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Local Brevities.

The Morning Astorian will be found for sale at Griffin's book store and at Scully's cigar store, corner Eleventh and Commercial streets.

Week of prayer will be observed with union meetings in the First M. E. church, beginning with next Monday evening. These services are customarily held, and the members derive much help from attending them.

Sadie Mattson, the little daughter of Andrew Mattson, living in the East End, died of scarlet fever Friday night. There will be no funeral service attending the interment. This is the first death of the fever this winter.

The monthly report of Weather Observer Ellis shows that 8.85 inches of rain fell in Astoria during December. On the 19th the precipitation was 1.6 inches, the greatest for any single day

of the month. There were five clear days, 13 partly cloudy days and 13 cloudy. Thirty was the lowest mark reached by the glass, so thus far Astoria has not experienced any very cold weather.

The regular meeting of the clerks' union will be held at the usual hour Monday night at Carnahan hall. The newly elected officers will be installed and a banquet will be served. It is expected there will be a large attendance of members.

Unparalleled for daring in the history of Portland was the assault, hold up and robbery committed at an early hour Friday morning in the very heart of the city, when John Ecklund, proprietor of the Popular saloon and sample rooms, 125 First street, while on his way to his lodgings in the old Council building, at the southeast corner of Third and Washington streets, was attacked, beaten into insensibility, and relieved of about \$70 in cash. Eck-

lund was found unconscious in the doorway to the building by Police Sergeant Royer and Officer Welch, about 9:30 o'clock. It required considerable exertion to resuscitate the victim of the bold crime, and he was assisted to his rooms suffering from a sprained leg and bruises about the neck. There is no clew to the robbers at present.

When the newly elected city officers are sworn in they will be given certificates of election, for the first time. The blanks were secured by Auditor Anderson and the lettering is the work of City Engineer A. S. Tee. These certificates will prove interesting keepsakes for the gentlemen who recently ran well. The city's record of the election is a joint certificate of election and oath of office.

Mr. Fred Bowers and Miss Hilda Munson were united in marriage Friday evening at the home of the bride's parents. There was a merry company present, and after the ceremony all sat down to an elegant banquet. Rev. J. W. McCormac was the officiating minister. Mrs. Bowers is the daughter of G. Munson, an old Astorian, and her husband is one of the popular cooks of the Palace Catering Company.

The following officers have been elected for the year by the Carpenters & Joiners of America, union 917: J. N. Jergenson, president; H. B. Lund, vice-president; T. D. Souden, recording secretary; Mat Nylund, treasurer; Adolph Johnson, conductor; P. Peterson, warden; F. Wright, T. D. Souden and Adolph Johnson, trustees; H. B. Lund, J. N. Jergenson, F. Wright, Mat Nylund and J. Sjogren, delegates to the Federation of Labor.

At the regular session of the county court, which will be convened on Wednesday, the estimate of expenses for the year will be made. The levy of taxes will be based on this estimate, which will include the running expense of the county. As yet Secretary of State Dunbar has not sent down any notice of the amount of Clatsop's portion of the state tax, but will doubtless do so shortly. The only possible chance for a reduction this year will be in the county levy for general expenses, as all other levies are fixed.

Kate Murphy and Trixy Phillips were arrested at an early hour yesterday morning for making Molly Hogans of themselves. The women became involved in a fistical altercation, and when the police officers were taking them to jail they set up a great outcry, that disturbed sleepers along the way. They deposited \$10 each and the bail was declared forfeited. Hans Hanson, a little boy in blue, from the Perry, was fined \$5 for drunkenness, and a similar fine was imposed on Tom Jacobson, who was accused of plain drunkenness.

A man named John Mattson, who is said by the police to be a worthless fellow, was arrested New Year's night for drunkenness and disorderly conduct. He has made a practice of getting drunk and beating his wife, and frequently has threatened her life. The wife came to Astoria some time ago and Mattson joined her, beating his way into town on a breakbeam. He had been arrested several times, but leniency was always exercised because of his family. Yesterday he was fined \$40 and the court agreed to suspend sentence provided he left town. He will leave.

Captain Fulton, of the British ship Ancaos, who was injured by a fall at the sand dock, is getting along well at Good Samaritan hospital, and may be out in a few days. One rib was fractured and beyond a severe shaking up the captain escaped further injury. Captain Fulton was trying to board his ship at the time and losing his hold on the frail ladder, fell to the ballast logs below. There is a city ordinance requiring that proper gangways be placed on all ships, but the law is generally disregarded. Nets under gangways are also required, but such a contrivance is a novelty at the waterfront. Many accidents occur every season by sailors and others trying to board vessels where proper means have not been provided, and the loss to life and limb will continue until shipmasters are compelled to obey the law in this particular.

The Oregon City Transportation Company will shortly let the contract for building a light-draft stern-wheel steamer for the upper Willamette business. J. H. Johnston is drawing up the plans for the new craft and has them practically completed. The steamer will be 132 feet long by 26.6 beam and 4.2 hold. The whole object is to obtain as light-draft a boat as possible and every possible sacrifice is being made to obtain this result. The draft will be a little less than 14 inches. Mr. Johnston says that the company has found that its boats took too much

water for service on the Upper Willamette river. The contract for the boiler has been let. Captain A. B. Graham, of the company, is at present engaged in raising one of the company's boats which was sunk near Carey's Landing, and as soon as that job is off his hands work on the light-draft steamer will be started. The introduction of this light-draft boat on the Upper Willamette river will enable the company to maintain transportation at a very low stage of water.

The council will meet promptly at noon on Monday and the newly elected officers will be sworn in. A resolution will be adopted providing for the time of regular meetings. The meetings at present are held on the first and third Mondays of each month, and there will be no change. The resolution will specify that the first regular meeting of the year will take place on Friday night, January 8, at 7:30. Where the first or third Monday of a month falls on a holiday, the meeting shall be deferred until the following night. Customary resolutions are adopted yearly.

The alarming reports circulated Friday night regarding the condition of Henry W. Sherman proved to be incorrect. Mr. Sherman is at Good Samaritan hospital, Portland, and the latest reports from that institution are to effect that he is getting along nicely after the operation performed for absence of the ear. It was again reported last night that he was dead, but investigation developed the fact that this rumor, like those circulated previously, was without the slightest foundation. The reports have been extremely annoying to his sisters and other relatives in this city, and their source is unknown. Mrs. Sherman is with her husband at the hospital. His early recovery is looked for.

When Mat Hautala was brought up for trial in the police court yesterday afternoon on a charge of trespass, he denied ever having been at the Waldorf saloon, where he was found under the bed of one of the employes, James McDonald. He said he didn't know anything about it, although McDonald and another man testified that they found him underneath the bed and had thrown him out. Upon being ejected he showed fight and was there upon arrested. He told the court he and a companion had been looking for their lodgings, but the man's friend, it seems, managed to escape when McDonald discovered their presence in the room. Hautala was fined \$10, the court offering to him the suggestion that it might be found advisable in the future to sleep on top of the bed rather than beneath it. Hautala will spend five days in jail.

The Commercial Club bowling committee has prepared handicaps for the 75 members who take an interest in the game, and during the coming week will inaugurate a series of three-men team contests. Three medals will be hung up for the winners who must be successful three times to entitle them to permanent possession of the medals. That the first team may be given good practice, the six most likely bowlers of the second team class will play a series of games with the first aggregation. The first team expects to meet Portland Commercial, Multnomah and Ililhee, of Salem, during the winter. A challenge for the Feidenheimer trophy has already been sent to the Portland Commercial Club. There is some talk at the club of getting up a handball tournament for the winter, but no definite announcement has yet been made.

About 4:30 yesterday afternoon, just as it grew dark enough to give pretty effect to lighted candles, Mrs. H. J. Wierity touched a match to the candles that decorated the Christmas tree at her home at Fourth and Commercial streets. It was to be the last time the tree could be lighted, and the little girl of the family, dejected at the prospect of early removal of the tree, sadly watched her mother light the pretty colored candles that adorned the spruce bush. In some manner one of the candles fell from its holder after being lighted, and in a moment had set on fire the pitchy boughs of the tree. The fire spread to the window curtain, and for a time it seemed that serious consequences would attend the accident. However, by the time the chemical engine reached the home the blaze had been extinguished, although the carpet was badly damaged. The loss in all amounted to about \$50.

A particularly lamentable case came up before Police Judge Anderson yesterday afternoon, the unfortunate involved being Mrs. Anton Lund, the reputed wife of a local teamster, who recently worked for V. H. Coffey. The woman had been arrested by Officer Stark for drunkenness and appeared in the dock with several other of-

fenders. It appeared from the brief evidence offered that the woman is addicted to the drink habit, and she is said to have deserted her child to visit saloons, where she became intoxicated. The child is but 4 years of age. When her case was called she wept bitterly and begged pitifully to be leniently dealt with. Judge Anderson delivered to her a very severe lecture, advising her to hereafter refrain from the use of intoxicants and to care for her little one. She promised to never again touch liquor and was allowed to go. It is said that the woman has been found intoxicated in the back rooms of saloons with her child by her side. She is middle-aged and crippled, and her arrest was due to a desire on the part of the police to break her of the liquor habit.

When the alarm of fire was turned in yesterday afternoon on account of the blaze at the Wherity residence a large crowd started down Commercial street and many wended their way westward along Bond to the scene of the conflagration. When the crowd got as far as Chinatown smoke was seen curling up from the Chinese house at Eighth and Bond, and many believed the blaze there had called out the engines. However, neither the chemical nor hose wagon No. 1 was in sight. The fire on the roof of the Chinese house was due to a defective flue, but, although it was not dangerous, as all the adjoining buildings are provided with iron roofing, there was great excitement among the Celestial population. Fearful Chinese poked their heads out of doors, gazed in terror at the cloud of smoke and then disappeared to get together their effects in the event of spread of the blaze. There followed a

ki-ying that could be heard for blocks, and a large number of excited Mongolians congregated on the corner and shouted advice to those most deeply concerned. Finally one particularly brave fellow mounted the roof and for some minutes clung to the chimney while the smoke and sparks poured forth. He had been there five minutes or more when a bucket of water was passed to him and he hastened to pour the contents in the smoking flue. The Celestials next secured a garden hose and with this the oriental fireman completed his work. The incident was extremely funny and the big crowd which had gathered laughed heartily at the antics of the Chinamen, who appear to lose all sense of reason during the prevalence of fires.

Church Services.
Presbyterian—The usual services will be held today, conducted by the new pastor, Rev. Albert H. Brown.
First Lutheran—There will be no services today as the pastor will spend the day in South Bend. Sunday school at the usual hour.
Methodist Episcopal—Regular services Sunday morning and evening. Subject for the 11 o'clock sermon, "God Gives More Than We Give Him," and in the evening the pastor will preach on "The World is Run By Faith." At night the chorus choir of fixed voices will assist in the service.

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