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TELEPHONE MAIN 661.

**THE WEATHER**

Western Oregon and Washington—Rain.

**FISH AND POLITICS.**

Astoria's salmon fishing season for 1908 opened at high noon on Wednesday; her political season opens this morning, with the primaries. Both periods and businesses demand the best attention her people can give them, in order that each may yield the largest measure of popular good for which they, relatively, stand. One is a bit more comprehensive, as to the numbers of people engaged, than the other, for we are notoriously better fishermen than we are politicians; but both call for the best concern the good citizen can give them.

"Fishers of men" are known the world over; and not always in the biblical sense. They have their seasons, their territories, their baits and devices, especially the political fisher; and at times the rules are transposed, and the people do their own fishing in the political pools; go after their own particular sort of political piscatorial type and thrust him on the civic markets of their own volition, by their sheer skill, and this is deemed one of the untoward phases of the game and does not please the professional "fisher"; but it is usually the reversal of the rule that accentuates its actual values.

The Columbia river, and Clatsop county, are full of game for both sorts of fishers, and the quarries are gamey; that on shore being a bit the shyest of the two; but we are hoping that when the summer is past and the seasons have closed, the common public of the northwesterly county of old Oregon will have garnered prudently, yet richly, from both fields, to her distinct honor and advantage.

**HERE'S TO WARRENTON!**

Astoria has, and avows, a genuinely friendly interest in the City of Warrenton, as a neighbor, and wishes her abundant success in the new step she has just taken to harmonize and organize her commercial interests under the aegis of a board of trade. We shall be glad to work with her for the mutual advantage of both cities; and as their destinies are practically inseparable, this is as practicable as it is essential and will not be overlooked up this way.

Warrenton is going to appeal strongly to the investing world one of these not-distant days, as well as Astoria, and their civic boundaries are too close to permit of anything save the friendliest and most helpful disposition and effort one to the other; and upon so neighborly a predicate, it will be easy to strive mutually for the good things that are ahead.

**OUR NATIONAL NERVES.**

It is becoming one of the settled convictions of the day that we are, as a nation, passing swiftly to a point where nervous-collapse is a proven organic malady of the people, a national affliction to the living and a startling menace to the unborn.

We are sacrificing the nerves of the people in a thousand ways, and steadily hunting for new and trying expedients wherewith to wring them to still finer fractional shreds. In work, pleasure, society, the rules prevail that stand for neurasthenia and its kindred horrors; we are driving our bodies and minds and functions at the "pace that kills," and disparage the poor instant given to a cursory review of the evils; we are money-mad, style-mad, place-mad, time-mad; we think we are in control simply because we go on accomplishing things, never dreaming of the cost we are paying and are yet to pay; in

shop, office, factory, drawing-room, the habit of fierce and blasting competition drives us from one line of killing endeavor to another, and we are everlastingly keyed to a tension that wrecks us in the end and leaves us unable to enjoy the fruits for which we have striven so desperately.

We are dwelling in the very golden days of the physician, the sanitarium, the drug-man, the universal invalid, never in all history was there such a spectacle of human collapse as exists in this country today; scientists are proclaiming new diseases daily, and the lesser lights are re-naming old ones; assimine "fashion" grasps them instantly and makes them the vogue for the sole purpose of doing the ultra, even in so unhappy a field; the new generation comes upon us with blight and misery we have passed on to it, and still we cry down the warning and pursue the fetich relentlessly and with the false joy of a poorly qualified insanity. God alone knows where it is to end! Man and woman have no time to think it out, to amend it, nor, apparently, to profit by the persuasion of the tremendous fact borne in upon them every day of their lives!

**KNOWLEDGE IS POWER.**

**Why Railroad Experience is a Valuable Equipment of a Railroad.**

When a man wants to build a house he employs an architect. If he needs a suit of clothes he consults a tailor. It is expert knowledge that counts.

It is generally conceded that the State Board of Railroad Commissioners, in order to make its work effective, should have at least one member possessing practical knowledge of transportation matters in their various relations to employes, shippers and the traveling public. It is the fact that W. H. Hurlburt possesses such knowledge, gained through over 35 years of experience in every department of railroad work—Construction, operating and traffic—that makes him the strongest candidate for the office of Railroad Commissioner in this district. His experience and knowledge would make him an invaluable member of the Board.

Mr. Hurlburt is not now connected with or interested in, any transportation company, either directly or indirectly, and therefore in a position to render the state the best possible service.

**TO CUT WORLD'S FUEL BILL.**

"Less than twenty-five years from now railroad locomotives will carry no fuel. Trains all over the country will run by power conveyed by wire from a dozen great central plants located in the neighborhood of coal mines. There will be no smoke, no cinders, to make a journey by rail disagreeable."

Thus Prof. Robert H. Fernald, expert in charge of the government fuel inquiry is quoted by Robert Franklin in the Technical World Magazine for May.

It has been proved practicable, he says, by the help of gas-producers and gas engines, to convert the energy of coal into electricity and transmit it by wire over distances exceeding 250 miles. This means that trains could be run from a single central plant over 200,000 square miles—an area nearly four times that of the state of Illinois—and that ten or twelve such plants, located at or near mining centers, could furnish motive power for all the railroads in the United States.

"Now that it is commercially possible to transmit electric power two hundred and fifty miles or more," says Prof. Fernald, "the location of immense gas-producing plants at the mines, or within easy reach of them, must speedily follow. But it should not be supposed that this power will be utilized only by the railroads of the country. It will be supplied to factories, and employed for all sorts of industrial purposes in cities and towns, whose populations will be thus enabled to enjoy cleanliness and freedom from the tyranny of smoke chimneys."

This is the introduction to a remarkable article in this magazine which is always full of striking things. It is worth buying the number to read this one feature.

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Our showing of Hand Bags Purses, Etc., is the most exclusive in the city; the new latest designs representing every detail of the manufacturer's art.

**Before Easter Waist Sale \$2.19**

Sheer, dainty, beautiful waists; a particularly complete assortment of high grade lingerie waists especially for the Easter season; values to \$3.50. See window.

**Easter Hosiery**

Embroidery, lace, lace and embroidery, gauze, lisle, black and colors. (Louis Hermsdorf Dyer means fast and pure black.)



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**EXTRADITION REFUSED.**

SAN FRANCISCO, April 16.—Paul G. Bender, who was wanted in Chicago, on a charge of wife abandonment and who was arrested in this city several weeks ago, was released from custody yesterday on an

order from Governor Gillett, who refused to grant extradition papers. Detective Sweigert, from Chicago, will be compelled to return without his prisoner.

Send the Morning Astorian to your friends in the East.

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