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Today's Weather.

Western Oregon and Western Washington, Thursday occasional rain. Eastern Oregon and Eastern Washington, generally fair weather.

IS IT WORTH THE COST?

The closing of gambling in Astoria was not due to any "moral wave," neither was it brought about by any organization interested in reforming the conditions of the city, but it was due to an undercurrent of sentiment that has been pervading the atmosphere of the state; an unseen, unknown condition that sometimes actuates a public officer who is in a position to know some of the baneful effects of gambling and the influence exerted on many of the homes of Astoria. It is contended on one hand, that gambling is necessary because it produces a revenue that goes to the support of the city government. Admitting this is true, is it worth the cost?

Instances are probably known to the sheriff where young men have squandered all their earnings, and often money belonging to their employers at the gambling table. Young men who have held positions of honor and trust have been summarily dismissed because their employer was afraid to trust a young man that gambled. There are instances in Astoria where men with families who have received their wages Saturday night and instead of going home with their earnings, have been influenced into the gambling places and in a few short hours did not have a dollar, and the neighbors have been compelled to carry in food and provisions for the wife and children. The city derives a revenue from the gambler, but who pays it? Is it worth the cost?

Young men have been in business and in a fair way to become independent. They have won the confidence of the public and their credit in the markets is rated as first class. When they become a little prosperous they have a desire to make money more rapidly and they visit the gambling houses. In a short time their creditors close them up and they are left without a cent, the public has lost confidence in them and it is difficult for them to procure employment. The money they had saved up and invested in their business went to pay the expenses of the city, paid in by the gamblers. Is it worth the cost?

But let us consider the question of gambling from a business standpoint. A year ago, gambling was permitted in Seaside. Owing to difficulties occurring there gambling was ordered closed. Most of the merchants doubted the propriety of it, as the town derived a revenue in licenses from it. Nearly a year has passed since then and there is not a merchant in Seaside that wants to see gambling. Men employed at the mill and in the logging camps are more prosperous and pay their bills every month. Heretofore men lost their money at the gambling tables and many of them skipped out without paying their bills and the merchants lost considerable money.

There are merchants in Astoria who have been compelled to deny credit to certain persons for the reason that the money they should have used in paying their bills went over the gambling table, and the merchants have thousands of dollars on their books today, resulting directly and indirectly from gambling. If gambling were closed there would be just as much money in Astoria, but it would be diverted into other channels. Men who spend their money at gambling tables would be able to buy a lot and build a home and would not have to go in debt at the grocers or meat market or bakery. The money would simply be transferred from the gamblers to the legitimate channels of trade. If it were necessary to levy an occupation tax to make up the deficiency from the loss of gambling fines, there is not a merchant but could afford to pay it, and the increase in their business would warrant it.

All of the saloons in Astoria do not

favor gambling. Many of them are opposed to it and will not allow it in their places of business. It is a very unsatisfactory business and the respectable saloons do not cater to the gambling element. A saloon can be made respectable, and it is a legitimate business and sanctioned by legal enactments providing for a license. The greatest objection to saloons is to those where gambling is permitted.

If gambling is to be prohibited in Astoria it should include not only the saloons, but the cigar stores. The most pernicious gambling, and where most of the young men are ruined is in the back of cigar stores. It should also include "short card gambling" as well as gambling games. Chinese lottery should not be excluded. If the names of prominent ladies and gentlemen of Astoria that play Chinese lottery were published it would create a sensation in Astoria. All of the money that goes over the gambling games comes as a rule from the poorer class of people. In other words the \$7500 the city derives annually from gambling games is paid indirectly by men who have to neglect their families and the question to be determined is, is it worth the cost?

There is not a city or town in Oregon where gambling has been suppressed, but the community is better off financially. It stimulates business, builds homes, builds up society and creates a more healthful sentiment, and not one of the cities where it has been suppressed would today be willing to go back to the proposition of licensing vice and crime. These are questions that enter into the gambling question, and there ought not to be a business man in Astoria but would be willing to lend his aid and influence to the sheriff in his most commendable actions in putting a stop to the practice. Is it worth the cost?

BEAUTIFYING HOMES.

It is extremely gratifying to know that the Civic Improvement committee of the Wman's Club are preparing to take an active part in the spring house cleaning in Astoria. The movement is general all over the United States and everywhere the noble women are teaching the men lessons in purity and cleanliness. There is no question but the common council will lend their assistance to any movement inaugurated by the Civic Improvement League. The Astorian has published articles from different cities throughout the United States, simply as information and to suggest a mode of procedure for the women of Astoria.

It was stated in a communication from the Astoria civic improvement committee in yesterday's Astorian it will have necessarily to be a campaign of education, as many, both men and women, do not realize the condition of the streets, and even their own homes until their attention is called to it and they are surprised that they had not thought of it before. The school children can be instructed in this work. It is being done in Portland as the following from the Journal shows: "Thousands of packages of flower seeds and plants and bulbs are being received by the three, plants and grounds committee of the civic improvement committee of the chamber of commerce and will be divided into packages and sent to the schools, where they will be allotted to the children."

The children are enthusiastic over their share in the movement for civic improvement and promise to do all they can to make the city more beautiful and attractive. They will plant the school grounds in seeds and flower bulbs, and will attempt to beautify the yards around their homes. Cash prizes will be awarded to those who make their home grounds the most attractive.

The children are much interested in the junior improvement club in each school. A large number have already signed the membership blanks sent out by the chamber of commerce, and organizations will soon be effected in the 15 largest schools of the city. Teachers and parents are lending their efforts in the movement.

The civic improvement board has turned its attention to the merchants who allowed their cellar doors opening on the sidewalks to remain open during the day. An attempt will be made to formulate some plan to keep the cellar doors closed during the busy hours of the day."

PARTY ORGANIZATION.

Republicans throughout the state seem to be in a bad condition of demoralization and almost devoid of unanimity, says the Salem Statesman.

No one knows what the direct primary law will lead to. In fact the entire future of party organization is the great question point.

Candidates for every office within the gift of the people are springing up in every county. It is said that Multnomah county alone would be willing to supply the state with a full complement of officials. We are also willing to admit that our county bears within its borders a number of very capable gentlemen who in all honor and with every right aspire to supply the state in various of these positions.

Of course it will be evident to every one that the great centers of population might easily combine and nomi-

nate all of the candidates for the various state offices, but the result would so dissatisfy the other portions of the state that they would vote as a man against the combination's candidate in the general election. It therefore seems urgent that if any good is to come through Republican success in the election of 1906 some means must be arrived at by which this situation may be avoided.

Of course it is more than likely that leaders of the Republican party may gather together in small bodies from time to time to discuss the general situation, but it seems that something even more of a general character than this is necessary in order that this matter may be generally gone over, and it is barely possible that a meeting of Republicans may be called to meet in Portland some time during the Lewis and Clark Fair in the fall.

Even with the direct primary law Republicans must appreciate that it will be impossible for them to work as a solid body without maintaining their organization. If Republican principles are worth maintaining every possible effort to maintain them should be put forth by those who believe in them. It will usually be noted that they who howl loudest against voting for party and in favor of voting for the man only, are they who consider but little the general effect of a fixed policy in government, or are on the side opposed to the majority.

Republican principles, which include protection to American industries, maintaining American prestige in the face of everything throughout the world, the upholding of the Monroe doctrine the improvement of our rivers and harbors the construction of an isthmian water way, a proper expansion through peaceable means of our trade and commerce and the maintenance of the credit if the government at the very highest notch have given to the United States forty years of prosperity, development and growth, the like of which has never before been seen in the world.

Now are these principles worthy of being continued? If so, is not a maintenance of a strong party organization necessary thereto? It is now time that we should think of these things for these principles will not be maintained by our political opponents.

OUT OF THE ORDINARY.

Epitome of Anecdotes and Incidents With Comments By a Layman.

Many a sack of coin is laid away in the safe, the chips are locked up in the tin box and the loaded dice will take a much needed rest.

Business got so dull in Tacoma that they had to open gambling in order to show eastern visitors that there was some money in the city.

"Storage eggs are stronger," says a market report. We have noticed that.

Nan Patterson's trial is coming up again, and now that Cassie is out of the way Nan will once more have the center of the stage all to herself.

The scientists are now fighting over the exact age of the earth, while the average man is perfectly satisfied now that he has discovered the exact age of Ann.

Somebody has invented an electric haircutting machine, but along about this time of the year the country boy's mother finds the family shears good enough for all practical purposes.

A Kansas saloonkeeper has found it necessary to put up a placard admonishing his "gentlemen patrons" "not to swear in the presence of ladies." What's the matter with Kansas?

If Carnegie wants to die poor, why doesn't he go into the beef packing business?

Attention of medical men who have had cases where patients have been kicked in the corridor or vestibule, is now directed to the man who was stabbed in the crap game.

It is barely possible that children may yet become fashionable! At any rate there is a chance that the baby may once more take the place of the poodle dog in the family carriage.

The president of the New York Normal college was addressing a band of young women, "Young women," he said, "generally make excellent teachers. But if you dislike the work turn to anything else but teaching. We cannot succeed ever in what we hate. Bad teachers, when we find them, are persons who dislike their work. They are like the young men girl in the country town who said to one of her friends: "Yes, I am going to take up teaching."

"The friend looked amazed. 'You?' she exclaimed. 'You a school teacher?' Why, I'd rather marry a widower with nine children."

"So would I," said the other. "But where is the widower?" Do you know that the McCrea-Ford Co., 538 Commercial street, are making a big reduction on all photographs during the Lenten season?

DON'T

Neglect to inspect our "swagger" stock of Clothing for spring, built for Man or Boy



The Man

Who is fond of good clothes is the man we like to see come into our store. Once he tries on one of our easy, neat fitting, double or single breasted suits, 'tis a sure sale

\$10.00 to \$30.00

The Boy

Who is fond of garments that is "chock" full of style, and quality to withstand the strain that a boy full of life and vigor is bound to put them to, will be delighted with such clothing as we are showing

\$2.00 to \$13.00

Every garment guaranteed to give entire satisfaction or your money refunded

P. A. STOKES

KEEPS A DRESSY SHOP FOR DRESSY MEN.

The Colonel's Waterloo. Colonel John M. Fuller, of Honey Grove, Texas, nearly met his Waterloo, from Liver and Kidney trouble. In a recent letter, he says: "I was nearly dead, of these complaints, and, although I tried my family doctor, he did me no good; so I got a 50c bottle of your great Electric Bitters, which cured me. I consider them the best medicine on earth, and thank God who gave you the knowledge to make them." Sold and guaranteed to cure Dyspepsia, Billousness and Kidney Disease, by Chas. Rogers, druggist, at 50c a bottle.

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Wears Like Iron. B. F. ALLEN & SON

The Best Restaurant. The Palace Cafe. Regular Meals 25c. Everything the Market Affords Sunday Dinners a Specialty. Palace Catering Co.

UNDER THIS PONTE A few that I would like to call your attention to: One is that Frank Hart keeps Liquozone, - Vinol, And All the Standard Patent Medicines - and another is that he is still selling White Pine Cough Syrup in 25c and 50c bottles the same as in the past five years. Don't forget the Diamond-Shaped Bottle. FRANK HART, Druggist. Corner 14th and Commercial St.

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J. N. GRIFFIN