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**THE WEATHER**

Oregon—Fair and cooler except near coast. Washington—Fair except rain near coast; cooler interior.

**LUMBER VERSUS GRAIN**

A devoted friend of this city and country and section, a man who has moderate interests of a landed and commercial sort here, and who has been in touch with the place for thirty odd years, insists that Astoria is "chasing rainbows" when she craves and strives for the grain shipments from her docks. This man claims that there is nothing in grain for this port, having none of her own ship out; that the residual money in that great commodity is a mere bagatelle, the bulk of its market worth going to the farmer, the railway, the broker, the ship and the stevedore, and the meagre profit on the transaction being utterly insufficient to make the business of value here.

He holds, on the contrary, that being splendidly located at the great junction of rail, river and sea transportation facilities and at the head of the finest standing body of virgin timber left in all the Northwest, she should mark her course of development along the lumber line and build to it unceasingly; she has everything at hand, and practically, her own, for the absorption of the entire business, with the whole string of profits inuring to her, from the logger, mill-hand, carriage, stevedore and ship, all within her own range of interest and ownership and practically free from interference because she is the logical depot for its handling and shipment.

This, with her salmon interests and sea fisheries will serve to keep her busy for years to come, and it will be of home concern and home-investment. She should go in for more mills, more railroads into the forests, and make concessions in favor of these at all times, and climb into prominence as a great lumbering port and fishing station, and let the grain go out under other auspices.

There is food for thought in all this: This man talks as a student and friends and business-man, and his doctrine is full of substance. He does not confine his application of it to Astoria alone; he speaks of the mouth of the Columbia, and both banks for all would bear equally and favorably toward this city as the business center of the industry.

**LOCAL LIVING COST.**

While it is an admitted fact that Astoria has fewer idle people than any town of her size on the coast; that there is, generally speaking, all kinds of employment for those who want work; that in the main the wage scale here is among the best going, the correlative fact remains that the cost of living is far too high in Astoria, and is felt not alone by the man of small means, but by those better able to meet the strain, and is becoming a source of general uneasiness.

All staples are too high, even when considering the range of taxation, insurance, transportation, and the various bills of expense the merchant has to contend with, and the feeling is very general that the dealer is taking advantage of his own known burdens to exact more than they justify from the ordinary retail buyers; that there are combinations in the retail trades here that are becoming oppressively severe in their schedules and price-lists, abusing the success they have attained to, and reckless of the burdens they are imposing.

**AMERICA IN CONTEMPT**

The country is becoming nauseated with the very names of Anna Gould and Prince Helie Sagan, and now that they are officially married, it is hoped they may settle down and gradually disappear from the news columns of

the land. They have wrought a well warranted foreign contempt for America, and the least they can do is to subside.

It is our opinion that the very poverty of the people serves to counter-balance the modern insanity of arrogant wealth, and leaves us with a vestige of clean and honest hope for the future. The abandoned coarseness of the ultra-rich of America has become a stench in the nostrils of decent human society the world over, and the present age will be infamous in history for the excesses that have obtained. Thanks be, there is enough of genuine progress along the restricted lines of inventive genius and art to save us some measure of praiseworthy commendation in the annals of the future, whatever license the critics of the age may have in their reviews.

**FREE HAND WITH SCHOOLS**

The Astoria school district is confronted with several important and costly propositions, among them the building of a new sixteen-room establishment for the accommodation of children that cannot be taken care of in comfort at present. This means an additional cost in the matter of teachers for all these new rooms and their pupil al of which appeals directly to the tax-payer.

The school tax payer of Astoria is, however, very amenable to the burdens that he faces; he is patient and willing and even anxious for the development of the system, so long as it is conservatively handled, and as he has had little of disappointment in the past, he is willing to trust the solution of the pending difficulties to the board now in charge and to give practically a free hand, knowing that what is needed is inevitable and will come back to him in the shape of an enlightened and capable generation of young citizens who will, in good time, relieve him of the burdens he is bearing and directing. This is the one great compensation in the questions of the public schools, and there are none in the world to beat the American in the knowledge and appreciation of the blessing.

The vote of a sick senator, as in New York, turned the scale against race-track gambling in Louisiana. As a rapid improvement has followed in both cases the science of medicine as well as of government seems to have been advanced.

Porto Rico is reminded that any stream considered navigable is under the direct supervision of the National Government. An order has just been issued at Washington directing that dams and fish weirs be removed from the large streams of the island. The conservation of natural resources is not to be overlooked in the outlying possessions.

During the Chicago Convention the correspondent of a Paris paper telegraphed that the city was "a perfect hell, scorched with terrible heat, full of uproar and with street corners occupied by professional sword swallowers, caters of fire, Indian war dances and bowling dervishes." This correspondent must be one of the jingo staff who, failing to find the convention, got stranded among the peanut stands.

There is something radically wrong with the cabinet slates now being suggested for the next Republican administration. They do not include the names of Luke E. Wright or George B. Cortelyou.

A recent conviction of land thieves cost the government \$48,000, but restored 100,000 acres of land worth \$1,000,000. Putting criminals of this kind in stripes is a good thing, regardless of the cash exhibit.

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**FREAKS OF CLOCKS.**

Electric Storms May Stop Them and May Also Start Them.

"A watch may need cleaning when it is not dirty at all," said a watchmaker, quoted in the Washington Post. "This sometimes accounts for a great deal of misunderstanding between the owner of a new watch and the watchmaker to whom it is brought for examination. Furthermore, a watch which has never been worn may need cleaning."

"A common reason is that oil in a watch may have dried up around the pivot and become sticky, thus causing a watch to go very slowly or stop entirely. In which case of course it needs not only cleaning, but the addition of fresh oil."

"The oil which is considered best for watches is made from the porpoise or blackfish jawbone. These oils have a most disagreeable odor and have to be treated chemically before being used."

"The skeleton of the fish, with only the head left on, is hung in the hot sun for several days and the oil allowed to ooze out slowly. All the volatile parts of the oil are naturally neutralized in this manner, and the oil collected is said to remain fluid and clear when it comes in contact with metal for as long as ten years."

"Makers of chronometers are especially scrupulous in the preparation of oils, owing to the accuracy which is demanded of these delicate timepieces, and often prepare their own oil by mixing porpoise, sperm, olive and neatfoot and a small quantity of mineral oil. When these oils are mixed, it is customary to keep them in an uncorked bottle exposed to the sun. This is done to allow all foreign and coloring substances to fall to the bottom, after which the oil is filtered through a mixture of charcoal dust and animal charcoal."

"Clocks sometimes stop running for no apparent reason. During an electric storm it is not uncommon for them to stop abruptly, only to resume their regular functions with as much accuracy as ever after a certain interval of time. This interval may be only for a few moments or it may be for years."

"On the other hand, electric storms have been known to be responsible for the starting of old clocks which have remained mute and inactive for years. Imagine the utter amazement of the members of the household upon suddenly hearing the solemn tick-tack of a stately old hall clock which from all appearance had long ago retired from active service."

**The Serious Breton.**

The Breton is stalwart in stature and stern and serious in disposition. He has hewed his life out amid the serious things and along the rocky roads. His bronzed face looks austere, but beneath his blue blouse beats a heart warm and true. The primitive simplicity of his life and the intensity of his religion give the Breton short view of the frivolities of existence. He carries his religion into his daily life and work, and along all the roads are gaudy crucifixes, which the peasants never pass without kneeling and crossing themselves. It is characteristic of all these Brittany folk that they mind their own business. I don't know what the result would be if you were to try a joke on them. I should be afraid to undertake it. Life is a serious problem to the Breton. It is homespun for him even though the rest of France may be arrayed in silks. He has worked out an existence against great odds, and it has given him a character and physique which make him notable among his fellow countrymen.—Frank Presbrey in *Outing Magazine*.

**No Flattery Necessary.**

"You needn't begin jollyng me," said the gruff man to the man who had land to sell. "I'm not a man that can be affected by flattery. When I—" "That's just what I said to my boss," interrupted the agent. "I told him when he suggested your name to me that it was a relief to call on a man who did not expect to be praised and flattered to his face all the time. I tell you, Mr. Grump, this city has mighty few men such as you. Nine men out of ten are simply dying to have some one tell them how great they are, but you are above such weakness. Any one can see that at a glance. I'm glad of it. It's helpful to me to meet a man who rises superior to the petty tactics of the average solicitor. It's a real and lasting benefit and an instructive experience."

Ten minutes later, after a few more such comments on the part of the agent, the man who could not be flattered into signing the contract was asking which line his name should be written upon.—*Success Magazine*.

**The Chinese Language.**

The Chinese language has no alphabet. Instead of being formed from an alphabet, its words are either symbols intended to represent images or are formed by a combination of lines or of two or more such symbols. The language is monosyllabic. Every word is a root, and every root is a word, and ancient tradition makes it out that the founder of the written language of China was one Tsang Ke, who lived some 3,000 years B. C. According to the account, Tsang Ke, while wandering one day in the fields, found a tortoise, and, observing its shell distinctly and beautifully marked, he took it home and thus formed the idea of representing the objects around him. Looking upward, he carefully observed the figures presented by the stars, after which he attentively considered the forms of birds, mountains, rivers, etc.,

and from these at length originated the written characters. At any rate, the Chinese language, as written, is simply a great mass of hieroglyphics.—*New York American*.

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**THE PLAIN TRUTH.**

What More Can Astoria People Ask?

When well known residents and highly respected people of Astoria make such statements as the following, it must carry conviction to every reader:

Mrs. E. Hagglom, corner Ninth and Harrison streets, Astoria, Oregon, says: "For ten years I suffered acutely from kidney trouble which gradually grew more severe until I became alarmed. My back was so weak and painful and I suffered from such severe dizzy spells that I could hardly get around. At last I was forced to take to my bed and remained there for a long time. My kidneys were irregular in action and the secretions so profuse as to cause me a great deal of suffering. At last I decided to try a good kidney remedy and procured a box of Doan's Kidney Pills at Rogers drug store. The results that followed their use were most satisfactory. I continued using them and it was not long before I was completely cured. I have used Doan's Kidney Pills on some occasions since to keep my kidneys in good order and can conscientiously say I have not had any recurrence of the trouble since they cured me."

For sale by all dealers. Price 50 cents. Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, New York, sole agents for the United States.

Remember the name—Doan's—and take no other.

**ABOUT CHINA**

China is not a nation in the sense in which we ordinarily use the word. If we picture to ourselves the countries of Europe, with their different languages and different customs, drawn together into a loose confederation under the government of a conquering race, we shall have some small conception of what this Chinese "nation" really is. The people of these different European countries are all Caucasians; the different people of China are all Mongolians. These Chinese peoples speak eighteen or twenty distinct languages, each divided into almost innumerable dialects and sub-dialects. They are governed by Manchu, or Tartar, conquerors who spring from a different stock, wear different costumes, and speak among themselves a language wholly different from any of the eighteen or twenty native tongues.—*Success Magazine*.

**SURE CURE FOR BABY'S ITCH.**

Oil of Wintergreen in External Wash Produces Remarkable Results—How to Get Prescription.

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Oil of wintergreen, this simple every-day oil of wintergreen, mixed with other healing herbs and vegetable ingredients, cures the worst forms of skin disease, and the remedy is so easy to apply, just an external liquid wash. No drugs or medicines, just a few drops of the wash applied to the itching, burning spots, then instant relief. The instant the oil is applied the itch is gone.

To secure the proper results from this soothing curative remedy, it is necessary to use oil of wintergreen compounded with other mild ingredients. This compound known as D. D. D. Prescription, not only relieves but permanently cures. Just try D. D. D. Prescription. Try a few drops and note the relief. We positively vouch for the merits of this remedy. Charles Rogers & Son.

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**FINANCIAL**

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**DIRECTORS**

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Capital.....\$100,000  
Surplus.....25,000  
Stockholders' Liability.....100,000

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J. Q. A. BOWLBY, President. FRANK PATTON, Cashier  
O. I. PETERSON, Vice-President. J. W. GARNER, Assistant Cashier

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