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**THE WEATHER**

Oregon, Washington and Idaho—Fair tonight and Wednesday; northwesterly winds.

**BOUND TO GET SERVICE.**

The Astoria Common Council has granted an open franchise to the Northwestern Long Distance Telephone Company, under the terms of which a complete and new service to be installed in this city within seven months (which, under permissible leeway and lapses will probably run to ten months); and the Pacific States Telephone Company is moving "heaven and earth" to renew and advance its plant to a point of modernity; so, that by the first of January next, we are likely to have all kinds of up-to-date service, along with the rather comical, and certainly annoying, mix-up, enjoyed by those cities and towns in which the dual systems flourish (?).

But, with all the discordance in prospect, we are sure of good service; something we have yearned for many a dreary day, and we may meet the incongruities of the double lines with the patience always given to new and strange troubles, finding comfort in the ease and despatch of communication when you know which line to use. Thus, from a dearth of service, we are about to have a surfeit of it, with the enhanced costs. Alright, we'll make the best of it and thank the powers that be for a shift in the nature of our troubles.

**OUR HIGHWAYS.**

Our suburban friends are complaining bitterly against the ardent, provocative and perennial thistle, of all varieties; and our urban fellows are equally protestant about the ubiquitous wood-pile that affronts them at every turn in the city's streets. The wood-pile's destiny is easily forecasted; it will go to the cellar, thence to the stove, thence to the circumambient air, in due and reasonably short time. But, the thistle is another and graver proposition. We shall mourn our present neglect all in good time and cherish it alone, with no one but our fool-selves to blame; which in the case of the wood-pile, is not so, for we have the delinquent citizen who is directly responsible for that, if anything goes wrong, by name, street and number and common repute, and may make it interesting for him if the occasion demands; but the thistle is nature's own gift, and the tiny seed comes and goes on the summer winds, unseen, unsought, unminded until the threatening plant is above ground with all its suggestive destructiveness in plain sight and as plainly inviting destruction itself, the which we ignore in the rush of larger (?) affairs, from season to season, until it masters our land and us and puts us squarely on the defensive in more ways than one. These are but two of the endless list of troubles, public and private, that afflict us; and the thistle really deserves more attention than we give it; but all in good time we will become alive to its menace and go about our campaign of obliteration in earnest. Our momentary neglect simply increases the scope of that task, and this is the way of the world with all its serious engagements.

**MAN'S DAY IN COURT.**

There are few of us, indeed, who, in the course of life, do not "have our day in court." Some people, practically, live in court, and move and have their being under the aegis of the law, while others are content, gratefully content, to figure there but once in all their careers. The rich man being a person of larger affairs and wider connection in commerce and business, is there far oftener than the poor man; and while

the law, as such, is framed to deal exact justice to all, the frequency of the rich man's plea, has had a tendency to warp the administration of the law a trifle out of plumb, as it were, and leave the poor man handicapped with its extraneous and specious bearings.

Hon. William H. Taft, republican nominee for President of the country, is a lawyer and a good one; he has seen enough service at the bar and on the bench, to apprise him of this incongruity; and being man clear through, he now finds himself in a position to enter a plea for the proper balancing of the codes, and he intends to prefer it at the meeting of the Virginia bar association, of which he is to be an honored guest.

We are anxious to hear from this presentment. He is making it as a high-minded lawyer, rather than as a candidate for political preferment and he will argue it profoundly and soundly, since his auditors will be of a class to stand for nothing short of this. He will champion the poor man and his known disadvantages at the bar of the land, and suggest specific remedies, and at the same time proclaim and prove himself the friend of the "under dog."

It is a great task, one surrounded with danger, and alive with opportunities for misconception and biased conclusions; the occasion will be one to try the amour propre of the profession as it stands in Virginia, since those to whom he shall talk will be of opposing political strain, and every man of them will have to keep the noblest tenets of his noble profession before him constantly and finally in order not to transgress the ethics of the situation. But they will do it, alright, because they are well trained lawyers to whom pleas for simple justice are as bread and meat and the crux of all they are committed to. The event cannot fail to have a wide influence upon the country for the simple reason that the huge majority of our people are "poor" in the relative application of the term and are directly in interest in the matter as he shall offer it.

Nothing helps the industrial situation so much as the certainty of republican success in November.

Bryan's name was hissed at the Hearst convention, but there was no attempt to break the hour-and-a-half record.

If the democratic party ever fuses with Mr. Hearst again it will have to forgive and forget a large assortment of epithets.

Mr. Hearst appears to be hostile, but Mr. Bryan can fall back on the fact that the democrats recently carried Walla Walla.

Mr. Hearst refers to the Bryan party as Falstaffian. Those men in buckram vanish at a wonderful rate in the November count.

Mr. Bryan talks of looking to the Middle West for a majority, but in choosing a national chairman he turned to the state of New York.

A season of drought is reported in Nebraska. In view of this condition Col. Bryan is anxious to be notified, in order that he may embark upon another tour of the water tanks.

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**NEW YORK LETTER**

NEW YORK, July, 4.—With the prospect of being the first printed pages to penetrate the uppermost polar region, two sets of American books are to-day sailing the northern seas, snugly set up in the hold of Lieut. Peary's stout ship "Roosevelt." Reports that these two of their \$3,000 floating libraries were going into brisk circulation among the arctic explorers when the party finally cast off for the pole have reached the headquarters of the American Seamen's Friend Society in this city to-day. That some of this nation's literary marks may eventually be planted beside the flag at the "farthest north" is the object of the determined crew who are to enjoy their solace in the bitter solitude of the next two years.

Months before the "Roosevelt" was finally commissioned for its latest dash toward the pole, the preparation of these libraries, which were to occupy the minds of the men through the long polar night, was carefully begun. From a list of the 618,400 volumes which they have placed before 442,230 sailors on every sea in the last fifty years, the officers of the American Seamen's Friend Society chose two sets best calculated to supply the hungry brains of the isolated explorers. Those books of travel, adventure, history, religion, fiction and biography which have come back most thumbed from almost a hundred thousand to castles were finally selected. In two of the society's ship-shape book chests the collections were arranged and sent to be set up in the mess room of the Peary ship at Shooter's Island, where it was being finally outfitted. A dictionary, bible, atlas and Pilgrim's Progress were included with the fiction favorites of the seamen.

It is the more sober works that stand the men in best stead in the long test of the arctic night, Lieut. Peary declared before leaving this city to join his ship. In his last "Farthest North" expedition the explorer found one of these American Seamen's Friend Society libraries a steady resource for his men, marooned in the ice packs. The books which served through that long night siege from October 12th to March 6th are to-day lying in their weather-beaten case at the headquarters of the society. The lighter fiction is much more free from the tell-tale dogears which mark heavily the more serious volumes that were thumbed over and over in the frigid solitude.

If Peary succeeds in planting these treasured volumes beside the American flag at the pole, the twenty-six thousand libraries which the American Seamen's Friend Society has kept afloat for half a century will have penetrated every region on the globe known to the seafarer. From almost every state in this country applications to set one of these book chests on its constant course have now been received. Each library is registered and regularly reported in its wanderings to any one who may pay twenty dollars to launch and keep it afloat. To President Roosevelt, who as a boy of ten presented one of these libraries for the society, the sight of the two book-chests on Peary's ship was as familiar as it has now become to hundreds of thousand of sailors the world over.

**SOLDIERS WORK HARD.**

National Guardsmen Find It Isn't All Play.

TACOMA, Aug. 4.—An inkling of the hard work to be done at Camp McKinley, American Lake, came yesterday with the first drill. Every unit worked faithfully. Company and battalion drills were the order for the infantry and cavalry, and formations by batteries in attack for the artillery. The first really big event of the encampment comes Thursday when the first, third and sixth battalions of the Second Infantry, the Fourteenth cavalry, fourth field artillery company B, engineers company and hospital corps and company E, engineers will deploy in brigade against an enemy outlined by patrols. Colonel T. C. Woodbury of the Third Infantry will be in command.

The first day's work of the Washington National guard has been a complete surprise. Despite the fact that none of the companies have had battalion drill since the camp of instruction two years ago, and but very little of it then, their apparatus and conduct on the field this morning shows that they have been making a close study of the battalion drill regulations and understand them thoroughly. The Oregon guard arrived yesterday and the first day's work will consist of battalion close order drill and advance, rear, flank guards and patrols.

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