

The Daily Astorian

PUBLISHED BY Astorian-Columbian Publishing Company, ASTORIA, OREGON

Terms of Subscription. DAILY. Served by Carrier, per week 15 cts

THE ASTORIAN GUARANTEES TO ITS ADVERTISERS the largest circulation of any newspaper published on the Columbia River.

TODAY'S WEATHER.

Portland, March 28.—For Washington and Oregon: occasional light rain; warmer.

Local weather for the twenty-four hours ending at 5 p. m., yesterday, furnished by the U. S. department of agriculture, weather bureau:

This paper has the largest Circulation on the Columbia River.

An honest and complete telegraphic report gives a newspaper a right and title to the name. The news of the world, fresh every morning at your breakfast table, is what you can find in the Astorian.

We understand that at the next meeting of the city council an ordinance for the licensing and restriction of gambling in this city is to be introduced, and it is not our intention, as some critics have stupidly imagined, to let the question go without expressing plainly and in no equivocal terms, our views on its merits and defects.

So, when we state that we favor the proposed change, that, in fact, we stand up for licensing a criminal taint in the character of mankind, may we hope that our readers will follow us carefully through the course of reasoning that brings us to this position.

This city has been incorporated since the year 1856, and in 1868 the Legislature of Oregon passed a law making any form of gambling a criminal act.

Today the city exists, the same anti-gambling law exists, and the gamblers are here in bigger swarms than have ever infested the place before.

The proposed ordinance shuts out the

possibility of any more work of this character, and at the outset ropes off the difference in the proclivities of the man mature enough to follow his own will, and the youthful credulity of boyhood.

Men will gamble. You may pile legislation into your statute books as high as the Himalayas, and still the Anglo Saxon delight for "backing an opinion" will crop out in a thousand forms.

And what does this amount to? You have probably seen at one time or another in your life a big body of water dammed up by a concrete wall stretched across its outlet.

It will restrict gambling down to municipal supervision. It will control its results, inasmuch as the city will be bound to keep a daily watch on the methods employed, and will thus prevent swindling.

The Astorian has been in existence for twenty years. During that time, its policy, guided by different hands and minds, has changed. Its principles, never, from the time of its foundation it has always been found on the side of morality and of municipal and private honor, and this thing that we advocate today keeps us in the old honest path.

JOHN R. RATHOM.

In another column we publish this morning an editorial from the Oregonian on the Astoria railroad situation. It was only natural perhaps that as soon as it was known that such an article had appeared, critics by the dozen were ready to sneer at its motives and to question its sincerity.

We believe that it was prompted by earnest conviction, and a spirit of fair play that Astoria is in no position to belittle or condemn. It may be very true that, despite everything, an era of prosperity is bound to come to us, but that surmise, for it is nothing more, cannot detract one tittle from the manly and liberal words of the Oregonian.

At the next meeting of the city council, an ordinance to license gambling in the city of Astoria will come up for consideration.

This is a matter of grave importance. The question of dollars and cents, which is usually the only one to be considered sinks into secondary importance.

The moral result in this case is the one of first importance. The city council is composed of men elected to look after the moral and financial interests of the city in the best business way.

In the present state of society it is impossible to secure perfect morality. It is impossible to entirely suppress evil and the council are called upon to decide what means will to the fullest extent limit, suppress and weigh down the evil, which it is apparent they have not the power to stamp out and destroy.

A horde of gamblers plying their business in well known resorts, and official corruption are conditions plain to be seen wherever an attempt is made to legislate the gambling out of existence.

The matter before the council is in some respect a difficult one to decide on its merits, involving as it does moral and financial questions that require careful consideration and freedom from bias of personal interests that may be affected by expression of opinion.

It is not safe in matters of this nature to trust to one or two men's judgment. A consensus of opinion will guide to the best results for the community.

Recognizing this, The Astorian has taken care to interview many of our citizens, and of different views. The conscienceless gambler who wants everything "run wide open," the moral people who ineffectually struggle to shut all evil up tight, and cast it into the lowermost depths of Hades, the avaricious landlord who is considering only how to squeeze out the biggest rental from his houses, and the careful business man who is trying to consider everything, including the reputation of the city abroad, and the possible effect license or no license would have in attracting or repelling valuable investors.

All these have been consulted and their opinions noted as evidence. The other newspapers in the city have published their opinions editorially, and also the opinions of interested parties. The Astorian has refrained from expressing its opinion until it could give the question the careful consideration its importance demands.

The following will sufficiently illustrate the variety of opinion expressed by our people on the question whether to license gambling or not.

- 1. "Don't license it. Enforce the state law. It stamps gambling as a crime. If you license it you brand this community as one that upholds and favors gambling. Astoria will be advertised far and wide as a city that is the abode of open immorality."

- 2. License it. We can't stop it any more than we can close out the saloons and stop drinking, and we ought to make those who keep gambling houses pay well for the privilege."
- 3. "Well, we have a state law against gambling, that ought to be enforced, but there is not enough sentiment opposed to gambling in this community to enforce the law. Still I think it would look bad to license gambling. It would be an admission to the outside world that the morals of this community were rather low. It would not be a good advertisement for the city. Better let the matter stand as it is, and sometimes the moral element of the community may rise and enforce the law."

The foregoing gives with sufficient accuracy the views of different people on this question. Note this, the two opposite classes in the city who unite in opposing licensed gambling. First, the highly moral, whose sympathies incline to prohibition. Second, the proprietors of places with respectable ap-

pearance to screen the little back room where boys, young men, and old, gather to gamble every night.

One of the evening papers published more than a column of interviews with proprietors of different places where gambling is indulged, and their opinions were overwhelmingly against licensing gambling.

These people prefer to let the law stand as it is, because they know that there is no one that is able and interested to enforce it.

Here are two seeming paradoxes: The radical prohibitionist and the saloonkeeper both unite in opposing licensed gambling.

The religiously moral element of the country demand Sunday closing of the World's Fair, while the saloons and brewers of Chicago earnestly petition and demand the same thing.

The reason for this is easily given. It is in this way that very good and well meaning people surely defeat their own good purposes by using means that are radical and impracticable.

The Astorian's opinion on this matter is the result of earnest conviction.

The experiment of a prohibitory law has been tried here and in other cities for years, and gambling has increased, not diminished.

The number of places where young men and boys may indulge a propensity for gambling screened from public view, is increasing, and every little while some young man who has held a place of trust and confidence, is found "short" and the fact is traced to his indulgence in gambling. Instances of this kind have come under the personal observation of the writer.

It is probably true that not one of these boys, or young men, have yet become so demoralized as to risk their reputation by going into a public gambling house where they would be compelled to play openly. If they did, no employer would retain them in his service, for a propensity for gambling is a poor recommendation for a clerk or employe.

The worst schools for gambling are ostensibly cigar and tobacco stands. There are tobacco and cigar stands that are for legitimate business where no gambling for money is allowed. But no public stamp of their character is given them. Boys and young men frequent these places and play till late at night and for coin, a considerable amount of which is often seen on the table.

Would it not be better for the morals of this community if this demoralizing evil were localized, confined to but one or two places where it would be a notorious fact that people go only to gamble?

Let the license on gambling be as heavy as the business will stand without causing all to evade it. The few who would pay the license would insist that gambling in places not paying a license should be punished, and they would be interested parties to bring offenders to punishment.

It should be a punishable offense for any keeper of a gambling house to allow a minor on the premises.

The license should be high and the regulations of the ordinance strict and its penalties severe.

As to the assertion that licensed gambling would place a stamp of immorality on the city, that would injure it abroad, this is to be said:

If numerous cases of smallpox were discovered in this city, there would be many persons who would try to have the fact hushed up, and no public notice made of it for fear it would injure the reputation of the town. This course has been pursued in many instances and with lamentable results.

The sensible way would be to let the fact be known. Build a pest house and try to confine the disease there. Hang out the yellow flag. Let the character of the premises be loudly proclaimed. Under such conditions few will visit the place except the physicians and those who are sick with smallpox, or those who are vaccinated and are proof against infection.

There is evil and crime and filth in every city, and it does not reflect unfavorably on the reputation of the place to have it known that these pests are assigned isolated premises, or that drains and receptacles are provided that shall keep the greater portion of

the city in clean and respectable condition.

Experience proves that the state law against gambling can not be enforced in this community.

Gambling is being carried on almost unmolested in places that claim to be respectable.

Is it not time to try some other plan to at least restrict this evil?

If the plan of licensing it proves unsatisfactory, try something else.

There is little sense in clinging to a plan that has proved a corrupting failure. P. W. PARKER.

The accusation made by the Evening Budget that the editor of The Astorian told a certain "gentleman" that one of the councilmen had been bribed is a mean spiteful lie, that could only emanate from men without honor or shame. We demand in common decency that the contemptible cowards give the name of the "gentleman." If such a man exists he is knowingly and willfully guilty of a base untruth. Had we even suspected that our city councilors were bribed, we would have said so in a straightforward and open manner through these columns, for we are never afraid or ashamed to say what we think. It is our firm conviction backed by the belief of many members of the community, that the rumor has been started by this filthy evening sheet in the attempt to turn the councilmen against the gambling ordinance. It means life or death to these sharks, for, if the ordinance goes through, their occupation and the occupation of the Evening Budget, is gone.

The columns of The Astorian are open to full and free discussion on both sides of the gambling question. We hope that our citizens will let their fellow taxpayers know in this manner just what they believe in regard to it. It will be noticed that we present today two editorials on the subject, both of them signed—a departure from the common custom. Both Mr. Parker, the proprietor, and Mr. Rathom, the editor, have thought it best in a matter of this nature to sink the editorial "we" into personal speech to the readers of the paper, and to give the proprietor the opportunity to say through these columns that he is in accord with our position.

YOU SHOULD READ THIS.

The popularity of the Union Pacific is best determined by the superior service it affords to the traveling public in maintaining two daily through trains to Omaha, St. Paul, Chicago and points east, thoroughly equipped with all the latest appliances for the comfort and safety of its patrons besides shortening the distance materially with its fast trains. The present train schedule enables passengers to reach St. Paul seven hours quicker and Chicago twenty-four hours quicker. Omaha and Kansas City and intermediate points, forty hours quicker than any line from the Pacific Northwest.

Patronize the Northern Pacific railroad if you are going East. Low rates of fare, through tickets, baggage checked to destination. All purchasers of second class tickets can stop over at Portland. Rates of fare same as from Portland.

If you have friends in Europe whose passage you wish to prepay to Astoria, call at the Northern Pacific office, steamer Telephone dock, and make known your wants. Reduced rates via all the leading steamship lines.

All the patent medicines advertised in this paper, together with the choicest perfumery, and toilet articles etc., can be bought at the lowest prices at J. W. Conn's drug store, opposite Occident hotel, Astoria.

Handley & Haas, 150 First street, Portland, have on sale the Daily Astorian, so that visitors need not miss their morning paper when they are here.

L. P. Fisher, newspaper advertising agent, 21 Merchants' Exchange, San Francisco, is our authorized agent. This paper is kept on file at his office.

Wing, Lee & Co. carry a full line of Japanese and Chinese fancy goods, novelties and curios. Ladies' underwear made to order. 529 Third street.

Sing Lung, 355 Third street, carries a full line of Japanese and Chinese goods, novelties, curios, ladies' underwear made to order, at low prices.

Parties visiting in Portland can get The Daily Astorian at Handley & Haas' news stand, 150 First street.

Remember the Austin House at the Seaside is open the year around. Call at the Albatross Fish Market for fresh smelts daily.

I AM SO HAPPY!

3 BOTTLES OF S.S.S.

Relieved me of a severe Blood trouble. It has also caused my hair to grow out again, as it had been falling out by the handful. After trying many physicians in vain, I am so happy to find a cure in S.S.S. O. H. ELBERT, Galveston, Tex.

BUSINESS CARDS.

A. CIBRON'S ACCOUNTS and PROFESSIONAL BOOKKEEPER. OFFICE: With General Messenger Co., 515 Skamogue street.

A. A. CLEVELAND, ATTORNEY AT LAW. Office—Klaney's new brick building, corner Third and Genevieve streets; up stairs.

J. Q. A. BOWLBY, ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW. Office on Second Street, Astoria, Or.

JOHN H. SMITH, ATTORNEY AT LAW. Office in Klaney's new brick building, over Astoria National Bank.

W. W. PARKER, REAL ESTATE AND INSURANCE AGENT. Office 112 Beulton street, Astoria, Oregon.

D. R. C. COULTER, PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON. Office in Flavel's brick building. Calls attended promptly at anytime day or night.

D. R. ELLI JANSON, PHYSICIAN & SURGEON. R. O. M. 7. Office—Ozard's Clothing Store, hours, 10 to 12 m, 2 to 5 p, m, 7 to 8 p. m. Sunday, 10 to 11 m.

D. R. O. B. ESTES, PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON. Special attention to Diseases of Women and Surgery. Office over Dr. Zigler's store Astoria.

D. R. A. L. and J. A. FULTON, DISEASES OF WOMEN A SPECIALTY. Surgery by J. A. Fulton. Office 175 Cass street. Hours 10 to 12 and 1 to 4.

JAY TUTTLE M. D., PHYSICIAN, SURGEON & ACCOUCHUR. Office, rooms 3, 4 over Astoria National Bank, hours, 10 to 12 & 2 to 5. Residence, 639 Cedar st.

DR. WALTER I. HOWARD, HOUSE-PHYSICIAN & SURGEON. Office, 494 Third street. Hours—10 to 12 and 2 to 4, Sunday 1 to 2. Residence 408 3/4 street.

L. P. MULLINIX, M. D., Gives special treatment for Catarrh, Throat Lungs, Kidney Genito-Urinary organs. Office upstairs, 585 1/2 Third St. Hours, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

RICHARD HARRY, City Surveyor. C. H. BROM.

HARRY & ISOM, CIVIL ENGINEERS AND SURVEYORS. ROOMS 5 AND 6, OVER ASTORIA NATIONAL BANK.

W. T. BURNBY, J. W. DRAFER.

Burney & Draper, Attorneys at Law. Oregon City, Oregon.

Twelve years' experience as registrar of the U. S. Land Office here, recommends us in our specialty of Mining and all other business before the Land Office of the Courts, and involving the practice of the General Land Office.

BROCKBROUGH & COWING.

LAW OFFICE, OREGON CITY, OR. Special attention given to land business. Settles on homesteads or pre-emption claims and timber land purchases shown every advantage the law affords. For assistance in making final proof call on us.

THOS. FREDRICKSON, PIANO TUNER. No. 21, West Sixth Street.

SOCIETY MEETINGS.

Scandinavian Benevolent Society. REGULAR MEETINGS OF THIS SOCIETY at their rooms in Ryland building at eight o'clock P. M. on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. AUG. DANIELSON Secretary.

Ocean Encampment No. 13, I. O. O. F. REGULAR MEETINGS OF OCEAN EN-CAMPMENT No. 13, I. O. O. F., at the Lodge, in the Old Fellows Building, at seven P. M., on the second and fourth Mondays of each month. Sojourning brethren cordially invited. By order G. P.

Astoria Building & Loan Association. REGULAR MEETINGS OF THIS ASSOCIATION are held at 8 P. M. on the first Wednesday of each month. Office on Genevieve street, south of Chemsun. W. L. BOBB, Secretary.

Common Council. REGULAR MEETINGS, FIRST AND THIRD Tuesday evenings of each month at 8 o'clock.

Persons desiring to have matters acted upon by the Council, at any regular meeting must present the same to the Auditor and Clerk, in or before the Friday evening prior to the Tuesday on which the Council holds its regular meeting. K. OSBURN, Auditor and Police Judge.

Board of Pilot Commissioners. THE REGULAR MEETINGS OF THIS BOARD, will be held on the first Monday of each month at 10 a. m. in the rooms of the Astoria Chamber of Commerce. W. L. BOBB, Sec.

Highest of all in Leavening Power.—Latest U. S. Gov't Report.

Royal Baking Powder ABSOLUTELY PURE

YOU CAN HAVE A HOME IN HILL'S FIRST ADDITION.

For the Next Thirty Days, To meet imperative demands, I will offer at such low prices on installments, with easy payments, that

EVERY LABORING MAN OR MECHANIC Can avail himself of this golden opportunity. LOTS IN THIS CHOICE ADDITION FOR \$75 EACH, AT \$5 DOWN ON BOND, AND \$5 PER MONTH.

For - Thirty - Days - Only I make this offer. Less than one mile from Astoria Box Factory on Columbia river. Streets 75 and alleys 20 feet wide.