

THE MORNING ASTORIAN

Established 1873.

Published Daily Except Monday by THE J. S. DELLINGER COMPANY.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

By mail, per year.....\$7.00
By carrier, per month..... .60

WEEKLY ASTORIAN.

By mail, per year, in advance...\$1.60

Entered as second-class matter July 30, 1896, at the postoffice at Astoria, Oregon, under the act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

Orders for the delivery of THE MORNING ASTORIAN to either residence or place of business may be made by postal card or letter should be immediately reported to the office of publication.

TELEPHONE MAIN 661.

Official paper of Clatsop County and the City of Astoria.

WEATHER.

Western Oregon and Washington—Partly cloudy; probably occasional rain; westerly winds. Eastern Oregon and Washington, Idaho—Fair.

PRESIDENTIAL PROBLEMS.

From the St. Croix River in Maine, to Ensenada, on the Mexican line of California; from Key West to Cape Flattery; from this moment to the falling of the Speaker's gavel on the close of the great Republican convention at Chicago in June next, the living question will be "Who is to be the Republican Presidential nominee?"

We beg to answer this in part, to wit, in a negative sense, right now, by saying that the nominee will not be THEODORE ROOSEVELT! Whosoever it may be, the country must reconcile itself to the loss of this man's services in such capacity. He has said he will not be a candidate, and has re-affirmed it on the very eve of the agitation of the absorbing and vital question. His first declaration should have been sufficient (and was, for a great number of the people), but his second statement that he will not, under any conditions, be a candidate, and this at the moment of his extreme popularity with those would who cast the compelling vote, drives the nail of conviction into the very core of national consciousness.

It is to be hoped, for his sake and that of the whole country, the man who shall be chosen, will be of his ilk. Anything distinctly short of this will be universally disappointing and may prove calamitous in the long run. America owes it to herself to maintain the standards this man has set for her; and it strikes us that before the convention dissolves it will hear directly from the people in terms that mean something beside the play of politics and personal ambitions.

It is conceded that William H. Taft is nearest to the type and temperament of the Rooseveltian administrative doctrines, besides being the personal choice of the President, himself; and it is well within the possibilities that the honor will go to the big Ohioan; but even he, with all the prestige accruing to him by reason of his port-folio and the endorsement of his friend and chief, will have to take the range of popular expectation clearly and quickly and live up to it religiously, or he will fail and the people will lose.

Concession runs no further, at this writing, than to include the present, popular Governor of New York, Charles E. Hughes, who, by virtue of his clean and courageous administration of affairs in that great commonwealth, has shown himself to be of timber that measures up to the criterion set by a patient, yet knowledgeable, people, and hope is pinned to him in large ratio throughout the country, though the newness of the man interferes with any unanimous expression as yet.

The public temper will not stand for any man who, by the remotest relation shall be identified with the "interests," the trusts, and baleful syndicates, that are banded against everything Rooseveltian; and the blunder of the century will be made if a man of this stripe is chosen. Mr. Bryan, and indeed a far lesser man than he, will have a walk-over to the White House, if the Chicago convention falls under the spell of Wall Street this summer; and the revulsion will be straightway, and promptly, fixed upon Republican shoulders. There is a crisis afoot and it behooves the use of everlasting and invincible Republican gumption to meet and master it in a way altogether popular.

"FRIDAY, THE THIRTEENTH."

The world calls itself civilized; it pleads modernity, and sniffs at the days and ways of old: Yet it hugs its age-old superstitions as dearly as a girl-child cherishes her doll. From widely separate points all over this, the newest of the nations, come, by press accounts, and letter, and the word of traveler, tales of the universal observance of "Friday, the 13th," as a day of evil, of fatal import, and dismal significance; a

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Dr. Henry W. Coe John Mattson
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Gust Holmes J. M. Anderson
Andrew Young

day for cautious movement, for the suppression of initial acts and the delaying of final ones; of ventures halted and unbegun, because, forsooth, the day and date tallied with some sombre historical facts in the dawn of the CHRISTIAN ERA! Save the Mark!

THE SOONER, THE BETTER.

The news comes from Washington that the Merchants' National Bank, of Portland, Oregon, is in such shape as to its actual solidity and integrity of its investments, that it will be permitted to re-open just as soon as its officers can devise the plan for resumption, subject to the approval of the federal comptroller. We are glad to hear this; and would like to see the news repeated all along the line of these cases of suspension recorded this winter. There are failures, and failures. Some are vicious, many are inspired, all are deplorable, but a few there be that are issues of problemational and unavoidable causes. Such are amenable to the best latitude of forbearance, we, with all men, desire to see revived and started again on the highway of success; since it is a co-ordinate principle of failure, that the lesson of failure is the surest antidote against repetition.

EDITORIAL SALAD.

The duma has voted that the czar shall no longer be officially known as the "autocrat" of all the Russians. Eliminating the word is a necessity if constitutional methods are to get a start. Probably the czar will see the logic of the situation and consent to the change.

Boston's municipal debt is \$111,000,000. It has more than doubled in 12 years, piling up four times as fast as the wealth and seven and a half times as fast as the population. The city holds an election this month and people outside are not expecting it to decide to have more of the same kind.

An astronomer who observed the so-called canals of Mars during the summer says the flow of water, as far as it can be measured takes places twice a year, first from one pole, and then from the other, advancing with a regular speed of 52 miles a day. No particulars are given as to the movement of the mules along the towpath.

Twenty-eight years ago Congress began the improvement of Harlem River, inside the limits of New York City, at an estimated cost of \$2,700,000. Up to this time \$1,350,000 has been appropriated and the work is, half done. Dribble and irregular appropriations for internal improvements has been the rule. It is probable that Congress is ready to reform the system, but the people should not forget to apply a steady pressure.

Muscular Pains Cured.

"During the summer of 1903 I was troubled with muscular pains in the instep of my foot," says Mr. S. Pedlar, of Toronto, Ont. "At times it was so painful I could hardly walk. Chamberlain's Pain Balm was recommended to me, so I tried it and was completely cured by one small bottle. I have since recommended it to several of my friends, all of whom speak highly of it." For sale by Frank Hart and leading druggists.

SUNDAY AT THE CHURCHES.

Grace.

Morning service and celebration of the holy communion, 11 a. m., Sunday school at 12:30 p. m., evening service and sermon at 7:30 p. m.

Holy Innocents' Chapel. Third Sunday in Advent. Morning and evening services, 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. Sunday school, 1:30 a. m.

Christian Science. Services at 634 Grand avenue at 10 a. m., subject, "Is the Universe, Including Man, Evolved by Atomic Force?" All are invited. Sunday school, 11:15.

Norwegian-Danish M. E. 1775 Duane street. Sunday school at 10 a. m., with Mr. Albert Carlsen, superintendent. Preaching at 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. Prayer meeting Thursday evening at 7:30. Scandinavians invited. O. T. Field, pastor.

First Norw. Ev. Luth. Corner Twenty-ninth and Grand avenue. Sunday school meets at 9:30 a. m. in church parlors. Morning service at 1:45 with holy communion. Reception of members immediately before service. Evening service at 7:30. Theo. P. Naste, pastor.

Baptist. Morning worship, 11 a. m. sermon by E. M. Owen. The pastor has returned and will preach in the evening at 7:30 on "A Flame of Fire." Sunday school and young peoples' meeting at usual hours. Everybody is invited. Conrad L. Owen, pastor.

Presbyterian. Morning worship, 11 o'clock, "Habakkuk, the Prophet of Skepticism." Sabbath school, 12:15; Y. P. S. C. E., 6:30; evening worship, "Leaven." Miss Reba Hobson, choir director. The male chorus will sing at the evening service. All are invited. Wm. S. Gilbert, pastor.

First Lutheran. Morning service as usual at 10:45. Theme for sermon, "Communion with God." Evening service in English at 7:30, theme, "The Word of God as a Unifying Power in the Christian World." All are cordially invited to attend these services. Gustaf E. Rydquist, pastor.

First Methodist. Sunday's sermon themes will be as follows: Morning, "The Power of a Great Ideal." Evening, "Silver Wings"—from the 68th Psalm. An invitation is extended to the public to attend. You will be cordially welcomed at all services. C. C. Harick, pastor.

BUNCOED ON ARRIVAL.

NEW YORK, Dec. 13.—Professor Vladimir Sviatowsky, who occupies the chair of sociology in the University of St. Petersburg, arrived in New York yesterday. Within a few hours after his arrival he was "buncoed" out of \$750. On the ship which brought the professor to America was a young Englishman whose acquaintance the professor made long before he saw the sky line of New York. The professor had never been in New York before and the obliging young Englishman offered to show him about the city. After wandering about for a time the Englishman, who wore a profusion of diamonds, remembered that his diamond broker occupied offices in a building which they happened to pass. He asked the professor to wait a moment while he went in to see him. Returning in a moment the Englishman said excitedly that he had an opportunity to purchase a fine diamond for less than it was worth but was short \$750. Would the professor lend him that amount until they got

back to the hotel? The professor gave him the money and held the box supposed to contain the diamond while the Englishman went back to pay the money to the dealer. He failed to return. After waiting for a long time the professor went to a police station. The box when opened was found to contain bits of old newspaper and a large horse chestnut.

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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 UNSUR PASSED. Come early and make your selections. I will lay them away until you want them. J. H. SEYMOUR The Store of Quality. 466 Commercial St., Astoria, Ore.

That Xmas Dinner WILL NOT BE COMPLETE WITHOUT SOME OF OUR SELECT TABLE WINES A PARTIAL LIST TO CHOOSE FROM. SWEE WINES. Old Port—Tawny, rich, light and color. Old Sherry—Pale, clean, nutty. Angelica—Soft, agreeable, full. Muscatel—Very fruity, sweet. WHITE WINES. Riesling—Medium light table wine. Sauterne—Natural mellow, pronounced flavor. Chateau Yquem—Full bodied Creme of Sauternes. Sparkling Sec Dry—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. PHONE 1881 PROMPT DELIVERY AMERICAN IMPORTING CO. 589 Commercial Street.

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