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TERSE TALES OF THE TOWN

First Papers—

Elas Fort, native of Finland, and Fredolf Haglund, of Sweden, made application for their first citizenship papers in the office of the county clerk yesterday.

Asphaltum Up Aloft—

The roof of the Parker House is being subjected to a new coat of asphaltum, which will serve to keep the water out and the cool breezes in. The work was completed yesterday and is a good job.

Things Are Quiet—

There was not much doing in the police and hospital circles yesterday. The city court entertained one case of a minor fine; and the hospital people are moving quietly along with the patients heretofore reported, with no accessions yesterday.

For \$12,000—

E. B. Clark and wife of Portland have sold to William McPherson, Jr., of Howell, Mich., 276.34 acres of land in the southern part of the county, near the Tillamook line, for \$12,000. The deed was filed for record in the office of the county clerk yesterday.

Down At Medford—

City Treasurer Thomas Dealey is down at Medford, a beautiful and a hot town. He is there on a fraternal visit and enjoying life evidently. A postal card from him yesterday to Judge Anderson, indicated that the weather there was as "hot as—you like it!" The dashes are gratuitous.

Taft and Bryan Invited—

Announcement is made that the regatta committee has decided to send invitations to both Mr. Taft and Mr. Bryan to be present at the regatta the latter part of August. It was figured out that inasmuch as both candidates expect to be in the West this fall they might accept such an invitation. It is probably, however, that both daily turn down scores of similar invitations.

May Take Over Stock—

It is said that the house of Gevurtz, of Portland, has made overtures toward taking over the furniture stock of Charles H. Heilborn & Company, now in course of liquidation here, upon a basis of 80 cents on the dollar. Charles A. Foster was in the city yesterday looking to the admission of this plan, but it is not known, as yet, what the outcome of the negotiations will be.

For The State's Side—

Ex-Chief of Detectives Patrick Brin, of Portland, now at the head of

his own detective agency, was in the city yesterday, accompanied by Mr. Dufur, an expert stenographer, on a quest for information in relations to the recent killing of Mr. McLellan, on Deep River, by Michael Campbell. He is working in behalf of the State of Washington, and the results of his inquiries will be used in the trial of the defendant at Cathlamet in due season.

With The "First Company"—

The officers and men of First Company, Coast Artillery, of Astoria, met last evening for regular weekly drill and the non-coms' for school. All hands seem to enjoy the new work and are making excellent progress. Everybody is eager to make a fine showing for the regatta parade, and are hoping lustily for the arrival of the new uniforms; with these at hand, this company will make an admirable showing in that event along with the regulars from the forts at the mouth of the river.

Fish Matters Yesterday—

The run of fish yesterday, was from all reports the best of the season. All the launches went in to the canneries well loaded last evening and the big Co-operative cannery put in its first full day without intermission. Deputy Fish Warden Settem reports that the work of grinding salmon heads for the state hatcheries is going along smoothly and successfully, the Eureka cannery having already packed its 1000 cases, as has the Warren plant at Cathlamet; and the Co-op's plant started the work yesterday toward its contribution of another 1000 cans. It takes six pounds of ground head to the can.

Still Is Looking—

A. L. Clark, superintendent of the city schools, has not yet been able to find a suitable teacher for the high school courses in science and German. He has received quite a number of applications for the place, but because of the comparatively small salary offered, most of the applicants are not widely experienced or otherwise do not show any great fitness for the position.

Several are recent graduates from colleges or universities. The salary

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offered is from \$75 to \$90, and as it is deemed best to have a man for such work, the trouble arises because men teachers of the requisite qualifications won't work for such payment.

Bear-Meat Diet, Now—

J. C. Johnson, one of the Warren Packing Company's fishermen at Sand Island, is responsible for the present course of feasting going on here and in which bear-meat cuts the one conspicuous swathe in a dietary way. On Tuesday last when he was out in his boat on duty, he noticed a black bear making good headway across the mouth of the river from Point Ellice to Fort Canby, and he endeavored to capture the brute with oars and other paraphernalia, but he and several of his friends were not a match for the bad specimen from the hills of Washington, and he had to resort to his rifle which he has always with him. He soon finished bruin and fished him out of the tide, and now bear steaks are all the go in that camp, at least.

The Flag Stuck—

On the hill back of Commercial and Third streets there is a tree; and on that tree the boys of the neighborhood have woven a set of halliards; on the halliards it is their purpose to display the regular system of weather flags just as they figure in the regular governmental stations; in other words they are trying to maintain a weather bureau. Yesterday they ran up the fair weather combination of flags, or rather, in this instance, a red bandana and a white handkerchief, and there they are, immovable, despite the best efforts made last evening to house the ensigns; which is all right so long as the present superb weather holds out; after which kindly fate, and the unquenchable ingenuity of the boys, must revamp the system and its display.

Visited Country School—

Miss Emma C. Warren, superintendent of the county schools, made an interesting visit to the district school on the Blind Slough Tuesday. Miss Anna Young of Milwaukie is the teacher. Miss Warren left here on the morning train and got off at the draw bridge, at Blind Slough, and from there was rowed up the bayou in a rowboat to the school house. This section of the country is somewhat unique because of the streams and bayous that intersect it, and in this school the teacher finds that most of the pupils come to the daily sessions in boats. Miss Warren found a number of boats moored before the school house when she arrived. She says she found the affairs of the school to be in good shape. The name of the young man who rowed her up to the place from the draw bridge is Jalmar Gertula, who passed the eighth grade examination a year ago. He also carried the mails in his little boat. When evening came some of the other pupils rowed Miss Warren back to the railway.

Many Want To Go—

The announcement made at the last meeting of the Chamber of Commerce that representatives of the local organization were included in the invitation to go to Japan on the vessel fitted out by the Nipponese government for that purpose, has attracted no little interest in this city. Already quite a number of the local business men have signified their intention of joining the party, among them being Mayor Wise, who at least may go if he can find the time. The invitation comes from the San Francisco Board of Trade through the Portland Chamber of Commerce. The invitation was sent by the Japanese government. It stated that the government would be highly delighted if the members of the San Francisco organization would accept Japan's hospitality on such a trip. It is understood that the whole trip will be practically without cost to those who go, except, of course, for incidentals. The trip will probably be a very fine one, and aside from one's evening clothes, etc., the actual expenses ought to be quite low. How many representatives from this city will be permitted to go has not yet been ascertained.

Fell From The Logs—

A young Greek, by the name of William Paulus, lost his life early yesterday morning, at the Hammond Lumber Company's plant at Tongue Point. He was at work on the boom and had been working the logs up the shoot into the mill and had had a partner working with him for most of the time, but in the momentary absence of Ferguson, his partner, Paulus lost his footing on the round timbers, being without calked shoes, and fell into the bay. His

friend and co-worker sought to aid him by shoving a pike-pole to him, but the unhappy young man had evidently lost his presence of mind and failed to make use of it and died beneath the logs he had been working. The body was recovered almost instantly but too late to resuscitate him. The remains were brought to the undertaking parlors of Coroner Gibaugh and will be prepared for burial from there. It is not known whether an inquest will be held in the sad premise, or not. Paulus was a skilful logger and had worked at several of the mills in this neighborhood and was counted an excellent man. He was unmarried, and will be buried with honors by his countrymen.

Teacher Didn't Arrive—

Gus Groonel, who came to town Tuesday evening with the expectation of meeting Miss Newlands, of Seattle, who had signed a contract to teach the school in the Groonel school in the Elsie district, could find no trace of the young woman here. Nothing has been heard from her, and as she should have been here before this to open up the school, it was deemed best to secure the services of another teacher. One was supplied by Miss Warren, county superintendent, in the person of Miss Ida Anderson, of this city, who will graduate from the high school next year. Miss Anderson contracted to teach for the remainder of the term, about four months. There is naturally some apprehension felt about the continued absence and silence of Miss Newlands, the teacher who failed to show up. As far as can be learned, she left Seattle for this city last week, and since then nothing has been heard of her. She is of sufficient age to be able to care for herself, it would seem, and yet there is the possibility that some untoward incident has happened to her. If it were known that she had reached this city of course a vigorous search would at once be made for her, but there is the further chance that for some reason she simply decided not to come and is safely among her friends or at home, but if this be true, it is hardly conceivable that she should not have written of her change of plans.

The Week in Realty

Astoria Abstract Title & Trust Co. to the city of Astoria, lands beginning at SW. cor of NW. 1-4 of S. 1, T. 7 N., N. R. E.; \$400.

John N. Griffin, trustee, and wife to James Neil, lot 6, block 47, Upper Astoria; \$1.

Alma D. Katz and wife to Everett Ames, undivided one-third of lands in locality of S. 19, T. 8 N., R. 8; containing 267.04 acres; \$1.

W. C. Smith and wife to J. W. Rhodes, lot 3, block 26, The Plaza; \$225.

Mary E. Young to Louis Knoblock, lot 1, block 1, Long Branch; \$1.

Mary Morgan to Robert Carruthers, lot 7, block 59, Shively's Astoria; \$275.

Irving C. Langford to H. E. Noble, NE. 1-4 of NE. 1-4 of S. 20, T. 5 N., R. 10, containing 40 acres; \$600.

E. B. Clark and wife to Wm. McPherson Jr., lots 5, 9 and 10, S. 23, and lots 2, 7 and 8 of S. 22, T. 4 N., R. 8; also NW. 1-4 of SE. 1-4 of S. 7, T. 3 N., R. 8, all containing 276.34 acres; \$12,000.

NOTICE.

The members Beaver Lodge No. 35, I. O. O. F., are requested to attend a regular meeting to be held this (Thursday) evening at 8 o'clock. Third degree. Visitors welcome.
OLOF ANDERSON, Secretary.

Summer Excursions.

During the months of July, August and September the Ilwaco R. R. Co. will sell round trip tickets daily from all points on North (Long) Beach to all points on Clatsop Beach at rate of \$1.75. Return limit thirty

Sunday Excursions to Long Beach. Steamer Nahcotta leaves O. R. & N. dock at 6:45 a. m. daily. Round trip fare to any point on North (Long) Beach, \$1.00, Sunday's only

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PHONE MATTER IN THE COUNCIL

FRANCHISE IS PASSED UPON ITS FIRST AND SECOND READINGS AND IS STRONGLY FAVORED.

At the special meeting of the common council last night the telephone franchise was passed upon its first and second readings. By the terms of the franchise it runs for a period of 30 years and is to the Northwestern Long Distance Telephone Company. Apparently the instrument has been drawn with the greatest care and every interest of the city and of the citizens generally seem to be well safe-guarded. While it is possible that it will be passed upon its third and last reading in practically the way that it now stands, amendments may yet be made and there will be no disposition to rush the matter through. It looks as if Mayor Wise and the city councilmen want to know just what is being done and will look pretty thoroughly before they make the leap.

In a way the introduction of the ordinance last night probably marks an epoch in the city's affairs. It means first of all that the city is tired of second-rate things. It wants only the best for the future. Moreover, the way the mayor and councilmen are going at this matter seems to preclude all possibility of any chicanery on the part of the grantees of the franchise. If they accept it they must pay \$500 down; if they accept it they must further give good and sufficient bond to commence work within three months from the acceptance and must complete the work within seven months from the date of the acceptance. This bond will be forfeited to the city of Astoria providing these provisions are not lived up to.

Following are the salient features of the franchise: It must be an automatic system; in that part of the city which is on piles the wires must be under the planking; when buildings are moved, the company must change the wires and instruments over without expense to the patrons; the service must be furnished free to all the city offices, and to all police and fire stations now established or to be established; the term of the grant is 30 years, and after 10 years the city may purchase if the citizens so vote; the maximum rates shall be \$4 for business phones, and \$2 for residence phones, and there are to be no "party lines"; in the event that the company secures more than 2000 subscribers, the rates may be advanced not more than 25 cents above the rates as stated.

This franchise must be accepted within 30 days, and \$500 shall be paid down when accepted; then for the first 15 years, the sum of \$250 shall be paid to the city annually; for the next 15 years the sum of \$400 shall be paid to the city annually; and at the time the franchise is accepted, the company shall bind itself in a bond of \$2500 to start the work within three months and complete in within seven months, unless prevented by labor strikes or act of God.

Such are the salient provisions. There are of course many other minor details of importance, but which are not particular to this ordinance.

The attitude of the five members present last night, Councilmen Hansen, Kaboth, Leinenweber, Logan and Robinson, indicated that each is taking a personal and direct interest in the matter and all are apparently strongly in favor of the new franchise.

The council chamber was well filled with citizens last night, and among them was the "telephone committee" from the Chamber of Commerce, H. G. Van Dusen, Dr. Barr and Mr. Skyles. Each of these gentlemen spoke briefly on the measure, as did Messrs. Finlayson and Whyte, while Manager Brunold, of the Pacific States Company, made a short address in which he endeavored to justify his company in its attitude toward the Astorian public.

Nearly every man that spoke in the council room last night paid high personal compliment to Manager Brunold, and all said that it was the system, and not he, that is in fault. Mr. Brunold said that his company will go ahead rapidly with its work of bettering the old system and will within perhaps 15 days start building its new structure. He called attention to the troubles that will inevitably arise from a dual system. But while the other speakers were willing to speak very highly of Mr. Brunold,

they all with one voice declared that they no longer have faith in the promises of his company. It was pointed out that until the city has competition the service will never be good. Dr. Barr and one or two others suggested that it would be hard on the old company, which, as Mr. Brunold said, has spent perhaps \$50,000 here already and promises to spend nearly as much more, yet the consensus of opinion seemed to be that the company certainly had earned no right to call upon the city for a monopoly of the telephone business; and that it should simply take its chances in competition just as any other business would.

The question of municipal ownership also was raised. It did not meet with general favor. It was pointed out by Councilmen Leinenweber and Logan that the city's greatest matter now is the seawall, and as that would require an expenditure of several hundred thousand dollars, it would be unwise to think of also bonding the city for a telephone system, which is of secondary importance to the seawall.

The franchise will be presented before the council again next Monday night, when it will again be discussed.

TILLAMOOK END IS ALL RIGHT

FAIRLY ENCOURAGING REPORTS ON THEIR PROBABLE ATTITUDE TOWARD NEW ELECTRIC LINE FROM HERE

Just what attitude the business men of Tillamook would take in relation to the Astoria, Seaside & Tillamook electric line has been considered more or less problematic in this city, inasmuch as it was not known, of course, how that community is tied up in their proposed steam railway. Encouraging reports, however, are being heard. The fact that the steam railway project admittedly is hardly capable of realization within several years, if at all, naturally would have a tendency to cause the Tillamook men to turn their attention to the electric line from this city, and that they are doing so is indicated by one or more letters that have been received here within the past few days.

Yesterday a letter was received here from Sidney Johnson, Mayor of Tillamook, in relation to the matter. His views had been asked, and naturally he lays stress upon the fact that just at present the Tillamook men consider themselves tied up with the steam railway matter, but he also says that as soon as the railway matter is out of the way "our citizens would take extraordinary interest" in the Astoria, Seaside & Tillamook electrical line. Mayor Johnson's letter is of much interest, and as it was probably not meant to be of a private nature, is herewith reproduced in part:

"We (Astoria and Tillamook) have made a grievous error in failing to take up the matter of an electric road long before this date. The scheme has been feasible for many years and could have been consummated with local capital.

"One of the conditions of the subscriptions to the P. R. & N. Co. is that the company construct ten miles of road out of Tillamook by February 1st next. If this is not done, the subscribers are released, and upon that contingency you would find that our citizens would take extraordinary interest in the building of your proposed road. But until this company has forfeited its subscription contract, you naturally will find our people careful about additional subscriptions.

"Yours very truly,
SIDNEY S. JOHNSON,
Mayor."

The Astoria men back of the electric line agree with the views expressed by Mayor Johnson, that Astoria and Tillamook have made a grievous error "in failing to take up the matter of an electric road long before this date." While it is regretted here that Tillamook is temporarily tied up with another matter that is unfortunately perhaps merely visionary, yet a delay until after the first of the new year would probably not present any serious difficulties, though it probably would please the men at this end of the line if the preliminary work at the Tillamook end could also be carried on at the same time. The preliminary work at this end is being carried forward as rapidly as possible, and if all goes well the actual work of construction between here and Seaside ought to be well under way by fall.