

The Daily Astorian.

ASTORIA, OREGON: THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 1885.

ISSUED EVERY MORNING. (Monday excepted) J. P. HALLORAN & COMPANY, PUBLISHERS AND PROPRIETORS, ASTORIAN BUILDING, - CASS STREET

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Notice to Advertisers. THE ASTORIAN guarantees to its advertisers the largest circulation of any newspaper published on the Columbia river.

Masquerade suits at Kant's. The Columbia went to sea yesterday morning.

For an overcoat see Cooper's advt and choose for yourself. Dance at Knappa to-night; Lillian leaves Wyatt & Thompson's dock at six p. m.

Reserved seats for the Grismer-Davies' combination at the New York Novelty store.

Last Sunday in Portland, Rev. Mr. Morris officiating, Miss Hannah Kant, sister of M. D. Kant of this city, was married to S. Washburn, of Eugene City.

The I. O. G. T. sociable at the Y. M. C. A. rooms last evening was a very enjoyable affair, although the attendance was not as large as the excellence of the entertainment deserved.

State senator Reed and representative Leinenweber are doing considerable for this section of the state this session, and they will, doubtless, be heard from far and near before the session closes.

A Seattle paper is using a late candidate for county office for a little bill for advertising and "whooping her up" that the candidate forgot to pay. It is only throwing good money after bad.

Rates of travel are reported extremely low; sixty-five dollars for a ticket from New York to Portland, including the price. One dollar carries the passenger from New York to Chicago in a 1st style.

The British bark Janet McNeil, 8995 Jones master, 156 days from Liverpool, arrived in yesterday afternoon. She has 1274 tons of salt, soda, coke and other cargoes and will discharge mostly here.

No investigation is to be made concerning the death of Cadet Strang, of Salem, at the Annapolis naval academy, which was said to have been caused by the cruelty of the senior cadets. The committee on naval affairs decided by a tie vote not to pursue the investigation.

Sheriff Ross and assistants go to Salem this morning in charge of Marsala, Herbert, Warner and Ah Sing. Marsala has an idea that he can't be taken there, but Ross will probably coax him along; Herbert was yesterday more resigned to his fate, but he says he doesn't think he will live a year.

A party answering to the name of Frank White was arrested yesterday on a charge of assaulting Gustaf Olafson with a dangerous weapon. It is alleged that he playfully jibbed about three inches of a bright steel blade into Gustaf's lumbar region. He will have a hearing before his honor to-day.

The charter discussion still goes on. The ASTORIAN has given both sides a patient and extended hearing. We take this ground: That whether the amendments pass or not, the people of Astoria will not stand any such wholesale disfranchisement as that bill contemplates in its present shape. If we are to have a little row about this thing it is better to have it now than to have a bigger one in the future.

It is a safe statement to make that whenever you find a Republican representative voting for a Democrat for the position of United States senator, or a Democratic representative voting for a Republican for that office, that coin and not "patriotism" is at the bottom of his action. If there is any sense at all in party division that is the one office above all others on which there should be a strict party vote in any state legislature.

The publication in yesterday's ASTORIAN of the ordinance passed by the city council the evening before, appropriating \$300 from the city's fund to pay the expenses of those who went to Salem in the interest of the city council charter, raised quite a breeze. A paper was circulated and signed, to raise money to employ an attorney to procure an injunction against the city council restraining that body from using that sum of money or any sum, from the city's funds for the purpose specified. It will not be necessary.

Voting for United States senator began on Tuesday at noon. That day's ballot was Slater, 35; George, 9; Hirsch, 12; Boise, 5; Johnson, 7; Kelsey, 6; Thayer, 1; Moore, 1; Waddo, 1; Hare, 4; Reed voted for George; Leinenweber for Slater. A special vote of the Astorians yesterday afternoon says that another ballot was taken at noon yesterday with the following result: Slater, 36; Hirsch, 14; George, 7; Williams, 3; Hare, 4; Failing, 3; Johnson, 6; Kelsey, 7; Hill, 1; Applegate, 1; Moore, 1; Boise, 5; and 1. Abschieb of Klammath and Lake, absent. Another ballot will taken to-day.

The Idaho left for Alaska yesterday. She has on board Lieutenant Allen, aide-camp to General Miles, Sergeant Robinson, of the U. S. army, and E. W. Fickett, of the U. S. signal service. These three men are going on an expedition of great value to general knowledge and their project is of unusual interest. They are going to Sitka, Alaska, where they will employ six or eight natives, and take steamer to the mouth of the Copper river; they will go up that river, as far as they can go on the ice, then take to boats and go as far inland as possible, and then strike across the country, exploring the mainland of Alaska to the headwaters of the Yukon river. They will then come down that 3,000 mile long river to St. Michaels, the settlement at its mouth. They expect to be gone two years. Talk about adventure and variety! These three men will have material enough to write a most fascinating book about the terra incognita of the far north.

Furnished Rooms To Let. Apply to Mrs. Munson.

CROW Does not make any second-class Pictures at his New Gallery, No. 614, on the Broadway.

Buy your Line of Gray at Portland prices. Mrs. Bryce would respectfully announce to the ladies of Astoria that she is prepared to do repairs in all its branches at her rooms on Cass St., opposite Odd Fellows building.

THE CITY CHARTER.

Is the Property Qualification Clause Constitutional?

ASTORIA, January 28, 1885. EN. ASTORIAN:

Permit me through the columns of your paper to reply to an article appearing in to-day's issue of the noni de plume of "Not always a taxpayer."

In the article alluded to the writer attempts to show the constitutionality of the property qualification clause in the proposed amendment, of the charter of commerce, to our city charter. The arguments used by the writer are decidedly more specious than profound, and judging the writer from the article we should say that he is neither familiar with the constitution of Oregon or with the fundamental principles of American jurisprudence.

The writer starts out with the proposition that the city of Astoria is a corporation the same as all railroad companies, or other kind of incorporated companies as saloon canning companies, etc.

From the foregoing statement we infer that the writer has either forgotten or does not know that there is a difference between a public and a private corporation.

This distinction, however, for the purposes of this discussion, is of little importance, but is mentioned simply to show that the writer is ill qualified for the discussion which he undertakes.

The writer argues from analogy. He concludes that because it is constitutional to restrict the right of suffrage in school districts by imposing a property qualification, that it is therefore constitutional to impose the same restriction in a municipal corporation. Let us examine this proposition in the light of the constitution and see if the cases are at all analogous. In the first place section 1, article 2, declares "All elections shall be free and equal."

Section 2, article 2, declares "In all elections no otherwise provided for by this constitution every white male citizen of the age of twenty-one years shall be entitled to vote at all elections authorized by law."

From the reading of these sections it is plain that no restriction of suffrage can be made under other than the provisions in the constitution. The question now is: Where in the constitution is that restriction provided for?

Section 5, article 1, plainly provides what restrictions are to be placed upon municipal corporations. It reads as follows: "Acts of legislative assembly incorporating towns and cities shall restrict their powers of taxation, borrowing money and incurring debts and loaning their credit."

Since the framers of the constitution saw fit to recite what restrictions should be placed upon municipal corporations, the constitutional rights guaranteed in sections 1 and 2 of article 2 cannot be taken away from any citizen unless affirmative authority be given by the constitution to the legislature so to do. We are unable to find any express authority or even an inference which would warrant the legislature in assuming to disfranchise any citizen who is a member of a municipal corporation on the grounds of his not being a taxpayer. The power of the legislature in such a case is directory and not discretionary; while in the case of schools the constitution has vested in the legislature a discretionary power. Section 3, of the constitution, which guarantees the right of suffrage shall provide by law for the establishment of a uniform and general system of common schools.

It is the duty of the legislature to establish a common school system, but what that school system shall be, so long as it is uniform and general, is entirely in the discretion of the legislature. Acting under that discretionary power the legislature has imposed a property qualification on voters. It has gone even further and allowed certain women the right to vote at certain meetings.

Now if the cases of a municipal corporation and a school district as cited by "Not Always a Taxpayer," are analogous, then the legislature has the right to vote at city elections. We do not believe that "Not Always a Taxpayer" will claim that the legislature has any such right or that he will now claim that there is any analogy between the cases cited by him.

THE SUIP. The sequel to the attempted burglary of Capt. Geo. W. Wood's residence last Tuesday night transpired yesterday. The culprit whose name was Ah Jim, was searched and some pawn tickets found. One of these pawn tickets represented a clock in pawn and Clark Loughery found that the clock had been stolen from Everson & Anderson. Taking it altogether, the story of Ah Jim shall be sold 'em chicken is a little thin. While the examination was going on the floor of the justice court gave away, and the dense mass of Chinese made a stampede for the door; the building trembled, the joists cracked, the stowpence fell down, a cry was raised "The roof is falling in," and for about a minute it was a lively session. The examination adjourned to the police court, and the testimony elicited to justify Judge Goodell in holding the slippery Ah Jim to await the action of the grand jury. It seems the Chinaman's little game was to go to a house about 9 o'clock p. m. and ring the bell; if there was no response he tried the door; if there was still no noise he effected an entrance by a window. If at first any one came to the door he would innocently produce a chicken and blandly ask if they wanted to buy. Ah Jim!

The San Pablo Probably Lost. SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 27.—The steamer City of New York, which left here on December 31, has not yet arrived at Yokohama. She is now five days overdue. No tidings have been received of the steamer San Pablo, which was reported to have been wrecked on the coast of Japan. The fact of her arrival tends to increase anxiety manifested over the non-arrival of the San Pablo, which is now sixteen days overdue. Consignors are offering 50 cents for insurance, which in surance companies decline. The vessel is insured for \$400,000.

Syrup of Figs. Nature's own true Laxative. Pleasant to the palate, acceptable to the Stomach, harmless in its nature, painless in its action. Cures habitual Constipation, Biliousness, Indigestion and kindred ailments. It is supported by some that the blood, regulates the Liver and acts on the Bowels. Breaks up Colds, Chills and Fever, etc. Strengthens the organs on which it acts. Better than bitter, nauseous Liver medicines, pills, salts and draughts. Sample bottles free, and large bottles for sale by W. E. Dement & Co., Astoria.

For Dinner Parties to order, at short notice, go to Frank Fabre's.

SAILORS' FANCIES.

Queer Superstitions of the Fore-castle-Sailors' Oaths, Fears and Imaginings.

While a small crowd was gathered in Burling slip the other day, says a Sun reporter, watching an auctioneer sell a quantity of damaged provisions to men who would ultimately transfer it to ship owners for sailor food, a man in blue uniform and a blue cap with a gold cord over the shoulder, stood on the sidewalk holding his eyes open by main strength, and waving to and fro as if balancing himself on a ship's quarterdeck in a gale of wind.

"Going at five and three-quarters—at five and three-quarters," said the auctioneer over a barrel of hams.

"She'd shay she war," said the man in the uniform. He dunno (hic) how to heave the log. She's makin' amosht twice that."

He started down the walk toward South street with his hat over one corner of his head, his shoulders well up to his ears, and his fists doubled before him, so that his arms curved out. As he tacked along he continued:

"She's a makin' 'n' knots, and it's the blindest sea on. Never she'er roll so. Wha's at?"

He had fetched up on the corner under the old iron lamp-post, to which he clung for a time, and then very slowly raised his head and looked up, blinking his eyes vigorously. "Mm' be lam'-po'. Then I ain't on board. Everything pitchin' and rollin' about. Then I ain't on shore. Know'd sth'ing would happen when I spilt 'th' salt. Know't it wu—wu—wu—"

The knees of the uniformed man weakened slowly, and he sank down to the walk, with his legs crossed like a tailor's and his arms twined round the post against which one side of his face was pressed closely, and in that position he fell asleep.

"Did you never hear a sailor say that it was unlucky to spill salt at noon?" said the captain of the ship to which the man belonged when the incident was related to him. "That is only one of a hundred such notions that sailors still cling to. If Jack had been a land lubber, his knife over that of a shipmate during mess, he would have been just as sure that disaster was impending as he was when he spilled the salt. The sailor's prejudices are for the most part unaccountable, but as a rule they are traditional. Sailors have the same superstitions now that they had when Alexander the Great set sail with his enormous fleet of 2,000 transports from the mouth of the Euphrates, and was frightened out by a school of spouting whales. If a sailor is questioned about his superstitions he never admits that he believes in signs, although he may spin yarns about the beliefs of other sailors. When I was a lad I made my first trip as a sailor on the schooner Bonifery, that was engaged in the grain trade between San Francisco and Buffalo. Capt. Eleazar Smith was a relative. On the first passage down Lake Erie in the spring of 1862 he sent a man afloat to stow the foretop-sail. The man did the work and then climbed on the masthead, for some unaccountable reason. The old man asked him what he was going up there for, but no reply was made, and a minute later the vessel pitched and the man slipped, and the mast broke. We laid him on a boarder the topgallant fore-castle. The wind was breezing up all the time, and we had to clew down the maintop-sail. As soon as that was done the second mate went aloft to stow it, being an active fellow and willing to work.

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