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Local Brevities.

The schooner James Rolph cleared yesterday for San Pedro, Cal. She takes 746,000 feet of lumber.

All of the funds remaining in the hands of the Fourth of July committee after the bills are paid will, at the instance of the Merchants' Association, be turned over to the regatta committee. The balance will, it is thought, be about \$100.

A certificate of approval of the improvement of Thirty-seventh street from the alleyway running between blocks 14 and 15 to the track of the A. E. Co. was filed yesterday with Auditor Anderson. The improvement was made by Birch & Jacobsen at a cost of \$299.75.

Martin, the 11-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. M. Franciscovitch, was drowned yesterday afternoon while playing at Scow bay. With several other children, the Franciscovitch child had been paddling around in the water on a raft, from which he fell. The other children at once gave the alarm, but before the child could be taken from the water life was extinct. John Kearney, Jr., recovered the body, which was found in seven feet of water some 50 feet from the spot where the boy went down. Dr. Fulton worked over the child, but resuscitation was impossible. The child had been in the water only about 10 minutes when the body was recovered.

For months past there has been talk of securing a baseball park in the east end, and members of the Commercial Club are now taking up the matter again. The present field is so difficult of access that hundreds stay away from games who otherwise would gladly attend. That the people of the city are anxious to support amateur sport has been demonstrated by the fact that crowds of 500 to 1500 have climbed the hill every Sunday, or secured conveyances at considerable additional cost. If a ground can be secured where car connection will make it accessible, the attendance will be more than doubled, and with the idea in view of securing such a field the club will take up the matter this winter. The football season is soon to commence and the interest in the game will be greater this year than ever before, because the club team will be the strongest in the state,

if not on the entire coast. Whether or not it will be possible to arrange for the grounds before the football season commences is a question, but the effort will be made.

Late yesterday afternoon Judge McBride extended for 60 days the time for the filing of the transcript of appeal in the case of the city of Astoria vs. Josiah Smith, who was convicted of perjury in the bogus damage suit which was commenced by the man and his confederates against the municipality.

The number of delegates from each of the Oregon commercial bodies to the Oregon Development League convention has been increased from five to ten, because of the very general interest which has been manifested in the formation of the league. The increased delegations will mean the attendance of a very large number of delegates, and it is expected the league will start off under the most favorable circumstances. The call for the convention was issued yesterday.

Judging by the following Vancouver (B. C.) dispatch, the trappers of British Columbia are getting a choice variety of fish in their gear: "The two traps off Vancouver island belonging to J. H. Todd & Co. yesterday yielded 10,000 fish. Of these 7,500 were taken at Otter point, and about 2,500 at Sooke. In the Otter point trap was a shark weighing about a ton and a large sea lion. The latter, in being taken, did some damage to the traps. The salmon were taken to the Fraser river canneries. The traps could have taken many thousands more if necessary, and have completely proved the correctness of their builders' prediction that fish traps at that point will revolutionize the salmon fishing industry on this part of the Pacific coast."

The only time an Astoria hose team won the dry test was at the last regatta. Then the local runners took all the events. In former years, when the big tournaments were held, something always happened to deprive the Astoria team of this event. Usually an accident occurred. The old-time tournaments were the occasions for the wagering of big sums of money on the outcome of the races, and Astoria backers of the local teams have lost thousands of dollars on the event, which came to be known as the hoodoo race. At the recent tournament at Portland the reel was jammed and would not

work, with the result that the Astorians were unable to finish. All of the other events were won in a walk. Whether or not the hoodoo will ever be removed from the dry test is a question that the hose team would like to have definitely answered, if that were possible.

The Y. P. S. C. E. will give a walk-out party this evening to Smith Point. The party will leave the west end of the car line at 7:30 sharp, and a general invitation has been extended for everyone to attend. The notice of the event concludes with the warning that those who intend joining the party shall provide themselves with cups, but no spoons will be allowed.

The South Bend Journal pays the following compliment to the Commercial Club baseball team: "The Astoria boys are about as clean a lot of players as it is possible to bring together. Manager Ellsworth will endeavor to bring them here for games during the carnival and regatta. Harry Graham, Astoria's third baseman, is fast enough for any company. He was seen in South Bend several years ago in a Hoquiam uniform."

Manager Hedrick of Hedrick's theater has decided to give away a handsome lady's or gentleman's gold watch to patrons of his matinee performances. Those attending the matinees will be given tickets, and the person holding the right ticket will have the choice of a lady's or gentleman's watch. This departure has been attempted for the purpose of creating a greater matinee attendance. This afternoon's matinee will see a complete change of program at Hedrick's. The turns will all be new and the pictures and songs even more interesting than those heretofore on the bill. The new program will be rendered until Monday night, when there will be another new show. Watch for the announcement of the prize baby show at Hedrick's.

The three Japanese stowaways who arrived on the Aragona have been placed in jail at Portland pending deportation. Close questioning revealed the fact that the prisoners bribed members of the Chinese crew of the vessel to assist them in making the passage. They confessed to immigration officials that each of them gave the celestial sailors 10 yens to pick out a hiding place for them and provide them with food. Had not the search been made at Astoria it is thought that the men would have succeeded in completing the voyage without being captured, and under cover of darkness they had undoubtedly planned to gain the shore. Until the steamer is ready to return on the outward trip the prisoners will be guests at the county jail, when they will be deported at the expense of the vessel owners.

The decision of United States Judge Bellinger in the case of the government against the Astoria & Columbia River Railroad Company will be of far-reaching effect. Several of the big transportation companies are involved in suits of the kind, and if the case against the local road should be decided adversely to the government by the supreme court, to which it is apt to be appealed, the other suits will be materially affected. The local road leases the track of the Northern Pacific from Portland to Goble. Now, the Northern Pacific is a land-grant road and therefore is required to make half rates for the government. As to the status of a road which uses the track of a land-grant road the government has been in doubt, and the suit against the A. & C. was in the nature of a test. General Agent Mayo said yesterday that the Burlington had been accepting payment from the government ever since 1899 under protest upon a proposition identical to the same as that at present involved. The suits all grew out of the Spanish war. It is probable the government will carry its case to the higher courts, but the opinion is expressed that the government will be defeated there. It is contended that, in such cases, the government may exact the half-rate from the land-grant road that owns the line, but that another road which happens to use the track of the land-grant road should not be required to make half rates.

Last night's News contained a statement to the effect that P. E. Piser, a photographer, had disappeared from the city after having violated an agreement with Photographer Bell. According to the News' account of the affair, Mr. Piser collected some money for Mr. Bell and ran off with it. Mr. Piser read the story last evening and was very much surprised, as, indeed, was Editor Gibson of the News, who had been misinformed, and who brought Mr. Piser to the office of The Astorian, that the erroneous statement might be fully corrected. Mr. Piser had made arrangements with Mr. Bell to do some

work, with the understanding that there was to be an equal division of the profits. Mr. Piser came to the conclusion that the agreement was one that would not net him proper returns, so, after some talk with Mr. Bell, he dissolved the partnership arrangement. Yesterday he took from the gallery his photographic appliances. Some time later he met Mr. Bell, with whom he effected a satisfactory settlement. Meantime Editor Gibson had been informed that Mr. Piser had disappeared, and he was not otherwise informed before the News went to press last night. The statement does a great injustice to Mr. Piser, and Mr. Gibson is quite anxious that the public shall learn of the error which was made.

In the circuit court yesterday the injunction suit of the Columbia River Packers' Association vs. Hans Peterson, George Kaboth and others was settled before Judge McBride. It seems that the defendants have been anchoring a seining scow near one of the plaintiff's grounds, and the plaintiff sought to have the court make an order requiring that the scow be anchored elsewhere. The interested attorneys appeared before the court and finally reached an agreement, the understanding being that the scow would be moored so as to not interfere with the operations of the plaintiff. It was one of the most trivial injunction cases ever commenced, although of no little importance to the parties to the case. A few other minor matters were taken up by the court during the day.

SALMON MORE PLENTIFUL NEAR THE RIVER'S MOUTH

Fish Have Begun to Come in From the Ocean and an Improvement is Looked for Soon.

Reports received from lower harbor stations yesterday convey the pleasing information that salmon are beginning to enter the river, and better hauls were made at the lower harbor seining grounds yesterday and by those gillnet fishermen who drifted near the bar. Frank Cook and Alex Grant, two of the most prominent seiners on the river, express the conviction that the run of fish will improve from now on, although neither looks to see a very heavy run for a few weeks.

For the past two weeks the ocean has been literally alive with salmon, but the fish would not enter the river because of the muddy condition of the water. It usually happens that they remain outside until almost ready to spawn, but it is agreed that the muddy water has kept them out of the river for two weeks longer than would have been the case had the water been clear. Clear water is not expected for two weeks, but better runs of salmon are expected.

The statement that the mud now in the water will kill the salmon is disputed by old-time seiners. They insist that this theory is nonsense, and in support of their statement point out the fact that many salmon have been taken at up-river points. The salmon are naturally shy of thick water, but they will live in the river whether or not it is clear.

The backward season has already given rise to the expression that prices will be lowered when the big run comes in. When fish are plentiful the packers usually reduce prices, and it is feared there will be but a short period this season when the higher prices are realized.

One of the best indications of an improved run is the presence in the river of a large number of steelheads. Fishermen yesterday caught many of this species of salmon, which always make their appearance just before the salmon come into the river, and which have always been an infallible sign that salmon are to become plentiful. There is good demand for steelheads, which bring 4 cents a pound.

Operations thus far have been confined almost entirely to lower harbor points, the up-river seiners having made very poor hauls. All of the seiners are ready for a rush, however, and within a short time, it is believed, receipts of salmon will be heavy at all of the packing houses.

FALSE TEETH CHOKED HER.

Strange Death of Woman Whose Son Was Almost Killed.

New York, July 13.—Frightened by the narrow escape of her young son from being run down by a heavy truck, Mrs. Mary Murphy, wife of a Brooklyn merchant, has been strangled to death by her false teeth.

The woman went to Coney Island for an outing. In his hurry to cross the street, her son dashed in front of a team and narrowly escaped. His mother attempted to scream and fell strangling before a crowd of pleasure seekers. She died in a few minutes and the doctors found the cause in a set of false teeth half way down her throat.

If you have rooms for rent during Regatta fill this out and send to Secretary Regatta Committee.

Form for rooming information during Regatta, including fields for name, address, and rooming preferences.

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