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Local Brevities.

Mary I. Gillette has been granted a divorce at Oregon City from J. M. Gillette.

Frank Huff, of whose arrest at Seattle Sheriff Lindville was notified a day or two ago, is wanted at Cathlamet to answer to a charge of assault with intent to kill. The man's real name is Frank Huffman and about two years

ago he beat almost to death Mrs. Peter John, a resident of Wahkiakum county.

An adjourned session of the county court will be held today to arrange for matters relative to the construction of the new court house.

Tonight's rehearsal for the production of "Belshazzar" will be held at the home of Mrs. Elmore, commencing at 7:30. The ladies and gentlemen who are to take part are re-

quested to be on hand promptly at the hour named.

A large store house is being built at the box factory of the Clatsop Mill Company, where there has been a decided shortage of room for a long time.

A meeting of the county republican committee will be held this evening to fill the vacancy on the legislative ticket caused by the declination of W. A. Goodin. It is said the nomination will go to C. J. Curtis of Seaside.

A 500 horse-power engine was shipped yesterday from Lancaster, Pa., and is expected to be brought to Astoria within 30 days. The engine is for the Astoria Electric Company. A 500 horse-power lighting generator is also on the way from Lynn, Mass. When this new machinery is installed the company will be in position to give to the people of Astoria a lighting and power service unequalled in any of the smaller cities of the west.

Captain Goodale yesterday received a letter from the quartermaster general at Washington authorizing him to award to J. A. Fastabend the contract for the construction of the post exchange building at Fort Stevens. Contarcor Fastabend's bid was \$9993, which was the lowest. The work of constructing the building will be commenced the latter part of next week. The post exchange building, a description of which recently appeared in The Astorian, will be a valuable addition to the buildings at the post.

Packers report that there is no material change in the supply of salmon. The fish are small as compared with those of the early runs of last season, and the gillnetters are all using small-mesh nets. The season is not yet far enough advanced to tell with any degree of certainty just what the extent of the salmon supply will be, but fishermen and packers alike expect better runs at later dates until June, when the usual good runs make their appearance. Some of the up river seiners have made a few fair hauls, but the traps that are being operated have thus far done nothing.

The sale of seats for Wiedemann's big show opens at Griffin's book store tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock. The repertoire for this engagement is entirely new to theatergoers. Manager Wiedemann has secured some of the leading eastern successes that have never been presented on the coast at popular prices. The opening bill, "Down in Egypt," is a story of southern Illinois from the pen of Mr. Wiedemann. He has constructed a play that is a companion piece to the well known success, "In Old Kentucky." The plot is laid in "Egypt," a portion of Illinois known by that name. The cast is headed by Tom and Nellie Wiedemann, ably supported by a selected company. The vaudeville between acts is very strong. An entire change of play and specialties is made at every performance. The prices are 25 and 35 cents. The engagement is for one week, commencing next Monday.

Superintendent Coolidge of the Astoria Electric Company takes exception to the statement appearing in yesterday's Astorian that the company is violating the terms of its franchise. Mr. Coolidge says his fuel car did not go through Commercial street, but that an axle was broken, causing a temporary blockade of the main line. So far as the statement of D. H. Welch is concerned, Mr. Coolidge says he is not accurately advised in the premises, else he would not have charged the company with violating the terms of the franchise. "We are merely operating under the franchise which the city granted to us, and in no way have been guilty of violation of its terms, despite the maudlin statement of Mr. Welch," said Mr. Coolidge. "If we violate the franchise we will doubtless be held to an accounting in the courts. We have no fear of curbstone indictments."

A very pleasant and enjoyable little amateur entertainment was given last night for the benefit of the organ fund of Holy Innocents chapel of the east end, a three act play entitled, "Our Girls in Camp," with Miss Ella Painter in the leading juvenile and Miss Carol Young as a character old woman. These two parts were well taken and are deserving of special mention. All the other young ladies

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acquitted themselves creditably. Miss Lottie Peterson as Clover Wells and Miss Alma Holmes played their parts well. Miss Nell Barker created a great deal of fun by her portrayal of the character of Lurella Ann Pippin, "daughter of Mrs. Pippin, with a taste for yellow covered literature." The entertainment was given in the old schoolhouse of the east end and an appreciative audience witnessed the performance. A neat sum was realized which will be added to the fund being created for the purpose of purchasing a new organ.

Deliveries of rock for the jetty work at the mouth of the river have been resumed by the Northern Construction Company, and long trains of stone are sent down to the mouth of the river at various hours of the day and night. The company has greatly improved its facilities for handling the rock and the engineers will be provided with quite as much as they will be able to care for. It is the intention of the department to push the work during the summer, so that, when next winter's storms rage, the jetty will be substantial enough to withstand them. The Portland concern which secured the contract for 240,000 tons of rock has not yet begun to make deliveries, but the local company will keep the engineers well supplied.

Isalah Cohen, one of the best known residents of Astoria, died at his home on Exchange street at 5 o'clock last evening after a long illness. When the end came members of the family and many friends were at the bedside and Mr. Cohen retained consciousness to the last. For more than two years he had been ill, but had fought a desperate battle with death, rallying at times in a remarkable manner. About three months ago he became worse, and up to the time of his death faded gradually. While his death was not unexpected, news of his passing cast a gloom over the community, where for almost 35 years he had ranked as one of the most prominent merchants, enjoying the confidence and esteem of all. Mr. Cohen was a native of New York and 60 years of age. He first came to Astoria in the '70s and with C. H. Cooper started the I. X. L. store. Later he opened the California store and the Low-Price store, which he conducted until about five years ago, when he retired with a competency. Mr. Cohen is survived by Mrs. Cohen and three children—two sons and one daughter; also two sisters, one of whom lives in San Francisco and the other in New York city. He was a member of the A. O. U. W. and carried considerable life insurance. Arrangements for the funeral will be announced later.

Two fishermen, whose names have not thus far been ascertained, were drowned at the mouth of the river yesterday afternoon. The men occupied a fishing boat that greatly resembled the boats of the Sanborn-Cutting Company, and it was reported during the afternoon that the men were in this concern's employ. Frank Sanborn said yesterday the men were not connected with his cannery, as was disclosed by investigation when the report of the drowning reached the city. It was about 1 o'clock when the lookout at Cape Disappointment noticed the predicament of the fishing boat. The boat was then near the mouth of the river and a sudden squall, which came up while the men had out their net, placed the craft beyond their control. The long net dragging behind made it impossible for the occupants to keep the boat on an even keel, and the waves capsized her. The lookout at once gave the alarm and Captain Stuart and his life savers hastened to the scene. When they reached the boat the unfortunate men were nowhere to be seen, having sunk before assistance could reach them. The boat and net were towed ashore by the life crew. The boat was numbered 60, and from inquiries made yesterday afternoon it is evident she belonged to some Washington cannery company. It is expected the names of the first victims of the present season will be ascertained today.

FAIR FORCE ENLARGED.

Night Shift of 2500 Workmen Begins on the Grounds.

St. Louis, April 21.—An additional force of 2500 workmen, making a all night working shift of nearly 3,000 men, will begin today, force the work on the world's fair to completion for the opening.

The night force to be put on immediately will, it is said, more than make up for the work lost during the bad weather. If the lighting of the avenues where the roadway and paving is to be done, is not perfected by the time the men start work, naphtha torches and lanterns will be provided to facilitate the work.

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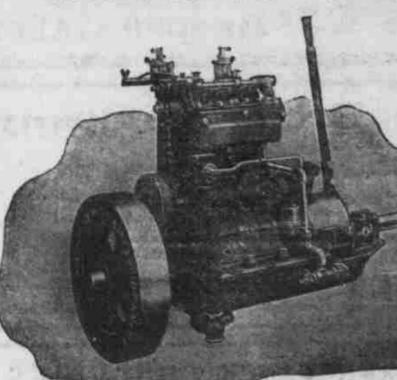
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