The Daily Astorian.

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WEEKLY. Sent by mail, per year, \$2.00 in advance. Free postage to subscribers,

THE ASTORIAN guarantees to its adver-te largest circulation of any newspaper hed on the Columbia River.

TODAY'S WEATHER.

Portland, April 7.-For Oregon and Washington; fair weather.

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

culture, weather bureau: Maximum temperature, 48 degrees. Minimum temperature, 40 degrees. Precipitation, .35 inch. Total precipitation from July 1st,

1892, to date, 67.71 inchs. Excess of precipitation from July 1st, 1892, to date, 2.55 inches.

ON A CURRENT TOPIC.

The Astorian desires to advocate public measures that will be most beneficial to this community, all things

In order that a law or an ordinance the community to enforce the law.

In this country, where every citizen is equal to every other citizen before the law, a majority and preponderance of opinion is necessary to support those officers whose duty it is to punish law-

If the majority of the people of Astoria were religious, church-going people, then the rest of the inhabitants could be compelled at least to keep an outward observance of the Sabbath day. The majority could close all places of amusement, stop street cars and motor lines from running, so that stay at home in solemn contemplation,

or go to church, or go on Yoot. But if the church-going, religious, Sunday-observing element is in the miligious nature cannot be enforced. ments, pleasure trips, or athletic games on Sunday, or those who conscientious ly wish to observe some other day than Sunday, will rebel against what they consider an unjust restriction of personal liberty.

If it is attempted to enforce existing prohibitory laws against them, they will escape punishment, for they may be tried by a jury selected from their neighbors and sympathizers, and they will not convict them for having don: that which they wish to do themselves For this reason, an attempt to enforce prohibitory laws in Astoria at

present must fail. The majority of our people consider the street cars and motor lines a great Sundays in which to ride wish the livery stables to be kept open, while to stop the steamers of Astoria would be as cruel as to kill the gondolas in

There are two extremes, viz: The one to let the wicked and the careless people do as they please without hindrance or penalty. The other, to let the rigidly moral and religious people have things as they please, which would be to compel every one to do as they do.

Neither of these extremes can rule. It is not reasonable that they should. This is proved by experience.

The Astorian claims that the middle ground, a compromise between the two extremes, is the sensible thing to ad-

against licensing saloons that is now

contribute to defraying the expense caused by their conduct.

This has been done. They pay a l

they are to being convinced that total abstinence is desirable, the higher the license on the saloons will be made, until it becomes prohibitory to some of

And it is similarly so with gambling. If anything the drinking saloon is

in this matter, but it believes that it voices the opinion of a majority of the intelligent portion of this community in what it says.

There are state laws that have be openly and notoriously disregarded. There are city ordinances that have the

They were not enforced because was known that the attempt at enforcement would make great expense and fall of success.

The laws were, and are yet, obnoxlous to a majority of our people. They conflict seriously with, and to

he damage of what are generally con-

The present spasm of law enforce ment will result in the modification or

The attempt to convict all of the unfortunates that were "run in" during the past few nights, will make a heavy expense to be borne by our overbur-

The Astorian does not wish to be considered an oracle, or a censor of public opinion, but it does wish to reflect the best judgment of the community in which its interests and welfare

The editorial columns of a newspaper should not be loaded with the individual opinions of the editor, but the opinions there given should be shaped by the best judgement of all interests.

The Astorian believes that it represents the opinion of this community when it advocates licensing both saloons and gambling houses, and making them pay as high a license as the traffic

In thus compelling them to pay for some of the injury they do, there is not one jot added to the respectability

It simply causes them to yield up ome of their ill-gotten gains.

It is in effect a fine paid in advance, y them and their customers.

This wave of reform is now rolling igh up on the shore from which it will

Let us observe where we are when he disturbed waters find their level. P. W. PARKER.

In another column Sheriff Smith nakes a few remarks more or less unhave the credit for being the prime mover in enforcing the prohibitory laws, he might have commenced year, on." Sheriff Smith probably was never excelled in a conscientious discharge of duty by any sheriff of this county, and there is no reason for supposing that he wears anybody's collar but his own But it is a notorious fact that he didn't commence making wholesale arrests of lawbreakers until after The Astorian actively advocated the strict enforcement of the prohibitory laws that are now the subject of animated discus

Those who lead, generally go ahead. Those who do not lead can be seen following after.

P. W. PARKER.

Who was it that said "It takes all There was the same objection urged A man named Mahler, who keeps a liquor store in Brooklyn, has just proved it. Mahler had words with his wife, Results count. If drinking will be who was patronising the bar too freely. indulged in in spite of all law to the he thought. In revenge for the scoldcontrary, then it is better that those ing he gave her, she told him she had who will drink should be compelled to seen a fortune teller, who proph-

bust thirst and an abounding appetite

for frankfurber and sauerkraut. But he had a kind friend, who was not willing to let Mahler go uncelebratof his death, which appeared, despite the fact that the subject was an object very much "in evidence." Now he is said to admit that he's a bigger fool

It seems to us that the man most fitted for the position of school superintendent of this district is Professor Lyman. He knows the work thoroughly, is shrewd, and above all, a considerate and fair dealing man. We have no hesitation in recommending him to the directors as having the best qualifications for the position. The place of superintendent should, if possible, be made entirely apart from the post of teacher in any one institution.

Oregonian is a Godsend to the democratic sheets of this state, and his dispatches are picked to pieces, twisted and turned, just as if they were the speeches a republican president. If Dunn were at all conscious of these flea bites they might hurt him, but being three thousand miles away and in the midst of hard and conscientious work, he hardly has much time to notice the silly vaporings of demogogic

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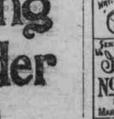
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