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**TELEPHONE MAIN 661.**

**THE WEATHER**  
 Oregon and Washington—Occasional rain; colder in the east portions.  
**ASTORIA'S OWN YEAR.**

Quiet as the times seem at this opening of the year 1909, it is believed to be peculiarly propitious for Astoria, Clatsop county, and the mouth of the Columbia river; that the close of 1909 will find this entire section well launched on a tide of actual and significant work and business that will contribute largely to a successful future.  
 With the Harriman projects now fairly defined west of Portland, in this and Tillamook counties; with the electric system, in and out of this city, brought to a pass where the money itself is the next step toward the practical development of the enterprise and every pledge at hand that money is but waiting the final action of the City of Astoria, and that action due in a few days; with the assurance from headquarters that the Astoria & Columbia River road is to be heavily re-inforced as to road-bed and rails, and new and fine train service to be added; with plenty of money to advance the jetty work, and plenty more for dredging the Columbia bar and making a fiat demonstration in favor of this export and import avenue; with lumber beginning to move Eastward again, all idle plants opening up over the Northwest and the Astoria mills already running steadily and heavily and the Hammond mills to be practically doubled in efficiency and output; with the fisheries at a point where they may be better handled through what promises to be a banner season, it really looks as if this is to be Astoria's own year.  
 Upon such a predicate as this, it does seem as though we might rise to the promise and make the best of it all. We certainly have no right to grumble and grouch and, so far as the popular sentiment can be ascertained, no disposition to. We seem to be moving, for once, in an orbit of our own, free from the hampering influences that have impeded and discouraged us in the past; and it will be a strange and unfortunate thing if we do not turn these good things to some account for city, county and port!

**THE LIQUOR RE-ACTION.**  
 No man, in rational touch with the day and its manifestation, public and private, will deny for an instant, that there is a far-reaching reaction against liquor and the part liquor plays in the history of the hour. This realization is not confined to the ranks of the abstemious or those

who do not drink at all; it is very general, and includes the great host of drinkers of all degrees. The conviction seems to be gaining ground that liquor lies behind, beneath and in intimate relation to, the adverse conditions of business and society generally, and that it is fast undermining every circumstance and bearing upon which we rely for existence, happiness and progress, with the result that genuine fear is at last alive, and men who think at all, are cognizant of a national civic peril and ready to meet the situation with any sacrifice that will remedy or save it.  
 Men of all classes, drinkers and non-drinkers, are unifying daily on all the expedients such as local option, prohibition, temperance movements and restrictive policies; men who for years have scoffed at them all and laughed them down, are today giving serious and wholesome attention to the pleas, in all sections of the country. There is no gainsaying cause nor effect nor remedy, they are plain and monumental facts and their recognition is one of the healthful signs of the times; just as are the appalling ranges of crime, insanity, divorce, moral degeneracy, illiteracy and the abnormal advance of the unfit to place and power.  
 From every quarter of the land comes the same story of awakening; of salutary conviction and widespread effort at redemption. Astoria will give her testimony in the startling premise before she is many days older; and, with all such demonstrations, will be irresistible and conclusive. We must have some higher and safer plane to move upon than liquor inspires or begets, and it will be found when the time comes!

**TAFT AND REVISION.**  
 President-elect Taft is already up against the thorns that beset the national chief executive. He is pleading against mis-representation already, on the score of his attitude with regard to tariff revision, although the country was supposed to know from his plain utterances on the vital subject, that he stood for an early and rational overhauling of the system, and its quickest dispatch in the interests of business all over the country.  
 We believe that his proposal to put the matter into the hands of a commission with wide and final powers; such as the inter-state Commerce Commission is charged with, is the safest and quickest way out of one of the greatest and gravest muddles our people can invoke.  
 It will, to a large extent, remove the issues from politics; it will take it out of the hands of Congress, where it is invariably made the basis for all manner of dealing and double-dealing, and give that body

more time for affairs that need attention and dispatch; it will make the question one of the business issues, and put it where it may be discussed and disposed with cleanly and healthful treatment; and give the people directly at interest a simpler and readier method of placing their claims and urging them with some show of effect and justice.  
 The tendency of the age is to select commissions in the handling of all great public issues and departmental schemes; and the tariff is entitled to this same high and exclusive arrangement. The sooner Mr. Taft's idea is practically embodied in such a creation, the sooner the country will be freed from the incubus and bane of the tariff as it exists now, a Congressional prerogative, first and last. Of course it will have to go there for final approval and constitutional action; but that is of small concern, if the interminable preliminaries can be taken care of elsewhere.

**WING SHOTS.**  
 Billy Sunday has been horse-whipped by an alleged maniac, for the tacit insult to womankind contained in some of the blatant stuff he has gotten off. We have very grave doubts of the insanity of the man who applied the lash; and none whatever of the incentive that moved him. A black-guard in the pulpit is ever a fit subject for such demonstrations as this, and this particular black-guard has no claim to exception that we know of.

The "blind pig" seems to have blundered into the wrong patch down this way. The courts seem to have a ring in his nose with a tant guiding line attached to it.  
 When we have occasion to refer to the grand jury, in the future, we can hardly fail to revert to the gentlemen who officiated in that capacity at the Spring term of the Circuit Court for 1909. This grand jury has certainly left its impress on the public mind and conscience; as much to the peace and satisfaction of that public as to the distinct credit of the G. J. itself. A condition made possible by the devoted work of District Attorney E. B. Tongue and his assistant, Mr. Brownell.

We have a fleet of nine ships now in the lighthouse service here.

By the way, this is not the first time the States of Oregon and Washington have gotten together on the salmon interests! They merged in the winter of 1905 very conclusively and satisfactorily, as is rightfully suggested by Dr. Jay Tuttle, who was a conspicuous member of the joint conference at that time.

For a little and remote river town, our neighbor, Cathlamet, can raise and maintain, about the coarsest, bitterest, most determined, and disreputable, public snarl, upon a private predicate, we ever heard of. It matches the Vendetta, and easily parallels the "Molly Maguires."

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**FRANK SEUFERT WRITES A BREEZY LETTER**

HE BELIEVES SALMON INTERESTS CAN BE MERGED IN HARMONIOUS ACTION  
 THE DALLES, Or., Feb. 26, 1909.  
 Editor Astorian:—  
 Well after the twenty odd years of storm I am confident we will at least have two seasons of peace on the Columbia river among fishermen. Although the adopted law of the two states is not what I would have made, it is the best that could have been accomplished at one time out of so many warring interests. I am in hopes a few years hence we will make a few moves more in the right direction of salmon protections and the care of the young fish after we hatch them. I am ready to co-operate with Astoria at any time for what is good and whenever they disregard men who insist on agitating all issues I am willing to work in the same harness for making the Columbia River salmon industry greater than it ever was, and do all in my power to accomplish it in the shortest space of time. I have a great many honest friends below tide water and a few foolish enemies, and I am not the least turned from what I think right by a few shallow minded persons. I am ready at any time to help arrange a salmon organization to, which every man engaged on the Columbia river or its tributaries can become a member, whether he operates a gill net, set net, seine, trap, purse seine, or wheel, or hook and line, as long as he is willing to advance the salmon industry, and is willing to pay a small fee so that the members can appoint committees to see that the money we receive from the taxpayers of the state is well expended in building hatcheries and the money that is raised by license fees, is made to operate the hatcheries right, and we receive the best results for the amount expended; and, if we haven't money enough to do it right, let us go down in our pockets and furnish it for the next few years and for once do it right, and then see if the results will not be far different than we have accomplished in the past ten years since we first passed the license and hatchery laws in 1898. As fishermen and cannery men, we can not idly sit down after having paid our annual license fees and trust to God for results; we will get the results when we work for them, together, and not before, and we will get better results when the officers appointed know we are looking after the money we pay in, and what is accomplished with it, for every man in the business today knows that we have spent over three hundred thousand dollars of license and tax payers money in this state, and he would be ashamed if he had spent his own, to report what little he had accomplished; and until we men, engaged in the salmon industry, take more interest in the business than we do we are not entitled to anything better.

In all these years but one committee visited Ontario Hatchery, once, and the lack of proper management brought forth so much comment that the Master Fish Warden never did extend any more invitations to a body of practical men to see where their money was being dumped.

I hope that in the near future the men engaged in this industry will find it a pleasure to see that their seed supply is properly looked after and the young fish are fed until such time as we can expect the best results and that you, the Astorian, will do the very best in your power to accomplish that, in which your city is most interested, and the wealth that swims to your door. And that your best citizens will aid your good work, not by foolish laws but up-holding just laws made jointly by both states, to that good will and free intercourse of trade may be made profitable to all.  
 "Yours truly,  
 "F. A. SEUFERT."

**JANITOR ARTIST FINDS RECOGNITION AT LAST**

AFTER MANY YEARS CHICAGO GERMAN RECEIVES LARGE COMPENSATION.  
 CHICAGO, Feb. 27.—Acceptance of a painting executed by Charles E. Halberg of Chicago, once janitor in a bank, by the Guttenberg Art Museum, one of the world's noted galleries, has come to the Chicago painter as the realization of his life dream. Besides the gratification of an ambition which has burned for 45 years, Mr. Halberg has received the decision of the museum with patriotic zest, for he is a native of Guttenberg.  
 Necessity forced Halberg to leave his home and become a sailor. Twenty years ago he left the sea, came to Chicago and obtained employment as janitor in the Austin State Bank. Through the kindness of its officers, he was permitted to pursue his art studies in a room in the cellar. Some of his paintings have been accepted by the art institute. A letter has just reached him from Axel Leomel, director of the Guttenberg museum, announcing that his painting "Atlantic" has been passed on favorably by a jury of critics and would be added to the permanent collection.

**NEW TO-DAY**

**Notice to the Public.**  
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