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TODAY'S WEATHER. Portland, March 31.-For Oregon and Washington: Light rain, becoming showery.

Local weather for the twenty-four hours ending at 5 p. m., yesterday, furnished by the U. S. department of agriculture, weather bureau: Maximum temperature, 52 degrees. Minimum temperature, 42 degrees. Precipitation, .56 inch.

Once again let us turn our attention to the sneak thieves of this city, who stand so bitterly and with such a determined showing against the passage of an ordinance licensing gambling.

The public have stood the infliction of this filthy organ long enough. The applause of its kind keeps it alive, and in every dive and gambling hell is a copy of the paper, its dirt and suggestiveness finding keen and delighted admiration in such quarters.

At the back of this sheet stands the front row of its assistants—men of the calibre of and standing of "Pete Dourel," "Harry Christensen," etc., etc. Is it not, we ask in all conscience, an eternal disgrace to our city that such individuals can carry on their traffic in boys and young girls unmolested? Now, if ever is the time for the honorable element of the community to assert itself, and, by the blow it can inflict by the passage of the ordinance, for ever rid us of at least a large portion of this disgraceful horde.

We have felt it a duty we owe to our readers to say in no equivocal language what we think on this point, and, having done this, and having dealt with the subject plainly and openly, let us say that under no circumstances will we in future stoop to notice the accusations and untruths of such a newspaper. Knowing the source from which these accusations spring, knowing by what class of men they are prompted, and for what object they are made, we intend to refrain from soiling our hands in reply or protestation. The respectable element of the community will know and understand why we take this course.

The gambling evil is a degrading curse, but one which has withstood all efforts to uproot it. Let it, therefore, be controlled and confined within the narrowest possible limits.

tative government—but that all men are to be merged in the victorious party until in some distant future a complete arrangement of new parties shall take place. We think we are not mistaken in saying that such predictions were made in regard to the democratic party in 1864, in 1868 and in 1872. We know that they were freely made in regard to the republican and democratic parties respectively in 1884 and in 1888. It is therefore not surprising that the same refrain should now be heard with reference to the republican party, defeated at the last election. These prophecies are usually uttered by sanguine persons, young in politics if not in years, who hold to the cheerful belief that history began when they first entered upon the field of public affairs and that all is settled forever when they are successful.

It seems a pity to criticize a theory of human affairs at once so simple and satisfactory to those who believe in it, but unluckily there seems to be no foundation for this one either in fact or experience. There has been a great many elections, and there are going to be a great many more, and the fortunes of political parties are going to vary in the future as in the past. This at least rests on the teachings of history, while personal expressions of faith in the future of the party to which one belongs count for little. The theory that political parties are in the habit of being wiped out and started over again on wholly new lines rests upon an entirely mistaken conception of history.

"The moral element of this community must remember that nearly every gambler who runs a boy trap, every dice-keeper, every dance-hall proprietor, every one that hangs about billiard-rooms, every man running a saloon or cigar-store who wants to gamble, is with them, and that there is a reason for this strange association. Pervert it not, and don't let the skin gamblers and sure thing boosters drag the church into disgrace."—Astoria Examiner, March 31st, 1893.

In answer to Mr. Landen this morning, let us say that we cannot assume that the opinions of the official representatives of the church fairly represent the opinions of their unofficial membership. He assures us that he has the majority of his own church with him on this subject, and we believe that he would make no assertion that he did not know to be absolutely accurate. That point we concede him at once. But let us say that it would be a thousand times better, in a question so weighty and overwhelming as this gambling discussion, for every man in the community to think out his own conclusion, and not take the fiat of any pastor blindly and unhesitatingly. Were the matter a subject for a purely moral application, then any member of a church should feel it his privilege and his duty to follow in the footsteps of his spiritual leader. But it is not open to a moral argument alone. Local conditions and common sense we unhesitatingly declare are the only grounds on which this question should be fought.

From the side of morality we stand hand in hand with Mr. Landen, as we have stated time and time again. Gambling is wrong. It is one of the worst passions of human nature. But it is embedded in that nature and we dare not use a cancer knife to tear it out.

Is it unjust for us to declare that when three clergymen attempt to touch in a timid way the question which is at the bottom of our present municipal discontent, they are so wedded to the established order, and so fearful of the impending revolution that their ingenuity is chiefly exercised in evading the point?

We are glad to notice that our efforts on behalf of new order of things at the city jail have been effective. Already the committee in charge of that department has set about the work of reformation, and in a few weeks we may hope to see matters considerably improved. But there is much more to be done before things are in a satisfactory condition. However, with the thin edge of the wedge in, matters look hopeful.

The Dalles Times-Mountaineer says: "And now comes the Oregonian as a defendant in a libel suit, in which the

American Historical Publishing Company claim \$100,000 damages for editorial comments made on a book entitled a "History of Oregon." It is time that a press censor was appointed for this state, to whom editors should submit all articles which attempt, for the benefit of the public to show up in their true light certain vampires which fasten themselves on the pockets of the community."

In response to numerous requests we reprint the proposed gambling ordinance this morning in full, and again ask all who have not studied it to give it their earnest consideration.

YOU SHOULD READ THIS.

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Handley & Haas, 159 First street, Portland, have on sale the Daily Astorian, so that the visitors to the city and 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.

Regular monthly meeting of the Columbia River Fishermen's Protective Union will be held at their reading rooms, Tuesday, April 4, 1893, at 7:30 p. m. sharp. Business of importance to be transacted. Members in good standing are requested to be present and to have their book or receipt along.

S. H. Clifford, New Cassel, Wis., was troubled with neuralgia and rheumatism, his stomach was disordered, his liver was affected to an alarming degree, appetite fell away, and he was terribly reduced in weight and strength. Three bottles of Electric Bitters cured him.

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Ocean Encampment No. 13, I. O. O. F. REGULAR MEETINGS OF OCEAN ENCAMPMENT 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. F.

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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, on or before the Friday evening prior to the Tuesday on which the Council holds its regular meeting. Auditor and Police Judge.

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