considering whether or not it is true, the Berlin court decides it will have nothing to do with the case.

Mayor McClellan's department heads will reluctantly consent to cut off some necessary appropriations provided the inflated salaries remain in the budget.

Gov. Chanler at Atlanta advises taking the tariff out of politics, but his principal difficulty is to get his Presidential candidacy taken into politics.

Americans' Odd Craze.

Some Americans have an odd craze for believing that the rightful heirs of British peerages are Americans "kept out of their own." One of these queer people asks me whether Jemima, the heiress of the Macdougall line of Earls of Tobermory, was not really a daughter of Queen Mary? Was not James VI, a son of fat old Lady Rerke, not of Queen Mary? The present Duke of Tobermory is descended from the fifth son of the earl of 1715. But what became of the fourth son? The peerages say that he died young without offspring. But did he not "escape to America," and is he not the Thomas Robertson who married a fair colonist in 1730, and is not a certain Robert Thompson the son of this Thomas Robertson, and are not his descendants earls of Tobermory and kings of Scotland? Will I not get at the family papers, now kept in Melrose abbey, and clear the matter up? The names I here alter, but all this tissue of nonsense is solemnly laid before my reluctant eyes in the hope that some possible J. P. Robertson is Duke of Tobermory.—Andrew Lang in Illustrated News.

A Custom of the Yuma Indians.

Burning the dead, as observed among the Yumas, is interesting. The body is first thoroughly wrapped and then placed on logs and brush over a hole in the ground. A bed of logs is built up at each side and at the head of the bier, which is next covered over and strewn about with dry fagots. The flames are applied, and while they burn the clothing, blankets, etc., of the deceased are added to the fire. The horse of the dead man, however, is not burned among the Yumas, as is the custom with some Indians. A day or two after death the wigwam of the deceased, if an adult, is burned, the rest of the family then going to live with some relative. The Yumas make a great show of sorrow over their dead. Later they are never mentioned at all.—Southern Workman.



The Builder—Unless you stay with me I've got to stop building railroads. Owing to the difficulty in obtaining money nearly all the railroad construction work will cease by the first of the year.—N. Y. Times.

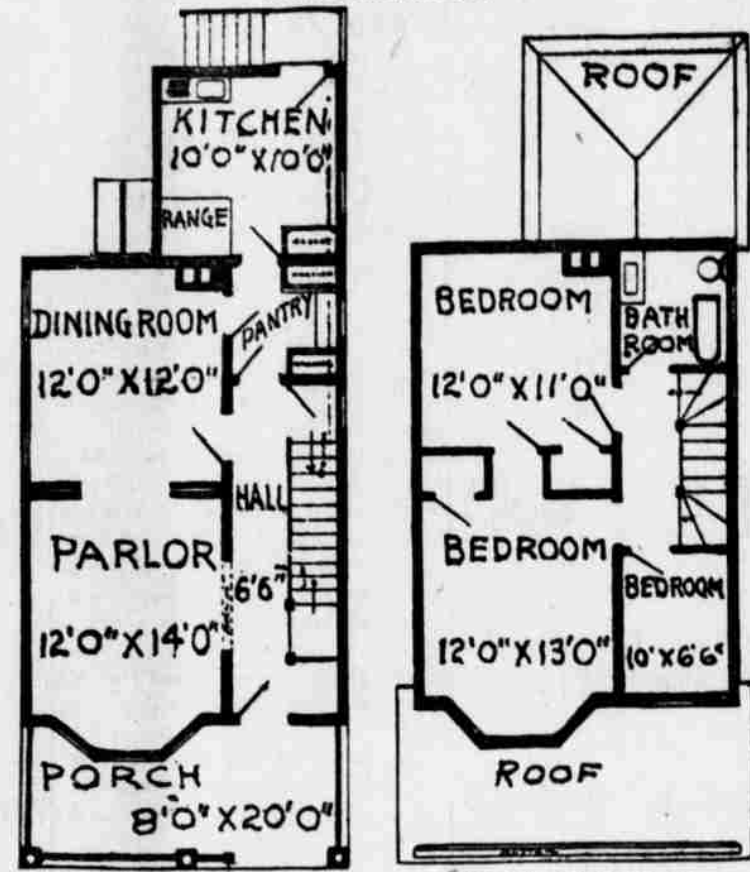
Suburban Residence.

Plain, Substantial Frame House, Roomy and Well Arranged—Cost \$2,500.

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