

The Daily Astorian.
Established 1878.

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—Fair, light frost in early morning in west portion, and heavy frost in eastern portion.

THE HOTEL QUESTION.

The people of this city are beginning to marvel at the indifference of those presumed to be wholly committed to the policy and plan of erecting and conducting a first class hotel in Astoria, where such a business departure is among the first and most essential of the public needs of the place; especially since those at interest have already spent, practically, \$20,000 on the venture. The conclusion is inevitable that the trustees of the Weinhart Estate are less interested in the hotel, as such, than in the multiplicity of the saloons they control here and the success attendant upon that particular investment, a conclusion that is not appreciated, when the urgency, and larger merit, of the hotel, are considered in contrast with the dispensable issue of saloons.

The matter of a first class hotel in this city stands separate, and apart, and is of prime importance in itself; the project is without parallel, without competition, without hindrance or hamper, as an investment, and the pretexts offered in abatement of the enterprise, to date, are becoming a bit stilted, to say the least of it. The people are tiring of excuses that are not justified in the premise, and want something done. The third season will have passed before this commanding public need is met, and the Weinhart Estate is far too rich for the play of delay it has inaugurated and maintained in this relation.

So long as the matter remains open to doubt and conjecture, the way is blocked to other agencies that might be invoked in this behalf; and while we know of one project already afoot in this regard, we do not deem it as complete and adequate as the scheme of the Weinhart trustees, though it will go a long way to make good the void now existing in the hotel line and be infinitely better than anything we have at present; yet this is no real substitute for the fine program that is, apparently, being held as a club over the civic head of Astoria, and as a fender against adverse action here in the future, on questions touching the liquor interests of the city. This issue, as it presents itself to the common mind down this way, smacks more of beer than of hotel; and if we may not have the hotel upon some plane free from such a compromise, we had best get it from other sources and save the credit and dignity of the community.

The day of such domination is rapidly passing, along with the old stunts of control, and the people here are not disposed to commit themselves to the sway of an element that would be a reproach, however fine the hotel, or however well it was managed. We want the hotel, but there are some prices at which even such an improvement would be far too costly, and we know of none quite so prejudicial as this appears to be. The projectors are clever business men, and are, perhaps, following closely the lines of action needed in the maintenance of the vast business they control; but, for the life of us, we cannot fathom the reason for the inertia that besets them in this regard, except that it be to foist upon Astoria some binding and hampering condition incident to the completion of the undertaking. The hotel would be a success from

its very inception; there is absolutely nothing to deny it the overwhelming patronage such a house should command; it would have no rivals; no real competitors; its field would be the clearest and cleanest of any business in this city and section, and the people here, and abroad, want it, and need it. It ought to be utterly free from all prejudice and all extraneous conditions; and unless it is so built and operated, Astoria will be better off without it, until someone appears on the scene who can and will meet the crying emergency without imposing civic sacrifices of any sort.

DOGS AND GROCERIES.

Regarding dogs and groceries from an open stand-point of utility and preference, the latter must, naturally, take precedence in the public mind. Dogs are alright, in a way; but groceries are indispensable, essential and cost more than dogs, always. The dogs are popular, in a sentimental way and have their uses, but, unlike groceries, are rarely kept in place and under control.

The passing of an ordinance to compel merchants to so arrange and display groceries as to save them from invasion by dogs, raises the issue of what is due, relatively, to both; we claim that its passage puts the animal above the staple, and gives the dog a right-of-way it does not deserve.

There are very few dogs of positive value; while every edible on the market has a fixed, and usually, excessive price, let alone the cardinal necessity with which it figures in matters of health and sustenance. We can get along forever, without dogs, if we have to; but there is a short limit, indeed, in the matter of foregoing groceries and meats. Therefore, if either are to be given preferential status under the law, "our daily bread" should command the situation, and the dogs be kept out of touch with them, and upon the premises they are supposed to adorn and protect.

The dog, (even the best of the beasts) is but incidental; it is not a primary adjunct to any home, or family; and is cherished only because it is alive and belongs to someone; on the other hand, groceries, fruits, vegetables, all are of stable use and value to the community and should not require such protection as is given them in this instance.

If the relation between the two is to be finally determined by law, the dog should be relegated to the home premises and never be permitted abroad except at the end of a leading chain in the hands of a responsible owner who would do a better stunt of citizenship in controlling the conduct of the animal, than is now done by those who permit them to run at large as public nuisances. The dog is not to blame. The blame lies with the careless owner who does not seek to check or regulate the nuisance, but deliberately abets it.

WING SHOTS.

Mayor Smith is to be congratulated on his special message to the Common Council with regard to the black and blasting panorama along the Astoria waterfront, and for his insistence that the dismal and dubious array be ousted. Astoria is a beautiful place, from any point of view, save that from the channels of the river, along which thousands pass on steamers of all sorts from all manner of places; the very people we should do our utmost to impress with the real beauty and excellence of the port, and who are quickest to note the

radical indifference of our people in this regard and to comment upon it adversely where ever they go.

The public market is among the "saving graces" of commercial life in Astoria, from the viewpoint of the people. Of course no merchant will want it who has a store of his own and who handles the staple edibles. But it is the only solution for many things that are borne here now, and due to be cured.

The administrative house-cleaning proposed by Councilman Curtis, through his revision of the local ordinances, will be a welcome dispersal of the impeding and confusing mess that now cumber the record here, and is an essential and logical step that every community must take once in a while. Laws accumulate like all other impedimenta, and the processes of elimination and simplification are due here, and now. We hope the work will be done most thoroughly and effectively.

"THIS DATE IN HISTORY"

1534—Jacques Cartier sailed from St. Malo on his first voyage to the New World.

1764—Jacob Radeliff, founder of Jersey City, born.

1775—Governor Dunsmore of Virginia removed the powder at Williamsburg.

1777—First constitution of New York adopted.

1804—The Spanish province of California divided into the two districts of Antigua and Nueva California.

1809—Napoleon I. defeated the Austrians at Abensberg.

1821—Alfred H. Colquitt, governor of Georgia and U. S. senator, born in Walton County, Ga. Died in Washington, D. C. March 26, 1894.

1835—Samuel Slater, father of the cotton manufacturing business in the United States, died.

1861—Gov. Ellis of North Carolina seized the United States mint at Charlotte.

1863—Federal troops captured Opelousas, La.

1875—Major General Sir Edward Selby-Smyth appointed to command the militia of Canada.

1904—Fire in Toronto destroyed \$10,000,000 worth of property.

"THIS IS MY 59th BIRTHDAY"

Daniel C. French, the noted sculptor, was born in Exeter, N. H., April 20, 1850. After graduating from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1869 he studied art for a time in Boston. Subsequently he pursued his studies for several years in Florence, Italy. Upon his return to the United States in 1876 he opened a studio in Washington. In 1878 he went to Boston and in 1887 he removed to New York, where he has since resided. In 1906 he was honored with election to the presidency of the National Sculpture Society. Some of the best known works of Mr. French are a statue of Gen. Cass, in the Capitol at Washington; "The Minute Man of Concord," at Concord, Mass., a statue of Senator Hoar, at Worcester, Mass., a statue of Rufus Choate, in Boston; the colossal "Statue of the Republic," at the World's Columbian Exposition, and the group of "Europe," "Asia," "Africa," and "America" on the new custom-house in New York.

PROHIBITION FIGHT.

SAN ANTONIO, Tex., April 20.—State-wide prohibition missed being a reality in Texas by an eyelash, failing of carrying in the present session of the legislature by such a narrow margin as to give the liquor interests a bad scare. It now develops that the prohibition element of Texas, far from feeling the temporary defeat, are elated at the close proximity to success which they attained, and are carefully mapping out their plans to make Texas a dry state within the next two years.

Prohibition leaders who have visited San Antonio within the past few days express a firm conviction that victory will soon perch triumphantly on their banner, and they make no secret of their plans to force the fight to a decisive conclusion in this state. Chief among the measures which they will seek to have enforced in the meantime is the anti-treating law, arguing that treating is largely responsible for such inebriety as exists. The Rev. G. W. Eichelberger, one of the most prominent of the anti-liquor forces, has arrived here from a tour of the state. He says that five counties are already willing and anxious to put the question of wet and dry to their voters in elections which will very likely be held in July or August. Mr. Eichelberger will devote two or three months to Bexar county. Every ward in the city of San Antonio and every precinct in the county will be thoroughly organized, and prohibition clubs started in all them.

WILL DISPATCH TWO CRUISERS TO TURKEY

UNITED STATES WILL AFFORD PROTECTION TO ITS OFFICERS AND CITIZENS.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 20.—To afford all protection possible to United States officials and citizens in Turkey, the administration has decided to dispatch a special cruiser squadron to that country. This was decided by the cabinet today. The squadron will consist of the armored cruisers North Carolina and Montana, now at Guataamo, Cuba. Their immediate objective point will be Alexandria.

SEVENTIETH BIRTHDAY.

VIENNA, April 20.—Dispatches from Bucharest report that the seventieth birthday of King Charles was extensively and enthusiastically celebrated today not only in the Roumanian capital, but throughout the country, where the King enjoys unbounded popularity. It caused universal regret that the health of the King would not permit him to bear the strain of attending the public fetes arranged in his honor. Even to receive the members of the diplomatic corps tendering their congratulations and giving audience to the members of the cabinet and the heads of the parliamentary bodies and the civil and military authorities was a severe tax upon the King's feeble strength.

King Charles has probably the most interesting history of all the rulers of Europe. He was born April 20, 1839, the secondson of the late Prince Charles of Hohenzollern-Simaringen and was lieutenant in the Second Regiment of Prussian Dragoons when, in 1866 he was selected to fill the throne of Roumania which had become vacant by the expulsion of Prince Alexander John. From the very beginning his reign was marked by internal dissensions and parliamentary crises. The persecution of the Jews in Roumania led to indignant protests from various foreign governments and the pro-Russian leaning of Prince Charles and his subjects caused irritation to the powers of the Triple-Alliance. During the Russo-Turkish war of 1877 Roumania strongly supported Russia and the Rumanian troops, gallantly led by Prince Charles himself, fought gallantly and won the day at Plevna. In return for these valuable services Prince Charles received from Alexander II, the Cross of St. George and a stretch of dreary waste in the Dobruetscha, while one of the most fertile and important provinces was taken away from Roumania. This led to a complete estrangement between Roumania and Russia, which continued until Crown Prince Ferdinand of Roumania married the beautiful Princess

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Marie of England, eldest daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Coburg and favorite niece of the late Czar. Charles was only "Royal Highness" until March 26, 1881, when he was proclaimed King of Roumania by a unanimous vote of the representatives of the nation. The coronation took place on May 22 of the same year. A few years after ascending the throne of Roumania Charles, after a romantic courtship married Princess Elizabeth von Wied, who bore him one child, a girl that died of scarlet fever at the age of seven years. As there was no prospect that the Queen would give another heir to the country, Charles, at the urgent request of his people asked Prince William of Hohenzollern, his nephew and eldest son of Charles, brother, Leopold, to become crown prince of Roumania. After one year, however, William declined and made way for his younger brother, Ferdinand, who became Prince Royal of Roumania by a decree of March 18, 1889. Prince Ferdinand who married Princess Marie of Saxe-Coburg, is consumptive and in case of his death Prince Carol, the oldest of his sons will become heir to the throne of Roumania. Neither Ferdinand nor Princess Marie is popular and it is feared that after the death of King Charles an era of internal storms will dawn for Roumania. Ferdinand is considered a weakling, physically as well as intellectually and even should he live, it is expected that his wife will rule the country as she has always ruled her husband.

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