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Official paper of Clatsop County and the City of Astoria.

THE WEATHER

Oregon, Washington, Idaho—Fair and continued cold.

WHOLESALE, A REMEDY.

The need of wholesale houses in this city is becoming more and more evident all the time and it is believed here they would do more to fix the status of the city as a commercial point and secure it the best transportation rates, than any one thing that could be done just now.

There is good territory north and south of the city, on the coast, and up the Columbia half way to Portland, to support one, and even several lines, and their presence and trade would serve as a check on the businesses with which we have to deal now and reduce the buying standards so that the local houses might make a strong point in holding the limit of home trade and patronage.

If we had had a wholesale business in operation here the chances are we would not have lost the Tilamook trade. The common-point rate applies to Astoria, via the long haul from the East, on everything except flour and grain, and nothing will bring the exception within the general rule so quickly and completely as the founding and flourishing of a wholesale business.

There are plenty of waterfront sites for the convenient location of the business; and the up-rearing of one house will be the signal for the rapid installation of other lines. What we do not do for ourselves, with our own money, lands and initiative, will be done by Portland, or San Francisco, or Seattle, as fast as the far-seeking merchants of those centers realize the urgency and value of the investment. Our own merchants ought to be alive to the promise of the situation and take over the cream of it while they have it in their own hands. It is either this, or annexation to Portland for commercial purposes.

A FOOL POLICEMAN.

Next to a ravening anarchist there is nothing so dangerous as the policeman who does not know his authority and his business. No man, nor woman, is safe from the mania of the one or the stupidity of the other.

Portland has furnished a couple of types lately that are notable for the wide divergencies that exist in the police-mind up there. The man who killed his friend disguised and operating, in fun, as a highwayman; and the man who, without warrant of law, at the mere suggestion of a grouchy neighbor, enters the home of a respectable family, in the midst of a private entertainment, and kills the host because he will not suffer arrest nor abate the joy of his friends.

The parable to be found in these cases is worth the profoundest scrutiny of the commissioners of police everywhere. The former shows the officer in possession of his poise and faculty as a guardian of the peace and dignity of the people and ready to do his last and whole duty in support of their quietude and safety; the latter shows an assinine density as to place and duty and performance absolutely at variance with every rule of protection, and goes to the other limit as a demonstration that with such a patrolman there is no safety anywhere on his beat.

The best thing Portland can do in this latter premise is to make such a showing in the handling of this man Suitter as will, forever, supply the Portland police force with an object-lesson on the common rights of private citizens, that shall not be forgotten. The killing of Henry Shafer was

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one of the worst exhibitions of gross ignorance and brutal arrogance recorded for many a day on this coast.

SOME MORE MARTYRS.

From the text of the latest Chicago despatches it would seem that the police of that city intend to furnish mankind with a new bunch of anarchistic "martyrs"; and they are going at it in a fashion that is likely to forestall anything quite so radical as the Haymarket riots of long ago. The horrible murder of the Denver priest a few days ago has aroused the consciousness of the whole country to the peril all men are in from these misguided and abnormal broods of social malcontents and police orders have gone forth in every great center for their immediate rounding up and accounting.

The anarchist, simple, genuine, true, cultured, is a veritable priest of peace himself; he longs for the fullness of life's best for all men and holds his creed clean and clear of the grosser elements of action and thought; but the madness of the neophyte is what the world has to fear; the man who cherishing these lofty ideals, goes mad in the waiting, and murders to remove the supposed obstacles. The high type is rare, retiring and profoundly conscious that time alone may point the way he dreams for the redemption of society; the low, the bestial type, is of the ignorant millions and relatively as numerous, without the restraint of educated thought, and the deterrent influences of culture of any sort, hampered and harrassed by the pangs of poverty and crazed by the differentiations of the social scale, wherein he is cast for the lower level and cannot escape it.

The mania is pitiable and bitter; but all the same it must be controlled with an iron hand, lest society, right, or wrong, be brought to a pass that will be infinitely worse than it is charged with now by its profoundest enemies, towit, the anarchists themselves.

EDITORIAL SALAD

Colonel Bryan counts that day lost in which he fails to find something to commend in President Roosevelt.

The first reliable sign of spring is not furnished by the robin or bluebird, but by some by Eastern river rolling out of its bed.

The voyage of the big fleet so far proves that it works like an exact piece of mechanism. An exhibit like this speaks for itself.

Nothing can equal the Democratic party as an example of condensation. One person will constitute a quorum at the Denver convention.

Mr. Taft said in a speech a that Uncle Sam is not seeking war. It is a good time to remind all concerned that only Congress can declare war.

Owen Wister, the author, was defeated for alderman at the recent city election in Philadelphia. Mr. Wister understands fiction well enough, but he can't handle facts.

There are many Democratic candidates for the governorship of Missouri, but not one bears a banner with the old motto of the party: "No sumptuary legislation."

PANAMA CANAL.

Bronzed and muscular, like most Americans who work on the Panama Canal, and retain their health, Lieutenant Colonel George W. Goethals, chief engineer of the Canal Commission, has spent a busy month in Washington, Boston and other parts of the country, looking up details in reference to his work.

It makes one feel like throwing his hat in the air and hurrahing to know that in January, 1908, 2,200,000 cubic yards were excavated; for the best results anticipation a year ago was not over a million yards. The work on the Gatun Dam is progressing, and the concrete for the lock walls will be laid early next year. The excavation of the Pedro Miguel Lock is being pushed vigorously. Over a million cubic yards were removed

during December, and all new work is being done on the Pacific side. Everything is going swimmingly, and with sanitary conditions still improving, the Panama Canal seems very hopefully on the way to rapid completion.

It is, however, more than a mere engineering feat, for it is furnishing illustrations in sociological development in the modes of handling an army of 30,000 men, 6,000 of whom are skilled Americans and 7,000 laborers from North Spain and Italy, and the rest negro labor from the West Indies. They are all well-housed and well-fed, and all alike express regret that 1915 will come too soon to witness the completion of the greatest canal known in all times.

Colonel Goethals inspected the Charles River dam in Boston, and was especially interested in the rolling lock gate, which may be adopted in Panama. It is likely that during the winter a large number of congressional parties will visit the canal and keep in touch with the work.

The esprit de corps of the canal workers is a marvel to all engaged in other industrial undertakings; they seem to realize that they are not only working for wages, but doing something to be recognized as patriotic service in the years to come. This is a distinction that no ordinary work would confer. In fact, there is a sort of free masonry among the people who have even visited or looked upon the Panama Canal. Those who have "been there" once—especially if it has been during the last year—are all eager to go again, and are determined to be present at the opening of the canal, when the Stars and Stripes at Colon will greet the Atlantic, bowing to the setting sun there and greeting the rising sun on the eastern coast, where rolls the Pacific.—Joe Mitchell Chapple in "Affairs at Washington," February National Magazine.

50 Cents Worth of Electricity.

An enterprising engineer has figured out the number of things which can be accomplished with but fifty cents worth of electricity at 10 cents a kilowatt hour. Here are some of them.

Light an ordinary barn or stable with three 16-candle power lamps one hour every night, for thirty nights.

With a small motor attached to the washing machine and wringer fifty cents worth of electricity will do eight washings.

It will also do two weeks' ironing, using a six-pound iron.

An electric fan can be operated three and one-half hours a day for thirty days for fifty cents.

Two weeks' sewing can be done on the motor driving sewing machine for the same price.

It will light the porch for three hours every night for two months.

Fifty cents will pay for the current consumed in using the electric heating pad three hours every night for thirty nights.

It will grind 1125 pounds of coffee; broil 30 steaks; cook 20 rarebits in the electric chafing dish; fry 400 eggs.

It will run the blacksmith's forge blower for a week.

It will hoist 2,000,000 bricks, two stories.

A one horse-power motor will run 7 hours at full load for fifty cents.

Operating Electric Devices.

So much has been said anent the cost of operating electric heating devices and so few figures have been actually and authentically given that one of the many users of General Electric heating and cooking devices has prepared the following facts:

The family ironing costs four cents per hour. With the electric six-pound iron one-third to one-half the time consumed under the old stove method is saved, because there is no waiting for heat or walking to and from the stove.

The hand that rocks the cradle does not often wear diamonds.

COFFEE

The dealing is simple. If you don't like Schilling's Best, it costs you nothing.

Your grocer returns your money if you don't like it; we pay him.

WISE AND OTHERWISE.

Once a mother's darling—now a tramp.

Too many cooks may spoil the broth, but they can't hurt the breakfast food.

Never give unnecessary pain; the cricket is not the nightingale; why tell him so?

We can not be, at the same time, kind and wary; nor can we serve two masters,—love and selfishness.

If you will sprinkle the top of your pie-crust with a little sweet cream before baking, it will be brown and flaky.

We come into the world with nothing but a voice; we go out leaving even the voice. Speak well your piece while you can.

Set the broken umbrellas away and keep them till the umbrella man comes round. He may save you the cost of a new umbrella.

"I don't see," observed the head of the house, "why this lace should be so expensive. It's mostly holes, and I thought holes were cheap."

Now that the wet, windy days are here, make the youngsters some gloves out of bed-ticking or muslin, and they will not be troubled with chapped hands.

The dress that makes people exclaim, "What a pretty gown!" should be discarded. Wear the dress that causes them to say, "What a pretty woman!"

The men say that any woman who has common sense can keep house well, but each of them freely admits that it takes exceptional ability to manage his business.

Set baking powder biscuits on top of the stove, at the back, a few minutes before putting them in the oven, and they will rise, no matter what the state of the oven may be.

Do not entirely fill a rubber hot-water bottle. When partly full rest it on something and press in the neck; then screw on the top. This drives out the air and keeps the water hot longer.

Mother used to say, "Do your work so well that you won't have to do it over again."

Tramp: "Madam, I was not always thus." Madam: No, it was your other arm you had in a sling yesterday."

The young man who does his work indifferently because he thinks he is above his job, proves thereby his unfitness for the job that is above him.

"Well, he's not handsome," said the tourist, taking his first look at a Florida alligator, "but he has a deal of openness when he smiles."

Shut the doors after you, close the gates, hang up your hat and coat and wip off your shoes; then this will be a nice world for boys and every one to live in.

"How far is it from here to the next town?" asked the man in the motor car. "It's four rocky hills, two deep gullies, and nineteen policemen with stop watches," replied the up-to-date rustic.

Tom Hughes said: "The only thing to do with wild oats is to put them carefully into the hottest part of the fire and get them burnt to dust, every seed of them. If you sow them, no matter in what ground, up they will come with long, tough roots like couch grass, and luxuriant stalks and leaves."

A city firm hung out a sign, "Boys Wanted." In less than five minutes a redheaded little chap stepped into the office with the sign under his arm. "Say, mister," he said, "did you hang this out?" "I did," said the proprietor. "Why did you tear it down?" Back of his freckles the boy gazed in wonder at the man's stupidity. "Why," he replied, "I'm the boy." And he proved to be.

MERCHANTS STILL BUYING.

NEW YORK, Mar. 3.—Fully 1,000 additional buyers for merchantile houses in the West and South are expected in New York this week to make purchases for the spring and summer seasons. Thousands of buyers have visited the city in the past few weeks and their purchases have shown that the financial flurry which spread over the country in the fall is entirely past. From all over the country come reports of increasing good times and the prospect of commercial prosperity. The buyers report that business is daily increasing and that in most western cities the business of January and February far exceeded that of the same month last year. There is not one of the western buyers in town who does not believe that this year's business will at least equal that of last year and most of them go on record as predicting better business in both wholesale and retail lines than last year.

DANGEROUS.

Little Willie—I dream about my girl. Little Beanie—Do you? Little Willie—Yes. I killed two fellows about her last night.

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