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Official paper of Clatsop County and the City of Astoria.

WEATHER.

Western Oregon and Washington—Occasional light rain.
Eastern Oregon—Fair.

BANKS THAT CLOSE—AND PAY.

J. Frank Watson, president of the suspended Merchants' National Bank, of Portland, declares his bank is the victim of an embarrassing pressure of false rumor; that the suspension is but temporary; that it can, and will, pay in full, to its uttermost obligation, etc., etc., and for the time being, this is the most cheerful view to take of the situation. There is, assuredly, no man in Oregon who has any lesser hope for that, or any other institution, now at the mercy of critical consideration.

We shall be glad indeed to herald the timely resumption of the Oregon Trust Company, the Title, Guaranty & Trust Company and the Merchants' National; because it will furnish incontestable evidence of the soundness of the whole business in Oregon and restore confidence as nothing else could.

The bank that closes—and then pays out, wins a place not easily disturbed thereafter, and if the Comptroller of Currency and Mr. Watson, and the other receivers in question, make good in the existing disturbances, Portland will know how to appreciate it, as well as the rest of the state.

"THAT'S OIL RIGHT!"

That quasi-public corporation, the Astoria Fuel Company, the concern organized under the aegis of the local Chamber of Commerce, to expedite practical inquiry into the oil-bearing qualities of the earth in and around Clatsop county is going ahead quietly and intelligently with its task. It has made a good start and secured a strong foothold in the confidence of the people, and as soon as it has made enough headway in point of concessions and leases and its stock has sold to such proportions as to meet the cost of the purchase and operation of a model and modern well-boring outfit, the chance of this big development will be put to the touch.

The fact that the stock of the company has been placed at \$1.00 per share, leaves no excuse for any man falling to get in on the ground floor; and if the venture proves successful there will be plenty of profit for all concerned; while, in case of failure, the loss will be comparatively nil. And successful, or not, it is well worth the cost of the transaction, some \$12,000, to know absolutely that there is, or is not, oil and gas, in useable and valuable quantities in this soil that gives forth such abundant affirmative signs.

ASTORIA AT PORTLAND.

At the big "Advertising" dinner given by the Commercial Club, at Portland, on Tuesday night last, Manager John H. Whyte, of the Astoria Chamber of Commerce, and Mayor Wise, with others of the delegation from this city, made a good impression as to the means used here to advertise Astoria, Clatsop and Oregon, and convinced the live men of the metropolis that we are squarely in line for the best demonstration possible of the utilities and advantages of the entire commonwealth. Our people and their work were well received and heartily commended and the meeting was profitable of the best of feeling in all directions.

Of this we are really glad and the status will be maintained if it rests with us to preserve the balance of good will as between the two cities. Astoria needs Portland in her business, and the day is at hand when Portland is going to need Astoria quite as badly; the prominent position this city occupies in the commercial topography of Oregon,

and her direct relation to the huge schemes of expansion that are underway and contemplation, make this city the essential right-hand of the dominant center of the section; and before the great unfoldment becomes operative we expect to see Portland interests plainly manifest here.

"GO TO HELL!"

The supreme court of the State of Mississippi has handed down a decision to the effect that the time-honored, handy, and really popular ejaculation "Go to Hell!" is, in no sense profane and does not impugn upon religious standards at all. The assumption that follows, is, of course, that it may be used just as usual, with, perhaps, a little greater freedom, since the one who employs it, does no violence to his own scruples. There is a sense of thankfulness that comes with such decisions as this, and we doubt not the venerable judges who concurred in the finding, feel a bit better for the unanimity that marked its rendering. For in these hold-up holidays there are moments and circumstances, when even the poise of a dignified jurist yields to the pressure that warrants just such an expression.

EDITORIAL SALAD.

Probably never again will an obtuse Weather Bureau be stupid enough to announce rain for Football Day.

A New York actor who tried effacing himself in seclusion stood it for only a week; but then, that breaks the record.

And by the way, when it all blows over will you economize just as you planned to do in case it should not come out all right?

It is very possible that meat will be advanced in price, and some may have to forego sausage—even then they ought not to growl.

Herbert Parsons not only defends his fuse but says under recurring similar circumstances he would refuse. So, what's the use?

Politically Mr. Bryan should have "a free field." Why not give him one with a sour-apple tree in it, and all the rope necessary?

For an authority on canals commend us to Professor Todd, who took 7000 photographs of Mars.

For the lightning disappearing act commend us to the actor who suffers from neurasthenia.

Bill Ward, a quaint philosopher of Brooklyn, N. Y., says:

"Now that John D. Rockefeller has been roundly cheered at a great political meeting in this city it is pretty near time to be thinking about a public statue."

"It is as true today as in ages past that there is a time in every man's life to buy stocks which lead to fortune."

"Any serious discussion of the Presidency now usually begins and somehow generally ends at Roosevelt."

The Beef Trust may put up prices again because money is scarce, but possibly it is no more necessary for the people to have all the meat there is than for the Beef Trust to have all the money there is.

Four and a half years in Sing Sing is all right for the "repeater," but neither should the politician who hired him be deprived of his society for that length of time.

He Fought at Gettysburg.

David Parker, of Fayette, N. Y., who lost a foot at Gettysburg, writes: Electric Bitters have done me more good than any medicine I ever took. For several years I had stomach trouble, and paid out much money for medicine to little purpose, until I began taking Electric Bitters. I would not take \$600 for what they have done for me." Grand tonic for the aged and for female weaknesses. Great alternative and body builder; best of all for lame back and weak kidneys. Guaranteed by Charles Rogers & Son, druggists. 50 cents.

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PROSPECTS FOR COAL EXCELLENT

THOROUGH EXAMINATION OF OUTCROPPINGS IN VICINITY OF KNAPPA SHOW EXCELLENT RESULTS—TESTS WILL BE MADE.

The importance of the prospects of paying-coal deposits in the vicinity of Knappa was again stressed by the visit to that place on Monday of a party of Astorians, accompanied by Mr. Storer, of Nebraska.

A most thorough examination of the outcroppings in that neighborhood was made and several specimens of the coal was brought back to the city and left on exhibition in the Chamber of Commerce.

It seems almost criminal negligence that such good indications of valuable coal deposits a little further under ground should not be tested, and the visit in all probability will soon result in a thorough test of that entire locality. Mr. Storer, who is thoroughly familiar with the coal, iron and zinc regions of the South, expresses his opinion that if there is not coal there, every indication is deceptive.

It has been suggested that the owners of this property at Knappa, about a thousand acres, might make a business proposition of merit with the parties who are now preparing to bore for oil and gas a little nearer Astoria. As it does not cost much extra to put in the second hole, after the machinery and the casing has been purchased, it would not be unwise, to say the least, for the owners of the Knappa property to take stock in the oil and gas company to the extent of \$5000, if it would insure a hole being put down on their land to the depth of 2500 feet, thoroughly testing for coal, gas and oil.

If this proposition is carried out, then there will be two wells drilled to a depth of 2500 feet in the lower Columbia Valley, instead of one.

It is understood that a large property owner near Clatskanie is interested in the proposition to drill for gas and oil and that he may become interested in the local company, thus assuring that a third well will be drilled still further up the river.

At Knappa the Astoria party found there was good lignite coal in two places in small quantities at a depth of from eight to ten feet from the surface. The close proximity of the land to the Columbia river makes it especially desirable that a test should be made on it, because in case coal in paying quantities should be found, the markets of the world would be open for it.

It seems from the full investigations made, that about 20 years ago, it was the practice of certain people then living near Knappa, to get coal out of the banks and use it for fuel. One man was found who stated he had seen coal taken from the banks on this land burned in stoves a number of years ago.

The coal taken out while the Astoria party were on the premises was put on a pile of kindling, ignited and burned to a white ash in a very short time. The fire was very hot and the color of the flame was a bright, cherry-red.

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