

THE POST-INTELLIGENCER.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION: Delivered by City Carrier. Daily and Sunday, per month \$1.00. Daily and Sunday, six months \$5.00. Daily and Sunday, one year \$10.00.

BY MAIL, PAYABLE IN ADVANCE: Daily and Sunday, per month \$1.00. Daily and Sunday, six months \$5.00. Daily and Sunday, one year \$10.00.

OFFICES: Seattle, Second avenue and Cherry street. New York, Rooms 13, 14, 15, Tribune bldg. Chicago, 27 Chamber of Commerce. Tacoma, 128 Pacific avenue.

CITY OFFICIAL PAPER. SEATTLE, WEDNESDAY, DEC. 15.

LET ALL ACT AT ONCE.

The unauthenticated report from Ottawa that it is the purpose of the Canadian government "to make customs regulations to foreigners entering the Klondike as liberal as possible," is no doubt the result of the agitation for abolition of the sub-ports at Dyea and Skagway.

It is said that Secretary Gage made the order upon request of the Washington delegation. This may or may not be so; but it is now plain that it is the duty of our congressional delegation to employ every practicable and available effort to have the order revoked.

The Chamber of Commerce meets today. There should be a large attendance and the sub-port matter should be taken up and a vigorous policy decided upon.

Meanwhile, the merchants and citizens of the city have a duty to perform. They should act without delay upon the Post-Intelligencer's suggestions of yesterday.

GOMPERS' VIEW OF THINGS.

President Gompers, of the National Federation of Labor, in his annual address, outlines the policy he recommends to workmen who form the membership of his organization.

Referring to the recent decision of the Federal court that the boycott is illegal, for instance, Gompers makes the suggestion that upon any letter or circular issued upon such a matter of this character, after stating the name of the "unfair firm" and the grievances complained of, the words "we have been enjoined by the courts from boycotting this firm" could be added.

Mr. Gompers has another grievance, and he has not the tact to conceal his real meaning. He demands that "we, as workers and citizens, shall not be restrained in the exercise of our lawful and natural rights; courts cannot issue injunctions restraining persons from committing crimes."

Fortunately, Mr. Gompers is wrong, and from time immemorial, the statutes have provided not only for the prevention of crime, but have imposed a punishment upon those who threaten to commit one.

OUR TRADE WITH AUSTRALIA.

There has been a great outcry from Europe about the extent to which American manufacturers are finding their way into every market.

It is that American manufacturers are finding their way into every market. The industrial world has become agitated. The colonial secretary, as well as the ministers of the various colonies, has been trying to devise means by which the trade between them and the United States could be diverted into a trade between the mother country and the colony.

It will take something more than sentiment to do it; it will require that the excellence of quality, workmanship and shipment shall be surpassed. Why it is that American manufactured goods are finding their way in competition to those of Germany and England is ascertained by the experience of our manufacturers in Australasia, with which there has been a steady growth of business.

A few years ago we had no trade in doors, window sashes or blinds with Australia, but it last year amounted to \$571,860. The traffic in bicycles reached \$300,338. We exported \$465,493 worth of agricultural implements, which is 1100,000 more than six years ago.

These figures come from American sources, but they are amply confirmed by the report of a British agent as to the rise of the American trade in Sydney and Melbourne. Our goods are gaining ground in tools, especially in axes, saws, shovels and files, and in fencing wire and ammunition. This agent says:

"Take an American hammer, brace, saw, ax or hatchet, and its equal cannot be bought outside of America for any money. What English maker will turn out electro-plated ware, such as cruets, butter dishes, etc., anything like the American goods? In spite of years of endeavor to turn out the right article by British makers, all our hammers and carpenter's tools are still from America, while their plows are steadily ousting the old long-breast implements."

Only a short time ago a letter appeared in the London Times, written by one of the leading Australian merchants, in which he warned England not only of those facts, but also that the trade in watches had passed to the United States. He did not lay so much stress upon the superiority of the article as upon the American method of doing business.

It will not interest the general reader to go into the details, but the suggestions thrown out in a general way by the Australian for the benefit of his English shippers will be valuable to American exporters with limited experience.

Why is Mexico hysterical over Mr. Bryan? Why does the whole nation hail him as savior and deliverer? Is it anxious to take him behind the scenes and show him the beauties of free silver in actual working order? Or will it merely give him a front seat in the orchestra, and offer for his entertainment a front view of the gorgeous silver spectacle we have heard so much about, and have had sense enough to stay away from?

ONE ASPECT OF VICTORIAN SUPPLIES.

Not long ago the Victoria Colonist said that only a very small part of a miner's outfit is purchased in the United States by Canadians, meaning Victoria merchants. This statement is on a par with others from the same source.

The British Columbia Board of Trade, in its annual report for 1897, gives the following list of imports of such products of agriculture and its branches, packed meats, cereals, etc., as can be produced in that province, but are not, for three years ending June 30, 1896:

Bacon, 2,432,000 pounds. Canned meats, 906,810 pounds. Cornmeal, 904 barrels. Oatmeal, 39,540 pounds. Wheat flour, 42,068 barrels. Beans, 8,011 bushels. Oats, 267,467 bushels. Peas, 1,631 bushels. Wheat, 75,938 bushels. Apples, dried, 162,882 pounds. Plums and prunes, 168,596 pounds. Canned fruits and vegetables, 1,606,511 pounds. Potatoes, 78,236 bushels. Butter, 2,899,683 pounds. Condensed milk, 8,333 cases.

The bulk of these goods enters into a miner's provision outfit, the bulk of them are imported into British Columbia from Puget sound; so it appears that more than a few lines of goods are imported into Victoria, and it is difficult to see how it is even "possible" to outfit a miner completely with Canadian goods in Victoria as low or lower than in Seattle, for Victoria goods have either paid duty already, or they are imported all the way across the continent from Montreal, Toronto and Hamilton at rates which preclude successful competition with American goods bought in Seattle, even if the latter shall have to pay all the duty on the whole outfit, and they do not now, and may never do, in spite of the Victorian bugbear.

So the Canadian government is going to recommend a change in the size of all claims and grouping of alternate claims on the Klondike? This is a vague and indefinite promise, and binds the government to nothing. It has looked well after its interests—too well—and there is danger of retaliatory action by the United States because of discrimination against its citizens in the matter of customs, as well as discrimination against all miners as to choice, and size, and location of claims. Some time ago the authorities made an order exempting 100 pounds of a miner's outfit from duty, and it is true that this order has been liberally interpreted. But it is not enough. Not realizing its weak position, and its entire dependence on the United States for opportunity to trade through Dyea and Skagway, the government some time since threatened to withdraw this exemption January 1. The situation is different now, and the Canadians are mighty silent about that exemption clause.

The newspapers which made the most noise because the Post-Intelligencer and nearly every other reputable journal in the United States said that famine was threatened at Dawson give curious evidences of mental obliquity. Here is a specimen from an exchange:

"News is beginning to come in from Dawson to the effect that the hard times of starvation which have been sent out from the Klondike capital by the correspondents of yellow newspapers there are grossly exaggerated. The latest arrival from Dawson is Ed Hearn, an old Colorado miner. Hearn fixes the date when starvation may begin at the middle of February. If provisions do not arrive by that time he believes that there is a possibility of starvation."

Of course this is complete and exact confirmation of all that has been said about starvation.

The public need not concern itself greatly about the assault of spoliators against the civil service law. It will not be repealed, nor its purposes and policy defeated. It must be admitted that at least one of the points made by the advocates of repeal is well taken, and that

AS TO THE COMPLETE RESPONSIBILITY OF GOVERNMENT OFFICERS.

is as to the complete responsibility of government officers, like postmasters and collectors of revenue, for the acts of their subordinates. No postmaster should be held accountable for a defalcation or embezzlement by a clerk with whose appointment he had nothing to do and over whom he has no authority of removal.

It will be interesting to know what effect the change of route by the Northern Pacific between Puget sound and Portland will have on the much-talked-of and never-completed Astoria railroad. It was the purpose of the promoters of the present project to connect with the Northern Pacific at Goble, opposite Kalamia. If the transcontinental route is deflected so as to go by way of Vancouver, about forty miles of track on the south bank of the river will be abandoned or disposed of in some way by the Northern Pacific. These forty miles, or a parallel forty, must be acquired by the Astoria people, or their project will be left in the air, where, by the way, it has already been for many years.

One serious defect in Councilman Chapman's proposed board of public works is that it would place the city engineer under the superintendence of streets. This is altogether illogical. The office of superintendent of streets is an important one, but a man competent to be city engineer should have attained a much higher grade of professional training than is usually required for the superintendence of work which has been designed and passed upon by the engineer.

The creation of a governmental department of commerce and industries is better than that of navigation and statistics. The title is more comprehensive and the association of the two branches of all trade unites all that would come under the head of navigation and statistics. It is better than having a separate bureau of labor and board of trade, and smoothes out all inequalities and class distinctions.

The act of the board of aldermen of Chicago in raising their salaries from \$3 a week to about \$30, is about as bold a proceeding as a legislative body ever undertook. Three dollars a week is absurdly small for an honest man. Perhaps \$30 a week is too much, but if the increase is accompanied by honesty, Chicago can afford it. Still, it is a most astounding act.

Now the busy foreign correspondent comes forward with the startling story that China is to be broken up among the powers, each taking a piece. It is not a movement to be very seriously deplored, because it would result in opening up and developing a splendid field for enterprise. But meantime there would be some high-handed grabbing of lands.

It is interesting to learn that the Northern Pacific intends abandoning the ferry at Kalamia, but it will be no less gratifying to Seattle to know that a short distance in King county is to be covered by rail so as to avoid a long detour by way of Tacoma to reach Seattle.

All reports agree that the people of Dawson have not yet reached the point of calling on the undertakers. We violate no confidence in stating that when Mr. Bryan returns from Mexico he will venture to make a few remarks on silver.

The Canadian authorities will make the customs laws as liberal as possible. The size of the duty will depend on the size of the pile of the victim.

Any old amendment to the civil service law that will furnish nice soft berths for the candidate-for-re-election's friends will be acceptable to the clamorous spoliators in congress.

THE SITUATION IN A NUTSHELL.

Several state papers have directed inquiry toward the Post-Intelligencer as to the contents of a circular sent out by the circulation department and bearing the signature of the business manager. For some time the Post-Intelligencer has been leaving sample copies at the houses of persons in Seattle who were not regular readers. At the end of three or four days the paper was accompanied by a circular inviting them to subscribe. It stated among other things:

"You will observe it (the Post-Intelligencer) is progressive, enterprising and up-to-date in all particulars. It is neither side-bound nor ring-bound; it is thoroughly independent and aims to represent the entire people. Its mission today is: First, the good of Seattle and her people. Second, the good of the state and her people. Third, the good of the Northwest and her people."

Another similar handbill contained this statement: "Every one perhaps noticed that it is in every sense a live, energetic, up-to-date, independent newspaper. We desire to have you as a regular reader, and our agent will call tomorrow and take your order."

These are self-explanatory. It will be noticed that in neither of these circulars was reference made to either of the two intended; nor does it either in any way refer to the policy of the paper except in the broadest and most general sense. The policy of this paper, general and political, was clearly outlined in the announcement made in its editorial columns when the present management assumed control, September 1. All interested persons are referred to that announcement and to the course of the paper since that time.

California Hews to Seattle. San Francisco Report. The Klondike rush is commencing in earnest. Already more than fifteen vessels have left New York for Alaska, and every one of them will stop and put out at this port. Letters are received almost daily from people who are organizing for the trip to the gold fields, and the expeditionists are all going to make their final start from this port. All this is good news, but it is quite certain that a great many "Klondikers" are going by way of Seattle or Victoria, and especially those of course San Francisco will get much Alaska trade this coming season; but it will not get as much as it would have had had it advertised like Seattle.

THE COMMON-SENSE DRESS. Seattle, Dec. 14, 1897. To the Editor: The writer wishes to add her endorsement of the "common sense" dress. While I certainly do not approve of the skirt reaching to the knee only, I do strongly advocate that it be worn from six to eight inches (which is only shoe-top, or slightly above, from the ground) to enable the wearer to walk in the street with ease and without being obliged to carry her skirt; and also to avoid the splashing from rain, which even the six-inch length (which the writer wears) does not sufficiently protect. The ankle length, or from three to four inches, as has been suggested, does not answer the purpose, besides it is an undignified length. Surely there is no undue exposure in the shoe-top length, unless it be in the minds of a few narrow-minded persons, whose opinions are not worth considering. H. R. E.

THE STATE PRESS. (Cheney Sentinel): When President McKinley sent the message that conditions in Cuba do not justify interference by the United States, he undoubtedly knew that he was not striking a popular chord as the people of the United States are overwhelmingly in favor of extending a helping hand to the struggling patriots. But mere sentiment cannot be allowed to rule in international affairs, and one cannot but simply sympathize with the president in announcing, in the face of adverse public opinion, that this country will not interfere in the Cuban matter until it can do so without the risk of a war with Spain and to all the world.

THAT AFFAIR IN THE KHYBER. Mad Mollish on a summer's day To the Khyber took his way. And whither but he was going He up and smote him in the eye. Of all bad words of tongue or pen The best were those that John said.

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See Our LINEN WINDOW. IT MAY CONTAIN JUST THE SUGGESTION YOU SEEK. Table Linens. Fringed Sets. Hemstitched Linen Sets. Pattern Cloths. Napkins. Tray Cloths. We have much in this line that will interest you.

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Original Headquarters Santa Claus. GOLDEN RULE BAZAAR CO. 906 to 910 First Ave.

Toys in Endless Quantity, Dinner and Toilet Sets, Fancy Lamps, Silver Platedware, Five O'Clock Teas, Albums, Dressing Cases, Clocks, Pictures, Etc. The oldest firm of its kind in the State. Largest stock in the Northwest.

THE BON MARCHÉ Nordhoff & Co. 1425, 1427, 1429 Second Avenue and 115, 117 Pike Street.

FAIR WEATHER IS PREDICTED.

DON'T WAIT UNTIL THE LAST TWO DAYS FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING. BUY NOW AND HERE FOR TWO REASONS. FIRST, THE VARIETY IS LARGER. SECOND, OUR PRICES ARE SMALLER THAN ELSEWHERE.

Some Hints: Useful Articles for Any Season of the year. An Umbrella, made of English Gilt Silk, with a strong Parasol frame, in almost any shape of a handle, worth \$1.25, only \$1.00 each.

Gloves for Street Wear. The kind we sell at \$1.00 a pair, made of good kid and in almost any color. Can't beat this Glove, even at \$1.25.

Something to Hang Up Between Parlor and Sitting Room. A pair of Tapestry Portieres in armure and ribbed weaves, in all the new colors and designs, worth \$3.00, only \$2.50 a pair.

Don't Fail to See Our Holiday Line of Handkerchiefs. In Ladies', Gents' and Children's sizes in silk, cambric and linen. Real Irish Linen Handkerchiefs, hand embroidered initials, only 15c each.