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Official paper of Clatsop County and the City of Astoria.

WEATHER
Western Oregon and Washington—Fair except rain near coast.
Eastern Oregon and Washington, Idaho—Fair.

THE VAN-GUARD HERE.

The coming of the Union Meat Company to this city and the establishment of its branch plant in this territory is but the beginning of the Portland-Astoria commercial movement that we prophesied last year. There will be other big concerns adopting this policy during the present year and once the bait takes there is no knowing where it will stop. It is a good sign and one that will be noted at the metropolis quite as quickly as here.

The Meat Company is wise in its generation and will profit by its insight; it will be on the ground when other business are stalled for room on which to locate here; and that they will do business is a conclusion that may well be accepted as final and certain, because unless that were known to the men at its head, the Astoria depot would never have been broached so surely.

BETTER DROP THE SUBJECT.

The pro-Spanish press of Havana is taking exception to the character of the American celebration of the tenth anniversary of the destruction of the battleship Maine in the harbor of Havana.

This is a topic that were best let utterly alone by the Spanish papers; it is a subject we of America rarely revert to and then only in terms of profound consideration that are its due as an epoch-making incident in the history of the Nation; we have had our hour of passion and bitterness over this ineffaceable outrage; we have punished the Don for his share in it; and while it will live as long as human mind and memory exist to cherish it, it has been permitted to become a "sleeping dog" and had best be let lie.

Nothing short of insuperable arrogance would urge a man of Spain to even revert to the matter, since it stands, forever, the sign, and sum, of his peoples' treachery and dishonor.

THE "POINT OF VIEW."

The ineradicable William Jennings has been talking to the people of Columbus, Ohio, on the "Point of View," essentially, the Bryanesque point of view, as he rarely, if ever, admits any other viewpoint on politics or other great public question. For the sake of accentuating his own estimates, he adverted to what other people may have held on the subject, but in the subjective, tentative way all lordly minds have, of cheapening the opinions of their fellows and fastening the alleged logic of their own dear conclusions.

For our part we are tired of Mr. Bryan and we believe the country is tired of him; and this without detracting from the man's claim to that respect and good will that inure to all excellent citizens who have attained unusual prominence. But the man is a failure, in that he has talked while other men have wrought, and wrought well; and even admitting he has talked well and convincingly and done much to enlighten and aid the people, he has yet to accomplish a tangible footing in the general scheme of things and after a score of years of extraordinary effort still remains a private citizen and a self-appointed leader in the circles to which he was bred.

The country needs men of demonstrable power and faculty; not "word-smiths," be they ever so brilliant; it needs a Roosevelt, a Hughes; a Gray,

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HAS MONEY TO LOAN ON GOOD SECURITY

or a Johnson, if so be the people will; but he must be something more than a Bryan. The country has only Bryan's word for what he will accomplish should destiny relent and a careless electorate place him in the Presidency; there is nothing in the man's history that gives an atom of assurance that he would do anything if he "got there," except talk; that is his forte, his one commanding faculty, his sole reliance, so far. It is not enough to warrant the tremendous risk of placing him at the head of the Nation; for if he shall fail, there will be nothing in American history to match the failure; it will be stupendous and comprehensive altogether, and will serve but to emphasize the bitterness with which the country shall regard its folly in having elected him.

HE HAS HIS RIGHTS.

The latest phase of the San Francisco muddle presents some very disagreeable lights and shadows, with District Attorney Langdon and his colleagues, somewhat in the shadow. They must make a very clear showing in this engagement or suffer a reaction inevitably bad, and which will undo a lot of the real good they have accomplished.

Ruef certainly has his specific rights in the case if he can substantiate them; an issue that will "put it all over" the prosecution. We do not know conclusively, as yet, just what the conditions were upon which he was promised immunity nor what he was bound to do to attain to that specific favor; but the pleadings at bar, as recounted in the press of that city, in the case being prosecuted by Ruef for the fulfillment of the terms, leave no doubt in anyone's mind that some such agreement did exist in his favor.

The arch-soundrel of the whole vile imbroglia must have absolute justice even if he goes scot-free forever; nothing less than this will stand in the popular conscience.

It seems to be a question of what he has done to merit the privilege: if he has not fulfilled his part of the compact let it be shown and if he still fails to make good, the people will have certain recourse in effecting his full and final punishment; but if he does what he promised, then he has a justifiable right to exact his "pound of flesh," and being what he is it goes without saying he will get it.

We again assert our disapproval of the policy of granting immunity as a means to an end in the courts of the land; we believe it to be a false and dangerous course and in its stead we insist that the law itself be upheld in the first instance and not wait until its violation has become a custom accepted on all sides, to the detriment of the code and the infinite loss of the people.

EDITORIAL SALAD

Fire Chief Croker of New York sounded a timely note when he protested against the overloading of business buildings. Little fire is needed to bring down a floor loaded beyond its safety capacity.

The secretary of the navy has served notice that if there is any further adulteration of battleship coal with dynamite, he will rescind the contract. This thing of substitution is reprehensible and should not be tolerated.

Professor Wheeler objected paying duty on cigars sent as gift by friends in the Philippines. Probably they were not worth it, as the professor might have learned by experience.

The New York Ice-company earnings are said to have decreased. The man who wants ice can set his pail out on the fire escape.

With Doctor Wiley and the canners at peace, as recorded from Cincinnati, one may look for other startling surprises in the near future, such as the closing of the list for admission to the Ananias Club, or the announcement that Taft has quit the race.

The tariff reformers have been informed in Washington that there is little chance for them. Why should there be? When it is the open season for "predatory wealth" and when the

hunting is good, why should there be talk of tariff?

It is decided by the board of general appraisers that corks, capsules, labels, wiring and envelopes go with the contents of bottles in levying duties. This obligation does not extend to the drinker.

In St. Louis a jury acquitted a citizen who killed a burglar and then bought him a gold medal. This is a pleasing reversal of the rule for the burglar to kill the citizen and then buy up the jury.

Maine is reputed to be a cold State, but Morse of Ice fame gets the frostiest frost when he sees receivers demanded for three of his steamship lines.

CATARRH A GERM DISEASE.

Success of Hyomei Guaranteed By T. F. Laurin.

Catarrh is an insidious disease of most destructive tendency. Its approaches are unalarming and its victims are well on the road to a chronic stage or to dread consumption before they realize their danger.

It is not a blood disease, but is caused by germs that lodge and grow in the air passages, causing irritation with poisonous and offensive mucous discharges. To cure this condition, stomach dosing is ineffective and the only healing agent is Hyomei. It goes directly to every nook and corner of the air passages, disinfecting, healing and curing. To be convinced of this, you have only to give Hyomei a trial, and T. F. Laurin will sell you an outfit with the understanding that if the trial is not satisfactory, and the treatment does not relieve, your money will be refunded.

You cannot afford to trifle with catarrhal troubles, for if neglected they grow worse and the annoyance and danger rapidly increases. It is best to use Hyomei at the first symptoms of catarrh, such as stoppage of the nose, offensive breath, raising of mucous, droppings in the throat, spasmodic coughing. The sooner you use Hyomei, the sooner you will be freed from all these troubles.

SEPARATION GRANTED.

NEW YORK, Feb. 19.—In granting a legal separation to Mrs. Katie Diedrich from Michael Diedrich, Justice Dayton of the Supreme Court has upheld the legality of a marriage by contract. Sixteen years ago the Diedriches entered into formal agreements to live together as husband and wife, and have so lived since. When Mrs. Diedrich sued for separation on the grounds of cruelty, Diedrich denied any marriage. The decision upholds the validity of the contract marriage and grants the separation.

Kemp's Balm 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.

OLD MINER DEAD.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 19.—Valentine Goldsmith Hush, a well known capitalist and mining operator, died at his home, in Fruitvale, from heart disease. The deceased was a native of Ohio, 65 years of age. For a time he served in the legislature of Minnesota.

This May Interest You

Foley's Honey and Tar cures the most obstinate coughs and expels the cold from the system and it is mildly laxative. It is guaranteed. The genuine is in the yellow package. For sale by T. F. Laurin.

TROUBLE SETTLED.

NEW YORK, Feb. 19.—Miss Bessie Abbott, the prima donna, has returned to the Metropolitan Opera House, the dispute and suits and counter-suits between the singer and the management having all been settled. Miss Abbott left the company saying she had not been given the part promised her. She brought suit against manager Conried, who in turn applied for an injunction preventing her from performing elsewhere. It is said Miss Abbott will be heard this season in "Rigoletti," "La Boheme," "Traviata" and "Mignon."

THE STRENGTH OF THE DIAMOND MARKET.

For more than a week past the condition in the diamond and jewelry trade of this country have been the subject of misrepresentation by the daily newspapers in many sections, and particularly in New York, where there seems to have been a desire on the part of reporters and editors to make sensational stories out of every little happening in the trade. Small failures have been magnified and given prominence that was in no way deserved, while the story of the few large concerns who put their assets in the hands of trustees has been used as a peg on which to hang all sorts of weird stories as to the diamond market being "dead,"—about depreciation in stocks and statements that the prices of gems were not, or would not hold, up to the present market. On behalf of the jewelry trade, The Jewelers' Circular-Weekly has written to every paper in which such articles have appeared, calling attention to the untruthfulness of the accounts, the lack of basis for the conclusions drawn and the general air of misrepresentation that runs through them all. At the same time we called attention to the fact that at this period of the year, when merchandise in every line of trade is being sacrificed for cash, diamonds are the only commodity that are sold at market price, and, in fact, have been the only one to do this through the past 15 years, even through the panic of 1893.

In view of the amount of misinformation that is being spread about the jewelry trade, and the effect that it may have upon the public, it is the duty of every jeweler not only to understand himself, but to teach his customers, his friends and even the editors of his local papers, if need be, that the prices of diamonds and gems, which at present prevails, have no prospect of dropping, and that if any change is made in the future, it will be in an upward direction. There is nothing that has occurred in any part of the world which can give the slightest cause for alarm as far as the ability of the diamond Syndicate and the importers, cutters and retailers of these stones to hold the market for gems on as firm a foundation as it has ever been. As published in another column, the Syndicate which controls the entire output of the De Beers Consolidated Mines, Ltd., and the Premier Diamond Mining Co. (which together produce over 90 per cent. of the gems of the world), have authorized the statement through a New York importer and cutter that the Syndicate remains as firm as ever in maintaining prices, and this statement is made not only with the consent of the Syndicate but of the two great companies whose product it markets. That the importers and cutters of Europe and this country to-day hold the situation in hand, as well as ever before, everybody conversant with the situation well knows, and the man who is looking for diamond stocks to be purchased under the market price has as good a chance of obtaining his desire as has the ornithologist who is hunting for a bird with three wings.

It is the duty of the jeweler at all times, and particularly at present, to see that the situation is properly understood by the public in his vicinity, and he should not only seek to counteract the effect of articles misrepresenting the situation, but for his own sake and that of his trade at large, emphasize on every occasion the fact that his customers should not postpone the purchase of diamonds, for he will never pay a lower price than he will pay at the present time. This applies to the dealer as well as the customer, for if the last 15 years have taught him anything about his trade, they have taught him that "present prices for diamonds are always the lowest."

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

BANK DIVIDEND.

CHICAGO, Feb. 19.—Judge Chas. M. Walker yesterday ordered a dividend of 20 per cent on claims for \$345,455 against the Ravenswood Exchange Bank. The dividend is payable on or before March by the Chicago Title & Trust Company, the receiver, and is nearly \$70,000. The Title & Trust Company has \$59,000 belonging to the bank but agrees to provide the difference between this amount and the dividend.

TEA

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