

The Daily Astorian.

Established 1874.

Published Daily Except Monday by THE J. S. DELLINGER CO.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

By mail, per year\$7.00
By carrier, per month60

WEEKLY ASTORIAN.

By mail, per year, in advance.....\$1.50

Entered as second-class matter July 30, 1906, at the postoffice at Astoria, Oregon, under the act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

Orders for the delivering of The Morning Astorian to either residence or place of business may be made by postal card or through telephone. Any irregularity in delivery should be immediately reported to the office of publication.

TELEPHONE MAIN 661.

THE WEATHER

Oregon and Washington—Clearing in west, rain possibly turning to snow in east portion, cooler in east portion.

CLATSOP'S OWN CONCERN.

The new judgeship is peculiarly the concern of Clatsop county, and again, peculiarly, of Astoria, as the largest segment of that county and the chief city in the Fifth judicial district: Since it is practically understood that the incumbent of the honor will have to do with the courts of Clatsop and Columbia counties.

We do not know whence the judge will come, when Governor Benson shall have chosen him; but we believe he should hail from this city and county for several reasons, chief of which is that Astoria and Clatsop pay the heaviest State tax and furnish the preponderant share of important litigation that lies in the purview of the district court. We are at the mouth of the river where there already exists, and will continue to accumulate, the largest and gravest issues at law.

It is absolutely essential that Astorians take a hand in this matter and strive earnestly for the judgeship from among the able men of this city and county, holding always to the paramount claim that it shall go to the best equipped man to be had here; some man of wide experience and cumulative legal wisdom that will lead assurance of that capacity for the handling of the business usually expected of a man in that exalted position.

It is no small affair, this appointment; nor is it a subject for political peddling or biased patronage: It is a question that lies at the root of the largest concerns of the county, city and district, and as such, is entitled to the utmost consideration here and at Salem; and we believe it will receive that thoughtful care at the hands of all concerned, because of the deep significances that attaches to it in all conceivable ways. The people's interest in this case is supreme, at all events.

OUR RESPECTFUL SYMPATHY.

The Morning Astorian, (along with a host of others) tenders the Astoria Police Commission its most respectful sympathy in its acknowledged innocuity and its impracticable attitude; for its impotency, owing to the intenseness of its political differences. It is too bad that the welfare of the city and citizens cannot supervene to achieve the doing of something in the way of business for which this commission was ordained and organized. It must be very annoying to the gentlemen composing the commission to realize that it is one of the standing jokes of the municipality and that, now, nothing whatever is expected of it. They are, severally, excellent men and citizens, and we believe all want to accomplish something for the good of Astoria. But the glint of the political hatchet gets in their eyes and they fail to see

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Inauguration of the Twenty-seventh President

It Will Be a More Imposing and Costly Function Than Any of Its Predecessors

FROM present indications it is apparent that there will be no falling off in the inaugural celebration this year. Although he never led a charge of rough riders and has no actual right to sing "Cheer Up, Comrades," Mr. Taft will be honored by an attendance at the inaugural ceremonies of as great a military force as that which marched in parade behind President Roosevelt. In keeping with the essentially peaceful and civic character of the incoming president, the industrial and civilian feature of the parade of next March 4 will be far more extensive and imposing than ever before.

The program of the inaugural period is divided into five important features and some others of a lesser degree of interest—first, the imposing military division of the pageant, which has been arranged on a big scale by Major General J. Franklin Bell, who is grand marshal; second, the civic organization division of the parade, with Major Thomas P. Morgan, chairman of the committee, in charge as marshal; third, the great display of fireworks on the White lot, just in front of the White House, in combination with the illumination of the streets of Washington through the downtown section, the dome of the United States capitol and the Washington monument, and a drill and display of pyrotechnics by the Republican Flambeau club of Minneapolis; fourth, the inaugural ball in the pension building, the biggest brick structure in the world; fifth, the forenoon parade of the American veteran soldiers and sailors of the G. A. R., the United Spanish War Veterans and the Army and Navy union, which will form the escort of honor for President Elect Taft and Vice President Elect Sherman from the White House to the capitol, where they will take the oath of office, preceding the big parade and other features.

Sailors and Marines.

The details of the big military parade have been worked out by Brigadier General John A. Johnson, chief of General Bell's staff, assisted by Major Samuel D. Sturges, adjutant general, both regular army officers on duty at the war department. Here is the inauguration day program in a nutshell as prepared by them:

The morning escort of the president from the White House to the capitol at 10 a. m. by the veteran grand division; the exercises at the capitol on a stand accommodating 7,000 persons, concluding with the administration of the oath of office to the president and his address; the assembly of the military and grand division in the streets south and southeast of the civic grand division in the streets west and north-west of the capitol; the afternoon escort of the president by the military and civic grand divisions from the capitol to the White House at the conclusion of his inaugural address at about 1:20 p. m.; review of the military and civic grand divisions by the president from his stand in the court of honor in front of the White House from about 3 to 6 in the afternoon and the dismissal of the parade; the display of fireworks from 7:30 to 9 p. m.

In the military division there will be about 3,000 sailors and marines from the battleship fleet, fresh from its cruise around the world; the famous Philippine constabulary band, the midshipmen and cadets from the academies at Annapolis and West Point.

The joint committee of the two houses of congress purposes to make the ceremonies attending the actual inauguration of President Taft and Vice President Sherman as solemn and dignified as befits so important an event. Joy and music and the spirit of festivity will mark the inaugural parade, and the scenes along the streets will be as brilliant as ever, but in the capitol and on the inaugural stand erected on its east front solemnity and dignity will predominate. The details are already perfected, and every official and every employee understands the part he is to play.

The senate will complete the work of the last session of the Sixtieth congress about 10:30 a. m. on March 4 and will then take a recess so that the scenery may be set for the important act in the great drama of the republic as soon to take place. Shortly before noon the vice president will call the senate to order. The secretary of the senate will announce the arrival of the speaker and the house of representatives, and they will file into the senate chamber and take the places assigned to them. Next in order will come the supreme court of the United States, headed by Chief Justice Fuller, and then the ambassadors and ministers plenipotentiary of the foreign nations. Following the heads of the diplomatic corps will come the heads of the executive departments, who will take their places immediately back of the seats assigned to the chief figures in the drama.

Following the cabinet, the vice president elect will be formally announced and will enter, accompanied by his escort—Senator Frye, president pro tempore of the senate, and Representative Young. "The president elect" will be the next announcement, and William H. Taft, accompanied by Senators Knox and Lodge, will enter, and finally the president of the United States will enter alone. At each announcement the entire assemblage will rise

and remain standing until the person announced is seated.

Mr. Fairbanks' Valedictory. When all the dignitaries have arrived the vice president will deliver his valedictory and will then call to the rostrum James S. Sherman, to whom he will administer the oath of the vice president of the United States, after which he will declare the senate adjourned without day. Having been sworn, Mr. Sherman will ascend the rostrum and, taking the gavel, will call the senate to order for the new session and will ask that new members of the senate come forward and take the oath of office. Presumably there will be sixteen new faces in the senate. Each new senator, accompanied by his colleague, will step forward and take the oath. This done, the entire assemblage will proceed to the inaugural stand.

The sergeants-at-arms of the senate and the house will lead the stately procession. This is an innovation, as heretofore it has been led by the marshals of the supreme court and of the District of Columbia. Those present in the senate chamber will fall into line in the same order in which they entered the senate, and the entire company will march to the inaugural stand. The troops gathered in front of the stand will present arms as the president and the president elect appear at the main door of the capitol, and when they have arrived at the front of the stand Chief Justice Fuller will step forward and administer to Mr. Taft the oath of office, following which the new president will deliver his inaugural address, which is understood to be unusually brief. From the stand the president will descend a flight of steps to his carriage and drive immediately to the White House, where he may snatch a brief luncheon before taking his place in the stand.

There will be a slight change this year in the order of the progress of the president, the president elect and the vice president and the vice president elect to the capitol. In view of the close relations of Senator Lodge to the president he will ride in the carriage with the president and the president elect, as will also Senator Knox, who as chairman of the committee on arrangements is the personal escort of the executive. The vice president will have as escort Senator Bacon and Representative Burke and Gaines, while the vice president elect will be accompanied by Senator Frye, the president pro tempore of the senate, and Representative Young. Heretofore only one senator has accompanied the two chief figures in the ceremonies.

Ball a National Function.

Always a pleasing and picturesque feature, it is proposed to make the inaugural ball of 1909 something more—a great national function of supreme interest and significance. It will take the form of a reception by President Taft and Vice President Sherman to the country at large. Each state in the Union will be officially represented on the floor by one of its distinguished sons, whose mission it will be to cooperate officially in the presentation of the visitors from here, there and everywhere who will be in attendance.

Gov. Blair, whose father, Montgomery Blair, was postmaster general in the cabinet of President Lincoln, is chairman of the committee in charge of the inaugural ball and has so planned the event as to bring the entire Union through the forty-six states into direct and active participation in the function.

"Washington is a national city, a city belonging to the country," Chairman Blair said in discussing the ball arrangements. "It is our desire that all who come to the inauguration—and there promises to be the biggest attendance in the history of these affairs—should feel that in coming to the national capital they are coming to their own city."

"The ball will be essentially and distinctively national. A representative from each state has been designated as a member of the inaugural ball committee. These gentlemen will know many of the people who come from their respective states and will see that they are properly introduced to the statesmen and their wives and other distinguished visitors. Thus it is hoped to bring the forty-six states into close touch with the national capital on this memorable occasion."

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