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Official paper of Clatsop County and the City of Astoria.

WEATHER.

- Western Oregon and Washington—Occasional light rain; southerly winds.
- Eastern Oregon and Washington, Northern Idaho—Partly cloudy; snow flurries.
- Southern Idaho—Fair.

A 25-SHIP LIMIT.

Portland is unfortunate in that she has not adequate room for the shipping now headed there from all over the world after the grain cargoes that awaits it. With a dock and harborage limit of 25 ships, she is peculiarly handicapped and her only salvation lies in making instant use of this end of the river, which is, commercially speaking, hers, as well as Astoria's, and all Oregon's, in spite of either city. It is not that Portland does not know this thing. Her shippers know it better than any people in the world and only refuse to adopt the policy on the score of loss of prestige to the metropolis.

This is one of those hide-bound ideas that have held Oregon back in the race of the Pacific States until she is an even generation behind her sisters north and south; and is of the same stuff that sent the trade of Alaska to Puget Sound instead of to Portland. There is room in this harbor for 2500 ships, and then some, and every one of them might be under consignment to Portland owners and agencies so far as we of Astoria are concerned. What we need is Portland interest in the shape of docks and elevators and terminals and quick-despatch facilities; we have everything else under Heaven for the business, as Hon. Harvey Scott, of the Oregonian, has so often and so trenchantly said; and if the commerce of Oregon is to lead on the coasts of the Pacific her one incomparable port must be employed in the game.

If James J. Hill must come in and set the pace and make the demonstration, so be it! But it would look a little more like Oregon spirit for the one great city of the State to take an initiative and chuck her cherished fears aside. With a harbor that congests at 25 vessels in addition to the local fleets, Portland has but one of two resources left. Yield her commerce entirely; or handle it from a port, that for scope, advantage, and despatch, is absolutely unparalleled.

IF GOMPERS WERE PRESIDENT!

"A friend at our elbow" (as Bob Hendricks, of the Salem Statesman usually puts it), has raised the question, "What if Gompers were President of the United States?" It was asked us, in good faith, by an ardent friend of labor, and as it was quite suggestive (however impracticable at this time), we deferred answering it, till we could scan it as it deserved.

Pre-supposing Mr. Gompers' election to the first office in the land, carries the assumption that he would be the ideal champion of the working world of American and the object of its vast and unified vote. Upon this predicate, therefore, must his administrative course be estimated, and the first conclusion such a situation suggests is, that he would stand primarily, for the federated and unionized labor of the nation, in all its rational demands, and compel observance of its claims over all other matters of corresponding weight and influence. Numerically, the labor element, skilled and unskilled, educated and uneducated, might reasonably insist that its demands were supreme and entitled to first and full consideration; and because of its initial occupation of such lofty official prestige, seek to enforce that observance, to the undoing of hundreds of equally grave issues that effect the people, a contretemps not so irrational when one studies the attitude and processes invariably employed by amalgamated labor to enforce its designs and wishes.

Naturally, Mr. Gompers would have to

Now is the time

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J. M. ANDERSON, CASHIER

fill his cabinet with men of his own predilections and training, and strong as he is and clean as he wants to be, he would be dominated immensely by the group he must name in the interest of his and their propaganda. It would be almost impossible to secure a cabinet of men as capable and honest as the man under discussion, and anything less well-balanced would imperil the plan and defeat the highest purpose of such a party and destroy its efforts as fast as they were made. Mr. Gompers would be the least of the factors to be feared by the country in general; the real perils lies in the irrepressible ambition of the ignoramus and the brute who poses as the friend of labor and does his best, albeit, always with success, to kill its and purest ambitions.

No president of the United States may ever dream of an autocracy great enough to override the official leaders of his own party, rough-shod, as Gompers would have to do if he attained to the dignity; and short of such a will and power, he, in turn, would be submerged by the untutored and unreckoning stupidity of the "blatants," the element that ever has, and ever will, keep the honest dignity of labor in the background. If such a man were elected president of this country, it would be after a prolonged and horrible warfare between capital and labor and he would go into power and place as a dictator pure and simple, with labor and every other phase and clan of humanity under his dominion; a condition that the patriotic labor of America would antagonize as hotly as any other element of society. Therefore, Mr. Gompers would not be a success as president for the sole reason his own following would not allow him to succeed.

CHRISTMAS, THE LEVELER.

For all Oregon the "stringency" as marked by the operation of the "legal holidays," will end on next Saturday night, exactly 10 days before the dawn of the ideal anniversary of Christmas; and it is well the two events come so close together. The end of the "durry" makes it infinitely pleasanter and easier to take on the spirit and duty of the great holiday; and the doing of this placates the harshness of the season that is passed and will help us forget it.

Christmas is a grand leveler, and a season for compelling the mind of man to accept the softer and easier ways not of unescapable trouble; the universal desire to do something for one another urges the ready mitigation of harsher circumstance and inspires forbearance on all sides. Therefore, we say it is an excellent thing that the two seasons are to coalesce in the moderating of what might else have been a gravely unhappy period for all hands. As it stands we look for a normal Christmas-time, with all the warmth and grace and generosity that usually characterizes it.

A WORLD'S SYMPATHY.

All mankind is casting sympathetic eye and thought toward the sorrow-riven homes in and about Monangah, West Virginia, where 550 souls have been swept into one vast grave they had, for the most part, dug for themselves in the course of their daily labor; and American purse strings will loosen in this behalf and the world will have another example of the generous interest this country feels in those who are undone by sudden adversity.

The great coal mines in which this

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awful tragedy was enacted are said to be among the most modern and best equipped, in point of life-saving devices, in all the world, and it is creditable to the companies controlling them that it is so. But human ingenuity and generosity are altogether futile against the ravages of natural forces such as play in the depths of the earth. And even in Pennsylvania, where all these worst horrors come from; whence coal-mining has reached the highest pitch and point of perfection known to man, man is still helpless, before the elements it is not given him to dominate. He can but do his best, and have done it, leave the rest to fate, or the play of a will supernal, and eternal.

The Oregon apple has captured the Orient and Russia. Yadjgiou Brothers of Vladivostok, after making a display in one of the principal show windows of the city, removed the display and after it was photo graphed, and is to be reproduced in colors for international advertising. Thus the glory of the Oregon apple goes around the world. The display was unusual because most of the boxes were shown ready for ocean shipment, each encased in burlap. Varieties of apples included the Winter Banana, Orley, Hyde's King and Arkansas Black.

The meeting of Oregon business men at the Portland Commercial Club on the 1st, followed by the announcement of Gov. Chamberlain that the present holidays would be discontinued after the 14th, have been the most discussed events of the week. That the representatives from forty communities should unanimously unite in resolutions forcefully expressing confidence in the outlook and financial strength of the entire state is in itself indicative of constantly bettering conditions.

Notice to Our Customers—

We are pleased to announce that Foley's Honey and Tar for coughs, colds and lung trouble is not affected by the National Pure Food and Drug law as it contains no opiates or other harmful drugs, and we recommend it as a safe remedy for children and adults. Sold by T. F. Laurin, Owl Drug Store.

During the two months of Fall colonist rates, September 1 to October 31, the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad sold 8,081 homeseekers' tickets to the Northwest, which was an increase of 2,917 over last year's business, or more than 50 per cent.

The tragedies that have followed recent exposures of questionable banking methods convey the conviction that many accused officials would be safer in jail than out of it.

When you need a cough cure you need one that will cure your cough. Kemp's Balsam, the best cough cure, will do it. All druggists sell it for 25 cents.

Having retired from the salt seas, Admiral Coghlan has been elected director in a spring water company. Nothing like variety.

Weston demonstrated that temperance is a fine preservative, and also that one day's rest in seven is a good thing.

A militia officer after a scrimmage reported: "Killed, none; wounded, none; scared to death, almost all." It sounds like a summary of the recent panic among depositors.

Orino Laxative Fruit Syrup, the new Laxative stimulates, but does not irritate. It is the best Laxative. Guaranteed or your money back. Sold by T. F. Laurin, Owl Drug Store.

The Morning Astorian delivered at your door, 60 cents per month.

DON'T LET FEAR RUIN BUSINESS.

Of what earthly use is a soldier who drops his musket and takes to his heels at the first onslaught of the enemy? Where would a nation end with an army of such soldiers? Where a business?

At present this country stands face to face with a most absurd enemy, who came like a bolt from a clear sky and wholly without cause. That enemy is fear.

'Are you a good fighter or are you a coward? Are you going to lay down arms before this imaginary fictitious apparition, or are you going to "march breast forward" and help break down this fear in the minds of your customers?'

There is no reason why merchants of any one else should be alarmed. The backbone and foundation of this nation is its integrity and natural resources, which are in most superb condition. In fact, the land "flows with milk and honey." The only trouble is the people (some of them) are scared stiff.

And about what? Absolutely nothing. It's just like a cry of fire in an opera house where no fire exists.

Fear is no person, place nor thing. It has no actual cause—no real power. In the presence of confidence it becomes absolute nothingness and vanishes as darkness before the light.

When a snag is blown out of a river by dynamite the noise creates excitement, but the snag being removed leaves the river clear. Several snags are being removed from the "financial river," but the explosion should cause no alarm. With the snags removed, this country's prosperity will flow on greater and more powerful than ever.

Which side are you fighting on—fear or confidence? Every word you speak, every thought you think, has power for good or evil. Think it over and be an optimist.—Chicago Tribune.

"80 chances to win—you can't lose" is the slogan of the Portland Commercial Club in its final work connected with the \$5000 prize contest closing December 31. People in general seem engrossed with the financial conditions, and their neglect makes the chances of those who do complete even more pronounced.

The statement of the National bank of Portland on December 3 proved that they had ample cash—more than the most enthusiastic had anticipated. The same is true of banks throughout the State.

Kemp's Balsam is a safe cough cure, for it contains nothing that can harm you. It is the best cough cure, but costs no more than any other kind. All druggists sell it.

Aliens 60,000 strong are booked to sail for home. No use asking them to stay for the holidays; they wouldn't help the currency situation.

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PAZO OINTMENT is guaranteed to cure any case of Itching, Blind, Bleeding or Protruding Piles in 6 to 14 days or money refunded. 50c.

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Holiday Greeting:
The happy CHRISTMAS time is fast approaching and I take great pleasure in inviting you to inspect my new and well selected line of Diamonds, Watches, Clocks, Jewelry, Solid Silver and plated ware, Cut Glass, Umbrellas, and Gold and Silver novelties. I have the largest and finest stock this year to select from that I have ever shown in Astoria. PRICES are RIGHT; QUALITY UNSURPASSED. Come early and make your selections. I will lay them away until you want them.
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WHITE WINES Riesling—Medium light table wine. Sauternes—Natural mellow, pronounced flavor. Chateau Yquem—Full bodied Creme of Sauternes.
Sparkling Sec Div—Fragrant, effervescent. RED WINES Zinfandel—Clean, light table wine. Burgundy—Medium bodied, mellow. Sparkling Burgundy—Brilliant, pleasant Grape Juice, Maraschino cherries, fruit and Cognac Brandies, and a full line of Cordials.
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