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THE WEATHER

Western Oregon and Washington—Increasing cloudiness, followed by rain.

"GO TO IT"

A live, and deeply interested Astorian at our elbow suggests that it might be a better principle of local development to concentrate our energies upon one especial scheme of improvement and follow it up, with all the resourcefulness at our command and with the combined and concentrated interest of our people, until it is landed; rather than segregate our forces and spread our activities over a dozen projects, the pursuit of each being crippled by the application of men and energy employed on the others.

The idea is a good one, and is worth the consideration of all hands. One thing achieved is worth a score of things under negotiation. One success leads to others; and the principle of acquisition applies in the single operation just as well as in the manifold endeavor. It is also within the range of good sense to go after the small things and let the larger come in course. We are not big enough, nor strong enough, nor rich enough, to land the grand prizes, but by illustrating our acquisitive power in lesser things, we will so grow in reputation and credit for "doing business" that appreciative and controlling factors will turn the bigger things our way.

We cannot wear spurs and ride a drove of nags under their impetus; but we can get astride of one good proposition and by dint of pommel, mane, rein and unflinching knee-grip, ride the thing into the corral and thereafter use it for all it is worth, be it big or little. We like the idea and so do many others; and one or two good trials in its behalf will soon demonstrate its efficacy.

THE THETIS' TASK.

The pleasant news comes down from the farth north that the Thetis has found and rescued the dozen Japanese sailors from the schooner Satsuma marooned on an ice-floe in Yukat Bay and slowly but surely starving to death. This is the sort of work that real men delight in and is of lasting credit to the country, profession and service that did it. And it goes to illustrate the value of the revenue marine of America in a fashion quite distinct from the organic purposes of the department, of high value as they are.

The intricate coasts of the Pacific are an open book to the officers and many of the men of this branch of the public service and no hiding is of avail against their knowledge, ardor and courage in ferreting it out. It is a grateful and commendable extension of the life-saving principle to which all Governments are committed, the world over, and in which our own leads with distinct credit. And of such as these is the Hugh McCulloch.

THE SPIKE OF GOLD.

The golden spike that will be driven on Wednesday next to close the gigantic and splendid project for which the "North Bank" railroad stands, is a small affair, but it is a sign-manual of genius, civilized audacity and supreme success; and marks another era in the limitless program of human endeavor.

It is good for us all, once in a while, to look away from the money-side of such things and realize for the moment that there is something else at the root of such achievements; that an invincible courage lives in the brain and heart and inspires these

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masterful successes; that such monuments of the art, craft and mechanical culture of our day are raised, and left, to perpetuate the real struggles we have made toward the apex of human fulfillment; that for, and by, such manifestations we shall be known to remotest history as a people charged with lofty and intensely practical impulses and possessed of the grit and knowledge to perfect them and so contribute, mightily, to the transcendent record of universal utility and beauty.

IT WAS THEIR DAY.

Friday of last week was "young people's" day in Astoria. And they made the most and best of it. The hour that calls out the spirit of cheer and light for the young of a community is, or should be, the opportunity of the elders to mark with cordial and glad countenance. They are the embryo citizens to whom we must turn over the grave and weighty things of life and the gladder and sweeter we make their youth, the better they are fortified to take up the burdens and trusts we lay down. Every atom of joy that can be stored in their memories gives a reflected service and works a better balance in the days to come when they shall be charged with solemn things and have to solve the crises we have known. The man or woman who has made the life of a child glad and clean and joyous has done a supremely good thing for society and government and built well in the courses of that civilization of which we are all so boastfully proud; while, on the contrary a morbid, unhappy child is positive proof of some neglectful workman in the vast and wonderful work.

EDITORIAL SALAD

The prospect is that if the delegates to the Chicago convention are instructed for the various favorites "first, last and all the time" a conclusion can not be reached until the restrictions are removed. Republican conventions act for themselves, anyway.

Senator Stone says the flurry was caused by a shortage of available currency. As the shortage was caused by the flurry, the philosophy of the situation may be regarded as complete. There is nothing like reducing a question to a state of reciprocal equilibrium.

Occasionally, it is remarked that the Republican National Convention will be "stampeded." In that case it will be the first that lost its head and acted on excitable impulse. Republican national conventions heretofore have either known exactly what they wanted when they met, or else took plenty of time to do some hard thinking.

Congressman Burton has been nominated in the Cleveland District, where he ran in 1906 without opposition by the Democrats. But when he was a candidate for Mayor recently the Democrats put up a winning fight against him by a large majority. This is a mixed political proposition, but allowance must be made for the fact that the scene is Ohio.

A London horticultural society offers a bounty of 2 cents for every queen wasp brought to its show next summer. By including hornets this sort of sport would be lively enough to suit the most strenuous American taste.

A lecturer says that one of the lessons of the flurry is that the people of the United States should improve processes and expand markets. The advice is always in order. We are doing pretty well as it is, with ex-

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ports and balance of trade running higher than ever.

The discovery of gold, silver, copper and other precious metals in the Panama Canal diggings will bring a radiant smile to the faces of the members of Mr. Cannon's committee on appropriations.

In his last estimate of the age of the world Lord Kelvin reduced the figures to 400,000,000 years, which makes man such a modern introduction that he must still be classed among the novelties.

It cost Count Boni de Castellane \$20.20 to spit in the face of Prince de Sagan. The experience will be a good lesson to both of them; the prince will be admonished to hold his tongue and the count to hang on to his saliva.

PROTECTION FOR SCHOOLS.

CHICAGO, Mar. 7.—Immediate official investigation of the provisions for fire protection in the Chicago public schools was ordered yesterday by the school management committee of the board of education. A board consisting of E. G. Cooley, supt. of schools; Dwight H. Perkins, school architect, and T. E. Water, school engineer, will make an exhaustive examination of the fire escapes, stairways and exits at the various schools, test the efficiency of the fire ordinances that may be found. The committee also voted to amend the rules of the board so as to make it the personal duty of each school principal to see that all exit doors, inside and outside, are unlocked during school hours. Delegation of this authority to a subordinate or a pupil will be considered a grave misdemeanor. Heretofore it has been the duties of engineers and janitors to see that exit doors are unlocked.

THE HENRY HUDSON BRIDGE.

Greatest Arch of Concrete or Stone to Cross Spuyten Duyten Creek.

There is not in the world a bridge span in either stone or concrete which approaches the dimensions of the proposed Henry Hudson memorial bridge to cross Spuyten Duyvil Creek.

The central span of that structure is to be 703 feet in the clear. In steel there already exists a longer arch, that of the upper Niagara span, which measures 840 feet. The design of the Hell Gate bridge calls for a thousand-foot arch of steel.

But in concrete there is nothing like the big span which is to link Manhattan to the mainland. The Engineering News declares that largest completed concrete arch is that of the Grunwald Bridge over the Isar, at Munich. It is only 230 feet wide.

The Walnut Lane concrete arch bridge, now being built, has a slightly longer span, 233 feet between faces of abutments. These spans become insignificant, even trivial, when com-

pared with that now proposed for the Hudson Memorial Bridge.

A better idea of the boldness of the proposal is had from a comparison with the general field of masonry arch construction, since the problems of design and erection for arches of stone and concrete are in a measure the same. The Cabin John arch of the Washington aqueduct, 220 feet in span, built about half a century ago, was for a long time looked upon as an exceptional achievement, being the largest stone arch in the world.

Only in the last eight years has it been exceeded, and there are now three larger spans in stone, besides the 230-foot concrete arch at Grunwald—Add, 230 feet; Luxemburg, 278 feet, and Plauen, 295 feet. In fifty years designers have ventured only one-third beyond the limits set by the Cabin John arch, and only in three cases have they found it necessary. Now in one leap the present limit is to be multiplied by two and a half.

The Henry Hudson arch carries a double deck. The upper or main deck is a highway floor, 80 feet wide between railings; it has a 50-foot roadway and two 15-foot sidewalks. The lower deck is to carry four tracks of a rapid transit railway, but as no such line is yet in prospect, the lower floor system is not to be put in place at first, but only the necessary connections provided for it.

The total length of the bridge, including the approaches, is 2840 feet. Its cost, excluding special ornamental features, is estimated at \$3,800,000. About one-half of this is changeable to the large arch and its superstructure.—New York Sun.

VETO OVER QUEEN MAUD.

It is an unfortunate fact that Queen Maud of Norway finds Christiana very dull, and would rather spend the summer in England, enjoying the pleasures of the London season, Ascot, Goodwood, and finally Cowes. On this point, however, King Edward is firm. His view is that it will not do for his daughter to spend too much of her time in this country, and away from the one which she has been called to reign over. It might make her unpopular, and earn her the name of "the Englishwoman" in an uncompromising sense. The Norwegian dynasty is too new, too freshly-attached to the brand-new throne, to be able to risk becoming unpopular or being deemed unnecessary. That would probably lead to a republic at once. Therefore King Edward firmly vetoes his daughter's wish, and Queen Maud will not be seen here again till November.—Modern Society.

Unequaled as a Cure for Croup.

"Besides being an excellent remedy for colds and throat troubles, Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is unequalled as a cure for croup," says Harry Wilson of Waynetown, Ind. When given as soon as the croupy cough appears, this remedy will prevent the attack. It is used successfully in many thousands of homes. For sale by Frank Hart and leading druggists.

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