

Morning Astorian

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THE SEMI-WEEKLY ASTORIAN.

By mail, per year, in advance \$1 00

ASTORIAN PUBLISHING COMPANY.

HOW MUCH HASH IS TOO MUCH?

Forty one employes of the bar dredge Chinook have quit their jobs because of an oversupply of that sacred American dish, hash. They have not been content to quit, to strike and leave the ship, but they have seen fit as well to abuse an article of diet that has heretofore been almost as much revered as old glory itself. Their attitude in this particular respect, will get for them mighty little public sympathy, for there is no American citizen who has the right, under the constitution or otherwise, to speak ill of hash.

Christopher Columbus discovered America, but, compared with the man (?) who discovered hash, he was a rank lobster. It will be perceived that Columbus could be referred to as a lobster only under very great provocation. Should he rise from his grave and seek to overshadow in importance the person who discovered hash, he would be eried down by the American people as though he had outraged the flag. The discovery of America was a great and crowning stunt, but it took some one of greater resources than an Italian to discover hash. With all due credit to our departed friend Columbus, his accomplishment sinks into insignificance compared with that of the person who added hash to the list of great culinary achievements.

We all of us entertain the kindest of feeling for the father of his country. He took us away from England and made it possible for us to discover Oregon and hold the 1905 fair. But who amongst us licks his chops when he thinks of Washington? The first president released us from bondage and all that sort of thing, but we couldn't eat him. Hash is greater than Washington ever dared be—and we're not belittling Washington, either, when we say so.

We might go on and compare all our great men—Jackson, Lincoln, McKinley, C. J. Curtis and all the rest—with hash; but it would only be waste of words. None compares with hash. Men grow old and feeble, but who ever heard of feeble hash? Eventually they peter out and die, but hash survives. None is too young nor none too old to partake of it. Of what other article of diet can this be truthfully said? Mush, you say? But what's mush?—merely crushed oats or mangled wheat, a poor, shriveling dish with which everybody's familiar, absolutely lacking in those mysteries so essential to greatness. Hash stands out in bold relief on our national horizon like a Japanese battleship on the Yellow sea, and all else pales beside it.

For a century or more none has dared traduce hash, yet away off in this remote corner of the globe 41 men, with shocking lese majeste, have had the temerity to quit their jobs because of the quantities with which they have been provided at their meals. "We had hash for breakfast for seven days," they whimper—"for seven consecutive days." "Too much hash!" What a paradox! There are millions of persons in this old world, but who ever before heard of too much hash? It's ridiculous; there's no such thing as too much hash. Every man with an ounce of brains feels toward hash as he feels toward money—the more he gets the more he wants.

Those men from the Chinook may offer the hash complaint in explanation of their action, but we don't believe it. There must be something else behind this strike, for too much hash is an impossibility.

UNIFORM WATER LAWS.

An interesting instance of the way in which the operations of the reclamation service may assist in securing uniform state laws is contained in the fact that Governor Chamberlain has recently appointed a commission to draft a bill which will modify the existing water laws of this state in such a way as to make them harmonize with the provisions of the reclamation act.

Need for similar revision of water laws is felt in other states, and it is hoped that Oregon's example will be followed in all the states affected by the reclamation act. That such revision would simplify the problems of the reclamation service is a fact accentuated by an opinion recently delivered by Mr. Fred Campbell, assistant attorney general, con-

cerning the legality of withdrawing public lands from settlement.

The director of the United States geological survey has recommended that all lands within half a mile on each side of the center line of Salmon river, Okanogan county, Wash., together with the water flowing on them, be withdrawn from further disposition, as they are required for engineering works contemplated under the provisions of the act for the reclamation of arid lands. Mr. Campbell declared, however, that there is no authority to make such executive withdrawal of public lands within a state as will reserve the waters of a stream flowing over them from appropriation under the laws of the state, or will in any manner interfere with its laws relating to the control, appropriation, use, or distribution of water.

He based his opinion upon section 8 of the reclamation act, which states that in carrying out the provisions of the act there shall be no interference "with the laws of any state or territory relating to its control, appropriation, use, or distribution of water used in irrigation, or any vested right acquired thereunder," but that the procedure shall be in "conformity with such laws." A withdrawal of waters from appropriation under state and territorial laws would be in direct conflict with the provisions of this section.

Mr. Campbell advises, nevertheless, that the land be withdrawn, so that the rights of the United States as proprietor of the land may be protected so far as the reservation of land will protect and preserve such rights.

THE ASTORIA 1904 DIRECTORY.

The interests of the Astorian Publishing Company in the directory business have been transferred to the R. L. Polk Company. While it is true that the local company was first to commence work on a directory this year, it is also true that the R. L. Polk Company has no superior in the business in which it is engaged all over the United States, and that it is better equipped by reason of long experience to accomplish perfect results than any local concern could be.

While it would have been a matter of pride to have published a creditable directory, yet we are assured that the work now being compiled by the R. L. Polk Company will be a volume of which its patrons and the city will be proud.

The Astorian Publishing Company is grateful for the liberal patronage offered, and for the many expressions of loyalty to the home institution which have been made, and, while making a retiring bow, begs to recommend the directory company to the good graces of the public.

The compiling, editing, printing and binding of a work of this nature is an undertaking of much greater magnitude than most people imagine, and as all the work is being done and will be done in this city, it will be in reality an Astoria directory.

Meanwhile The Astorian will continue to be the newest newspaper outside of Portland published in the state, and its production demands all the energies of its force.

Perhaps it was to be expected that the French cabinet would be astonished, even pained, over the great lack of politeness on the part of Japan in striking a deadly blow without first giving notice of her intention. But apart from France the opinion of the world is with Japan in carrying on war according to the rules of war, and not according to the latest rules on etiquette. Japan saw her opportunity and embraced it. She caught Admiral Alexieff napping, and if his rousing from slumbers was painfully strenuous, the fault is, or was, his own. It was his business to know that war is just what General Sherman described it to be in only three terse words, but expressive of the whole subject.

The Portland Journal is in error in censuring the Oregonian of stealing President Cleveland's article from the Saturday Evening Post. The article was sent out by the Associated Press from Philadelphia and was received over the wires by The Astorian as well as by the Oregonian and all other Associated Press newspapers. The Journal has made a bad guess.

The annual number of the West Coast and Puget Sound Lumberman is just out. It is complete in every detail and its advertising columns denote that it is appreciated by the lumbering interests of the east as well as of the coast. It is a most creditable edition and its publisher, Frank B. Cole, is deserving of commendation.

Now that we can read about a real war, the account of the proceedings of the St. Louis convention will not be as interesting.

Bourke Coekran begins his second political career by calling Uncle Sam "the hoodlum of nations."

Mr. Gaines did not tell how long it took to count those 13,000,000 microbes on that dollar bill.

Russia should hurry to get in her war loan before Japan does any more work.

DECORATING

The quiet, artistic beauty of any home is easily marred by lack of taste in wall decorations. We wish to state that the New Year will find us in a better position to do decorating than ever before. New patterns are beginning to arrive, and all we ask is that you favor us with an opportunity to show you the line.

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LEAVE	PORTLAND	ARRIVE
8:00 a m	Portland Union De-	11:10 a m
7:00 p m	pot for Astoria and	9:40 p m
	Way Points	

ASTORIA

7:46 a m	For Portland and	11:30 a m
6:10 p m	Way Points	10:30 p m

SEASIDE DIVISION

*8:15 a m	Astoria for War-	7:40 a m
11:35 a m	ton, Flavel Fort	4:00 p m
5:50 p m	Stevens, Hammond	*10:45 a m
	and Seaside	

6:15 a m	Seaside for War-	12:50 p m
*9:30 a m	renton, Flavel,	7:30 p m
2:30 p m	Hammond, Fort	*9:25 a m
	Stevens & Astoria	

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