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TELEPHONE MAIN 661.

## THE WEATHER

Oregon, Washington and Idaho—Fair, probably warmer.

## SINGULAR SIGNIFICANCE.

It is one of the mysteries of the hour that the issue of local option when paralleled with the political problems of the day takes supreme precedence over all other considerations, men and policies and purposes. Astoria has a liquor contest on, just now, in which the candidates for official preference are literally submerged, and apparently, forgotten, beneath the all-absorbing controversy and interest attaching to the super-eminent question.

That the liquor question is full of significance always, in all its varied ramifications, goes without saying, but why it should take on such peculiar and profound importance because it is raised and shoved to the front while it is no less significant and important during the quieter moments of non-agitation, is one of the conundrums society is always asking itself. The campaigning for or against liquor restriction invariably brings forth the bitterest, most far-reaching, antagonisms that exist in a community and inspires all the abstruse vindictiveness by way of attack, reprisal and counter-point, that otherwise remain dormant and unheard of; and for this reason the engagement is always dreaded as a public try-out, indispensable as it is at times.

It has the faculty of yielding forth expedients, plans, tricks, animosities, personalities, and incongruous absurdities, as no other popular contest ever does; and its real essentials of merit and justice are lost, more often than not, in the rancorous confusion attendant upon its prosecution. And with this knowledge before us it were well if we used the soberer and placating agencies of dispassionate discussion and quiet acceptance, in lieu of lending ourselves, by word or act, to the fiercer agitation for which the campaigns are as famous as they are infamous.

## SUPERB TEST MADE.

Under the eyes of a million loyal Americans, in one of the glorious harbors of the world, on a perfect California day, the might and arms of the nation, as represented by the navy, have passed in review on the final movement of one of the most superb tests ever given a fleet of ships in the known world. It is a wonderful demonstration of the skill, and materials, and industrial faculty of the nation in the modelling and building of such a navy, and gives the lie to the hypercritics that have endeavored to shame and belittle it.

Of course it is not a war test; but it is a test of the fitness of the vessels to stand enormous strains of sea and gale and all the stress of the main. And in the event of war, such ships in the hands of the right men, will leave their marks where they will do the most good, or we miss our guess.

Thirteen thousand miles without break or delay or loss indicates a safe and solid construction that means something more than mere seaworthiness, and in face of the technical and far-fetched strictures that have been laid at the door of their builders and designers, we shall pin our faith to the last one of them and look for the old-time report of victory and success that has become the dearest tradition of the country.

We can imagine the thrill of pride that swept the eager hosts on the heights about San Francisco, when the Armada swung in the Golden Gate and up the bay girdled with mountainous hills and island mountains, and we wish the same sight might be offered us here in the great Columbia; but they are all ours, just the same; and our pride is not lessened one whit because of the denial.

"God Bless the American Navy!" That's the slogan we are putting up!

## TAKE YOUR TIME!

The Morning Astorian is quite as anxious to see every possible development in and about this city and county make good as soon and as fully, as anyone else may be; but we are of the opinion, along with a number of other citizens, that the granting of a franchise for the laying of gas mains for the use of the Astoria Gas & Oil Company, might better be deferred until the gas has been developed and the oil has been struck, in such quantities as ensure the necessity of such means of distribution. Otherwise a valuable franchise will be put out that will be of no definite use to the holding company, except as mere asset to be disposed of later at any price it may speculate for and get; and the real object of the grant be negated.

When the company has done its best to find one or both and has succeeded there can be no possible reason for refusing it the privilege it asks but until it has done this, the gift of a valuable franchise such as this, if granted at all now, should be hedged in which such reservations and reversionary rights as will bar its use as a collateral in the hands of the holders or its assignees. Franchises are too valuable these days for speculative and inconsiderate handling, and it were well to conserve their issuance and use to the hour germane to it, and save the chance of mis-use and the defeat of the real purposes for which they are uttered.

## Dog Smugglers.

Smuggling by dogs is greatly in vogue on the frontier between Italy and Switzerland notwithstanding all the efforts of the preventive men stationed along the hilly country north of Como. The dogs are trained for smuggling by first inculcating within them a mortal terror of the customs officers. This is done by dressing up a man in the custom house uniform, who thrashes the dog severely whenever he sees him, and the animal, having thus acquired a wholesale dread of the uniform, will fly for his life at the sight of a donanier. The smuggler on the Italian side, who owns the dog, pets it and treats it well, and when the dog is taken to the Swiss smuggler, whose tobacco is to be taken across the frontier, it is first kept chained up without food for some days, then packed round the body with a belt containing the contraband goods and hunted off with blows and cries. Needless to say, the dog's miraculous instinct makes him head straight for home. He rushes off at full speed, and once across the frontier he finds his beloved master and a warm welcome awaiting him.

## Two Cambridge University Jests.

The fellow commoners were always at Cambridge called empty bottles, from the following circumstance that occurred at Emanuel: Wine merchants send their porters occasionally round the colleges to collect the bottles. One of these men, during the hour of lecture, knocked at the lecture room by mistake and called out "Empty bottles!" The tutor, then out of humor at being attended only by one fellow commoner when there were twenty in college, cried out: "Call again another time. I have now but one." This soon gathered wind, and these young gentlemen of the first class went afterwards throughout the university by the name of "empty bottles."

As to professional students (some very few excepted), they are worse scholars leaving college than at their admission. I heard one tutor once censure a young man at lecture who had been nearly three years at college by saying that he knew less than a freshman who sat next him.

"Well, and what of it?" retorted the youth. "He is but just come from school!"—Cornhill Magazine.

## What a Good Play Must Have.

"A play should have continuous action all the way through. When I allude to action I don't necessarily mean physical movement and pistol play," says Daniel Frohman in Harper's Weekly. "A successful play must contain continuous struggle and battle—the struggle of love with duty, to name the most frequent example. The characters may be sitting in their chairs, talking pleasantly together, and still fulfill this purpose. And the action must go forward by leaps and bounds from one climax to another. The ideal play will have the fewest characters, but it will hold the attention so that you won't know whether there are six or sixty, and two persons upon the stage will hold the audience entranced, as in the Greek drama. Like the Greek characters, too, they will appear as puppets upon a dark background of necessity, victims of the circumstances which they have helplessly brought into existence."

# Everybody's Practicing the Grocer's Wink

—and isn't it worth winking for when you get—? Well wink at the grocer and learn.

Read It Before You Eat It



## GAVE UP WORK BECAUSE OF HIS WEAKENED CONDITION

Mr. Earl McCoy, living at 1506 So. Branson street, Marion, Ind., has passed through an experience that is being duplicated every day in every town and city of any consequence in the United States. It furnishes abundant proof of the correctness of L. T. Cooper's theory in regard to the degeneracy of the human stomach, and shows conclusively the merit possessed by his New Discovery medicine to restore the weakened system to full strength and vigor.

Mr. McCoy says: "For a long time I have been a sufferer from stomach trouble. I was unable to retain any food, and became so weak and run down that I was compelled to stop work. My system was nearly a wreck, and I had tried so many remedies and spent so much money without deriving any benefit, that I became discouraged and gave up hope of ever being well again."

"I heard a great deal of Mr. Cooper's theory and medicine, and after much hesitation decided to try it. The result was a pleasant surprise. Before I had taken half of the first bottle I was able to retain all food eaten, and my strength began to return. I have taken six or seven bottles, and am feeling fine. I eat and sleep well, do not cough at night, and am able to perform a hard day's work. I can cheerfully recommend Cooper's New Discovery, for it has done wonders for me."

The Cooper remedies are meeting with remarkable success wherever they are introduced. They are without a rival in toning up a weakened and run-down system. We sell them.—Charles Rogers & Son.



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