

The Daily Astorian

ASTORIA, OREGON:
WEDNESDAY, OCT. 26, 1881
J. F. HALLORAN, Editor.

River Bars.

At the Villard meeting in Portland last Saturday, Capt. H. C. Goringe, who has accompanied that gentleman in his tour of inspection, addressed those present on the subject of river obstructions. He thought that a channel 100 feet wide and 25 feet deep could be opened and maintained between here and Portland by dredging, at a first cost of \$200,000 and an annual expenditure of \$50,000. He would apply the same contrivance—dredger—to improve the bar at the mouth of the river. Upon this point he says: "I do not believe in contracting river channels in order to deepen them by the scouring of the current. This system has been tried repeatedly and has always failed in the end to attain the results aimed at. Every river brings down a certain amount of silt and deposits it somewhere. If you prevent the deposit by artificial means where natural conditions invite it, the silt will accumulate elsewhere, generally where it is not so easily disposed of, and thus make matters worse. The inevitable result is the demand for more contraction of the natural waterway at an ultimate cost out of all proportion to results, and generally with disastrous consequences. Many European rivers have been so contracted, and we read of disastrous floods recurring at frequent intervals. These floods never occur in rivers that have not had the natural water-ways artificially contracted. Notable instances of the failure of this system are the mouths of the Rhone and the Mississippi. Our experience of the Rhone is of a very limited nature; but in reference to the Mississippi, Capt. Goringe, in his statement, makes two mistakes. Floods do occur in rivers that "have not had the natural water-ways artificially contracted"—notably the one he instances—the Mississippi, and many of its tributaries; again he speaks of the "failure" at the mouth of the Mississippi, which will be news to every one; to none more than the Government engineers stationed there, who, though antagonistic to Eads and his project, and on the look out for any failure of contract, certify weekly to the Government that from actual soundings he keeps a channel 300 feet wide and 26 feet deep, and Eads himself states, uncontradicted, that since its completion no vessel has been detained one hour. However these are minor considerations and somewhat foreign to the matter that directly concerns Astoria and the Northwest; the improvement of the bar. Speaking of a style of dredger used at the Suez canal, Capt. Goringe says: "The capacity of these dredgers is three hundred tons a day, and I have seen them working while the sea was very rough, and frequently breaking all around them. One of these dredgers on the Columbia bar would maintain a channel thirty feet in depth, and if Frenchmen can make them and use them I am sure Americans can. There are many other dredgers designed expressly for work in the open sea and capable of making a voyage around the world. The question is not can a suitable dredger be had to work on the Columbia bar in moderate weather, but is it better to deepen the bar by dredging or by contracting the channel? Contracting a channel to deepen a bar assumes that the difficulty to be overcome will adapt itself to your convenience. Providing adequate dredge-power for any emergency means that you propose to pursue the difficulty to whatever it develops." The results are of the greatest consequence. How it is to be done is of minor importance. Each project has its supporters. There never was a

more favorable time than the present to agitate this matter. The Portland press and the Portland people are apparently of the opinion that they must deepen the river between here and there themselves. It certainly looks that way.

The point for Astoria to make is this: that whatever the means by which the Columbia river is to be improved, the bar at its mouth should, of necessity, be the initial point. The bar—as it seems to us—is formed mainly by deposits of sediment brought down by the current from the interior: were it composed of sand thrown up by the action of the sea, its general appearance and characteristics would be very different from what it is. The fact of not being able to drive piles there shows this. Were it quicksand they would soon sink out of sight if left to themselves: as it is, the heaviest hammer is unable to drive a pile. Now, if a dredger of the greatest capacity were put at work at any or every bar between here and Portland to-morrow morning, what effect would it have on the bar at the river's mouth? Simply augment its difficulties. All the work that Portland purposes is to make it easier for ships to get to that place. At which end of the route should the work be begun? The ships must get to Portland before they can go out. So that if Portland wants to hold her position she must make common cause with Astoria and unite in an effort to have the bar improved in the manner that the magnitude of the interests involved demands.

The "Polaris."
THE first number of the Polaris, a new Portland weekly, is upon our table. It is a clean, well-printed journal, and if it does half what it promises, will be a power. The opening chorus is a little too lofty; probably after a month or so the machinery will run smoother. It classes ignorance among several alleged "crimes against God," and avows its determination to fight against that and kindred evils. It might, en passant, be not wholly out of place to suggest that the editor bend his intellect to the preliminary consideration of a spelling book; but then as orthography is getting to be simply a matter of private judgment, perhaps that is of minor consequence.

NEW TO-DAY.
Special Auction Sale.
Saturday, Oct. 29, at 11 A. M.
ORDERED EAST.
Instructed by Lieut. Peter Leary, U. S. A. I will sell at my auction rooms, as above, without reserve, household furniture, consisting in part of:
One Bed-room Set complete, 1 Bedstead, 1 Bureau, 1 Wash-stand Bureau and 1 Toilet Table;
1 Large Cane-back and seat Rocker;
2 Mirrors, Etc., Etc.
ALSO:
One China Soup Tureen, Goblets, Cups and Saucers and Dishes; Lot of Kitchen Ware, Flat Irons, etc.
ALSO:
One Cow, Churn, Milk Pans, and Bucket; 17 Fine Fowls and one Turkey.
Sale Positive. Terms Cash.
E. C. HOLDEN, Auctioneer.

REAL ESTATE AT AUCTION.
VALUABLE BUILDING LOTS IN UPPER ASTORIA.
TUESDAY, NOV. 8, at 11 A. M.
I am instructed to sell, without reserve, at Public Auction, on the premises:
Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8, being the whole of Block 35, in the rapidly growing Town of Upper Astoria.
Each Lot Being 75x150 Feet.
This eligible building spot is a third block from the river front, and is one block S. E. from the Public School building. The block to the west of it has been reserved for the use of a Presbyterian church which will probably be erected in the near future. Every lot in the block now offered for sale, commands a grand view of the Columbia river from Tongue Point to the open sea, and its elevated position prevents the possibility of any buildings being erected in front of it which shall obstruct this splendid view. On the block fronting on the north (half of which was recently sold for \$1000), five good buildings have already been erected.
Terms at sale. If desired will give time on part of purchase money.
Title indisputable. Warranties deed to every lot. Part of the town of Upper Astoria as view at my office.
E. C. HOLDEN, Auctioneer.
—Warranties deeds at THE ASTORIAN office.

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F. W. Stechhan, - Lessee and Manager
LAST NIGHT.
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FULL SCENIC EFFECTS.
Engagement Extraordinary.
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Supported by a full and carefully selected company will appear this
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In the great emotional drama, entitled
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Usual prices of admission. Box sheet now open at Carl Adler's Book Store.
N. B.—No extra charge for reserved seats.

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All work done promptly and warranted satisfactory.
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John Rogers, Central Market,
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IF THESE WARNINGS ARE UNHEeded, SERIOUS DISEASES WILL SOON BE DEVELOPED.
TUTT'S PILLS are especially adapted to such cases, and cause effects such as change of feeling as to astonish the sufferer.
They increase the Appetite, and cause the body to take on flesh, thus the system is nourished, and by their Tonic Action on the Digestive Organs, Regular Bowels are produced. Price 25 cents. 25 Murray St., N. Y.

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by E. A. Noves Agent.

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Images of printing presses and machinery.