

TODAY'S WEATHER. Forecast for Washington and Oregon. Occasional showers.

The Oregon Astorian

The ASTORIAN has the largest LOCAL circulation, the largest GENERAL circulation, and the largest TOTAL circulation of all papers published in Astoria.

EXCLUSIVE TELEGRAPHIC PRESS REPORT.

VOL. XLV.

ASTORIA, OREGON, TUESDAY MORNING, MARCH 24 1896.

NO. 68.

Sweeping Reductions!



In our Trustee Sale of Men's and Boy's Clothing, Furnishing Goods, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Trunks, Valises, Etc., at prices that will quickly sell them.

The One Price Clothiers, Hatters and Furnishers.

C. S. JACOBSON, Trustee.

506 and 508 COMMERCIAL STREET, ASTORIA, OR.

Do you need anything in Office Supplies, Letter Presses, Copying Books, Inkstands, Tablets, Inks, Blank Books, Blue Print Paper, Waste Baskets, Desk Trays, Pen Racks, Type Writing Paper, Ribbons and Carton Paper. If so, we can supply you.

A new lot of Playing Cards just received.

Griffin & Reed, City Book Store.

UP TO DATE FOOTWEAR

New Stock OXFORDS, BLACK, TAN, DUCK, CANVAS.



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New Needle and Narrow Square Toe.



Kid and Cloth Top Widths A to EE.

SOUTHERN TIES.

SCHOOL SHOES OUR HOBBY.

FISHERMEN'S BOOTS, Hand Made.

We put more genuine service for the money into our School Shoes than into any class of shoes we sell. Give them a trial; you won't regret it.

LOGGERS' SHOES that hold corks. FARMERS' SHOES, all kinds.

Copeland & Thorsen.

Bargains!

Such as Never Been Offered Before in

Hardware, Granite Ware, Rope, Stoves, Iron Pipe, Terra Cotta Pipes, Bar Iron, Steel, Cannery Supplies, Loggers' Tools.

PLUMBING, TIN WORK

JOB WORK,

At prices that defy competition. Done by experienced workmen.

Gas Fittings at Cost. Call and Be Convinced.

Sol Oppenheimer, Trustee for M. C. CROSBY.

WHAT THEY DID NOT DO

Columbia River Salmon Packers Do a Great Deal of "Election."

BUT FAIL TO FORM A COMBINE

"They Looked, and Still the Wonder Crew, That One Small Head Could Carry All He Knew"—The Packers Will Meet Again Today.

Portland, March 23, 1896. Special Correspondence.

"They looked, and still the wonder crew, that one small head could carry all he knew."

I am not at all positive that the above couplet is correctly quoted. In fact, I am rather inclined to the contrary opinion, but since the packers' convention in Portland it has been running in my head, and I feel I can best do justice to the couplet by repeating it, because it is so peculiarly apropos to the matter which will follow. The lines are not intended to be aspersive of any of the gentlemen who were in attendance at the Portland meeting, which has now become a matter of history, but, contra, breathe the very air of animosity. What in the days of Roger Bacon, applied to the village school master individually, now applies to the members of the packers' convention, collectively.

The evening boat, which left Astoria for Portland last Tuesday, carried with it upon it a representative of nearly every almost packing establishment on the lower Columbia river, who, pursuant to call, were to meet in the parlors of the Portland hotel, with the intent of forming a combination among themselves, whereby they could obviate a number of the grievances which, for a long time, have beset them. If it were true, some readers and business men might be tempted to tread upon many of the same kind of resolutions that have gone before, but of this more after a time. It is not Germans just now.

The first name among the Astoria contingent to be placed upon the Hotel Portland's register was that of C. S. Norris, followed almost immediately by that of S. Elmore, George H. George and wife, G. W. Sanborn and wife, J. G. Megler and wife, J. O. Hanthorn, M. J. Kinney, F. W. Cook, B. A. Seaberg, N. Tallant, F. M. Warren, S. Farrel, R. Winter, and P. J. McGowan, the gentlemen of the party representing the following packing houses of the Columbia river: Columbia River Packing Company, Astoria Packing Company, A. Booth Packing Company, Eureka & Epineure Packing Company, Hanthorn & Co., J. W. & V. Cutting, Aberdeen Packing Company, P. J. McGowan & Son, Pillar Rock Packing Company, J. G. Megler & Co., F. M. Warren & Co., Haggard & Co., Buckshot Packing Company, Boise Packing Company.

Having all been assigned to rooms, myself among the number, and breakfast fortably settled for a day or two's stay, the post-prandial cigar found the members wandering listlessly around the lobby, waiting for the appearance of the Kinney and McGowan, who had wired that they would be in evidence on the Wednesday afternoon boat. Those who were on hand occupied the first half hour, but principally in telling fish stories and making imaginary packs of salmon.

As telegraphically outlined in these columns last week, the primary object of the meeting was to formulate, if possible, some combination, or offensive and defensive alliance, which would allow the packers to fix the price to be paid for the raw fish as they come from the water, but also to regulate the price of the finished product. The first half hour, together with other matters of minor import, some of which were contained within the major objects of the meeting. With this end in view, S. Elmore, of Chicago, representing the interests of the A. Booth Packing Company, had, upon request, prepared a scheme of combination. At 10 o'clock the first half hour of the session commenced. Norris and Elmore were everywhere in evidence, rounding up the dilatory and recalcitrant ones, preparatory to getting down to business. They did not, however, act together until the afternoon, when they secreted themselves behind the oaken doors of the Portland's parlors and hung up the S. R. O. sign on the outside. Everyone was barred except those immediately interested in the salmon packing industry, which was afterwards made permanent, was effected, in the election of S. Farrel, of Portland, of the Evering Packing Company, as chairman, and S. Elmore, of Astoria, secretary. This constituted the work of the day session, and an adjournment was taken until after the dinner hour.

Replete with such good things as the Portland's table affords, the members, upon the theory that "all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy" (this may seem turned around, but it is not, as you will after awhile discover), went after the dinner hour, when they again met in earnest, about 1 o'clock, Kinney and McGowan having in the meantime put in an appearance. After elucidating the terms of his combination scheme, Mr. Norris graciously withdrew, and put in his spare time in conversation with me about the war in Abyssinia, the prospects of rain the succeeding day, and various other weighty subjects, allowing the members to discuss his proposition in all its details among themselves. If anyone ever doubted the ability of salmon packers to orate he should have attended that meeting. He did not hear any of it on the outside, but that it was there in large chunks is a safe bet to bet at any time. Five long, broeze-laden hours the members wrestled with the proposition and themselves, but nothing came of all the travail, and about midnight they adjourned to spit on their hands, take a fresh hold and go at it again in the morning.

After adjournment I instituted a still hunt after the Norris proposition, or at least the proposition as it then stood for consideration before the packers. It was much harder work than fishing for bass, with some of the excitement and none of the fun. Each member was as dumb as a Shoal water oyster and it was found impossible to elicit any information, further than that the proposition had been submitted and that it was still under consideration. None of the packers would talk on any subject but the weather, which aptly illustrates that if a woman cannot keep a secret a man certainly cannot when his financial interests are at stake. The talk of the previous day had only served to warm up the members. Their throats had become well lubricated with the vivacious eloquence. Although, as is the custom in our house of lords, no preliminary warnings were given that there was to be an oratorical outburst, the length of the succeeding session and the paucity of accomplishment yielded every indication that it was at least in contemplation and might take place at any time. Subsequent events supported this idea. The ponderous oaken door which concealed the packers some lines and tallies, was allowed no whisper of it to escape, but upon the suffer of each member as he left the rooms after the session of Thursday was plainly revealed that any combination of any kind was to be made, it would be until he had had his say and until the searchlight of investigation and inquiry had been turned upon every possible point and view of the much-mooted and much-discussed question. The packers were between the devil and the deep deep sea from Tuesday until Thursday they had talked and talked and talked, and Friday morning found them ready to fight it out on the same lines and tallies more, even if the Portland's commissariat did not see a consequence. By this time the Norris combination had changed its appearance. As before, some modifications made by Mr. Norris himself, but he had amended and ramified that it could not even recognize itself, having much the appearance of a retired prizefighter hunting a backer. All this time the members were "stocuttin'" as Mrs. Partington would put it, until they were red in the face and had been compelled to change their collars as a matter of protection. They were still afloat. They had lost their bearings and had no idea of either a backer or a longshore. The fervid, staccato eloquence of Elmore, the general, accented oratory of Seaberg, the persuasiveness of Hanthorn, George Norris, Megler and the others had had no effect. About this time that couplet began to bother me. Early in the session G. W. Sanborn, concluding he would have more time to devote to the convention if he went to New York and there first transact his business, ceased to be a factor in the meeting, so it fell difficult to determine just what elements of eloquence there are dormant within him. However, the other members talked just the same as if he had been there, so it really did not make much difference. During the afternoon of animated conversation, Mr. George had found time to introduce another consolidation scheme, and for a time the remains of the other members laid aside. It did not help matters much what every member seemed determined not to let any other member as much as the Norris combination, and it really looked for a time as if the top-heavy meeting would fall of its own weight. The session of Friday night was a long one. Midnight had almost gone when the numbers appeared, looking much as Uncle John's villain did after the old man had been shot. They did not care, however, they were all soon in bed, drooping, perhaps, of what they would say the next day.

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Saturday morning's meeting was a late one. It resulted as the others had. This time it was evident that nothing material could eventuate from the labors of the members. During the night, the members arbitrarily menaced their ways, and I then once more bethought me of that couplet. How on earth had they, with all their wits, failed to do anything, and the propositions all prepared beforehand, occupied five whole days in finding out that none of the schemes were feasible? It was a puzzle. The members were many in attendance, and it gradually became a matter of wonderment to me how they made the talk stretch far enough to go around. During the luncheon time I sketched around, but was confronted with the same thick veil of silence as before. However, one incautious member confidentially told me that many in attendance, and it gradually became a matter of wonderment to me how they made the talk stretch far enough to go around. 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