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TELEPHONE MAIN 661.

Official paper of Clatsop County and the City of Astoria.

WEATHER.

Western Oregon and Washington—Generally fair except rain near coast.

THE INTERFERING HOLIDAYS.

While all men are willing to admit the expediency of the "legal holiday," as it has been applied by Governor Chamberlain, in behalf of the extraordinary financial situation in Oregon, it cannot be denied that the long-drawn barrier is operating adversely in hundreds of other important relations and directions.

Perhaps the most pronounced of these is the obstruction it sets up in the doing of those things commanded by the statutes of the State to be done at specific times, in the matter of public roads, elections and numerous other cases, where the county courts are compelled to provide certain things and make certain appointments, etc.

It may be these laches can be cured by special act of the Legislature, convened in special session, this winter, and that the attempt will be made; but all the same, the non-performance of specific duties, due to the avoidance of the regular terms of these, and the other, courts of the state, and the negation of their mandatory duties, is bound to create endless confusion unless the broadest possible relief is granted.

Every court in the state is at a standstill, save the federal tribunals, and the check thus imposed interferes with a myriad other elements of public and private business, the most of which must suffer loss and derogation, especially in the case of term contracts, notes, bonds, and other forms of engagement.

To this end, we hope the Governor will see to it, instantly, that nothing is left undone to amend a situation that requires the most delicate, yet thorough, redemptory handling.

TO IMPROVE THE SERVICE.

The news that the steamship Senator is to be placed on the San Francisco-Astoria-Portland run, is good news, since vessels of that type are sorely needed in this particular service. The City of Panama and Costa Rica, the vessels now doing duty are both inadequate and out of date, and should be retired to some branch of service where the niceties of refined travel are not demanded as they are upon this heavily patronized system whereon the best posted people of the earth are passing constantly and leaving pointed statements of comparison behind them that are not cheering a little bit.

The Senator is, practically, a mate for the fine steamship St. Paul, unhappily wrecked last year, there being but 30 tons difference in their registers. She is splendidly appointed, and while not a swift ship, she is one that it will be a pleasure to travel upon at all times. She comes out of the Alaska trade, and is ready for business here; and is likely to get it in abundance.

TELEPHONE CONSTRUCTION.

At last, after months of patient waiting, Astoria is to have the distinct benefit of a brand-new telephone system throughout. The superintendent of construction of the Pacific States Company is here with his foreman, overlooking the entire system and lining up the work that is to be done by the gang of experienced workmen due here in a few days.

The company has promised much, and now that it is in position to resume its operations along this line, will undoubtedly make good in every particular and instal, in permanent fashion, the latest and best of services; because Astoria, after all these years of waiting and multifarious promises, is not to be satisfied with less.

The Pacific States people do not do things by halves when once they start in upon an improvement, as witness the fine system they gave the Capital City when they rebuilt their lines and appointments there; and the conclusion here is that we are to get something just as good. So, expecting much, we are not disposed to be put off with little; nor, from the history of the company, will we be disappointed.

SOME VALUABLE HINTS.

If the word of men who have made prolonged study of the matters here dealt with, is of any avail in the exploiting of hidden resources, Astorians and Clatsopians generally, have fair warranty for going far and deep after coal, gas, oil, and brick and pottery earths. The hints have been given us in tangible, practical form, and it is up to our sense of business and commercial expediency to formulate the plans and supply the funds upon which all these valuable issues shall be determined, forthwith.

They are all staple products and the signs are thick and convincing; time and nerve and cash are essential to the realization they promise and hold; we have all three, in abundance, and it only remains to apply them and make good.

We cannot sit still and wait for a convulsion of nature to throw these things into our commercial lap. We must "convulse" a bit, ourselves and anticipate the organic upheaval by a few thousand years, getting the benefits in the meantime. Nature has already cast her kindly hints for our guidance and the trained intelligence of man supplements her friendliest suggestions; therefore we have a safe predicate for the several ventures and the sooner they are solved, the better!

THE WORD OF CHEER.

When a man of the calibre and commercial status of Theodore B. Wilcox rises in a semi-public meeting such as was held the other evening at the Commercial Club rooms in Portland, and says a cheerful word about the dubious things confronting all his fellows, the effect is magical and far-reaching. He is being quoted all over the Northwest today and with confidence, because he is not only one of the best posted business men of the country, but because he has vast interests at stake himself, and his courage is paralleled by his optimism. There are men who are not sworn friends of Mr. Wilcox and who might deprecate his opinions on subjects differing radically from the one on which he declared himself so happily and manfully the other evening, who will subscribe readily enough to his jolly prophecy and count him a safe and reasonable prophet, simply on the ground that no man in this upper country is qualified to "speak by the card" as he is. At all events he has lightened the situation plainly and all are thankful for it.

EDITORIAL SALAD.

Paris papers are printing photographs from copies transmitted by telegraph by a method known as telestereography. We suppose descriptive text accompanies same, sent by tellafellowallaboutitphy.

New York prices have risen so high that there is said to be an "East Side meat peril." When we recall the last "peril" there we should say: recall the police!

General Bingham's promotion of men on the New York police force by "judicious skipping" of eligibles only shows that he has been accustomed to pick the winners.

The uselessness of twenty-dollar gold pieces in paying five-cent trolley fares has brought home to New Yorkers during the past few days.

It almost seems like the Happy New Year event with all these "kind words" from Japan. Frame them, by all means.

Mr. Taft is hurrying homeward. It must be fear of that Henry Cabot Lodge boom.

It is small consolation to a man who wanted to be Democratic Governor of New Jersey to tell him another fellow came nearer back in McKinley's time.

By the time Kentucky has enforced prohibition a little longer a Republican majority won't look so queer to it.

One profession that has not been overcrowded recently is that of paying teller.

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FOREIGN COMMERCE

Conferences to be Held in Effort to Centralize Work.

STUDY COMMERCIAL PROBLEM

No Provision at Present for Systematic Work in Connection With Department of Commerce and Labor and Commercial Bodies in Nation's Cities.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 14.—Secretary Straus of the Department of Commerce and Labor has invited a number of commercial bodies to meet with him on December 5th to consider methods of establishing closer relations between the commercial bodies of the country and the Department.

Those invited to send delegates include the Chamber of Commerce of New York City and the New York Board of Trade and Transportation; the Chambers of Commerce of Atlanta, New Orleans, Boston, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Portland, Oregon, Pittsburgh, Charleston, S. C., Galveston, Richmond, Seattle and Milwaukee; the Boards of Trade of Chicago, Baltimore and Philadelphia and the Merchants Exchange of Cincinnati. So many cities are interested in this proposition that it was impossible to accommodate delegates from all at one time and consequently several conferences will be held.

The idea of these conferences is to crystallize the work of extending our foreign commerce in manufactures and they will be held during the winter for the effect their action is expected to work of extending our foreign commerce has been largely increased during the past few years, especially since the organization of the department of Commerce and Labor and of the Bureau of Manufactures, at the same time the United States is far behind other countries in its study of commercial conditions and its efforts to push the sale of its manufactured products. Complaint is often heard of the progress made by Germany and other countries and the lack of effort on the part of our manufacturers to press their goods in foreign markets, whereas the success of the German merchants could be more correctly attributed to the indefatigable efforts of the German government to find markets for German manufacturers. A striking illustration of the difference between what the German Government does in this direction and what is done by the United States, is a comparison between offices of the American Consulate General at Berlin and that of the German Consulate General at New York, which offices may be considered of equal importance to their respective countries.

The American Consulate General at Berlin is assisted by a deputy who acts as consul general in the absence of his chief, and who is charged with responsible work all the time, and who draws the munificent salary of \$1,000 per year. The staff consists of three clerks with still smaller salaries, together with a deputy consul general who receives no compensation. The staff of the German Consulate General at New York consists of a Consul General, one consul, three vice consuls, one commercial attaché and a force of translators, clerks, etc., making a whole staff of about thirty persons, or more than that of the entire Bureau of Manufactures of the Department of Commerce and Labor, which is charged with the promotion of commerce with the whole world. While the time of our consuls is taken up with routine work the foreign office and the Department of Commerce of Germany are promptly supplied with up to date information on any matter which may have the remotest bearing upon German interests in the United States or upon German-American relations anywhere in the world, because they have men with expert knowledge and free from routine work stationed in the principal centers of the world for that purpose.

In connection with the coming conferences an official of the Department of Commerce and Labor today said: "It is highly important that the people for whose benefit the work of the Department is to be done be kept in close touch with it. Today there is no provision for systematic cooperation between the Department and the various commercial and trade associations which are most affected by its work. Except for the correspondence which goes on between the Department and individual business firms and occasionally some commercial organization there is no medium by which regular interchange of opinion and active cooperation on a comprehensive scale could take place. While our chambers of commerce and other business associations are not organized on the lines of the German chambers, nevertheless they are a part of the business

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world, and could help our department, both by furnishing useful information and advice and by helping to disseminate the information which it can give to the business community. The mere knowledge of the fact that the Department desires and can use such information would prompt these organizations to communicate facts to the Department which today frequently remain unknown for want of a proper understanding of their importance or for lack of established avenues of communication and dissemination. What has been said of the cooperation between this Department and business organizations in this country is also true of cooperation with American chambers of commerce abroad, which would be made to render useful service to the country at large through the medium of the Department."

While it is hoped that the Chambers of Commerce will, through closer relations with the Department, become valuable adjuncts in the commercial campaign, it is not expected they will attain the prominence of the German Chambers of Commerce as the conditions are so different. In Germany the Chambers of Commerce are semi-official bodies whose functions and activities are strictly regulated by law. Their representative bodies consist of men elected by the manufacturers and wholesale dealers in each district Membership in the constituent body of the Chamber of Commerce is compulsory and whether a business man takes part in the election of representative members of the organization or not, it is required of him to contribute his share to cover his expenses. The Chambers are required by the governments of the different German States to make annual reports to the Minister of the Interior, or Commerce, which reports are transmitted to the Imperial Departments. These organizations also serve as the medium through which confidential information as to trade openings abroad is communicated to manufacturers and exporters and it is to these bodies that German business men resort whenever they have any grievances to which they desire to call the attention of the Government. Germany is by no means alone in this work of promoting foreign commerce. Similar efforts are being made by the leading nations of Europe, such as Great Britain, France, Austria Hungary, Italy and Belgium.

Among the propositions which will be considered by the conferences will be the advisability of maintaining commercial attaches at our foreign embassies and legations on the line of our military and naval attaches, and also the increase of the Tariff Division for the purpose of more thoroughly studying and compiling information concerning the tariff laws of other countries and proposed and accomplished changes therein.

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