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WEATHER.

Oregon and Washington—Rain, south to easterly.

MEANS MUCH OR NOTHING.

The reported absorption of the A.&C. railroad by the Hill system means much, or nothing, for the City of Astoria. It may mean the fulfillment of Hill's dream of the long haul over a water level grade to a coast harbor; if it does there is an infinite perspective, of supreme value for Astoria. It will mean big terminal establishments, terminal facilities, and the common point rate for this city, beside the immense and fruitful aftermath of such an innovation, by the lesser systems that will follow in its wake. Such things have happened; they are pleasant to contemplate, pleasant to realize, but are not to be counted on until they are conspicuously present and in operation, bona fide, indubitable. Then will be moment for gratulation. Until that hour arrives it may be just as well to look upon the great transfer as but one more move in the great game for power and prestige being played by the mighty rail systems and their combinations in the northwest; a mere move on the chess-board of transportation; another phase of the mapping done by the corporate giants, wherewith lesser mortals have much concern but mighty little direct affiliation or fixed interest. Confirmation of the deal, or denial, will have but little effect here. Astoria has learned to wait. She has faith in her ultimate, and prosperous, destiny, and will do what she can to work it out, by herself, if she must, with the aid of others if she can, and there is no particular objection to a boost from James J. Hill, or any other potentate that has the leverage to spare. We bide our time, with the glad hand all aquiver to be extended.

SNOBS, PURE AND SIMPLE.

The decision of an army court martial, degrading in rank a commissioned officer who ordered a sergeant to move his seat in a theater because the non-commissioned man might not sit so near the superior without ruffing his dignity, is much like the action taken in the cases of Commander Young of the Bennington and Midshipman Meriwether of Annapolis. Young was sentenced to be reprimanded and Meriwether, who killed a fellow cadet in a prize fight, is being confined to the limits of the academy one year. Men of the stamp of this snob do incalculable harm by causing the army to be generally despised by those less favored with worldly goods. Not all West Pointers are so, but creatures do occasionally emerge from that institution who imagine that enlisted men are hired only as servants. To the humiliation of American manhood it is confessed that privates today are forced to black the boots of their superiors and perform other menial labor not rightly demanded of soldiers. If these snobs are permitted to make an army of scullions rather than an army of soldiers of the regular force, in time that force will deteriorate so far as to run like scullions instead of fighting like soldiers. In a democratic army, the pri-

vate and the officer before the law are one; in a community of men and not snobs, they are equals socially. There is no room for snobs in America, least of all in the United States army or navy.

SOLD AGAIN, B'GOSH!

The Astoria & Columbia River Railroad is one of the best sellers in the American market. It has been sold again; this time to the Northern Pacific. Well, it is still here and doing business at the old stand, and good makes no difference about that snog little line from here to Tillamook City; that must go, no matter who sells; Astoria needs it in her business, and if she don't build it, someone else will. This building and selling of railroads is one of the liveliest lines of commerce hereabout, and in order to justify the apparent activity of that particular market, at least one road should materialize, or really change hands, in order to maintain the credit of Astoria for doing something. Hot air is abundant, cheap, but has a tendency to asphyxiate a person, or a community. It's the "hot stuff" of downright action that tells.

MIXED REPORTS.

The accounts of the fighting in Moscow was varied, but they all lead to the one conclusion—that the revolutionists have been defeated and for the time suppressed. Correspondents who purport to send news as eye-witnesses testify that the killed number hundreds and the wounded thousands. As to the credibility of these reports some doubt is expressed. The casualties were probably light considering the length of time the contest waged, and its bitterness. Destruction of property was undoubtedly heavy. Now the revolutionists announce another waiting policy. It is an opportune moment for the czar to put into effect his conciliatory policy. A liberal government will appeal to the law-abiding and will have their support, whereas protracted repression can result only in another outburst of violence. Continued, these are ultimately destined to involve the most remote and phlegmatic sections of the empire. The czar has another chance to reform his rule and maintain his sway.

EDITORIAL SALAD.

We might begin the new year by deciding on the type of canal we want.

The czar knows now that it is almost as painful to have a crowned head as a crowned tooth.

"This generation has no fear of hell," says an eminent preacher. How can they. They never heard of it.

The Municipal Ownership League has changed its name to "Independence Party." It is all ready for a boss.

Mr. Lawson has demonstrated that it is much easier to break the market in a magazine article than it is upon the stock exchange.

The demand for copper never will be great enough to make stock in the Copperless Mining Companies a good investment.

Admiral Rojestvensky appears to have surrendered the water wagon along with the rest of the Russian naval equipment.

Under the liberal interpretations of the Monroe doctrine, of course it will be the patriotic duty of Uncle Sam to keep the snow and ice out of the northwest passage.

Mr. Cannon of Washington is unable to understand why there should be so much fuss made over the election of a speaker for the New York legislature.

It ought to be a happy New Year for Macedonia when the Christian powers of Europe take charge of her financial affairs, January 1st.

It has occurred to somebody that the London's unemployed is to give them work; which has merits, even if no politics.

There is no reason to give up hope, since there appear to be no construction franchises for airship routes reckoned into that Belmont capitalization.

The announcement that the Chicago Herald will start Mr. Walter Wellman upon another expedition to the north pole is calculated to create great excitement in Upper Michigan and Lower Canada.

Anybody who was overlooked in sending out invitations for the receptions of the insurance investigation can take advantage of the 1906 series, dates to be

announced later. The dates of convenient steamship sailings are already announced.

When a Philadelphia bank announced that its clerks who married on a twelve-dollar salary would have to hrow up their job, one young fellow promptly met the announcement with the statement that twelve-dollar jobs were not so scarce as the particular and only girl he wished to marry, and Cupid carried the day.

The high esteem in which American women are held can hardly be grasped by the foreigner, who reads that the President has to request the people not to give his daughter a wedding present of nearly a million dollars, while Mrs. Mary Baker G. Eddy has to forbid her Christian Science followers to further enrich her by New Year and other holiday gifts.

PERSONAL MENTION.

W. O. Webster was a Portland visitor in the city yesterday.

Mrs. A. J. Taylor of Flavel was a visitor in the city yesterday.

Fred K. Groves of Portland is in the city for a few days on business.

Peter Johns of Skomakawa was in the city yesterday for a brief time.

Mr and Mrs R H Schwab are in the city this week visiting with friends.

Mrs. L. E. Loomis of Knappton came over yesterday for a visit in Astoria.

Mrs. Paul Badollet has returned from a brief visit with her parents in Portland.

S. H. Thomas of Greenleaf, Kansas, is visiting a few days with friends in the city.

Frank Smalley of Crooked Creek was in town yesterday for a brief time on business.

S. G. Williams editor of the Skamokawa Eagle spent yesterday in the city on business.

E. A. Ruter a resident of Skamokawa was in the city yesterday for a short time.

C. Hedlund a resident of Gray's River was in the city yesterday attending to business interests.

L. Fitger came in yesterday from his home at Cathlamet to spend a short time on business.

Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Drake of Skamokawa were in town yesterday morning for a brief shopping trip.

E. L. Bolton arrived in the city yesterday from the Dalles to remain a short time with friends.

Mr. and Mrs. John Heron of Skamokawa were business visitors in the city yesterday for a short time.

S. L. Roberts of Spokane arrived in the city yesterday from his home to remain a few days on business.

J. P. Wagner of the Portland Telegram is in the city this week attending to the interests of that paper.

Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Fulton leave on this city, and returns today to Monmouth. They will be gone for two weeks or more.

Hon and Mrs. J. W. Welch will leave this week for Portland, and from there will go to Southern California for a few weeks vacation.

Miss Maud Turloy, who has been attending normal at Monmouth, Oregon, has spent the last week at the home her grandmother, Mrs. J. M. Sale in this city, and returns today to Manmouth to commence her school.

"Cy" Palmer, Charles D. White, "Oily" Sheffield and Bill Page, four live "drummers" boarded the evening express for Portland yesterday. They were headed in one section and two "brakies" were detailed to keep order en route. Startling developments expected later.

C. R. Morse, the well known merchant, has returned from a week's business sojourn in Spokane. He is pleased with his trip and cheerful over the mercantile outlook for Astoria during the coming year.

BIG TIMBER DEAL.

SPOKANE, Jan. 5.—Negotiations for a \$3,000,000 timber deal, including the holdings of the William Howard Lumber Company of Spokane are pending.

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THE GARDEN OF EDEN.

Its Location a Mystery That Will Probably Never Be Solved.

The location of the earthly paradise or garden of Eden is still a matter of dispute among orientalist and Scriptural scholars of highest reputation. Some have endeavored to locate it by the fruits and mineral productions named in the Biblical descriptions as they appear in the second chapter of Genesis; others by the rivers mentioned in verses 11 to 14 of the above mentioned chapter. The weight of investigation and tradition inclines to an agreement that the Tigris and the Euphrates of modern geography are the third and fourth rivers mentioned in the Biblical description of the garden. Those who agree so far differ widely as to what rivers should now be regarded as the ancient Pison and Gihon. The Buddhist scholars, although they reject our Bible in the greater part, incline to the opinion that the Pison is the sacred Ganges, and that the Gihon is none other than the Nile. As to the last, it is altogether probable that they are correct on that point, because the Biblical account plainly says that Gihon "compasseth the whole land of Ethiopia."

Some investigations confirm that Eden was a spot of comparatively small area located on the tablelands of what is now Armenia, from which rise the Tigris and the Euphrates. A few scholars of distinction argue that the Adamic paradise was located in Africa in the vicinity of the mountains of the Moon. Still another school of orientalist locate the celebrated garden in the vicinity of the ancient city of Babylon. You will notice, however, that none of these theorists has been able to get the four rivers mentioned in the Biblical account property located. Neither have they found a place where one great river "separates into four heads." This being the case, it is hardly necessary to add that the exact location of Eden is a mystery that will probably never be solved.

The Scott of the Middle Ages.

John Florissant, born in 1337, is called the Walter Scott of the middle ages. He was a churchman and a scholar. Living as he did in unsettled times, before nationality had become well developed, he was destitute of patriotism and, therefore, more reliable as a cosmopolitan chronicler. He traveled in France, Scotland, Italy and other countries. His chronicles are the result of his own observations and are valued as a faithful portrayal of the places, customs and manners of the people during his time, although not so reliable as history.

To accept good advice is but to increase one's own ability.—Goethe.

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