

THE POST-INTELLIGENCER.

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County and City Official Paper.

SEATTLE, MONDAY, JAN. 25.

THE ELECTRICIAN BILL.

The city council will probably tonight take up the mayor's veto of the electrician bill. It is no doubt a difficult matter for members to resist the importunities of those who wish to see it passed, but we appeal to the council which has manifested such an honorable regard for principle, so far, and such a courageous disregard for mere political considerations, to take the higher ground.

The city of Seattle has not in many years had an administration so free from bickering and scheming for place; and it would shake public confidence if now it should be discovered that even this council cannot remain true to the course it has pursued of putting public interests before all others. The council was elected on a civil service platform; the plan is being tried; it should have a fair trial. If it proves the success its advocates hope—and its advocates are the people who selected the present council—it means an end to all the jobbing and trafficking, the political juggling and chicanery, which have been so mischievous in city affairs. If it is not a success, let us abandon it. But nothing could be worse than to permit the beginning of a return to the old methods under the hypocritical cloak of the civil service system.

We appreciate the position in which members are placed, but they will hold a higher place and occupy a broader field in public esteem if they declare that the city has now a council which, knowing the right, has the courage to do it; and lays down the stern doctrine that if an officer is competent he should be supported and if he is not he shall be removed, but it will be done fairly and honorably in accordance with the platform on which its members were elected.

There is a great principle involved, that of good and upright government. The members of the council were elected as men singularly free from political coils—as men who would bring into public administration a new order of things. They have deserved that confidence, and there is scarcely a man in the council who, when he says "I vote for this measure because I believe it to be just," does not command respect even when his opinion is differed from by others.

THE NIAGARA CANAL.

It is to be feared that congress has delayed consideration of the Nicaragua canal bill too long, and that should the measure now pass the company which is seeking congressional assistance will find itself without a concession.

Senator J. D. Rodriguez, minister of the Greater Republic of Central America, has communicated to the state department that his government will not extend the concessions made to the canal company, and will demand that the company renounce them. The minister points out that the contract of the company with Nicaragua called for the completion of the canal within three years; that the time has long expired, and that the company has made no pretense of meeting its contract.

The most serious objection urged by the minister is that by the terms of the contract it was provided that the concession should not be transferred to the government of any foreign power, and that the bill before congress practically contemplates a transfer of the concession of the company to the United States.

If the communication of Minister Rodriguez correctly represents the attitude of his government, and there is little question that it does, it may fairly be inferred that the question of the building of the Nicaragua canal will be postponed for a long period. The new republic, which Nicaragua is one of the states, will not renew the concession to the present company. It is equally certain that it will make no new concession which will carry with it the possibility of any foreign government, which less the United States, having any shadow of control over the canal when built.

However much the citizens of the Pacific coast may regret the attitude which the new republic has assumed toward the project, it cannot be had that the action is without justification. For a foreign government to have a direct interest either as a stockholder or as a guarantor of the bonds, in a canal built wholly within the borders of Nicaragua, would be a constant menace to the sovereignty of that state and of the republic of which it is now a part. It would afford a constant pretext for interference in the domestic affairs of that country, and might result in many complications in which the weaker country would, naturally, get the worst of it. England's relations to the Suez canal have afforded an object lesson which it is quite apparent the Central American republic has taken to heart. It is probably felt that the country could do without the great advantages to it which would flow from the building of the canal better than it could afford to have the canal, when built, the property of or under the protection of a foreign country.

There is, however, nothing in the past record of the foreign policy of the United States which would warrant the feeling which the Central American republic dis-

plays in the matter. In her treatment of the weaker American republics, the United States has never assumed an aggressive attitude, nor sought to humiliate them in any manner. But possibly they believe in being on the safe side.

There is always the prospect that Nicaragua, or the republic of which it is a part, is acting disingenuously, and that it may be willing to concede to capitalists of some other country concessions which it has elected to refuse to those of the United States. Should this be the case, the United States may be called upon to interfere. If Nicaragua feels that it cannot afford to let the United States have even a shadow of control over the proposed canal, the United States has an even more vital interest in seeing that no European country should control the proposed highway between the Atlantic and Pacific.

FORECAST OF THE YEAR.

A writer in a recent number of the New York Evening Sun attempts to make a forecast of the industrial and commercial development which may be looked for during the present year, and his conclusions are interesting and may prove prophetic. He gives first place to the cheap production of electricity from water falls and its long distance transmission. It is in the west that he anticipates this utilization of water power will see the greatest development and he speaks particularly of Washington as a state which presents the greatest field for the utilization of water power in this direction. He says:

"With the single exception of Niagara, and perhaps a portion of the St. Lawrence, the water powers of the east are now utilized to their full capacity, and no great development can be expected. But at Great Falls, Mont., along the Yellowstone and the Shoshone, at Spokane Falls, Snoqualmie falls and along the smaller mountain streams of the Rockies and the Cascades are millions of horse power which may be had almost for the harnessing. These must play an important role in the industrial development of the next ten years."

The low cost of power is to be the dominating influence in shifting the centers of industrial enterprises in this country. The location of the sources of product and power will be the determining factors of industrial growth. No nation in the world carries its freight such long distances or pays so colossal freight bills as does this country. Much of this is needless and is a heavy drain upon the producing classes, the farmer and manufacturer as well as upon the consumer.

The same writer looks upon the production of beet sugar as offering larger possibilities than any other industrial enterprise, and anticipates a great development of that industry the present year, with great profit to the agricultural interest and an enormous saving to the country.

Electric smelting of iron and steel making with a current generated from water power, now achieved under the DeLaval process in Sweden, promises with its introduction into this country, not only a still further cheapening of steel, which it even now selling at about one-fifth what it did thirty years ago, but the prospective extension of this industry into the states of the west which have the water power at present untutilized.

The writer further suggests that the facts thus adduced will be instructive in determining where to seek profitable property, and adds:

"Nor will the latter fail to take account of the rise of the new shipping ports—Newport News, Galveston, Port Arthur, Tacoma and Seattle, Memphis, Duluth and others."

In the article in question, there is one omission. No account is made of the prospective development of mines of the precious metals, which will be one of the most important features of the industrial year, especially in the state of Washington. The other facts which he points out are all calculated to excite the attention of capitalists and intending investors to the states of the west and to none more than Washington. In this state there is not only the magnificent water powers lying ready for utilization, but there are also iron ores in abundance, as well as the ores containing the more precious metals, all of which can probably be cheaply reduced by some adaptation of the DeLaval electric smelting process. Here also can be produced sugar beets of an unrivaled purity and sugar content, and with a greater product per acre than is had elsewhere in the United States. And, by no means the smallest item, here the commencement has been made of a commerce with Asia, which in its development alone is sufficient to insure for Seattle a future as one of the great shipping ports of the world.

One of the most important sources of the water power in the country, as referred to by the Sun correspondent, is found in Snoqualmie falls, within easy transmitting distance, under modern conditions, to Seattle. Here also, within the borders of King county, are to be found the iron ores and limestone; here also, as well as in numerous other counties of the state, all reached by the various railroads centering in Seattle, are hundreds of mines of gold, silver and copper, now being developed.

If, following the suggestions of the Sun writer, the intending investor should turn his attention toward any one of the industrial enterprises suggested therein, he can find in the state of Washington, and particularly in the city of Seattle, an ideal field for investment.

RESTRICTING IMMIGRATION.

The probabilities are that congress will pass a bill restricting immigration at the present session, notwithstanding the brief period of time which remains before the session expires by limitation of law. The present status of the proposed legislation is this: The bill which originally passed the house simply prescribed an educational test limited to the ability of the immigrant to read his own or any other language, and exempting from the provisions of the bill the wife, children and grandchildren, parents and grandparents of the male immigrant. It also provided for the exclusion of male immigrants from Canada, who seek entry to the United States in quest of labor.

The senate substituted for this a bill requiring that male immigrants, over the age of 16, shall be able to read the constitution of the United States either in their own or in some other language, and prescribing in detail the methods for applying the educational test. The house rejected the senate substitute, and the matter has gone to a conference committee.

Several meetings of the conferees have been held, and it has been practically decided to report a substitute for both bills. This substitute bill, which has been prepared by Senator Chandler, who is one of the conferees, adds the following classes of would-be-immigrants to the list of those excluded by the present law: "All persons physically capable, and over 16 years of age, who cannot read and write the English language or the language of their native country, but a person not so able to read and write, who is over 50 years of age, and is the parent or grandparent of the qualified immigrant over 21 years of age and capable of supporting such parents, may accompany the immigrant, or such parents may be sent for and come to join the family of a child or grandchild over 21 years of age, similarly qualified and capable."

The provisions of the senate bill prescribing the methods of making the educational tests were retained, as are the provisions of the house bill excluding Canadians, who are simply seeking work on this side of the line, and the same provisions are extended to include aliens seeking admission from the countries south of the United States. These provisions are not, however, to apply to sailors, deckhands or persons employed on vessels or railroad trains, whose duties require them to pass over the frontier to reach the terminus of their runs. The section of the senate bill exempting refugees from Cuba from the operation of the law, during the continuance of the present trouble on the island, is retained; and a new section is added, providing that every immigrant who secures entry in violation of the act may be punished by fine and imprisonment, and in addition, be deported to the country from which he came.

The probabilities are that the proposed substitute bill will be acceptable to the conferees, and will be reported back to both houses next week. It is quite likely to pass without any further lengthy debate. Should it become a law, it will close the doors of this country to that class of immigrants recognized as most undesirable, who have been flooding the country for some years past, while still leaving the way open to the people who have proven most desirable. Few from the countries of Northern Europe, except those from Russia, will be excluded by its provisions, and few of the class which has been seeking our shores from the countries bordering the Mediterranean and from the Balkan peninsula will be admitted. The bill certainly is a step in the right direction, and it may prove to be fully as restrictive as it is either necessary or desirable that our immigration laws should be.

Gov. Powers, of Maine, in his inaugural address finds cause for congratulation in the fact that the young men are no longer leaving the state to seek homes in the West. Washington would probably have been better off had a certain man from Maine, who came here by the way of Kansas, remained in his native state.

The determination of the government to foreclose its lien upon the Union Pacific railroad is probably the best way to settle the whole proposition. The government will not probably realize as much as the debt due it, but it will get out of the railroad business.

The mayors of five Canadian cities are to be knighted on the occasion of the queen's jubilee. We suggest to her majesty that no more appropriate or graceful act could be performed than to knight the mayor of her namesake city, Victoria, B. C.

Senator Peffer, of Kansas, remained at his post of duty in Washington and did not return to Kansas to conduct a personal canvass for re-election. The Kansas legislators showed their appreciation of his conduct by turning him down.

The state senate has commenced to legislate in the interests of debtors by extending the time during which a judgment is a lien on real property one year longer than it is under present laws.

Famine seems to be aiding the British in Rhodesia in crushing out the native races. The massacres, plagues and famines of the past two years form a satirical comment on the advance of civilization.

If the facts are as represented by Minister Rodriguez, his government is to be commended for not permitting the United States congress to proceed under a misapprehension.

Isaac Pitman, who recently died, was the first man to make shorthand a science. Prior to his time there had been several systems, but his supplanted all, except Gurney's, and is now that most generally in use in England.

It is to be hoped for Jumbo Cantwell's sake that he is innocent of the charge against him of robbing a farmer. He will find that kind of theft rather worse than stealing a ride or running off with a train.

The latest census bulletin shows that there are but \$9,300 lawyers in the country. Seattle has considerably more than her fair share, apparently.

Cuba, Armenia and the Transval have rival claimants to public attention in the persons of King Obboah and the Emir of Nupe.

The Cuban Delegation. Leslie's Weekly.

"Junta" is a well-sounding Spanish word which signifies, primarily, a council. When Cuban or Spanish generals hold a council of war, that is a junta; and during the last revolution (1895-78) there was a representative body, with headquarters in New York, which bore the official designation of the Cuban Junta. The present representation, whose business offices are located at No. 56 New street, in this city, is properly styled the Cuban delegation. The head and front of this body of active patriots is Mr. Tomas Estrada Palma, chief delegate of the revolutionary party, and minister plenipotentiary of the republic of Cuba in the United States. The title of president, sometimes prefixed to Mr. Palma's name, belongs to him by right of his having been the chief executive of the republic of an government as organized in the revolution of 1895. That office and title today are held by Salvador Cisneros, of Puerto Principe.

The chief lieutenants of President Palma in the work of the delegation are: Gonzalo de Quesada, secretary of the Cuban revolutionary party, and first secretary of legation of the republic of Cuba; Benjamin J. Guerra, treasurer, and Horatio S. Rubens, legal counsel. In addition to these regular members of the delegation, there are a number of prominent New York Cubans who in an ex-officio

way devote their services to the patriotic cause and make up the active personnel of what is popularly called "the junta." Among the best-known of these gentlemen are: Dr. J. D. Castillo, who holds the official position of assistant secretary of the treasury in the temporary republican government organized under President Cisneros; Fidel G. Pierra, chairman of the Cuban committee in New York; Rafael Navarro, one of the chief officers of the Cuban army of sanitary corps; and Leon Benoit, who has acted as special attorney of the delegation. Among the efficient under secretaries at the New York headquarters are Messrs. Giberza, De Moya and Richard Smith. A weekly journal, La Patria, is published under the auspices of the delegation, under the able editorship of Enrique Jose Varona, the author of a number of philosophical works which occupy a high place in the literary literature.

Such, in general summary, is the so-called "Junta" about which the Cuban patriots in the United States rally to the aid of their struggling brethren in the unhappy island. It transacts the business of the revolutionary party with the outside world, and exerts itself to deliver to the armies of Gomez and Maceo the material aid which outside world is willing and eager to bestow. The offices in New street are thronged from morning till night with newspaper reporters, people who want to go to Cuba, others who have just come from there, and a whole push of picturesque Spanish-speaking men and women, who may be anything from spies to filibusters.

NEW YEAR'S EDITION.

Very Complete. Northwest Journal of Education. The New Year's edition of the Seattle Post-Intelligencer was a great success. It covers fifty-six pages, is profusely illustrated and makes a very successful showing of the development of Washington in general and of the Queen City in particular. It is an excellent example of the art of the writer-up of the state educationally is very complete both in matter and illustrations.

A Good Example. Brownville, Pa., Clipper. Mr. J. H. Kimball, of Richmond Beach, Wash., has our thanks for a New Year's edition of the Seattle Post-Intelligencer. It is a mammoth paper, containing fifty-six pages, or 32 columns, devoted wholly to exploiting the wonders and possibilities of that state. The illustrations and the news reviews and summaries on all features of the state make it more than a history in its detail and ready information. If half it says is true, Washington is a wonderful land indeed.

THE STATE PRESS.

Whatcom Revellie: Putting it mathematically, Squire is to the Washington legislature just about as Choate was to the New York legislature.

Tuoluma Ledger: Representative Warner of Snohomish county wants to repeal the "act providing for the location and erection of a state capitol building." Where does he want it removed to?

Sidney Independent: The publication of such a paper as the Post-Intelligencer's New Year's edition, the largest and most complete ever issued on the Northwest coast, is the best evidence of the fact that the state of Washington possesses all the elements necessary to the production of a robust commonwealth.

Puget Sound Mail: Inside of six hours' time after the legislature of this state had convened, they went on record as favoring increasing the number of office-holders for the benefit of the hungry office-seekers, whose strict adherence to the tenets of the Populist party made them eligible for reward at the public crib at the expense of the people, and in complete violation of their specific pledges made to use all legitimate means to cut down the number of office holders and expenses all along the line without endangering or crippling the public service.

COAST PAPERS.

San Francisco Call: The movement toward procuring the appointment of a secretary of mines is taking shape at Washington and plenty of strong men are getting ready to push it along.

Portland Telegram: And now comes the startling intelligence that Peffer is to be added to the list of statesmen out of a job. The surprising thing about it is that the Kansas senator has always tried to live up to his whiskers.

San Francisco Post: The action of the people of Delaware in abolishing the whipping post indicates a revival of humane influences in that state. Now, if they will follow the good work by figuratively by dropping Addicks overboard an additional indication of a change of heart would be afforded the public.

San Francisco Bulletin: "Everything," says a special Washington correspondent of an esteemed contemporary, "indicates that the McKinley program of subordinating everything to the passage of the new tariff bill is to be carried out." It may be observed, incidentally, that the incoming administration could not do a better thing. Maj. McKinley has a keen realizing sense of what he is here for.

BITS OF HUMOR.

De trouble is jes' dis! Dar am too menny church members an' not enuff Christians. De wite 's'eb we jes' wish to leah an dose w'eb hit me! too our advantage toe know.—Charly is 'bout de only 'ting dat is warranted dat won't rip, tear, ravel or run down at de heel.—Sum people ah whin' 'bout de best of de enny road in de house of he will on'y pay good rent.—De world needs people wh'ol'd right widout jes' stoppin' toe fin' out whad uddahs ah goin' toe do.—Arkansas Thomas Cat.

There is a nice old lady in town who thinks it very strange that a little quack-silver in the eye should make such a wofully cold weather by just falling an inch or two.—Newark, N. J., Town Talk.

"Here is a new ink bottle, Scribe—warranted to keep out the dust." "You haven't got one that is warranted to keep out the mudlage brush, have you?"—Chicago Record.

He (pleadingly)—"Why can't we be married right away?" She (coolly)—"Oh, I can't bear to leave father alone just now." He (earnestly)—"But, my darling, he has had you such a long time." She (freely)—"Sir"—Tui-Bits.

NOTABLE PEOPLE.

According to the Boston Globe, John E. Redmond, the Irish member of parliament, has sailed for this country, in order to make a lecture tour.

The memorial to Mrs. William Waldorf Astor which is to take the form of a school-house for the children of the St. Mary's orphanage, which has been erected at a cost of \$50,000 will have accommodation for more than 100 children. The building is expected to be ready for occupation early in the new year, for although the gift has only just been announced, the sum was given nearly a year ago and the buildings begun then.

James Toleman, of Bristol, England, whose death is announced, was the "jet-walloper" in Great Britain. Before the passing of the Reform act in 1832 the "jet-walloper" was a political agent of an important body in some of the English boroughs, and they possessed the franchise because they were able to "boil their own pots." By the decease of Mr. Toleman they become extinct. The word "jet-walloper" is a term purely local in its use, means "to boil."

IT IS A VAST ARMY.

The Ones Who Are Marching Toward Death and Do Not Realize It.

The official returns of the city of New York show that more than one-third of all deaths are from consumption, pneumonia or grip. When we stop to calmly think over this fact it seems really awful. And yet every day, without exception, started from small beginnings. A cough in the morning; tickling in the throat; a thick, phlegmy discharge; a chilliness at night; difficult breathing; a tightness across the chest; these and many more symptoms indicate the presence of that terrible disease, which, unless checked, means certain death, with long, painful suffering.

In view of such serious and ever-present facts, the suggestions and advice of the most eminent physicians are of the greatest value. Dr. John Gardner, one of the most eminent physicians in London, says: "Science, common sense, Holy Scriptures, and all experience testify to the benefits derived from the use of pure whiskey." Dr. D. H. Barker says: "I have used and examined Duffy's pure malt whiskey, and find it the best I ever tried."

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AMUSEMENTS.

RIALTO HALL SEATTLE. A Course of Five Lectures will be given by the REV. H. H. GOWEN F. R. G. S. On the following Wednesdays: Jan. 27, Feb. 3, 17, 24 and March 10. At 8 p. m. Subscription for Course, \$1; Single Lectures, 25c.

Course of Lectures. Wednesday, January 27, "Florence, the Fair and Some Famous Florentines." Wednesday, February 3, "Robert Browning." Wednesday, February 10, "The Idylls of the King." Wednesday, February 24, "The Travels of a Buddhist Monk—Fah-lan." Wednesday, March 10, "Macbeth." A short program of choice music will be rendered each evening.

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The brilliant comedy from the French, Magdalen, scenic productions, Mr. James is the only tragedian who will visit the Pacific coast this year.

Prices: First four rows, except last four rows, \$1.50; last four rows and first four rows of balcony, \$1.00; next three rows balcony, last four rows, 50c; gallery, 25c and 5c. Seats at theater Saturday, January 25, at 8:45 a. m.

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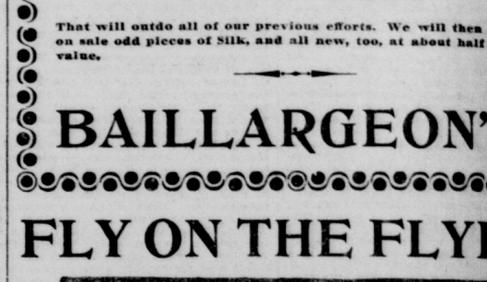
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