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CITY INTELLIGENCE.

—Mr. A. S. Mercer and family leave Astoria to-day for their new home in Albany. May it be a pleasant one.

—It is laughable, but nevertheless a fact, that deep sea vessels in ballast to load wheat at Portland, find it to their advantage to discharge ballast at Astoria before proceeding up the river.

—Capt. Bolles, of the Ajax, reports the heaviest weather he ever experienced on the passage from San Francisco last Sunday night. The steamer shipped a sea that partly filled the saloon, and sprung the foremast.

—J. B. Knapp, esq., of Cementville returned to Oregon by the Ajax, Tuesday morning, and together with a large number of other gentlemen proceeded to Oysterville to attend the sale there yesterday, of the Knappton mills.

—Mr. John Woods of Knappton concluded the purchase of the Willapa saw-mill, near Bruceport, on his visit to San Francisco, and arrived home on Tuesday, leaving the same day for Bruceport, to take charge and make arrangements for commencing work.

—C. S. Wright, administrator of the estate of George Summers deceased, is selling the stock of goods so low, at the old stand that a large number of persons are at the counter from early to late daily. The stock will all be sold at this rate very soon.

For fresh Oysters, in every style, call at the PARKER HOUSE RESTAURANT.

—The American bank Mariano, Capt. Ryder is again on the way to this port from San Francisco. She probably made it profitable "lightering" Oregon wheat down to San Francisco, past our own doors, for export in vessels that could not go to Portland originally for it.

—Having recently added two jobbing presses to the ASTORIAN office, there is no longer any necessity for people in this part of the country sending abroad for circulars, bill heads, letter heads, pamphlets, etc. A good job printer and plenty of new styles of type now await your orders, gentlemen.

—Col. J. W. Forney of the Philadelphia Press, who is to be mayor of that famous city during the Centennial term by the way, has just completed and published through an Eastern house, a very entertaining book entitled "anecdotes of Public men." Capt. J. G. Hustler of this city has the only copy of the work we have seen.

—Articles of incorporation were filed at the County Clerk's office last Tuesday, incorporating the firm of Badolett & Co., for putting up canned salmon at upper Astoria. The incorporators are John Badolett, John Hobson, H. S. Aiken, Geo. W. Warren, C. Leinenweber. The capital stock subscribed is placed at \$20,000 to be increased if needs be to \$20,000. The Company will build upon the wharf of the Hemlock tannery, and have already contracted for buildings to be put up immediately 120 by 170 feet in size, two stories high. Geo. W. Warren has been awarded the contract.

Common Council Proceedings.

The Common Council assembled in regular session at the new Council Chamber, Tuesday evening, Mayor Kippen presiding.

Present—Messrs. Wright, Page, and W. W. Parker, Councilmen, and Messrs. C. Stevens Recorder and E. A. Taylor, Street Commissioner.

Absent—Councilmen Reed, Hobson, and Ferrell.

Minutes of previous meeting read and approved.

Mr. Parker, from the committee on harbor survey verbally reported that the work was done, the map accepted, and recommended that warrants be drawn in favor of Mr. Stephenson for the sum of \$460, in payment for the same.

Mr. Page, from the committee on streets wharves and public works relative to the harbor survey in view of the facts that the work was done, the maps delivered to the city, and a report made upon the subject, (although said report was not in the hands of the board) moved that warrants be drawn as follows in payment of the bill of H. J. Stevenson, by his order John Rentz for \$61 62; S. N. Arrigoni for \$234 68; I. W. Case for \$133 25; George Flavel \$30 45. The motion was adopted and warrants ordered.

Concerning the furnishing of the new Council Chamber, the special committee reported that they had fulfilled their duty so far as they were capable, considering the financial situation of the city. The room had been furnished "as you see it," at very moderate expense of \$112 08, and on motion of Mr. Parker a warrant for that sum was ordered in payment of the bill in favor of Charles Stell.

Mayor Kippen took occasion to compliment the committee for their taste and good judgment. The room was handsomely furnished for this embryo city, and the furniture was of a substantial character, would last a number of years, and he felt confident that no tax payer who had the good of the city at heart would be found who would not feel a pride in the matter.

Mr. Page as one of the committee, replied thanking Mr. President for his compliment. He stated that the committee had been guarded in its action knowing full well that the finances of the city would not justify heavy expenditures of any kind at this time. He had hoped that the committee on finances would be present this evening to make a report on city finances, as there was now a matter pending which called for considerable ready funds not on hand. So far as he had been able to ascertain, the finances stood about thus: For collections from licenses, etc., prior to the 4th of February 1874, they might expect \$300. To-night warrants were ordered for about \$570; which together with outstanding indebtedness would leave a balance against the Treasury of perhaps \$700 to \$800. In order to meet this deficiency he thought it would be necessary to levy a special tax at an early day, and would suggest that the Auditor make out a roll from the county assessment, with this view.

Mr. Parker coincided with the views of the gentleman, and remarked at considerable length upon the value of the important work the Council has on hand at present time. Work which must be attended to, and which has of course some consequent expense attending it, which must be met.

Mr. Wright moved that the auditor be instructed to make out such roll. The motion prevailed.

Petition of H. B. Parker for a license to sell liquors in less quantities than a quart, was granted, on motion of Mr. Wright, when the petitioner complies with the laws Remonstrance of Mr. C. Boelling, to

proposed side-walk on north side of Chenamus street, from Main to Lafayette streets, was considered.

In view of the fact that Mr. Boelling had already made desirable improvements adjacent to his property, which was still being made, the matter was laid over until next season.

Auditor was authorized to procure the signatures of Mr. Barrows to certain real estate ceded to the city.

The Committee on public property and improvements were instructed to confer with Messrs Hustler and Aiken, and ascertain the facts in relation to certain property ceded to the city by the last will and testament of Hon. Cyrus Olney deceased.

The standing committee of the board not previously constituted by the President, were filled up and placed on record.

On motion the Rules and Regulations of the Board, together with a list of the standing committees, were ordered printed for the use of the Council.

Council adjourned.

—It was the Aloa, instead of the Airy, so long delayed at the hog's back. She is now safely in our harbor, receiving the balance of her cargo.

—As this is the season for sleigh rides, John Ferrell is kept busy making that kind of toys for men and boys. He has a model "of a clipper to go it on."

—Mr. J. M. Gibson at the upper town has "broken the ice" so to speak, for improvements there. He is engaged in building a residence house for himself. Several more will be needed before the close of next season.

—Lef. A. Shaw, one of the jovial attaches of the Collection department of the Portland district, made us a few cheerful visits recently. As we have missed both him and Mr. A. B. Hallock since Monday we conclude that they have returned to the metropolis.

—These frosty nights are just the time to enjoy those bed comforts for sale at Van Dusen's. Only \$3 75 apiece, and better than any blanket ever made by woolen mills since the days of Noah. He also has a fine cassimere glove—very nice for cold days.

—The weather last night indicates that communication to Portland is of doubtful duration. It would indeed be unfortunate for the State, were the river to close at this time. If the wheat was here,—or if we had sixty miles of a railroad, that would modify the case somewhat,—but we are still without either possibility. One thing is certain, come what may, the ocean route cannot be frozen up, and there are some little grains of comfort left to us in the reflection that, should the river close, we still have steady means of communicating with the world at large.

—Boreas tarries in our midst. School boys and girls, and oftentimes those of more mature age, make the best of the season while it lasts, and sliding down hill, coasting on skates, etc., is the order of the day. The words of St. Nicholas now have a local application about Astoria:

Snow, snow, everywhere!
Snow on frozen mountain peak,
Snow on Flippit's sunny hair,
Snow flakes melting on his cheek.
Snow, snow, wherever you go,
Shifting, drifting, driving snow.
But Flippit does not care a pin,
It's winter without and summer within.
So, tumble the flakes, or rattle the storm,
He breathes on his fingers and keeps them warm.

It is cheerful to hear the sound of so many voices at out-door amusements, even to the still mid-night hour, these moonlight nights—and though our walks are as "smooth as glass" from the many sleds upon them, and our staid and sober citizen sometimes gets a terrific fall, nobody complains, but let the play proceed.

—There are more colleges to-day in California than can be sustained. What is wanted is more high schools and academies, which will give young men and young women a thorough elementary education. There are hardly more than a dozen schools, all told, in the State where the curriculum of instruction is thorough and broad enough to fit a young man for the University of California, or for an Eastern College.

EXCELLENT—Those Sugar Cured Hams, and that Fresh Roll Butter, Fresh Buckwheat, (this year's crop), Corn Meal, Cracked Wheat, Hominy, etc., at C. S. S.

TELEGRAPH DISPATCHES.

The Price of Gold.

PORTLAND, Dec. 3.—Gold in New York to-day, 109½; Portland Legal Tender rates,—90½ buying, and 91½ selling.

Miscellaneous News.

A hundred thousand dollar fire occurred in St. Louis on the 29.

Ann Eliza, Brigham's nineteenth wife, has gone East, having left his bed and board.

The recent heavy rains have raised the Wallamet as far as Corvallis, to a good boating stage.

The railroad accounts of Peru are being examined. Meiggs' documents are faultless, and there are sufficient resources.

The Railway News, the English organ of the Erie Company, publishes a proposal for the issue of twenty-two million more ordinary shares.

The barkentine which was being built at Utsalady for Messrs. Morton and Cranney was successfully launched on the 28th and named the Modoc.

The questions between Spain and the United States are freely discussed in Washington. The only fear expressed is that Castelar's Cabinet will not be able to enforce an agreement.

Eugene Casserly of California has resigned his unexpired term in the Senate of the United States as Senator for California. That the State Legislature may fill the vacancy at once.

Dispatches from British Columbia show that the snow extends as far as Barkerville; also, that the Fraser river is filling with ice rapidly. Steamers cannot reach Yale again this season, unless the weather moderates soon.

Tom McClellan, the driver of Merrill's horse, in the four-mile trotting match Thanksgiving Day against Cassin's mare, will be tried before Trustees of the Bay District Agricultural Society on a charge of having sold out his horse on that occasion.

The insurgents at Cartagena have raised the black flag on their forts, and are making a desperate defense. The Carlists report the small-pox as prevalent in Morine's army, and that it is unable to make any offensive movement.

Judge Davis of New York fined Graham, Fullerton and Bartlett, the senior of Tweed's counsel in the late trial, \$250, after giving them a sharp lecture for a breach of morals in handing him a paper giving reasons why he should not preside at the trial. Tweed was taken to the Penitentiary on the 29th.

The decision of the Federal Circuit Court for Connecticut practically stops the Government from at present obtaining redress in the Credit Mobilier frauds. Members of Congress now in Washington say an investigation is bound to come. The Attorney General expresses surprise at the decision, and will take immediate steps to carry an appeal to the Supreme Court.

The filibustering steamer General Sherman, which has been making war on Honduras and neighboring peaceful Republics, under the American colors, arrived at Aspinwall on the 8th inst. The Government of Colombia ordered an investigation of her papers. She was seized and a prize crew from the Wyoming took charge of the vessel, and Captain Cushing has applied to Washington for instructions.

It is said that Spain has conceded the demands of the United States arising out of the seizure of the Virginias. The time for saluting the flag has been fixed for next Christmas. The Spanish Cabinet has agreed to deliver to the United States Government the steamer Virginias and all persons remaining alive who were captured with her, leaving the question as to whether the seizure of the vessel was legal to be settled hereafter by a mixed tribunal.

A Seattle dispatch of the 29th says: About one hundred men who were discharged by the contractors building the railroad between Tenino and Tacoma, without being paid off, have armed themselves and proceeded to the end of the track and notified workmen that no more work shall be done until their claims are settled. It is reported that they are doing considerable damage to the road by filling in cuts, etc. Forty men engaged in building a bridge across the

Nesqually river were driven away yesterday. Track-laying was stopped this afternoon.

Concerning the action of the State Board of Equalization, and the contested case in Benton county, we have the following in a Corvallis dispatch of the 29th: Hon. H. W. K. Clarke, of the San Francisco Bar, in an able argument before the Circuit Court of Benton county, Judge Mosher presiding, presented the question of the legality of the State Board of Equalization. The Court sustained the views presented by Judge Clarke, and held that the action of said Board was illegal. On the announcement of his Honor's decision, the crowd of spectators signified their approval by loud and prolonged applause, which his Honor promptly suppressed.

—For interesting tables on the State of the weather, and Hotel arrivals, see 2d page.

—H. H. Jackson this year raised rutabagas on his Gray's river claim weighing forty pounds apiece.

—Local items from our columns published in San Francisco papers without credit, seem rather "queer."

—Sweet potatoes, the best in the State, at Gray and Donaldson's Washington market. Selling cheap at that.

Oysters in every style, at all hours of day or night, at the PARKER HOUSE RESTAURANT, Main street, Astoria.

—The schooner Louisa Morrison, left San Francisco for Oysterville on the 27th. The Schooner Gotama is on her way back to Coos bay.

—"Hurrah for the holidays." is the National shout now, and Oregon continues the cry. Let us hope that all will enjoy the season.

—As we predicted, the Yakima mines have proven to be a humbug, and many who went that way return flat broke and disheartened.

—If any young lady of Astoria has lost her bow she will find it at this office. Three young men are anxiously awaiting the call of the owner.

A neat, clean, cosy place, for gentlemen and ladies to enjoy a dish of fresh Oysters—is at the PARKER HOUSE RESTAURANT.

—Yesterday was the worst day about Astoria for years, but the steamer Mary Bell arrived with the Alice Haake in tow. This don't look much like "swamping" steamboats on this route.

—The snow storm of last Sunday extended to the valley, and up the Columbia river as far as heard from above the Cascades. At the same time it was snowing at Victoria, and on Puget Sound.

—W. Lair Hill, esq., editor of the Oregonian, returned from a trip to the Atlantic States by last steamer. He reports the lakes, canals, and other water channels of the other side closed with ice, and is very glad to get back to Oregon again.

—Wells, Fargo and Company are about to discontinue the employment of messengers on the route from San Francisco to Portland. The business is not sufficient to leave a profit. Express matter will be sent in sealed boxes, placed in charge of the pursers.

—Rev. Mr. Tenny of the Congregational church of this city, has our thanks for favors bestowed upon our little folk, who were unable, like ourselves, to be present at the ice cream festival for the benefit of the Sunday school given at his house, last Monday evening. Which, by the way, was a very creditable affair—a decided success.

—At the Council meeting Tuesday evening, Mr. Wright in suggesting some further improvements to the room, necessary for the comfort of the board and spectators, favored the removal of the damper in the stove-pipe. Experience, everywhere almost, teaches us that such thing as a damper in a stove-pipe is a nuisance, but people with continue to put them in.