THE POST-INTELLIGENCER.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

Delivery by City Carrier.

Daily and Sunday, per month	$0 75
Daily and Sunday, six months, if paid in advance	4 00
Daily and Sunday, one year, if paid in advance	7 50
Sunday edition, per month	25
Sunday edition, one year	2 00

Persons desiring the Post-Intelligencer served at their homes or change of delivery can secure it by postal card request or order through telephone Main 7. When delivery is irregular please make immediate complaint to this office.

BY MAIL, PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

Daily and Sunday, per month	$0 75
Daily and Sunday, six months	4 00
Daily and Sunday, one year	7 50
Sunday edition, one month	25
Sunday edition, six months	1 25
Sunday edition, one year	2 00
Sunday and Weekly, one year	2 50
Weekly edition, one year	1 00
Weekly edition, six months	50

OFFICES:

Seattle, Second Avenue and Cherry Street.
New York, Rooms 13, 14, 15 Tribune Bldg.
Chicago, 217 Chamber of Commerce.
Tacoma, 1123 Pacific Avenue.

Give postoffice address in full, including county and state.

Remit by express, money order, draft, or in registered letter, at our risk.

Telephones: Business Office, Main 7. Editorial Rooms, Main 382.

Address all communications and remittances to the POST-INTELLIGENCER PUBLISHING CO., Seattle, Wash.

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County and City Official Paper.

SEATTLE, MONDAY, APRIL 26.

THE NEW AMBASSADOR.

It has become evident already that there is to be much more than a change of ministers to London. For a very long time Mr. Bayard has held the honor, but he has been almost entirely ignored by his government. All the important international negotiations between this country and Great Britain have been transacted in Washington. This is very unusual, and it must have been very mortifying to Mr. Bayard, who had himself been secretary of state under Cleveland. Not only did he have to submit to the instructions of another when any business was done through him, he had also to suffer the humiliation of observing most important correspondence proceeding between the two governments as to which he knew little more than he read in the newspapers.

All this is to be changed, and it is evident that Col. Hay and Henry White will have the full confidence of the government. Papers which had been kept in Washington have been forwarded to London, where negotiations will be conducted. There are some questions which are better discussed there than here, and one of the chief of those now calling for attention is the Bering sea matter.

The London Times has led its readers astray on the subject, and its comments caused an unfriendly feeling to meet the proposed joint action of the governments. It has been sharply corrected by the interests in London affected by the present conditions, and there will probably be some intelligent action taken. In this affair the characteristics of the two ambassadors were strikingly contrasted. Bayard deprecated any action by this government, but White, who had already taken the responsibility pending Hay's arrival, took a bold stand. He knew this government to be in the right on the subject, and that the British government could be brought to see it.

It is always very important that there shall be no hesitancy or misunderstanding at the outset of such a discussion. The false impression made by the first publication of this government's purpose made it difficult to get the controversy back into harmonious lines. The intention is not to reopen the Bering sea controversy, but merely to revise the pelagic seal restrictions, which have manifestly been inadequate to the purpose for which they were imposed. The fairest interpretation of the question is that it is one of natural history and not of law, and if the existence of the most valuable species of seals is in jeopardy, it would be the merest pedantry for the British government to refuse to discuss the question until the time of the treaty expired.

It is true that no provision has been made for reopening the question, but it was assumed that the regulations made would be ample to achieve the purpose for which the commission drafted the treaty. It is not proposed to revise the terms of the treaty, but to revise the regulations made under authority of the treaty. The experience and tact of the new ambassador, aided by his no less skillful secretary of legation, will be shown in the very earliest days of their tenure, for this question must be dealt with, and upon their ability the success of the negotiations depends.

There is one factor in the controversy which has not hitherto been taken much into account, but has been compelled to manifest itself on account of the facts in the case. London is the chief fur market of the world; and it is not an argument but a fact the furriers have to confront. Seal skins are deteriorating in quality. If once seal skins should lose their name, the industry would be killed. Their rarity and their beauty kept the price up; but when a seal skin is no longer the synonym of excellence, its virtue will pass away never to be restored.

Our new ambassador, therefore, will find his hands strengthened at the outset by a force on English soil to which the British government will be compelled to give attention.

PEARY'S NEW PLAN.

Lieut. Peary is determined to make another effort to reach the North Pole, and he is making plans which promise to lead to better results than ever before attained. He will go to Greenland this summer and engage ten Eskimo families to prepare for the following year's journey. They will prepare an abundance of food, warm clothing, sledges and trained dogs for hauling purposes. He may have some European companions, but he will depend upon the hardiness of the remarkable people who are inured to the rigors of extreme cold. This is the novel feature of his plan.

Exploring parties in the past have attempted too much. They have included scientists, photographers and others who were to complete the work. But these men have been burdens instead of aids. Peary will now have a force each of whose members will be capable of looking after himself. The one sole object will be to set foot on that mysterious spot which forms the turning point of the world. He will attempt no more than to reach the North Pole, leaving to his successor, or a later trip, the many scientific observations his experience may suggest.

There is now some hope that this century will witness the consummation of many heroic efforts. Whether the result will justify the labor and sacrifice cannot be foretold, but at least curiosity will be gratified, and if there are no extraordinary features at the end of the world, further exploration will probably be abandoned.

Lieut. Peary has probably solved the problem of transportation. The cold is not greater than the Eskimo have been inured to for many generations, and their habits of travel fit them to overcome the obstacles of a journey over ice better than any living people. The year 1898, let us hope, will witness the grandest achievement of exploration.

RUSSIA'S HAND.

Although the United States is not concerned in the war between Turkey and Greece, there is no subject so engrossing to its people. The sympathy of this country with Greece serves to stimulate interest, but even more absorbing is the play of the powers, and the moves being made which may lead to a general war. While the soldiering is going on in Greece, the diplomatic contest is proceeding quietly at every capital. England is building a large number of war vessels, France is coaling and provisioning her entire Mediterranean squadron, and the three small powers, Bulgaria, Servia and Montenegro, are restless. Russia is said to have bid Bulgaria keep its hands off, but that ambitious young suzerainty is determined to have concessions from Turkey or fight. Servia is also clamoring for better terms. If either of these principalities should enter the field there will be another outburst of Russian indignation, real or assumed, but none the less available as an excuse for taking a hand.

The bone of contention, however, is Macedonia. Turkey has possession of it; but Greece wants it as part of the old historic country, Russia wants it on the pan-Slavist theory, Austria wants it because of the port of Salonika, Bulgaria claims it as a former part of that dominion and Servia for the same reason. The Pall Mall Gazette reviews the several claims, which may be briefly stated. Macedonia was a province of the Greek empire from the fourth to the middle of the fourteenth century—that is to say, for nearly a thousand years, with a short interruption during the time of the Bulgarian Czar Samuel. Macedonia was taken from the Greeks and annexed to Servia in the middle of the fourteenth century by the Servian Czar Dushan. The third and the greatest and the only historic fact of practical importance is that the Turks conquered Macedonia after defeating the Servian King Vukashin in 1371, and that since that time up to the present day they are masters of that country. To the question to whom Macedonia belongs historically, the only conclusive answer could be that it belongs to the sultan, and that, after him, the Greeks have the strongest historic claim. At any rate, one thing is beyond all doubt—the Bulgarians have no historic claim on Macedonia.

When the treaty of Berlin was negotiated Russia desired Macedonia to be annexed to Bulgaria. The motive is that Russia hopes eventually to possess Bulgaria, and Macedonia would go with it, taking the outlet to the Mediterranean, which Russia is determined to have. Bulgaria would like it, hoping to be thereby stronger in her influence against Russia. The intrigues of Stambuloff included the acquisition of this territory, and had he lived it would have been taken as Eastern Roumelia was. But Stambuloff was assassinated and Muravieff, the Russian diplomat, cares not whether Bulgaria gets the first control or not.

If Germany were led by a statesman, and not by a man who is aching to lead a war, that nation would recognize the danger of Russia's growing power and keep still until England and Russia were crippled by war and then step in as the peace maker and claim the largest piece. But the short-sighted and hot-headed young emperor does not care what the cause or what the consequences, provided only he is on the winning side. It is the triumphant re-entry into Berlin, at the head of his army, amid the plaudits of the crowd, that fills his vision and obscures all other phases of the subject.

It does not seem possible that a European war can be avoided. The armies of Russia, Turkey and Germany have for some time been at war pitch, and Austria and France have both kept up considerable forces. The present high tension cannot last. Russia's purpose is as well defined as if it were declared. For years she has planned for just such a moment as this when England would be alone and reluctant to have war. If Russia would now be content with what would have satisfied her when England was in the ascendancy, there is no doubt she would get it. But she will not be; her diplomacy would be cast aside and the despot would show forth. A protectorate over Turkey would be the fiction used to that government, but England would be made to feel that, for every inch she had refused, Russia would take a territory.

THE GOSSIP IN DANGER.

"When the conductors of what are called smart papers insert smart paragraphs for the amusement of smart people, I am not surprised that the victims will not accept an apology, at least a left-handed one." This remark made recently by an English judge, was followed by a verdict of $2,500 as damages for an untruthful piece of gossip. A London newspaper, of the smart order, published a report that Miss Marion Terry, the actress, was about to retire from the stage and marry her deceased sister's husband. It was promptly denied, and the paper expressed regret for having caused the actress any annoyance. This did not satisfy her, and she brought an action.

It was not alleged that there was any malice. It was nothing more than a piece of tittle-tattle picked up from a scandal monger and printed by a gossiper. If there were any suggestion of wrong about the matter it was only in the fact that Miss Terry's sister died so very recently that the proprietors were shocked by the announcement.

If this precedent should be followed the gossip is in danger, and it will be a good thing for legitimate newspapers and society. Gradually the smart newspapers are becoming so reckless that they have no scruples about dragging the names of private persons into notoriety by publication of their domestic affairs. The grossest instance ever furnished by any but the most obscure publications was that of a daily newspaper in New York which recently published a page of portraits of young married women with the unmistakable intimation of a most delicate nature.

No law is adequate to such an offense. Only a thrashing of the responsible editor, and his expulsion from every organization of gentlemen, could afford appropriate punishment. It would be better only to quietly ostracise him, but a man who would countenance such a dastardly intrusion into the home would be too thick-skinned to care much for the contempt of decency. The horsewhipping would, of course, only add to the publicity and for that reason probably it was preferred to submit quietly in the hope that the outrage would be more quickly forgotten.

That sort of indecent journalism has nothing in keeping with the daily or weekly newspapers which deal with men in public life. Sometimes these exceed the bounds observed by the honorable press, but their attacks do not harm men—indeed, they often benefit them. The public is discriminating and often extends its sympathy and good will to the assailed. At worst these are petty offenses, however, compared to the mischievous tattle which deals with women's name and fame.

President McKinley says he proposes to stand by the plank in the platform which declares that all the Federal officers appointed for the territories should be selected from the bona fide residents thereof. This will be gratifying news to the people of the territories, for during the Cleveland administrations the broken-down politicians of the East and South were unloaded upon the West by the dozens.

The civil service system is being subjected to unusual strain nowadays. Congressman Grovesnor has introduced a bill to limit the scope of the classified civil service to the clerical force of the government, and requiring all persons who have been appointed or promoted since March 4, 1893, to undergo another examination for their positions.

The municipal election at Spokane promises to be very interesting. Dr. McLean, the candidate of the People's party, is an allopath, while Dr. Olmsted, on the citizens' ticket, is of the homeopathic school. One of them will certainly be compelled to take his medicine on election day.

Mr. Cleveland thinks the Republican party is a useless instrument of defense against impending perils, but considering that his last administration gave the country the worst four years it has experienced since 1857 his criticisms may be regarded as slightly premature.

Aside from trying to elect a United States senator, the Kentucky legislature is trying its hand at some rather radical legislation. A bill was introduced the other day providing for the branding with a "B" on both cheeks of all persons convicted of burglary.

The anti-cartoon bill may become a law in New York, but as the assembly has excepted from its provisions "public officers, persons nominated for public office and fugitives from justice," the cartoonist will still have considerable material to work with.

The Omaha Bee says that ninety-cent wheat is a probability, and dollar wheat a possibility. If the Bee is correct, of course silver will be quoted at about the same figures, for the free silver people seem to think that they keep company.

The Turks are a brave people because they wage war as fanatics, but for real patriotism there is a very marked difference between them and the Greeks who fight for country rather than for religion.

The senate will do nothing this week because of the Grant memorial exercises in New York, but the tariff bill should be taken up for consideration next week and final action upon it hastened.

Poor old Mora, who struggled for so many years to get his claim against Spain honored and at last succeeded, did not live long to enjoy the fruits of his celebrated international struggle.

Tomorrow the Grant memorial exercises will be held and the demonstration will probably be one the like of which has not been seen in this country for many a day.

There may be a little generous rivalry between Seattle and Tacoma, but there is nothing like the bicycle to bring people together in a lasting bond of friendship.

Instead of abusing the Republican party it might be more profitable for the Democrats to try and bring about some sort of harmony in their own ranks.

If you are asked what is so rare as a day in June you can reply that a day along about the 25th of April compares very favorably with it.

This week the Fourth of July committees will probably start in on active work, and they should be given every assistance and encouragement.

The Republicans of Kentucky may be all right, but they are dreadfully inefficient when it comes to electing a United States senator.

The snow is fast disappearing from the foothills and mountains, and a vigorous and general system of prospecting is about to open.

The fact that there is a movement of gold to Europe does not create the anxiety which would have been noticeable one year ago.

Since the war began the European concert seems to have been discontinued through lack of patronage.

AN ESTIMATE OF GRANT.

Schofield Speaks of the Dead Hero—Self-Reliant and Not Influenced by Flattery.

NEW YORK, April 25.—Lieut. Gen. John M. Schofield, U. S. A. (retired), has accepted the invitation of Mayor Strong on behalf of the city of New York to be one of the guests at the ceremonies attendant upon the dedication of the Grant monument.

In accepting the city's invitation Gen. Schofield has written a letter concerning Gen. Grant. As will be remembered, Gen. Schofield was not under Grant's immediate command in the field, but was intimately associated with him both during and after the war. At one time during the closing months of Johnson's administration, he was secretary of war, and therefore, for the time being, was Grant's official superior. Their relations were always of the most intimate and confidential nature and Gen. Schofield's views of Grant should be most interesting at the present time. In his letter the general says in part:

"The greatest of all the traits of Grant's character was that which lies always on the surface, visible to all who had eyes to see it. That was his moral and intellectual honesty, integrity, sincerity, veracity and justice. He was incapable of any attempt to deceive anybody, except for legitimate purposes, as in military strategy, and above all, he was incapable of deceiving himself. He possessed that rarest of all human faculties, the power of a perfectly accurate estimate of himself, uninfluenced by vanity, pride, ambition, flattery or self-interest. Grant was very far from being a modest man as that word is generally understood. His just self-esteem was as far above it as it was above flattery.

"When Grant's attention was called to any mistake he had committed, he would see and admit it as quickly and unreservedly as if it had been made by anybody else, and with a smile which expressed the exact opposite of that feeling which most men are apt to show under like circumstances. His love of truth and justice were so far above all personal considerations that he showed unmistakable evidences of gratification when any error into which he might have fallen was corrected. His pride in his own mature opinion was great in that he was as far as possible from being a modest man. This absolute confidence in his own judgment upon any subject he had mastered, and the moral courage to take upon himself alone the highest responsibility and to demand full authority and freedom to act according to his own judgment without interference from anybody, added to his accurate estimate of his own undivided authority and responsibility in the conduct of military operations and in all that concerns the efficiency of armies in time of war, constituted the foundation of that very great character.

"It has been said that Grant, like Lincoln, was a typical American and for that reason was most beloved and respected by the people. That is true of the statesman and the soldier, as well as of the people, if it is meant that highest type, that ideal which commands the respect and admiration of the highest and best in a man's nature, however far above himself. Soldiers and the people saw in Grant, or in Lincoln, not one of themselves, not a plain man of the people, nor yet a superior being whom they could not understand, but a personification of their highest ideal of a citizen, soldier or a statesman, a man whose greatness they could see and understand as plainly as they could anything else under the sun. And there was no more mystery about it than there was in the popular mind."

THE STATE OF WASHINGTON.

A Richly Stored Fortress Awaiting Attack by Capital.

Nothing in Europe can excel the pictorial grandeurs of this American Mediterranean, the Sound, writes "S. P. B." in the New York Evening Post. From end to end it is one majestic procession of towering, snow-clad crags, the Cascades to the east and the Olympics to the west. You pass them in review over the deepest body of inland water in the world. Many town sites have had to be abandoned because no bottom, no anchorage could be found a stone's throw from the shore. So cold are the depths that oysters are dwarfed to the size of one's thumbnail, but are delicious in flavor. During the past six months an increase of trade with the Orient and New Zealand and Australia has inspired some courage in the hearts of the Sound people, but they are still bemoaning the disastrous consequences of that ill-starred boom of ten years ago. It was so badly overworked by unprincipled jackals, and so many rattlebrained investors at the East were nipped that the people still find it hard to lure Eastern capital from its lair.

But it will be found impossible to long keep down a country with such boundless sources of wealth. Washington has timber enough to supply the world for a hundred years, coal in untold quantities, salmon in countless profusion, mountains full of iron, silver and gold. To the east of the Cascade range is an immense tract known as the Kootenay country. It lies on both sides of the boundary line, just south of the Selkirks, and fifty mines there are now turning out 100 tons of silver a day. Indications of unlimited mineral wealth have been discovered in the vast Okanogan tract to the northwest of Spokane. In the agricultural regions to the south of Spokane the land yields from sixty to even 100 bushels of wheat to the acre. Vast stretches of Washington, between Spokane and Lake Chelan, have never been really explored, and what harvest of wealth may there be found some day can only be imagined by the few mineralogists who have scratched parts of its surface. The entire region around the deep blue bowl of Chelan is inexpressibly wild and grand, and should be set aside, like the Yellowstone, for a national park.

Lake Revelstoke, in Eastern Washington, and the gold and silver belt may be said to begin at that point, and spread out thence in the shape of a fan, embracing all the northeast section of the state. Canadian surveys, already made, have covered a very large area, and the Canadian Pacific has all the profiles and complete maps. A large portion of the mineral wealth lies on their side of the line, and they are fully aware of its richness. It has been estimated by competent authorities that 3,000,000 tons of silver ore lie on the surface of the Okanogan reservation. All through that country there are stretches of agricultural and grazing land, which, together with its minerals, will make it incomparably valuable. The greater portion of the ore there is in sulphurets, galena and chlorides, a combination which nature evidently intended, in order that it might be reduced at minimum cost.

Prof. Herbert Bartlett, the well-known geologist, has given it as his opinion that, when the state of Washington is developed, "the most wonderful mineral country in the world will become known." The same prodigal gifts appear all over its surface. He says that the Upper Skagit region, lying along the Cascades for forty miles, is a continuous belt of silver-bearing ore. Between the Sound and the Cascades, wherever agricultural land is found, they don't bother to plow; just toss the seed on the ground, and nature will do the rest. The Puyallup and White river valleys, which lie in this belt, are more productive than any other part of the Pacific coast, not excepting even the far-famed Santa Clara valley of California.

One point, too, of great interest to science has just been settled by the discovery of a mammoth fir tree among the densely wooded sides of the Cascades. It towered to a height of 465 feet, and was 33 feet 11 inches in circumference at the base. Its rings indicated an age of 484 years, showing that the monarch was a sapling of eighty years when Columbus landed at San Salvador. This tree clearly proves, so the men of science declare, that no material change of the earth's surface in this great Northwestern domain has taken place in 500 years. Capital can dream over the commercial spoils when a mining and industrial assault, with all modern improvements, is made on this richly stored fortress.

More Action and Less Oratory.

Chicago Times-Herald.

The public exigency is too great and the business interests of the country have been in suspense too long to allow raw young Populists to lumber up the Congressional Record with half-baked sophomoric anathemas on the "robber tariff" or the "infamous McKinley law." The minority does not care for any information on the tariff question. It is useless to waste time on men who study maxims instead of markets.

THE STATE PRESS.

The Spokane Chronicle wants a man to be nominated "in every particular qualified to be mayor."

Tacoma News: Jerry Simpson is disporting himself in golf stockings, but alongside our own effulgent James Hamilton he is as a tallow dip to an arc light.

Whatcom Reveille: When a convicted man really abandons hope of ultimate delivery from the scaffold, it becomes largely a matter of indifference to him how soon the end comes.

Walla Walla Union: While the blockading ships of the powers are watching the coasts of Greece, war is raging beyond the Greek border in the North, in the Turkish dominions, caring little for the great ships. Even as a farce the pacific blockade is a serious failure to the powers.

Olympia: The Populist party in this state should put a quietus on Congressman Lewis. He has introduced a bill to repeal the law providing for a monetary commission to confer with representatives of other nations, looking to an international bi-metallic agreement. Either Mr. Lewis should be called down, or it should be confessed by these Populists who made such a parade of their free silver proclivities last fall that they were not then and are not now honest.

COAST PAPERS.

Sacramento Record-Union: Now that the war is on between Greece and Turkey it would be a good speculation to corner all the geographical pronouncing dictionaries in the country.

San Francisco Post: Young Elliott Shepard, who recently clandestinely married Mrs. Esther Potter, is but 20 years of age. It is only the mature and calloused mind that is able to withstand the fascinations of an attractive widow.

Portland Telegram: The sympathy for Greece then entertained by the people of the United States is renewed by her present heroic struggle. Time cannot wither nor age decay the American spirit which involuntarily takes the side of the oppressed.

Oakland Enquirer: Among the few things which our government has assumed the right to do in Cuba is to ascertain whether the war is going to be conducted with ordinary humanity, in order to be prepared to remonstrate if the brutality becomes too great, and this line of conduct should be followed up with due vigor.

FACTS OF INTEREST.

Zurich is to have new gas works which will be the largest in Switzerland, at a cost of 7,800,000 francs.

Many patriotic Greek women in Athens are now wearing the old Greek costume, in order to recall the high heroic spirit of former times.

The fastest daily run in Great Britain is from Perth to Forfar, on the Caledonia railway, the distance—thirty-two and a half miles—being performed in thirty-two minutes, or at the rate of about sixty-one miles an hour.

The old Washington hall in Durham, which is supposed by some to have been the seat of George Washington's ancestors, has been bought by an American for only $2,000. It is described as "picturesque and full of rheumatism."

In the recent stupendous landslide beyond the Atlantic, 12,000,000 cubic yards were carried down into the valley below. Every now and then something like that happens, showing the mountains are wasting away, and yet people do not note these things. Careful, accurate observations do prove that the mountains are slowly but surely, slowly from our point of view, swiftly from the point of view of the age of the earth, being worn down. It is, as a rule, true that the very high mountains are those which are young.

BITS OF HUMOR.

She—Does the baby take after its mother?

He—Well, it hasn't begun to talk yet.—Yonkers Statesman.

In the spring a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of how he can buy the swell red golf coat that would scare to death a cow.—New York Press.

They were just closing up the real estate deal, and the man who always wanted something thrown in to make a good bargain appeared to hesitate.

"What'll you throw in?"

"What'll I what?"

"What'll you throw in as a sort of bonus?"

"Oh, yes, yes, of course," said the real estate man. "How stupid of me! Why, the fact is, in our line of business we are not exactly in the habit of giving prizes, but in this case, just to make it binding, I don't mind throwing in the back taxes."

"Now you're talking business!" exclaimed the would-be purchaser. "It always pays for a man to stick out for his rights."—Chicago Post.

NOTABLE PEOPLE.

George Brandes, the noted Scandinavian literary critic, has recently received the cross of the Legion of Honor.

President McKinley has already distinguished himself by shaking the hands of 1,395 callers at the White House in thirty-one minutes.

The late Perley Derbey, of Salem, Mass., was one of the best-known genealogists in the United States, and for thirty years had been employed to make genealogical researches in nearly every state in the union.

Probably Rhomberg was the name of the first man dressmaker, and he lived in Paris in 1730. He was a Bavarian by birth, and was the son of a peasant. On the panels of his carriage door was painted an escutcheon of a pair of open scissors and a pair of corsets. He left an immense fortune.

Sir Alfred Biliotti, the British consul for Crete, who rescued the beleaguered Moslems at Candamos the other day, is over 60 years of age. He is the son of the late Charles Biliotti, a Levantine, and has been employed in the consular service in the East as clerk, dragoman, vice consul and consul since 1849. He discovered the Necropolis of Camirus in Rhodes in 1859, and superintended the excavations at Halicarnassus in 1865. He has been consul for Crete since 1885.

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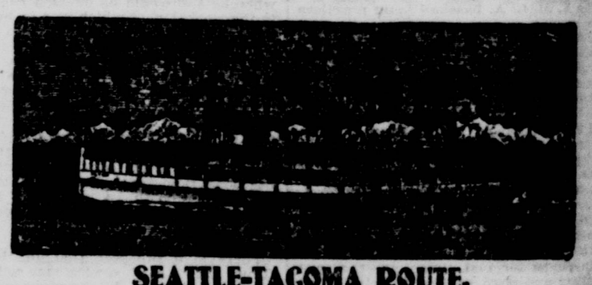

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