

Mr. Lamar and Stanley Mathews Insuring Life.

If a physician should advertise in the newspapers that he was prepared to prevent the introduction of contagious or infectious diseases into the United States in return for a moderate fee, he would immediately be set down as a charlatan of the most impudent stripe.

The epidemic of last summer, and the impatient folly of that class of persons who look to government for relief from ills which heaven inflicts, have inspired two bills that are now before congress.

A department or bureau of health, with all that the name implies, might be a very desirable thing. If it were in the power of congress, or of a constitutional convention, or of any gathering of public spirited citizens, to confer upon a body of medical men full authority to arrest at the frontier any epidemic that might threaten to invade our households, together with ample jurisdiction in all cases pulmonary tuberculosis, diphtheria, or typhoid fever, and discretionary powers wherever the measles, the cerebro-spinal meningitis, or the several varieties of infant colic are prevalent, nobody would object to legislating on the subject from now to the first of April.

If a simple majority vote were all that was necessary to prevent the introduction into the United States of contagious or infectious diseases, we should be among the first to urge the passage of a law to that effect. But, unfortunately, the science of government has not reached that perfection. Congress is powerless to control the angel of death by legislative enactment; and the legislator who proclaims the contrary is a simpleton.

The fallacy which underlies propositions of the character of Mr. Lamar's and Mr. Mathews' is the old fallacy that a man with an official title and drawing a monthly salary from the treasury can do that which the same man in private life cannot do. It is a slight modification of the ancient superstition that the King's touch was a specific for certain maladies. As fast as a medical knowledge is extended and enlightened we shall have new safeguards against pestilence. All the bills which Mr. Lamar and Mr. Mathews can draught, and all the votes which can be recorded, will not hasten the process.

Mr. Lamar's measure will probably be the first to be disposed of. Mathews' bill makes the health department a bureau of the treasury, with a director-general and a board of seven members, the amounts of whose salaries are modestly left

blank, to be determined by the collective wisdom of congress. Otherwise the two measures are nearly identical.

The possibility of another pestilence like that which visited the south last summer is bad enough, without entailing upon the country the evils of red tape, official old foggism, and political jobbery, for which either of these absurd bills opens the door.

The Game of Chess.

Astoria has been playing the part of pawn in the great game of chess between Portland and the balance of the country, but she has started for the king row, and has a prospect of reaching it. When she does, she will be as good as a queen. From parties in the valley we learn that the prospects are cheering for something tangible to grow out of the railroad agitation. Albany is coming to the point, and her solid men propose to deal with the subject in a systematic manner. It has been reported, from reliable sources, that the Yaquina bay road will be constructed upon the uniform gauge, and connect with Albany. The Albany people will also favor the project of a road to Astoria upon the uniform gauge. We are not far enough enlightened upon the subject to give details or data, but of one thing we are quite positive: If the managers of the Oregon Central do not go to work pretty soon their land grant will be forfeited, and a narrow gauge begun over the route. The people are waking up, and Astorians will soon be placed in position to make somebody an offer.

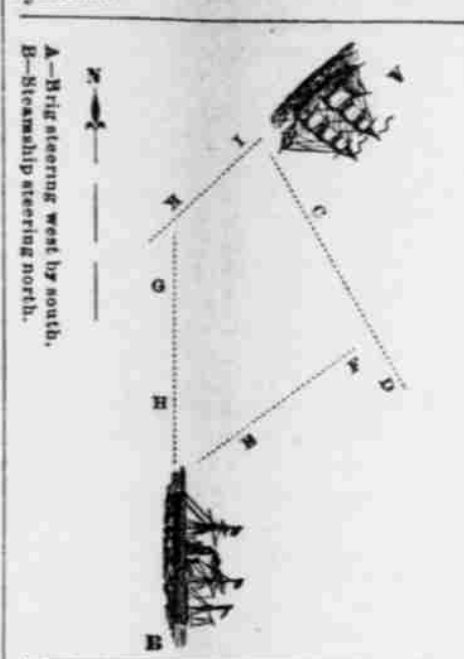
Fog Signals at Sea.

A practical and certain method of avoiding collisions in foggy weather is a problem which has always excited the attention of sea-faring men. The New York Sun publishes an interesting article, explaining a system of fog signals, devised by Captain W. B. Barker, of that city. The thirty-two points of the compass are divided into eight parts, each of which is known by a combination of long and short sounds, as follows: From north to northeast, one short sound; northeast to east, two short sounds in rapid succession; east to southeast, three short sounds in rapid succession; southeast to south, four short sounds in rapid succession; south to southwest, one long blast on whistle or horn; southwest to west, two long blasts; west to northwest, one short blast followed by a long blast and another short blast; northwest to north, one long blast followed by a short blast and one long blast.

The present law compels the masters of sailing vessels to sound a horn once every five minutes while under weigh in a fog. Steamships must blow their whistles. On board the former class of vessels it is customary to give a man a two hour watch with the fog horn. In the system proposed by Captain Barker this man may be instructed to sound at regular intervals on the fog horn the signal which corresponds to the course the helmsman is steering. If the course of the vessel is northeast by east, east northeast, east by north, or due east, two short blasts would be given, which would embrace the four points from northeast to east. A steamship's whistle would indicate her course to an approaching vessel.

With the use of this system the master of a vessel hearing a fog horn or steam whistle blowing a certain signal, may know at once from which quarter a vessel is ap-

proaching him, and lay his course accordingly. The following is an illustration of the working of the system.



A heavy fog prevails, with light breezes from the southward. The lookout on the steamship hears a fog horn faintly to leeward, blowing two long blasts in rapid succession. It comes from the brig. He knows at once that it is a sailing vessel, steering west by south, and must therefore be from the east by north. He so reports. The captain now knows that there is a vessel on his starboard bow under sail. He knows as well as if he saw the vessel that her port quarter is toward him. The rule of the road is plain:

If to your starboard red appears, It is your duty to keep clear; To act as judgment says is proper, To port, or starboard, back, or stop her.

The helm is put apart, and the steamship surges to the right in the direction of E F, and blows two short blasts with her whistle the signal of a northeast-by-east course. The lookout in the brig which is to leeward of the steamship, when he first heard her single blast report her making a northerly course. Afterward he hears two blasts, and knows that she has changed it to allow the brig to hold her course, I K. Therefore, long before the two vessels have sighted each other their courses have been changed enough to give each other a wide berth.

Supposing that the steamship, being to windward of the brig, does not hear her fog-horn and continues to blow one short blast, indicating that she is holding her northerly course, G H. Then the master of the brig, who does hear the steamship which is to windward, comes about, the brig takes the direction C D, and the blast on the fog horn is changed from two long blasts, indicating a west-by-south course, to three short blasts, indicating a south-course. If the steamship gets near enough to the brig to hear the signal, the lookout knows at once that the brig is sailing almost a right angles to the steamer, and that there is, therefore, no chance of a meeting.

In the case of the Pommerina collision it was testified that the fog horn on the bark was distinctly heard for a considerable period before the two vessels met. Had the signal for a south-south-west course been given by the bark, that being her course, the helm of the steamship would, under the rule, have been put apart, and a collision avoided.

The Grand Lodge of the Ancient Order of United Workmen recently held an annual session at San Jose, and the Grand Master Workman's report shows an increase of 2,200 in the membership during the past six months, and of thirty-six in the number of lodges. He also urges attention to the fact that one-fourth of the deaths in the order have resulted from the use of intoxicating liquors, and very properly suggests that in the admission of members inquiry should be directed to their habits of intimacy with this destroyer.

During the discussion in the senate, recently, a most notable incident of the proceedings, and one without parallel in the history of the senate, was the occupancy of the presiding officer's chair by a colored man (Bruce of Mississippi), and the incident was of course especially noticeable by reason of the nature of the subject under discussion.

The Indianapolis papers are wasting space giving sketches of the Indiana legislature. The striking sameness about these sketches is that the subjects never did anything in particular, and about two-thirds of them were born in Ohio.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

I. W. CASE, IMPORTER AND WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DEALER IN GENERAL MERCHANDISE, Corner Chenamus and Cass streets, ASTORIA - - - OREGON.

WHAT Is All This Blowing About! I HAVE JUST RETURNED FROM THE EAST AND WILL SELL MY GOODS AS CHEAP And am not going to say anything about it. A Square Deal Guaranteed At the corner of Main and Squemoque sts., ASTORIA, - OREGON. T. BAILEY

MRS. J. KELLY, Lately of Portland, has set up a Millinery and Fancy Goods STORE IN ASTORIA. All kinds of Lace, Fringe, Velvets, and Dress Trimmings. All kinds of EMBROIDERY TUCKINGS. A nice assortment of Woolen and Cotton Canvases and Zephyrs, Silks, Ruchings, and Corsets. A large variety of DRESS BUTTONS, Of the latest style. Also of NECKTIES AND BOWS. Come one and all, and examine my stock of goods. Next door to the ASTORIAN Office.

DOCTOR HATCH, Successfully treats all Chronic Diseases, AND DISEASES OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN. Cancer cured by a new and painless method. Office-Chenamus street, corner of Main street, Astoria.

DR. J. W. OLIVER, HOMEOPATHIST. OFFICE.-In Shuster's Daguerrean building, Entrance-Second door above that of the DAILY ASTORIAN, Cass street. Residence on Jefferson street, corner of Main.

B. F. DENNISON, F. J. TAYLOR DENNISON & TAYLOR, ATTORNEYS AT LAW, ASTORIA, OREGON. OFFICE.-Up stairs in Parker's building, corner Chenamus and Benton streets.

O. F. BELL, A. MEACHEN, BELL & MEACHEN, Attorneys at Law and Notaries Public. Commissioner of Deeds for California and Washington Territory. Astoria, Oregon. OFFICE.-Corner of Squemoque and Cass streets, up stairs, over E. S. Larsen's store.

J. W. ROBB, C. W. FULTON, ROBB & FULTON, Attorneys-at-Law, Collecting and Real Estate Agents. Rooms Nos. 1 and 2, Dr. Welch's new building, Squemoque street, Astoria.

F. D. WINTON, ATTORNEY AT LAW. Office in City Hall Building, ASTORIA, OREGON.

DR. F. CRANG, PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON, ASTORIA, OREGON. Office-Room no. 7 over C. L. Parker's store, Opposite Dement's drug store.

OTTO DUFNER, WATCHMAKER AND JEWELER. HAS REMOVED TO Main street, Parker's building, ASTORIA, - - - OREGON.

J. STEWART, Stone and Marble Cutter, ASTORIA, - - - OREGON. All kinds of building work, and monumental work attended to promptly and on order. Satisfaction guaranteed.

AUCTION SALES. E. C. HOLDEN, Notary Public for the State of Oregon. Real Estate Agent and Conveyancer. Agent for the FIREMEN'S FUND INSURANCE COMPANY of San Francisco. COMMISSION AGENT and AUCTIONEER. Rents and Accounts Collected, and returns promptly made. Regular sales day, SATURDAYS at 2 P. M. N. B. Parties having real estate, furniture or any other goods to dispose of either at auction or private sale should notify me soon as convenient before the day of sale. No storage charged on goods sold at Auction. E. C. HOLDEN, Auctioneer.

MISCELLANEOUS. J. H. D. GRAY, Wholesale and retail dealer in OYSTERS, by the SACK, Hay, Oats, Straw, Wood, Etc. General storage and Wharfage on reasonable terms.

ASTORIA CANDY FACTORY -AND- OYSTER SALOON. HAVING ENLARGED MY STORE have now on hand the largest and best assortment of plain and French candies in town, also, all kinds of CAKES, CRACKERS AND BISCUITS. All of which I offer for sale at the lowest cash price, wholesale and retail at SCHMEER'S CONFECTIONERY. Opposite the bell tower. Retail candy from 25 to 75 cents per pound. Fresh Eastern and Shoalwater bay oysters served in every style.

WILLIAM TURNER, BOOT BLACK, OCCIDENT SHAVING SALOON, ASTORIA, OREGON.

SMITH MAYNES, CRYSTAL SALOON, On the Roadway, - - - ASTORIA, OREGON. The very best quality of wines, liquors and cigars at wholesale or retail.

G. T. REID, CALEDONIA SALOON, Corner of Front and A streets, PORTLAND - - - OREGON. Late butcher in the Central Market.

Astoria Liquor Store, AUG. DANIELSON, Proprietor. Water st. Roadway, - ASTORIA, OREGON. Importer and dealer in WINES, LIQUORS, FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC CIGARS. Sole agent for the celebrated STONEWALL WHISKEY.

Branch of MARX & JORGENSEN, Portland. GERMANIA BEER HALL -AND- BOTTLE BEER DEPOT. CHENAMUS STREET, ASTORIA. The public are invited to call and leave their orders. Splendid Lager 5 cents a glass. Free Lunch every night. WM. BOCK & Co., Proprietors.

GEORGE ROSS' Billiard Room. The only Billiard Room in the city where no liquors are sold. NEW TABLE JUST PUT UP. GEORGE ROSS has a cosy place and keeps on hand the best brand of Cigars. Also, soda, candy, nuts, etc. Opposite Altona Chop House. GEO. ROSS, Proprietor.

THE ASTORIA BREWERY DEPOT. RUDOLPH BARTH & MICHAEL MEYER, PROPRIETORS. Corner of Olney and Water streets, ASTORIA, OREGON. Best quality of LAGER BEER 5 cts. per glass. Choice Wines, Liquors, and Cigars always on hand. The patronage of the public is respectfully solicited. Orders for Lager or Bottled Beer in any quantity promptly filled. The best lunch the season will afford furnished day and night FREE.

Fishermen's Meeting. PURSUANT TO A RESOLUTION passed at a meeting of Columbia river fishermen, held in this city on Monday evening last, a meeting will be held in Astoria on TUESDAY, MARCH 4th, AT LIBERTY HALL. To make arrangements to oppose the license law passed at the last legislature, and all fishermen on the river are cordially invited to be present. By order of the meeting, J. G. ROBESON, B. A. SEABORG, Committee. Astoria, Oregon, Feb. 12, 1879. dawtd

A RARE CHANCE. I WILL SELL ANY OR ALL OF THE following described property, viz: 160 Acres, Sec. 22, T. 8, N. of R. 9 west, southeast quarter. Also, in Olneys Astoria Lots 1, 2, 3, and 4, in Block 79; Lots 3, 4, 5, and 6, in Block 160; Lots 2 and 3, in Block 120; and Lot 8, in Block 132; North half of Block 8, -2 1-2 acres. DAVID INGALLS, Astoria, Oregon, Dec 1878. 85-5m