

SCORE OR MORE VIEW THE ADAIR DRAIN

SOME OF THE DIFFICULTIES OF MATTER ARE PRESENTED.

Including Mayor Smith, City Engineer Tee, City Attorney Abercrombie, Councilmen Leinenweber, Fox and Wilson, and several other city officials, a party numbering over a score made a personal investigation of the Adair drain yesterday afternoon. Many of the citizens of that district whose places are affected by the sliding ground joined in the trip over the grounds and pointed out the details of the matter to the officials.

The main object of the trip was to acquaint those with the matter who knew little of it, and the city officials who were there will be better enabled to vote intelligently when it arises for settlement.

It is not an easy matter to get a good understanding of the needs of the situation, for the very apparent reason that nearly every witness is consciously or unconsciously biased by his personal desires. Given the part of the district in which a man lives, and his views may be guessed. However, that is not true of all the men, of course, though there is no question that many of the residents there view the situation through their own spectacles. No matter what plan is ultimately formulated by the council for the draining of the district it is probable there will be some who will remain dissatisfied, and yet there is no inherent reason why a plan cannot be easily formed that will accomplish the desired results and which will be fair to all, and of which the cost will be very fairly apportioned among all those, in a pretty wide district, who will be affected. But the duration of the squabbles and bickering over the drain has been extended over so many years, that it may not be improbable that some of the residents there give too much emphasis to their own desires and to unimportant details. Once a question has become a personal one, a matter for factions to fight over, and once it gets into politics, as this matter has more than once, then there naturally is difficulty in formulating a plan that will please either side.

It would seem that in the early years there was a stream, a little rivulet, that ran across the ground in a northwesterly direction, and it is said that in those early years this stream successfully carried off the water. As the district was built up, houses were constructed in the natural meandering bed of the stream and in many places it has been filled up and the stream divided or diverted. Everybody fought the water off from his own land as a common enemy. Had the question been settled in those days as to the character of the stream, whether it was a well defined and real stream, or merely a drainage of surface water, the matter might be a simpler one now to legally settle. Anybody can fight surface waters off from his land, as he would fight fire, but a well defined and real stream may not be diverted to the detriment

of any one else, generally speaking. But the fact remains that the little rivulet, or the various rivulets, have been diverted, dammed and in some cases filled up. Legally, it is also possible that even if it were a real stream 20 or more years ago, that by the common action of all those interested, it has ceased to have that character now.

Generally speaking, the district lying south of Franklin avenue, between 33rd and 36th streets, as far south as Irving, is the one affected.

Most of the water is now carried in a general way along the lines of the original stream; that is, in a northwesterly direction from the China gardens over to 33rd street. The whole district has become badly affected. Houses move, lots are carried over onto neighbor's places, and thousands of dollars have been expended in temporary repairs.

It is suggested that drains, of the wooden kind, be placed in at various points on the surface. This plan seems totally inadequate and not worthy of serious consideration. Another suggestion is that to adequately and perfectly handle the matter, let a fine, deep drainage system be put in, running along each street, from 33rd to 36th, from the headwaters to the beach. That is, to have a drain, on 33rd, on 34th, on 35th and on 36th. If that is properly done it would seem as if the whole question would be settled at once. Naturally there would be lateral drains connecting the streets on the south.

Generally speaking, this plan seemed to meet with favor among many of those who viewed the district yesterday. One important exception is made, however, in the minds of many. That is, that it would not be necessary to cut through 36th street, as the same results could be accomplished without doing it, while to cut through would prove so costly as to make the cutting virtually prohibitive. To cut through four blocks on 36th street would require the cutting through a mountainous hill, and it does not seem necessary. Of course if there were no great hill there, if it were practically level, probably many would agree that 36th street should carry off its own water, as the three other streets should carry off their own. But at present it would seem as if 36th street is not needed and the cost of improving it would be ruinous.

On the other hand, a few think that the main stream should be carried through to the beach on 36th street, despite the mountainous hill. They aver that would at once take practically all of the water away. But it is exceedingly probable that it would take away only the little surface streamlet, and would not affect the whole saturated hill side at all. Again, it does not meet the objection of the extraordinary cost of cutting through the big hill for hundreds of feet.

The objection is made that if the streets were improved and the drains put in north and south the same trouble would continue; that the ground moves in a northwesterly direction, not northerly with the direction of the drains, and therefore the drains would be broken as of yore.

Of course the answer to that is, if the drains do the work expected of them the movement of the ground will stop. If they won't do the work there is no need of putting them in.

The China gardens also present an aspect of the question that must be met. Much of the trouble is often

FILIPINO EXHIBITS ON WAY TO SEATTLE

INSTRUMENTS OF WAR, HUNTING AND DOMESTIC UTENSILS WILL BE SHOWN.

NEW YORK, April 10.—Filipino huts, instruments of war, hunting and domestic utensils and various curios comprising the Philippine exhibits at the American Museum of Natural History are now en route to Seattle for exhibition at the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition which will open June 1. Three hundred boxes and crates were required to pack the outfit. Other material direct from the Philippines is being carried to Seattle on the Army transport Dix due to arrive at Seattle the latter part of the month.

laid to them, inasmuch as the Chinese flood them and thus distribute the water. Some seem to think that the water will have to be kept off of the gardens if trouble is to be prevented, but an odd part of the matter is that the owners of the gardens insist on the water crossing their place and threaten to fight legally if steps are taken to divert it from them.

If the council can agree upon a plan this spring, and the new system be put in during the summer, it will mean a great saving to the whole district next winter.

Probably there is no other part of Astoria that naturally excels this as a residence district. The view of the river is magnificent, while the ground falls away to the river in a long easy slope.

Jules Murry's lavish production of De Mille's eadet play, "Classmates," with its life at West Point in the first act and the great jungle scene in the second, is the hit of the season. It will be seen at the Astoria Theatre on April 24th with Norman Hackett in the leading role of Duncan Irving.

NEWS FORECAST

WASHINGTON, D. C. April 10.—There promises to be little news of general importance emanating from the national capital during the week, aside from that furnished by the slow grinding of the Payne tariff bill through the congressional mill. President Taft, so far as has been announced, has made no public engagements for the week. In fact, he is expected to continue busy with the routine of his office until near the end of April, when he will go to Philadelphia to speak at a Grant birthday banquet in that city.

Some important court proceedings will occupy attention in various parts of the country. John A. Benson of San Francisco, who was acquitted last year on a charge of conspiracy in the famous land fraud case, will have to face another jury in the District of Columbia. Benson is charged with the bribery of two clerks in the general land office in 1904 for the purpose of securing the approval of various school land selections in Oregon and California.

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Huston will be placed on trial on charges growing out of the scandal over the building and furnishing of the Pennsylvania State Capitol. The trial will be the third of the series of alleged "graft" cases following the exposure of several years ago. Several of the defendants have been convicted and others are yet to be tried.

On similar charges of "graft," several officials, contractors and others will be placed on trial at Utica, N. Y., as a result of the recent sweeping investigation of the affairs of Oneida county.

The eleventh annual meeting of the Conference for Education in the South will attract a large gathering of distinguished educators to Atlanta. The session will begin Wednesday and continue four days.

Governor Harmon of Ohio, Governor Marshall of Indiana, Representative Champ Clark of Missouri and several other Democrats of national prominence will be heard at the Jefferson's birthday banquet to be given Tuesday night by the National Democratic Club of New York City.

The week will witness the opening of the professional baseball season throughout a large section of the

CRUISERS WILL CONTEST FOR SUPREMACY

PURSE OF FIVE THOUSAND IS RAISED BY CREWS FOR A SPEED TEST.

NEWPORT R. I. April 10.—Intense rivalry exists among the crews of the scout cruisers Birmingham and Salem over the relative qualities of their vessels, which, with the cruiser Chester, have just finished their coal endurance tests. A purse of \$5,000 has been raised by the crew of the Salem to cover a like amount raised on the Birmingham. The money to be put as a wager that the Salem will win the 24 hour full speed test to be given Monday next. Excitement runs high on the vessels, but especially so on the Salem, as the crew of that vessel is firm in the belief that they have the best boat, although she finished last in all the previous tests.

Not only are the crews betting on the result of the test but many wagers have been made at the naval station. The Birmingham is the favorite over the Salem and Chester.

country. Both of the major leagues will start their contests for championship honors, the American league on Monday and the National league on Wednesday. Several of the minor organizations also will begin the season, among them the American association, Southern league, South Atlantic league Texas league and North-western league.

Norman Hackett is winning new laurels in "Classmates" this season. Jules Murry has given the play a sumptuous production. "Classmates" will be seen at the Astoria Theatre on April 24th. Mr. Hackett plays the part of Duncan Irving.

SENT OUT FOR EFFECT
What The Tough Would Call A Very "Bum Steer".

NEW YORK, April 10.—A revival of the rumor that Cipriano Castro, the deposed president of Venezuela will again assume the presidency with the consent of President Gomez, is contained in a special dispatch from Port of Spain, Trinidad, appearing in the Herald today.

The dispatch says: "It is said that there will be no opposition to his (Castro's) landing on the part of President Gomez, who, it is believed, is ready to give up the presidency without opposition. Castro is expected to leave Martinique for Venezuela next week."

It is added that the belief prevails that Senora Castro who has not been checked like her husband will arrange for the peaceable resumption of Castro to his former office.

FINANCIAL

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