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SPIRITED PROTEST IS FILED

RINGING LETTER FROM WES-SINGER ON INTERESTING TOPIC - YESTERDAY'S CON-FERENCE ON THE LOCAL OPTION ISSUES NOW ON FOOT.

"Portland, Or., April 22, 1908. "Editor of the 'Astorian,' "Astoria, Ore.

"Dear Sir:-Our local agent in your city has sent us a clipping from yesterday's paper, relative to local option petitions which are being circuetitions is the alleged threat of the Weinhard Estate people that they would see to it that Wards 6 and 7 or words to that effect.

"We would like to ask you where this assertion is based, as we are very much interested to know who would tell such a wilful falsehood about a firm which has at all times shown not only its willingness to obey the laws, rules, and regulations governing the city of Astoria, whether local or state, but has also maintained and proven its friendship for your city at all times. It is hardly worth while to emphasize the fact that at no time have the Weinhard Estate people mixed up with your local politics, and we will say once and for all that neither Mr. Paul Wessinger, who visits Astoria only once in a great while, nor Mr. Buttner, who visits your city regularly in the interests of the firm, have ever presumed or thought of presuming to dictate the opening up of any ward in the city of Astoria that its citizens want dry. These are the only two gentlemen who could with authority speak on the subject, and if anyone else has assumed to speak for them, it has been without their knowledge or consent, and under no circumstances the sentiments of the Henry Weinhard Estate.

"In conclusion, we will say, that we very much resent any statements made by irresponsible or malicious parties, who evidently seek to influence innocent and uninformed citizens against a firm, which has always been sincerely concerned in the welfare of Astoria. Very truly yours,

"Estate of H. Weinhard, Dec'd., "Per PAUL WESSINGER."

The reading of the foregoing letter, was the initial proceeding had at the conference held yesterday morning at the Astoria Chambr of Commerce rooms, between the committee of Business-men and the representatives of the Astoria Civic League, upon the mutually interesting subject of the proposed petitions for local lately formulated in city precincts Noss. 2, 3, 4 and 5, of this city; the abeyance of which was sought by the went to sea and San Francisco.

Business-men as inopportune and illadvised at this season, when so much of importance and commercial interest, is afoot in the city, that might be delayed and actually defeated, if the "dry" program were-insisted upon.

The conference of yesterday was the result of the meeting of the Promotion Committee of the Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday morning last, when J. T. Ross was deputed to meet the Civic League people and endeavor to get them to confer on the subject; and was well atended by about 30 of the leading citizens, standing for both issues; but all thoroughly imbued with the urgency of reaching an equitable understanding that should avoid any unnecessary sacrifice either to the city itself or to the ethical interests involved.

Rev. W. S. Gilbert appeared as the spokesman for the Civic League, and he made a straight-forward statement of the entire willingness of the League to withdraw the pending petitions for local option, aforesaid, if an agreement (not a compromise) could be reached, whereby the saloonmen of Astoria would, over their own signatures, consent to abide by the four following stipulations, for a per iod of two years, to-wit:

"That the petitions alleged to be in circulation in precincts Nos. 6 and 7, of this city, for the avowed purpose of re-establishing the saloons in those precincts (now 'dry') be immediately withdrawn:

"That the Sunday closing law be literally and voluntarily enforced, under the penalty of immediate forfeiture of existing licenses, and for that

"That ganfoling, dancing, minors, and women, be absolutely excluded from all saloons of the city, now, and for the period noted:

"That the saloonmen use their united influence to prevent the issuance of any more liquor licenses in the City of Astoria, for the said term of two years." ed to relieve the pain caused by the

Mr. Gilbert was in a position to pledge the good faith of the Civic people in these premises and said so unequivocally. The bases for the outlining of his proposals had been suggested to his people by the delegate from the Business-men's meeting of Wednesday, Mr. Ross, and he asked that the program be met and carried out, and his request was carried out instanter by Mayor Wise who moved the appointment of a committee of six, three from the League and three from the Business-men's group; and around this motion there was sprung an interminable, yet interesting, series of talk from all the leading men on lated for Wards 2, 3, 4 and 5. It is both sides. There were bright, apt exponents of the hour and topics being Messrs. J. H. Whyte, W. E. Schimpff, J. T. Ross, F. J. Carney, J. (new dry) would go wet in due time, W. Welch, John Manciet, Norris Staples, Rev. C. L. Owen, Judge C. J. Trenchard, William Ross, Mayor Is closed each article is accounted for you receied the information on which Herman Wise, and others, all of whom by a recount. Some surgeons have had were deeply interested in the friendly issue of the controversy. The result of the wide range of the discussion was the success of the motion, and the appointment of Messrs. Herman Wise, Chairman Frank Patton, who had must be accounted for before the next presided over the meeting with scrupu iours of its duration; and the immediate appointment of Messrs. Albert Carlson, R. M. Gaston and C. L. Owen, by Mr. Gilbert, on the part of the Civic League. The closed a lively and interesting session, and the rest of the work in this behalf is now in the hands of the joint committee, which will formulate the pledge, or agreement, and submit it for signature, to the saloonmen of Astoria,

with what success is, as yet, a matter of conjecture to all concerned. Reverting to the letter of Messrs. Weinhard, or rather, of Mr. Paul Wessinger, the Morning Astorian begs to call his attention to the fact that in the local article referred to him, this paper's authority for the incould anyone else have done or said troduction of the name of the Weinanything in this matter as voicing hard Estate at that writing, is clearly stated in the article itself; and that the Astorian is not aware of the source to which its informant owes knowledge of the matter. The matter was of large moment and the gentleman giving the information entirely worthy of confidence, hence the Astorian's use of practical information | thing about it. The woman died of from an unquestioned source; to which source it most respectfully refers Mr. Wessinger with the added regret for having to make the reference at all.

ADDITIONAL MARINE NOTES

The steamship Breakwater was among the get-aways from Coos Bay vesterday, with freight and pas-

The steamer Homer arrived down from the metropolis yesterday and

Mishaps That Follow In the Wake of Operations.

OBJECTS LEFT IN THE BODY.

Recorded Cases Show That Tubes, Clamps, Sponges, Towels and Scissors Have Been Forgotten or Overlooked Until Disclosed by Autopsy.

Accidents will happen in the best reg-

ulated of operations. Foreign bodies,

such as forceps, sponges, towels and

gauze pads, are more frequently left in the human body after operations than the public is aware of. To be sure, the number of operations in which this happens is small. It occurs perhaps once or twice in the course of 2,000 operations. Like an eruption of Vesuvius, however, it is likely at any time and has marked the operations of some of the best known surgeons of this city. They say it may occur again notwithstanding the number of schemes which have been devised to prevent it. No one knows the number of these mishaps, as only in relatively few cases is death followed by an autopsy. The announcement that "the operation was a success, but the patient died," may cover a multitude of sins of omission and commission so far as any one can tell. One may find in the files of the "Annals of Surgery" the reports of between 150 and 200 cases in which objects used in operations have been left in the body. These objects include tubes, clamps, sponges, towels, forceps scissors and finger rings. Usually it is a piece of gauze or a sponge that is left in the wound. In 109 cases reported from Europe thirty-one sponges and thirty-three pieces of gauze were left in wounds. In forty-three cases death resulted. In the other sixty-six cases the articles worked their way out after remaining in the body for months and sometimes years or were discovered and removed by operations perform-

movements of these objects. In one case a surgeon lost his seal ring. It finally pushed its way to the surface of the body of a person on whom he had operated and was re turned to its owner. In another a pair of forceps circulated about the abdominal cavity of a "case" for four years before being recovered. Pieces of gauze five feet long and a yard wide have been removed from persons on whom operations had been performed It seems strange to the layman that anything should be able to escape the surgeon in such a small cavity as is likely to be created in the body in the course of an operation. Especially does it seem impossible that anything should be lost in view of the extreme care taken to prevent it. Many surgeons f eliminating the possibility of the loss of anything used. Unfortunately even these have never proved infallible. The most usual method is to have ev erything counted by a nurse before the operation begins. Before the wound experiences which led them to triple the number of persons responsible for the appliances, each to check the counts of all the others. Other surgeons have fested themselves. the gauze pads in packages of half a dozen or a dozen. Only one package F. J. Carney and W. E. Schimpff, by is opened at a time, and its contents is opened. Tying tapes to each gauze, ous fairness during the long two pad or instrument inserted in a wound is another precaution. A prominent Brooklyn súrgeon devised a check system similar to that used by baggagemen. A quantity of glass checks were numbered, there being two of each number, and to each set of duplicates was attached a tape. To every article used in the operation one of these tapes with the check attached was fasof gauze was taken from a basin for and placed in the basin. Before the wound was stitched each article represented by these detached checks had

to be accounted for. Notwithstanding such precautions, in four recorded cases large sponges were torn in half while the operation was in progress and one of the halves placed in the wound and lost sight of. When the count was made there was the same number of sponges as at the beginning of the operation. The missing half was forgotten and the wound closed.

A surgeon in describing one of these

mishaps says: "A young surgeon, assisted by an older surgeon, performed the operation. The older one tore a sponge in half and tucked half of it in without saying anyshock, and the sponge was removed at the postmortem examination, much to the surgeon's surprise, as a count of sponges gave the number with which

the operation had been begun." Another way in which a reputable surgeon may be made the victim of this kind of an accident is illustrated in this settlement, made by an Ameri-

can practitioner: "I have had two unfortunate experi ences in regard to foreign bodies re maining in the abdominal cavity, one occurring a few years ago when using the old fashioned sponges, the patient dying from general peritonitis. One occurred about three years ago in which a small gauze sponge was left, the pa tient making a good recovery, but on a

reappearance of the disease a year after the sponge was found on exploration. This is an accident to be regretted. I have always been fortunate in reference to forceps and instruments,

and in the first case to which I referred I had trusted entirely to my assistant, who assured me all the sponges were accounted for. After the death of the patient and on making an autopsy, you can imagine my sorrow and chagrin in finding a small sponge in the abdominal cavity."

Even when the count does not fally and it is evident that something in missing, the accident which may cost a life happens.

"It was a sponge about the size of a small ben's egg, lost in the abdominal eavity, thanks to the assistance of a visiting surgeon," said one surgeon in reporting his experience. "A prominent operator from one of the large eastern cities being present, I asked himto assist me, as was then so frequently the custom. I did not feel at liberty to speak to him quite as I should have done to my usual assistant. Before closing the wound the customary sponge count was called for and show ed one missing. A thorough search of the room falled to reveal it. I then searched the cavity, as I thought, most carefully. In the meantime every assistant-and there were many, as was then the custom-expressed his views. and it was decided that the missing sponge was one which had been dropped during the process of cleaning The incident was recalled and seemed confirmed by my vain search of the cavity. Peritonitis promptly followed. not altogether unusual at that time. and the postmortem four days later revealed the sponge thoroughly concealed in the upper part of the cavity."

Not often, to be sure, but occasional ly, the mistake is made of operating on the wrong member. A case is reported from Canada which illustrates this. It was that of a diseased optic nerve. It was feared that the disease would be communicated to the healthy nerve of the other eye, and it was decided that to obviate this the diseased nerve and eye should be removed. The nature of the malady was such that one could not tell by appearance the diseased from the healthy eye. The patient, be ing under the influence of the annes thetic, could not give any information on that point. The healthy eye was taken out.

"Of course you would feel like shooting the surgeon," said the physician who told the incident to a representative of the Tribune, "but there was nothing to guide the surgeon."

Since then in such a case it has become the custom to indicate the eye to be operated upon by an identification mark before the operation is undertaken."-New York Tribune.

TORNADO IN NEBRASKA.

BANCROFT, Neb., April 23.-A tornado swept through Cumming county and into Thurston county at noon today and three people are stated in this article that one of the and convincing suggestions of all have worked out methods of proce known to have been killed, and numreasons for the circulation of these kinds from all sources, the leading dure for operations with the intention ber of persons were injured and numerous houses destroyed

GEN. LINEVITCH DEAD.

ST. PETERSBURG, April 23.-General Linevitch died of pueumonia tonight. He has been ill a little over a week and on several occasions serious symptoms of heart failure mani-

GROVER CLEVELAND BETTER.

LAKEWOOD, N. J., April 23.condition of former President Grover Cleveland, about whom alarming reports wee ciculated today, was said by Mrs. Cleveland to be improved.

SULLIVAN WINS.

VERNON, Cal., April 23.-Mike Sullivan tonight won the decision over tened. Whenever, for instance, a plece Jimmy Gardner after fighting 25 rounds all in favor of Sullivan. The use one of the checks was removed decision of James J. Jeffries, the refcree, was a popular one in spite of the efforts by Gardner to show himself entitled to some consideration as a welterweight aspirant.

but as usual lacked the steam to deliv er a knockout blow, although there were several times that he had him at his mercy.

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