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TELEPHONE MAIN 661.

THE WEATHER

Eastern Oregon and Washington, Idaho—Cloudy; occasional rain.

CONFISCATION!

F. A. Seufert, the trap-wheel magnate, talks glibly about the terms and effect of the referendum bill of the Columbia River Salmon Protective Association (No. 332), declaring that its passage by the people of Oregon means deliberate and wholesale confiscation of private property, his property and that of his colleagues; and for once during the season of this grave contention he has told the plain and simple truth. The passage of that bill does mean the legal, timely, popular, and just confiscation of the most nefarious device ever constructed to ruin a fixed industry; it so plainly means that and nothing else, that no man with an honest concept of the honest issue at stake, will dispute him for a single instant.

The fishwheels of the upper Columbia have all but ruined the salmon industry of the great valley by the wanton slaying of the fry, spawn, eggs, fingerlings and the unmarketable young of the gamey and beautiful fish; the big, cormorant machines were never built to discriminate between the helpless baby-fish and the grown and saleable catch, and their hideous quality of absorbing everything that comes their way, has been skilfully and most adroitly enhanced by the devious channel-building that permitted the young to go nowhere else than into the maw of these destructive things; and Mr. Seufert is a master-hand at the construction of these death-dealing water-ways.

Confiscation! Of course it is confiscation; absolute, justifiable, righteous and wise, from every standpoint of humanity, every precept of decent commercial expediency, all cardinal rules of industrial traffic. It is that phase of confiscation whereby the people save to themselves and their heirs the potent interests that belong to them and to be preserved to them by even graver penalties than mere confiscation.

It is high time the people of Oregon and Washington were confiscating the wretched, ruinous, mechanical, murderous contrivances that have put a dozen hatcheries in both States out of business because the salmon seeking their spawning-grounds have been trapped and slaughtered on their way there. This is the crucial charge and arraignment against the fishwheels and their owners; and if the effort to save these magnificent fisheries to the States at interest, is confiscation, then in the name of all that is wise and honorable and expedient, let the people (and Mr. Seufert et. als.) make the most of it!

DREDGE BAR AND RIVER.

Everybody in Oregon who has given the matter any consecutive thought is earnestly and honestly anxious for the "Chinook" and any other of the great dredging machines of the State or Nation, to be put to work on the Columbia bar and river; and the hope is abroad that the \$100,000, or so much thereof as may be essential, will become available at once. But it is not forgotten that there was \$80,000 spent on the boilers of the "Chinook" a few years ago, and that she was laid up helpless within the year, so it will take some time to "repair" them again, and we are not over-sanguine of her early appearance on the scene down this way; unless it shall develop that she is actually all right, and that the defective-boiler yarn has simply been used by certain people in interest up Portland-way to keep her off the bar and river.

But be this as it may, we want to see her back at work; we want the bar and the river cleaned and deepened and made useable for the best and

biggest fleets that can be sent in this direction. For without some such early demonstration the cream of the Northwestern commerce is going to head in at the Puget Sound ports and the Columbia and Willamette Valleys will be left to hold the proverbial sack. It is time we were waking up and making use of the incomparable facilities furnished by the Columbia river. We do not want our supreme advantage to lapse utterly through sheer inanition.

AT THE FEAST OF ROSES.

Word has come down from the metropolis that the Astoria-car now building there, for the Rose Festival, is to be one of the most beautiful of the long line of artistic and representative coaches of the day. Chairman Lamar and his colleagues are to congratulate on the outcome and all Astoria will be anxious to see the splendid allegorical showing we are to make. The meagre hints that have been furnished us of design, coloring and effect, have whetted the public curiosity to a keen desire to see and know what we are offering; and it is just as well, perhaps, that we have got to go there to see it because of the customary proneness of the cantakerous ones to disparage and criticize everything, however carefully and successfully it has been achieved. But let it not be forgotten that there are other thousands who stand ready to applaud loudly and gratefully the success and merit that have wrought honestly and creditably for the city and there will be plenty of thanks and commendation for Mr. Lamar and his conferees, when it is made manifest that they have done their work well and thoroughly.

EDITORIAL SALAD

The United States now outnumber Germany in both battleships and armored cruisers and two new battleships a year will maintain the superiority. In naval program comparisons with any nation the United States shows well at the front.

A member of the British Parliament proposes to replace the mail service by a system of cheap telegraphy. If the popular impression of messenger boys is correct this change would be a loss of time on the average. Besides, the writers of love letters don't want to telegraph them.

A Democratic paper wants to know what the Republican party means by its promise of tariff revision. It means protective duties suited to the country's conditions and best interests. It means a straightforward, thorough condemnation of free trade in the future as in the past.

An English Army officer who has inspected a new electric cannon, says it can deliver projectiles up to a velocity of nearly six miles a second, and that it "deluges an area" rather than hits a single point, working as readily at a range of 15 miles as an ordinary battery at three. These mechanical wonders are frequently announced, but the thing that gave the English the most trouble in the South African war was the Boer marksman-ship with ordinary rifles.

DANGER IN DELAY.

Kidney Diseases Are Too Dangerous for Astoria People to Neglect.

The great danger of kidney troubles is that they get a firm hold before the sufferer recognizes them. Health is gradually undermined. Backache, headache, nervousness, lameness, soreness, lumbago, urinary troubles, dropsy, diabetes, and Bright's disease follow in merciless succession. Don't neglect your kidneys. Cure the kidneys with the certain and safe remedy, Doan's Kidney Pills, which has cured people right here in Astoria.

D. E. Duncan, who resides at the corner of Duane and Ninth Sts., Astoria, Ore., says: "I had been troubled with a weakness of the back and loins often extending through the whole muscular system as far up as the shoulders. Not only did my back ache, but there was a weakness from the kidney secretions which was very annoying and disturbed my rest. I heard about Doan's Kidney Pills, procured a box at Rogers' drug store, and used them. After the first few doses I felt better and continued their use until cured. I know of others who have used Doan's Kidney Pills with the same good results."

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