

The Daily Astorian

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THE ASTORIAN guarantees to its advertisers the largest circulation of any newspaper published on the Columbia River. In future all items of local interest forwarded to this office must be addressed to the CITY EDITOR.

TODAY'S WEATHER.

Portland, Or., April 12.—For Western Oregon and Western Washington: Occasional showers followed by fair weather, slightly warmer.

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, 50 degrees. Minimum temperature, 37 degrees. Precipitation, .46 inch. Total precipitation from July 1st, 1892, to date, 69.54 inches. Excess of precipitation from July 1st, 1892, to date, 3.19 inches.

FACTS PLAINLY STATED.

The Oregonian of Tuesday contains the following editorial under the caption "A Moral Spasm". It states the facts of the case and the universal experience so plainly that it is given entire:

"Astoria is thrilling with an orgasm of moral reform, which the most sanguine citizens hope may last three weeks. The saloons were closed on Sunday by police order. The directors of the leading social club are under arrest for permitting sale of liquor and play at billiards on Sunday. Twenty-two ladies who carry on a retail traffic opposed by morality and forbidden by law are in confinement or under bail, and as many men have been arrested for gambling or for 'being proprietors of houses where gambling is carried on.' It is not quite clear whether persons of the last category are owners of the premises rented by gamblers or only the proprietors of the outfits and tenants of the buildings. It does not appear that the landlords of the persecuted ladies have been arrested, still the arrest of the club directors seems to prove that the moral epidemic is no respecter of persons. Perhaps, if the landlords have not been arrested, they will be. This is very wholesome and gratifying. It will make Astoria a pleasanter home for its own citizens, a helpful example for other cities an edifying example for all nations, while the moral epidemic lasts. It is desirable that it should endure without limit. Nearly all the things undertaken to be prohibited are bad in themselves or hurtful in their influence. Open saloons on Sunday are an evil thing, not because it is a crime to drink or sell liquor, but because they tend particularly to disorder on a day which is one of idleness for most of their patrons, as well as a day of religious ceremonial for another large class, and disorder breeds crime. The Sunday closing of saloons is a wholesome measure of police prevention. It is true that the sale of liquor in a private clubhouse to members does not tend to public disorder, but it is probable that the arrest of the club directors is not to be taken seriously.

The other practices for which Astorians of both genders are temporarily restrained of their liberty are essentially evil and ought not to exist. Gambling is irredeemably demoralizing. At its best, it is a form of theft and at its worst it is mere swindling and moral debauchery. The traffic of the brothel is infamous. These things ought to be completely extirpated, in Astoria and everywhere else. The city authorities of Astoria, who are trying to abolish them there, and the good citizens who encourage the authorities, deserve nothing but praise for their public virtue and civic courage. They deserve all success in their earnest attempt to make Astoria a moral city. It would be a good thing for the city and the rest of Oregon and the world as well if they would maintain there forever the holy calm and lovely freedom from all forms of vice which made Astoria a terrestrial paradise last Sunday.

But good people do not get what they deserve in this world, and it is impossible to hope that the moral reformers of Astoria will be able to keep the public morals of that place up to the pitch of last Sunday, even for the minimum term of three weeks. Whatever the result of the coming trials, it is dimly probable that, long before that time shall pass, the saloon will be again

open on Sunday, the gamblers will be plying their trade, and emancipated citizens will be again trafficking that which should be priceless for filthy lucre. This conclusion is justified by the uniform history of similar attempts of municipal purification. It is the peculiarity of these spasms of public virtue to be short-lived.

Public virtue, or the moral sense of the community as a whole, has this fatal disadvantage in conflict with public vice, or the evil tendency of the community as a whole, that it is spasmodic and intermittent, while the latter is untiring and constant. The public sentiment of every community is predominantly good; there is more moral sense and motive and purpose than immoral, or society could not endure. But public morality has long seasons of inaction. When its repositories are caring for other interests—their private morals or their commercial or social interests—public vice is always active and vigilant. The latter cannot stand for a day when the former is aroused and active, but it has only to wait a week or a month or a year to regain the lost ground when its powerful enemy falls into inaction. With patience, persistence and diligence, the weaker minority of the vicious can secure a certain average of the freedom in the most virtuous community living. It has only bide its time."

The people of Michigan are confronted by a result of the abolition of capital punishment, which had not been anticipated.

It seems now that criminals who are undergoing life sentences realize that their punishment can be no greater, no matter what additional crimes they may commit. Not long ago a man named Cuddy was murdered by a life convict, an unnatural brute named Latimer, who murdered his mother and killed one of his guards in his attempt to escape. And now the extreme punishment can be given in nothing in addition to what he was getting before. It looks as though we might expect to see murders by life convicts becoming much more frequent, through the operation of this law, and that a sentiment of mercy cannot be safely shown cold-blooded murderers, justice to citizens and a proper regard for the lives of those who are compelled to serve as guards demands that they be killed. While there is a capital crime there should be a capital punishment.

The rows of the nomination of Hon. C. B. Bellinger, as United States District Judge, will be hailed with feelings of satisfaction by all members of the bar with whom Mr. Bellinger has come in contact during the many years of his honorable career in the practice of his profession. An eminent jurist, a man whose mental vision is unclouded and whose integrity is unassailed and above even the suspicion of reproach, Judge Bellinger will be an honor to the bench.

Every despondent man or woman should paste in his or her hat the words which Napoleon spoke to a person who said he would avoid a certain situation by blowing out his brains. "Yes, I can do that," said the emperor, "but those who wish me well could not profit by it, and those who wish me harm would be pleased."

A Chicago paper has a lengthy article on "How to Get Children Out of Jail." This is, no doubt a subject of great importance considering that so small a proportion reside in jails. It may be in order to suggest, however, that much good might result from careful consideration of the means of keeping children out of jail.

FROM MRS. H. W. BEECHER. "40 Orange Street, Brooklyn, N. Y., Feb. 11, 1899. "I have used Alcock's plasters for some years for myself and family, and as far as able, for the many sufferers who come to us for assistance, and have found them a genuine relief for most of the aches and pains which flesh is heir to. I have used Alcock's Plasters for all kinds of lameness and acute pain, and, by frequent experiments, find that they can control many cases not noticed in your circulars. "The above is the only testimonial I have ever given in favor of any plaster, and if my name has been used to recommend any other it is without my authority or sanction." MRS. HENRY WARD BEECHER.

WORLD'S FAIR TRAVELERS WILL HAVE IT. The public demand through service when traveling. It is old fashioned to "change cars." On the through, solid vestibule trains of the Chicago, Union Pacific & Northwestern line from or to Chicago, Omaha and intermediate points there is no change. This is the finest and fastest service between the points named.

Personal Mention.

Mrs. Hall, of Stevens, was a guest at the Occident yesterday.

Mr. R. T. Heath, of San Francisco, arrived in town yesterday.

Mr. W. R. McKenzie and son, of "Garschwim," are guests at the Occident.

Paymaster F. M. Cox, was in town yesterday on his way to Fort Canby. He was accompanied by Mr. E. A. Palmer.

Captain J. A. Brown, of Portland, was a passenger for San Francisco on the steamer State of California yesterday.

Messrs. L. J. Hillhouse, and G. A. Edmunds, of the St. Paul Dispatch are registered at the Occident. They made a visit yesterday to the government works at Fort Stevens.

YOU SHOULD READ THIS.

The popularity of the Union Pacific is best determined by the superior service it accords 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, Cal., has been named as a juror in addition to what he was getting before.

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I had a malignant breaking out on my leg below the knee, and was cured sound and well with two and a half bottles of SSS. Other blood medicines had failed to do me any good. WILL C. BEATT, Yorkville, S. C.

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D. E. ELLIOTT, PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON. R. O. M. 7. Office: Over Osmond's Clothing Store, hours, 10 to 12 m, 2 to 5 p. m., 7 to 8 p. m., Sunday, 10 to 11 m.

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

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 W. L. ROBB, Secretary.

Astoria Building & Loan Association. THE REGULAR MEETINGS OF THIS ASSOCIATION are held at 7 P. M. on the first Wednesday of each month. Office on Genevieve street, south of Chelanus. W. L. ROBB, 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, on or before the Friday evening prior to the Tuesday on which the Council holds its regular meeting. K. O'BRIEN, Auditor and Police Judge.

Board of Pilot Commissioners. THE REGULAR MEETINGS OF THIS BOARD, I 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. ROBB, Sec.

C. P. UPSHUR, SHIPPING and COMMISSION Astoria, Oregon.

L. W. CASE, BANKER.

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Leaves Astoria Every evening except Sunday at 7 p. m. Arrives at Astoria Every day except Sunday at 12 p. m. Leaves Portland Every day except Sunday at 7 a. m. C. W. STANLEY, Agent, Astoria. E. A. SHELLEY, General Agent, Portland, Or.

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