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TELEPHONE MAIN 661.

THE WEATHER

Oregon, Washington, Idaho—Fair and warmer.

TAKE MORE TIME!

It behooves the councilmen of Astoria, and the property-owners as well, to scrutinize the text of the proposed ordinance creating the fire limits of the city, and the fixing the character of the construction and repairs incident to that district. The object of the bill is, of course, excellent and wholly commendable and emphasizes the necessity for the exact and safe framing of the law.

The district is negligible to start with; it begins at the harbor line at the foot of Seventeenth, thence to Exchange, thence to Thirteenth, thence to Duane, thence to Sixth, thence to the harbor line, and eastwardly to the beginning. It should take in Franklin avenue from Seventeenth to Seventh, and thence to Duane, Sixth and the harbor line, in order to comprehend the best building sites on the levels and the near-levels.

The rules for construction and repair are very full and exact (though carelessly framed), and would serve a high purpose in any city that did not have a period of transition from piling to terra firma ahead of it; as they read they are far too exacting and will work a hardship on every owner, at least, until the city is equipped with a new datum plane and a set of commensurate grades, and until a sea-wall or other basic program for filling the tide levels has been designed and accepted by the people. It is positive folly and injustice to force a measure of this kind, with the basic grades of Astoria at "sixes and sevens" as they are now, and no determined project, or prospect, for future handling of the great work of meeting those grades by reducing, filling and levelling, the legitimate, commercial contours, existing, and desired.

HIST!!

Give ear, oh, ye people! The Portland Oregonian is out baldly, boldly, naked and unashamed, for 40 feet of water on the Columbia bar!

It actually is urging the immediate employment of the dredger Chinook, or some other machine of quality and capacity, upon the bar to eke out the fine work there and achieve the good "forty feet" that mean real commerce; unlimited and abundant and paying commerce. What?

All the same we are glad to have the great paper take this matter up. It has been inspiringly silent on the proposition for years past, save an occasional declaration in favor of the general improvement there. And it is so thoroughly and heartily in line with all that Astoria has been praying and preaching for all these long months (especially in the matter of the dredge) that we are quite perked up over Monday's clamorous editorial in that paper.

We want two dredgers, both of the biggest and best types; one for the bar and the other for the rivers, hence to Celilo and Portland. As the Oregonian says, the commerce of the Columbia Valley is to grow immensely in the next five years; and that period is to be the critical era during which all things that make for its permanence and volume will be applied. And nothing under the canopy of Heaven will contribute so much, and instantly, to that great program, as forty feet of water from the bar-crest to the gate-levels of the locks at Celilo and Oregon City.

Astoria will be no loser by such a consummation; but will, rather, become an ardent, and we hope potent, factor in the ultimate demonstration that the Columbia affords the finest

commercial facilities on the Western hemisphere and is in direct line for the best and last exploitation of those agencies. There is nothing we will hesitate, nor balk, at, if we are once assured that this is the ultimate for which Portland and the State are striving. Portland cannot renounce its selfish policies any quicker than we can, and we care not where the instigation for such a "flop" shall come from. We are out for the good of the State and, being a commercial place, with an abundant share of natural appointments at hand, nothing appeals to us so strongly as such a project as this.

The initial phase of it all, is, of course, ample and permanent depth of channel-way across the Columbia bar; that gained and maintained, the rest is easy. The issue is an enormous one, and must command the interest of the Government in the provision of those aids to navigation that will be absolutely and economically indispensable, once the gate-way of an immense commerce is thrown open to the world.

ADMONITORY HUNCHES.

Whenever nature does one of her spectacular and hideous "stunts," such as forest-fires, land-slides, tornadoes, floods, earthquakes, man, with cowardly knowledge of his real deserts, cringes and weakens and quakes, and does the bit of thinking he should do at less suggestive moments; not that nature has any particular aim or relation to or with him in the matter, but upon the simple hypothesis that her untoward and frightful activity so transcends his paltry and restricted place and power, that he crumples in the contrast and turns instinctively to the cleaner and dearer things of life, by way of propitiation and involuntary penance, as it were.

This is the lesson that is yielded by the tremendous visitations such as has swept the Southland during the past few days; it is the residuum of every great holocaust; and perhaps it is well those disasters come as they do. Man needs some palpable rebuke every hour of his life for the meanness and craft and weakness that he hides beneath the frippery of civilization we are prone to harp on so much. There is but little ground for exaltation, these hard, money-governed days and the call of "first principles" such as Nature frequently and terrifically presents, may move us to the assumption and use of some of them, to our immense advantage.

EDITORIAL SALAD

All the world loves a lover, and all the world laughs at a fortune-hunting and title-hunting matrimonial dicker.

Gold has begun to travel back to Europe. The flurry in confidence is hardly entitled to a place among the panics.

The frequency with which large dams are carried away by floods suggests that more risks are taken in their construction than is advisable or profitable.

If Congress will drop around at the governors' conference in the White House next month, it will have the privilege of hearing an extra message before it adjourns.

One-fourth of the work on the Panama Canal is said to have been completed. The experts trained there in digging dirt will come in handy for future river improvement.

"Where is the most lonesome place on earth?" asks somebody, and the Boston Globe remarks, "Guam must be pretty near it." Ring up Lincoln, Neb., on the evening of November 3, next.

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ilarly ailing may also use it and obtain relief. Behind every one of these letters is a warm-hearted wish of the writer to be of use to some one else. This remedy is for sale by Frank Hart and leading druggists.

The Truth About Mr. Lee Greenleaf.

He made his characters live and carried the sympathy of his audience from start to finish in a very artistic and thoroughly effective manner. The presentation was one to remember for a lifetime.—George W. Sanderson, Teacher of Expression, Seattle High School.

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