

The Daily Astorian.

ASTORIA, OREGON: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1887

RULES on going security, and endorsing notes are going around. They are long and very good, of the kind. But here's one rule that is not in the list, "Don't."

THE bar tug service appears to be at present run "for revenue only." Under former management such service as that rendered by the Donald to the Ecclefechan had been rendered without charge or expectation of reward, or if charge were made, the amount was moderate and reasonable. The effect is detrimental to the commerce of the Columbia.

It is not clear to THE ASTORIAN what possible good can result from the chawing and complaining of southern Oregon papers over the late constitutional amendments election in this state. The amendments were proposed, were argued, were voted on by the people, were defeated, and that's all there is or ought to be to it. The future can probably take care of itself. It generally does.

THE death of Halloran in King county, W. T., makes necessary the election of another representative to the territorial legislature. Woman suffrage is the issue in the special election, the Republican candidate being opposed to woman suffrage and the advocates of that idea having concentrated on the opposition candidate as their standard bearer. Recent events in this state have shaken the faith of some former zealous advocates of woman suffrage who look upon the present contest with indifference.

THE United States fish commissioner's steamer Albatross leaves Washington to-day for San Francisco to devote two or three years to the fisheries of this north Pacific coast. This is commendable, and the results of the trip will, doubtless, be beneficial. But the professors who will accompany the expedition must have some funny notions about our Pacific coast fishermen. One of them, Prof. Lee, in stating the intentions of the party, says, among other things, that he will post the fishermen on the Pacific slope on the use of the gill net. It may be that the professor can give the Columbia river fishermen some points about gill nets and how to use them, but we doubt it. He may in the quiet recesses of his study have dropped on some improved way of handling a gill net, but, somehow, we have the idea, that when Prof. Lee gets here he will change his ideas on this point.

INTERESTING ILWACO ITEMS.

ILWACO, Nov. 15. Heavy weather, of late the telephone wire between here and the weather beach is down and broken in some places. In time some of the telegraph poles planted during the winter of '82-3 between Ft. Canby and Scarborough head to connect the wire with the river cable to Fort Stevens have become rotten and broken close to the ground surface in last Friday's gale.

Herman Ogden and wife came down from Harrington point in a fishing boat having in tow a large pound net boat containing their household effects and two traps nets belonging to J. E. Graham of this place. Of McGowan's the gale struck them carrying away rudder, broke main boom and parting the tow line. The pound boat soon filled and sunk, but Ogden managed to repair damages to the fishing boat and reach here safely.

The Washington territory board of pilot commissioners held a meeting on Saturday, the 12th inst., and granted a renewal of bar branches to pilots M. D. Staples, J. H. Harriman, and L. S. Staples.

At the school election, same day, B. A. Seaborg was re-elected school director, and F. S. Bates district clerk.

Miss Inez Stout and Miss C. Brodie are visiting here.

The Ilwaco Hook & Ladder Co. will give their first annual ball on Thanksgiving night, the 24th inst. All of our citizens will help to make this ball an agreeable success, as the object in view is to raise funds for a fire bell. Several of our firemen served their time in Astoria companies and extend cordial invitations to their friends in our city.

Worked For All There Is In It.

On September 30 last, the British ship Ecclefechan was taken in tow at Astoria by the steamboat Oklahoma for this city. By some slight accident the latter's steam ran down and the ship, which was in ballast, went on the sands off the O. R. & N. wharf. The tug Donald pulled her off in a few moments and now wants \$5,000 for the work. Capt. Dow answers that his ship was in no danger and that the tug did not do service to the value of \$5,000. In order to avoid trouble, more than for any other reason, he tendered \$500. The service was certainly a light one, but, as the tug business is now being worked for all there is in it, the probabilities are that before the winter is over the courts will have plenty of business. Outside people own the tugs now at work and care little for the port except as it can be made to pay well.—Oregonian, 15.

A CONFESSION BY MARPLE.

Story of the Murder of Corker as Told To a Fellow Prisoner.

He States that His Mother and His Wife Were Implicated in the Crime—Other Murders in which He took a Hand.

LAFAYETTE, Or., Nov. 14.—To-day Wm. H. Hess, a prisoner confined in the county jail made public a confession which Marple, the murderer, instant, Hess made affidavit to the statements before the county clerk. Following is a verbatim copy of what Hess testified to: Statement of Richard E. Marple in regard to the murder of D. I. Corker. Wm. Henry Hess the day before Marple was executed:

I was in jail with Marple some three or four weeks before he was executed. He always told about the same story, and in substance that it was Eastman and Clark and quite a number of the citizens of Lafayette, together with the Masons, that committed the murder, till the day before he was hanged, at which time he said that I did not believe these statements he had been making to me about these men murdering Corker and that the time was near at hand for his execution, and I would like to know all about it. Then, after hesitating a moment, he said if I would enter into a vow to never tell any one in case he was released, and that I would not tell any one till after he was executed, in case he should be executed, he would tell me the straight of it. I took all the vows he requested me to take. Then he told me he had come to actual want, and having knowledge that Corker had money, he proceeded to make these plans for robbing him: Said his mother was intimate with Mr. Corker and had visited him privately; that on the night of the murder his mother was in Mr. Corker's bedroom when he was murdered and drugged him; that himself and mother took all the money he had on him before that night, and that they did not intend to murder him, but to rob him; said he had studied medicine and knew the effects of drugs.

After waiting long enough for the drug given by his mother to take effect, we went to the door to get in, but found it fastened. Then went around by the side of the house and crept through the window, and after he got in Mr. Corker was in an uneasy slumber. Then his mother suggested that if they robbed him he might wake up and then she would be arrested for the robbery. Then he advanced the idea that they should kill him and fire the building. His mother then took the ax, which they got out of the store, and struck him a glancing blow with the pole or back of the ax on the forehead, which brought him out of his slumber into a struggling position. Then he (Marple) gathered the ax out of the old lady's hand and commenced cutting him with the edge. But as he lay in a wrong position for a left-handed man, it was some time before he got a satisfactory blow on the neck. Finally he gave him a center blow which brought him dead, after which he obtained the money, \$26.75, which was to be divided, one-half to his mother and one-half to him. His mother took the money.

After he was murdered they straightened him out in a position as though the murder had been committed by the Masonic order. After the murder they thought they heard a noise on the outside, and they went out to see what it was, and then he went out, and himself and mother returned home as fast as they could. Said the murder was committed between 9 and 10 o'clock in the evening. He said Corker was a man who occasionally took a drink, and in that way his mother drugged him. That his mother had acted a hog, and had not given his wife one-half the money. Said he had intended to leave town that night after the murder, to throw suspicion off from him, but found his wife in such a state of health that he did not think it safe to leave her.

I said something to him about it being such a horrible thing to kill a man in that way for money. He said that in case of actual want it was nothing more to kill a man than to kill a hog. He told me that he helped to kill an old lady in Oregon City, that the name was Hager. Said she was killed with a hatchet; that she was a perfect tiger, and fought desperately. That the first one that tackled her she got the best of, and that he (Marple) caught the hatchet and struck her an blow on the back and the hatchet was dropped, and the third man caught it and dealt her a fatal blow and finished her; said one of the men lost his shirt collar in the struggle; that they did not get much money; that he was wearing a ring that he got from Mrs. Hager, and that he took it off her finger after she was killed; that they had heard that she had got a check for a considerable amount of money and supposed she had the money, but they could not find it.

Said he was one of the parties that helped to kill a French woman in Portland that they got quite a sum of money; that she was killed by being chopped to death, that there were four persons connected with it—three inside that done the work and one outside watching. He said that he had manufactured the story implicating the sheriff and other citizens of Lafayette, and the Masons, with the murder of Corker to throw the suspicion off from himself, and to get even on those who had been active in convicting him. That he had written out this story and committed it to memory, so he could tell it just alike every time. That they thought him a fool but they were badly left on that. That he had an extraordinary memory. If he was relieved I was never to mention this. He did not want me to ever mention anything about his mother being connected with this murder. He said the reason he implicated T. J. Harris, the sheriff, was because he had been overbearing to him in jail and had not treated him right and he wanted to kill him in the eyes of the people. At the time I was talking to him I was in the north corridor of the jail alone, and he was in his cell and the other prisoners were in the south corridor. The conversation was interrupted by the other prisoners coming around to where we were. I did not have time to get a full statement from him, as we could only talk when the other prisoners were on the other side of the cells. We had to talk in a low voice to keep the other prisoners from hearing us. I had no opportunity to talk with Marple after that time on Thursday. I knew nothing about these things except what he told me. Marple also told me that his mother would have given the whole thing away if she had been kept in prison a week longer. He said that the man that was tried and convicted of the murder of old Mrs. Hager, and now in the penitentiary had nothing to do with the murder of Mrs. Hager. He said he saw Clark talking to Mrs. Corker and he thought it was about money. That he asked Clark what they were talking about, but he gave him a bluff answer. That Clark had done all he could to convict him and he wanted to get even with him.

STATE OF OREGON, COUNTY OF YAMHILL. I, William H. Hess, being duly sworn, depose and say that the above statement is a true and correct statement of the substance of the conversation between myself and R. E. Marple the day before he was executed in relation to the murder of D. I. Corker. WM. H. HESS. Subscribed and sworn to before me this 14th day of November, 1887. GEO. W. BRIDWELL, J. County Clerk.

J. N. Knowles Wants \$5,000. J. N. Knowles has libeled the British bark Ecclefechan for a claim of \$5,000. The libellant is the master of the tug Donald, and alleges that he pulled the Ecclefechan off the sands in the Columbia river, opposite Astoria, where she had gone aground, and asserts that the service thus rendered was of the reasonable value of \$5,000.

John Dow master of the Ecclefechan, replies to the libel at considerable length. He declares the ship, when on the sands, was in no danger, and not in need of any aid from the tug; that the services of the latter were in no way sought by him, but were requested by the captain of the Oklahoma, which had the Ecclefechan in tow at the time she grounded. He farther says that the Donald was not at work more than fifteen minutes, and the services rendered were not worth more than \$50. He had, however, without prejudice to his rights, offered Capt. Knowles \$500, which had been refused. The Ecclefechan is now lying at Astoria, under arrest and in the custody of the United States marshal.—Oregonian, 15.

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