

The Daily Astorian.

ASTORIA, OREGON: SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1887. THE CITY ELECTION.

On the 14th of next month the city will select a mayor, two councilmen and other city officials. The question of party politics rightly cuts no figure in this matter.

There will be of course two tickets, for serene and unanimous harmony is not wholly desirable, but here is the question to be answered: "Is the man honest and capable?"

The city suffers or prospers by the acts of its officials. It is for the taxpayers, the residents of the city, to say who they want, and for them whom the people have chosen to fill the positions to the best of their ability.

This is all there's to it. It doesn't make any difference to us in our little business affairs whether a man is a Republican or a Democrat, or anything else; but it does make a good deal of difference to us, and it is our duty to see that the men who are elected to city offices are possessed of good sense, and will run our public business just as any prudent man would run his private business.

Personal friendship has a good deal to do with it too. A man will naturally vote for the man he feels a liking for, and will naturally oppose the man that he dislikes. And in general a man stands by his friends. It is popularly accepted that "a man that doesn't stand by his friends is no man at all."

Self interest has also considerable to do with it. A man will think twice before he votes for a candidate (no matter how good the candidate may be), who is forever sitting down on him, saying mean things to him and about him, and jibing at him and his friends. He will think twice before he votes for a man who he thinks may injure him or be unfriendly to his interests.

All these things come in, and the few thoughts here briefly expressed are what is generally in the minds and on the tongues of men for a month before a city election in Astoria or any other city anywhere.

The coinage of silver continues, and the country prospers. Two years ago says the Reno Gazette, dire predictions were made by gold bugs in Wall street that unless the white metal ceased to be a part of our monetary system, financial ruin and disaster would result to the nation. But the coinage goes steadily on, and the howlers have evidently sought and found their holes. The east, west, north and south are enjoying unusual prosperity, and the signs of the times point to a continuance of the same. With all the "cussin" it has received, silver continues to hold its place in the markets of the world. At the present time it is firm and steady.

Gov. OGLESBY of Illinois whose position as sole arbiter of the fate of the Chicago anarchists commanded considerable attention last week, began his career as a carpenter at \$1.50 a day. After he had worked for some time at the bench he made a strike for the bar. After practicing law for a while he fought in the Mexican war and was one of the California gold-diggers of '49. When he came back from digging gold he entered the political arena, and has been three times elected governor of Illinois.

"Never write a letter and never destroy one," said Tallestrand. It was a fool letter that Marple (who was hanged at Lafayette last Friday) wrote to the editor of the Benton Leader that helped as much as anything else to hang him. In that letter he told circumstances of the murder of Corker that only the murderer or a confidant of his could know. The itch for scribbling rarely proves fatal, but in this case it had that result.

The most novel scheme ever adopted for increasing the circulation of a newspaper is that of a Detroit daily, which advertises that its publishers will give \$100 to the next of kin to any person who is killed in a railway accident in the United States or Canada, provided a late copy of the paper be found on the person of the deceased.

Col. J. H. WOODARD, not wholly unknown in these parts, returned to San Francisco last Monday from an extended visit to Boston and New York.

The sales of public lands the past year amounted to 25,858,053 acres, which is 3,733,474 acres more than in 1886, and the receipts were \$3,247,727 greater. The number of acres restored to the public domain was 31,824,481.

THE SEA SERPENT. A Desperate Battle with a Monster on the Louisiana Coast.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 7.—Information has reached this city that a sea serpent or an unknown marine monster was shot in the Gulf of Mexico, but on account of its immense size only the head could be secured. The head will soon be in possession of the National Museum, there to be "studied" by the scientific staff. To Captain James P. Hare, who is in charge of the Trinity Show Lightship, off the Louisiana coast, belongs the honor of securing this prize. He has relatives in this city, and to them he has written a very interesting letter describing his encounter with the monster of the sea. He says that while his ship was lazily rolling on the ground swell, one of the seamen came to him and told him that he had seen a strange object in the sea, a couple of cable-lengths from the ship.

The Captain, with the aid of a pair of powerful glasses, saw, to use his own words, "As hideous a creature as ever the human eye rested upon. The first casual glance convinced me that, although from a distance following the precarious vicissitudes of a seaman's life, and having visited all the prominent waters of the globe, and naturally seeing many strange inhabitants of the sea and land, I found it impossible to name or classify this monster in view."

Determined to investigate further, the Captain called for a volunteer crew and a boat was immediately manned. In addition to harpoons and axes, Captain Hare took his rifle and fifty rounds of ball cartridges. When they got within fifteen yards of their prey the boat stopped and Hare fired. "Simultaneously with the sharp crack of the rifle and the thud of the striking bullet," he writes, "it suddenly reared its head high and began lashing the water with intense fury. Never have I seen such fury displayed by any creature exhibited. Its motions were so rapid and furious that it was impossible for the eye to retain its form. All that was distinguishable was a huge, dark, writhing mass, surrounded by seething foam, into which the water was lashed by the stricken and enraged monster. In a few minutes the Captain fired another shot, which one only seemed to still further enrage the beast. By this time the blood was spurting from a number of wounds in the head, and the surrounding waters were dyed a deep crimson. Suddenly it turned and with distended jaws, which showed its huge, tuski-like teeth, commenced to approach the boat. The crew stood ready for the attack. Hare realized that it was a fight to the death, and the chances were even if not in their adversary's favor. He threw out four empty water-breakers, hoping thereby to distract its attention long enough to enable him to strike a vital part. The ruse worked to a certain extent. The sea-serpent checked its breakers one after another, and the Captain kept up a constant fusillade, but without being able to reach a vital spot. "As it reached the side of the boat," he writes, "it slowly raised its hideous head, opened its neck, and with wide extended jaws it seized the side and gunwale of our boat and crushed it as easily as though it was made of glass. The crew rained in blow after blow in rapid succession with their axes and hatchets. The monster's throat was cut and he fell into the sea, and I shot into its quivering body ball after ball. It was not long that this strange and curious battle continued. After a few spasmodic tremblings the animal suddenly, with one convulsive jerk that carried away the side of the boat, fell with a splash alongside, a huge dead, repulsive mass. As it slowly settled beneath the surface of the water we hastily attached a low-line and tried by every effort in our command and condition to secure it for other and more scientific investigation. Although we went to our work with a will I soon found that the strong southerly current, together with the cumbersome body of the monster, rendered our almost dismantled boat and our exhaustion was rapidly setting us to leeward and on the shoals, and being now some distance from the ship and night fast setting in, I was most reluctantly compelled to order the reptile cut adrift. Before we did so we severed its head from its huge body, which we soon saw disappear in the dark water."

Captain Hare says he cannot form any idea of the creature's length. At no time did he see more than forty or fifty feet exposed, and how much more was submerged is only problematical. Its color was a rusty-black on top, fading to a yellowish-white on the under part.

Chinamen have a habit of storing 40 or 50 cents in 10-cent pieces in their ears, to save no doubt, the trouble of feeling in their pockets for small change. Another curious thing in connection with the Chinese is their custom of putting coins of various denominations in the mouths of the dead. These coins fall into the hands of the coolies, who scrape the bones of the disinterred bodies and through them pass into general circulation. It is said that a \$50 gold slug was found in the month of a Chinese body disinterred at the Chinese cemetery recently while it is a frequent occurrence to find gold \$5 and \$10 pieces. Taking into consideration the foregoing facts, it is indeed, an unsafe habit to put money in one's mouth, especially when it is not known whether the Chinaman ever cleaned his ear or whether the deceased died of leprosy, smallpox or something else as bad.

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Ross' Opera House. ONE NIGHT ONLY! Monday, November 14th, 1887. The Charming Emotional Actress, MAUDE GRANGER, Supported by R. CERMAINE, CHAS. CHAPPELLE, and a Strong Dramatic Company in the Great Play, entitled, A Planter's Wife.

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