

The Daily Astorian. ASTORIA, OREGON: WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, 1887. THE TRAMP AS A VICTIM.

A NEW YORK labor union describes the tramp as an unhappy wretch reduced to idleness by the pressure of greedy capital; seeking in deep-eyed distress, for a chance to work for his living but doomed to hateful idleness by social conditions. But as a matter of fact, the tramp is far from unhappy, and he would not change place with the industrious and thrifty trade worker. The conventional idea of the tramp is the correct one—not correct as applied to all tramps at all times and places, but strictly accurate here in this country and now. He is without work because he wants to be without work and because he is happy in his precarious and careless existence. The tramp's life is by no means an unhappy one—it has its attractions. Mankind suffers more from the pressure of responsibilities than from anything else in the world. "Two things," says Kant, "fill me with awe—the starry heavens and the moral responsibility of man." This impresses itself upon most minds, and when there is added the daily responsibilities of decent life, the strain is great. Those persons who are able to throw off all sense of responsibility, who acknowledge no duties, even duties to themselves, are happier than the birds because they have the pleasure of contrasting their free condition with the wearing slavery of the rest of mankind. Lazarus on his dung hill is easy and composed, while the rich man is burdened with cares. Lazarus even laughs at death, for he has nothing to lose.

Homer, according to tradition, was a tramp; the long line of troubadours around whose memory clusters so much of romance, were tramps; and the incomparable Heine had the spirit of the tramp; but the conditions of tramping have changed with the conditions of life generally, and a man cannot be a tramp without being vicious. The duty of every man has become so plain in this world that there must be a surrender of every virtuous quality before a man can become a tramp—the conventional tramp. At this time there is no other than the conventional tramp, for there is work of some sort for every man who is capable of any kind of manual work. Those who suffer for lack of work are not tramps; they are persons who are not qualified for manual labor of the unskilled class and have no trades—persons who have been ambitious, but who have failed to lay hold of a permanent means of making a living—persons who have been clerks and the like. Wages never were better than now, if their purchasing power is considered, and wages are never at a high point when work is scarce and laborers plentiful.

The sympathy of the labor union for the tramp is wasted. The tramp, as he exists in this country at this time, is the only human being free from care. His wants are few and easily satisfied, except in respect of drink. If the tramp could direct legislation he would not provide work for himself at good wages, but merely more whiskey. This is the verdict of experience, and no sentimental expressions about the sadness of tramp life and about its necessity, can effect any change in the tramp's condition.

THE annual discussion about the public schools is going on. Any system of instruction that doesn't fit our youth to earn a living is a failure. As it is, thousands are yearly sent out of our schools with their heads crammed full and their hands filled with sacks full of short strings. Fortunately the most of us have a faculty for forgetting which is all that saves us from mental dyspepsia through life.

THE city council should either elect a police judge or make a move to abolish the office. The present status is ridiculous. Because the city council happens to be half Republican and half Democratic is no reason why Astoria should be without a police court. This little city of ours is too small for such exhibition of "offensive partisanship." The public good, the best interests of the city, are of more importance than these petty disputes and deadlocks whenever a bowl of soup is in sight.

Gov. PENNOYER believes the United States "are."

In The State Senate.

By a joint resolution to-day, it was provided that a committee composed of Senators Allen and Wager, and Representatives Maxwell, Pomeroy and Bilyeu, be charged with the duty of investigating the status and needs of fishery interests of the state and to report their views to either or both houses. To this committee will be referred all the bills relating to our fishing interests presented in both houses, including the proposition to investigate the fish ladder, built by the state at Oregon City two years ago. Subsequently Gray gave notice in the senate that tomorrow he would introduce a joint resolution to enlarge the committee, and to send it with the commerce committees of both houses to Astoria to study this question on the ground; also to investigate the management of the state pilot schooner Governor Moody. Gray is very enthusiastic over this matter, and is likely to carry his point. If the committee are sent, as it is proposed, they will probably leave here next Friday by the noon train, take a special boat at Portland and go through to Astoria Friday night, returning to Portland Sunday, and to Salem Monday morning.—Oregonian Salem Special, 18.

Alleged Popularity of the Game.

At Salem the popular game now is "Simon says thumbs up."—Albany Herald.

Bringing gladness to millions, pleasing their palates and cleansing their system, arousing their livers, kidneys, stomachs and bowels to a healthy activity. Such is the mission of the famous California liquid fruit remedy Syrup of Figs. 50c. and \$1 bottles for sale by W. E. Dement & Co.

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What is better than a glass of liquor? A cup of delicious coffee at Fabre's. The best oysters in any style at Fabre's.

Eastern oysters fresh every steamer at Jeff's restaurant.

Genuine Cider Vinegar and Pure Apple Cider at D. L. Beck & Sons.

A new lot of vocal and instrumental music books at the Crystal Palace.

BORN. At Svensen's Landing, Jan. 17th, 1887, to the wife of Perry C. Havird, a daughter.

\$7,000 TO LOAN ON CITY PROPERTY. MISS ELLA POPE. THOS. O. TRULLINGER, Agent.

TILL FURTHER NOTICE Wells, Fargo & Co.'s Express COMPANY WILL FORWARD Money, Mail and Express Matter, to and from San Francisco, C. P. UPSEUR, Agent. Astoria, Jan. 8, 1887. The Company has \$8,000 Money Order Offices in the United States and Canada.

NEW YORK Novelty Store Headquarters For STATIONERY. BOOKS. MAGAZINES. TOYS. JEWELRY. SOLID GOLD AND SILVER. NOVELTIES OF ALL DESCRIPTIONS CANES, Perfumeries, Toilet Articles, Etc. ALL THE— Latest Styles on Exhibition. Agents for Will & Finck's Sporting Goods. Meeting Notice. THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BRITISH AMERICAN PACKING COMPANY, Limited, will be held at the residence of Gust. Holmes, Upper Astoria, at 9 A. M., on Wednesday, the 19th, inst. A. YOUNG, Secretary.

For Sale. THE DEEP SEA FISHING CO.'S SLOOP Venture, built in 1885, registered tonnage 227. Enquire of J. Q. A. BOWLEY or A. V. ALLEN.

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Purse Salmon Seines For outside fishing. One can be made very strong and very light, and can be handled QUICK—LOW IN COST. In the New England waters are over four hundred large Purse seines for mackerel, herring and menhaden, 200 fathoms long, 25 fathoms deep, any fish that move in compact bodies can be taken in these seines. We offer the

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