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Official paper of Clatsop County and the City of Astoria.

Eastern Washington, Idaho
—Cloudy and threatening with rain or snow in northern portion.
Western Oregon—Increasing cloudiness followed by rain.
Western Washington—Rain.
Eastern Oregon—Fair.

THE LOSS OF THE REED.

There is universal regret here that the ship Emily Reed, practically 50 days overdue from the Antipodes, should have been wrecked at the very gate of her charter-port and at the extraordinary loss of life; and her master's accounting for the disaster is rated as perfectly reasonable and probable.

It is one of those sad messages from the ever treacherous sea that come, always without warning, and laden with bitterness. The ship was well known in these waters and by every mariner who makes the farther reaches of the globe, and there is many a story afloat anent her long service and the conspicuous incidents of her career, each and all of which are now in process of eager reiteration.

THE CITY TEACHERS.

The 35 ladies and gentlemen of the Astoria corps of public school teachers, through their special committee, have spoken very clearly and simply of their claim to consideration on the part of the voters of the district and of the directors in charge of the schools, in the matter of an increased scale of wages. Just where the hitch arises we are not in position to say and have no doubt the issue will be properly and satisfactorily adjusted in due season. But, it goes without saying that people in this walk of life and duty, rarely seek the countenance of the public in such matters unless every other resource has been exhausted and they feel compelled to revert to original sources of authority; and it must be credited to this group that they are well within their province, if they have been denied what they say they have.

If the scale of pay is inadequate; if this has been conceded by the alleged consent of the board to increase the levy in this behalf; and if the voters at the annual meeting signified their consent and gave authority for that levy, then the levy should be made and increase established.

And even in default of these things, if it can be shown that the teachers of Astoria are underpaid, the injustice should be made good upon the initiative of the board, and no time lost in the doing of it; for it is a leading principle of scolastic work that the teachers must be of the best, and no best is to be had for meagre compensation, in this or any other channel of public service.

RUEF'S PLEA.

There is no more despicable figure in current American history than Abraham Ruef, the despoiler of San Francisco; yet even he is not so low in the scale of human appraisal as to warrant injustice at the hands of the law itself. He is pleading at this moment that, by every conceivable line of definite commitment, the district attorney's office of San Francisco, guaranteed him immunity from all punishment if he would impeach his colleagues in crime, and having done so, now repudiates the pledge made to him and offers him for final sacrifice in expiation of his and their crimes.

His affidavits, amply supported on their face, are now before the court, and it is up to the district attorney and his confederates to dispel their

SCANDINAVIAN-AMERICAN SAVINGS BANK HAS MONEY TO LOAN ON GOOD SECURITY

weight and value. The general idea over the coast has been, during all the time that Ruef's name has been bandied about, that the prosecuting department of the law had invariably held itself absolutely exempt from any such agreement in the case of Ruef, whatever they had granted to others; and now the time has arrived to show the people plainly and honestly that they never have committed themselves to this man's immunity.

If they shall fail to make good, upon the cleanest and most understandable basis, then this wretched criminal's plea must hold and he must be given his liberty without further question. No man is ever beyond the pale of justice; and if Ruef's affidavits stand, he must have it.

EDITORIAL SALAD

Besides, the insurance companies might reflect that investments of the money recently coming in will show a considerable increase in the rate of income, at prevailing prices.

Chairman Woodruff cheerfully admits Charles E. Hughes is, next to Roosevelt, the greatest non-Yale statesman in the country.

The success of the sea-going railroad suggests the possibility of running a fast limited express service over the Panama Canal.

Theodore Roosevelt did not win the lightweight championship at Harvard, according to some of the lightweighters.

There may be some hope if Mr. C. W. Morse took the regular ice famine with him.

When a man accused of murder is crazy to get into an asylum he is soon eager to get out.

The law should positively prohibit women eating alone after 6 o'clock in the evenings. Men are entitled to good company once in a while.

The Washington "Post" figures Hughes on the fourth ballot. If everybody agreed, nobody would waste three ballots.

United States officials can straighten out a suspended bank and set it going again while State officials are still squabbling about getting started.

One consolation is that if by chance just a little good hose should be bought it would soon be all the hose there is.

When Mr. Foraker hanging on the ropes, it looks as if they ought to stop the bout out in Ohio.

Our big fleet is still in fine shape, and ready for anything from a catapult to a cakewalk.

Mr. Hobson has much to say of the Japanese problem. Let him point out how Japan can make both ends meet financially, and he will earn a handsome testimonial from the mikado.

Boston has made a contract to drive the rats from two schools. From various parts of the world come the proofs that a rat's character is getting to be no better than that of a mosquito.

Canada has a fish that, caught through holes in the ice, is frozen so stiff that it breaks like brittle sticks, yet when carefully thawed is found to be alive. David B. Hill's return to politics is not necessarily a joke.

Detroit is aiding the unemployed by digging a new canal, and will help itself still more by the operation, as is usually the case in waterway construction. One trouble is that 2500 men were wanted and only ten applied.

Mr. Beckham thought the way to obtain a people's certificate to the Senate in Kentucky was to apply the governor's patronage and hold a snap primary. The returns seemed to be fixed as he desired, but he is not senator yet, and the probability is that he will get nothing but his crooked work for his pains.

INTERESTING NOTES

Of New York the Great Metropolis.

NEW YORK, Feb. 15.—It is possible that future generations in Greater New York may never see a snowstorm, for a proposition contemplates their abolishment has at last been put forward. Every fall New York prepares to clean the streets of snow in a miraculously short time and every winter finds the street-cleaning department unable to do so. The city is not quite in the class of Chicago where it was recently discovered that men were still being carried on the pay rolls for the purpose of removing the big snow of 1906, but it is never able to do much in the way of actually getting rid of the fall. After every storm all squares and parks are filled with miniature mountains of snow shoveled together theoretically to be hauled away and dumped in the river, but in reality to await the destroying influence of a good thaw or rainstorm. A heavy snowfall too has come to mean the piling up in each gutter of an impassable bunker. Naturally in the light of such conditions suggestions for the handling of the snow have been many. The latest and by far the most ingenious does not contemplate the abolishment of the snow but its complete abolishment. A chemist in this city claims to have discovered a chemical which if sprayed into the air during the storm would immediately change the snow to rain at a height of 100 feet above the pavement and at a much lower cost than is now necessary for snow removed. Those persons who fatten on street cleaning contracts are naturally contemptuous and call it visionary and impossible. But stranger things than the abolishment of snow have happened and should it come to pass only those persons whose offices are above the tenth story could ever expect to see a snowstorm.

New York came close to finding itself actually a part of Long Island last week when during the gale and blizzard which descended upon the city the wind from the north practically blew away the East River which divides Manhattan and Long Island. The continuation of the gale at low tide left the river so nearly dry that travel by ferry was practically suspended. So much water was blown out of the river that it took no more the appearance of a series of puddles broken by what appeared to be flats on which were stacked practically all the ferryboats on the river and a number of smaller craft. One ferry line was put out of business by the running aground of every one of its boats, most of them too at points where there was ordinarily enough water for any sort of commerce. Blackwell's Island, where Father Knickerbocker confines his undesirable citizens, added temporarily nearly three acres to its small area and buildings ordinarily situated at the edge of the water found themselves for the time being a considerable distance removed from the river. With the subsidence of the gale the water gradually resumed its former level but for a time it looked as though the East River was going to be entirely blown away and New York City involuntarily annexed to Long Island.

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