A WIDE OPEN-LETTER

What a Prominent Clatsop Citizen Has to Say.

COUNTY BUSINESS MATTERS

Words of Warning to Men of All Parties —Coming Campaign Means Something More Than Mere Politics —Some Sstraight Tips.

The following letter speaks for itself in unequivocal terms, and should have due consideration on all sides. It is signed by a well-known citizen who is perfectly responsible and who writes just as he talks, a qualification not often met with in these days of double dealing. The letter is published for the good it ought to do and probably will do. It is unambiguous enough to invite earnest consideration everywhere, and to that end it is given the wide publicity of these columns:

"The Duty of the Hour.

"Editor Astorian:—

"Astoria and Clatsop county occupy a critical position at the present time, politically and financially, and very much depends on her citizens, whether she advances along the lines that have made her sister towns on the Sound put on metropolitan airs while we remain a suburban precinct. Some strides have been made to be sure; county roads have been built and county bridges and four or five livery stables are prospering where one used to starve.

"The streets are full of teams of all descriptions and the public and taxpayers are paying for it. Large sums of money are raised annually to meet these conditions and were it spent in a legitimate way, without the earmarks of graft, visible on every hand, no one would complain. But where you are confronted with grafts and manipulation on every hand, it makes the citizens feel as though the improvements were mighty expensive. When officers will go on debauches and spend more money in a week than their salary comes to in a year; when contracts are let and the parties that let them, are interested; and plans and specifications are thrown to the winds, or destroyed; when men are appointed to positions where neither their location or ability is able to fill the contract to the public, because those appointed were appointed because they were members of the family that had the pull; when the public tools and machinery are laid aside and supplanted by private interests, because they are in the position and ring; and expensive machines and tools are wantonly scattered by the roadside, to rust and destroy and rot, that a few grafters can profit thereby, it is high time that the honest men in all parties should consult with one another, and then move in the matter by taking decisive action. The time is ripe now; we are on the eve of our county election and there are several large enterprises pointing this way. The Northern Pacific Railroad is building in our direction and an electric railroad is in contemplation and very much depends on our public offices and how they are administered, whether they are conducted in a straight and honorable and economical way or whether they shall be run largely for graft. Whether men shall be elected to office who enjoy the confidence of our moneyed men, that our court house may be finished in a reasonable and economical way, or whether the same old crowd shall be returned, that everybody has lost confidence in and the public enterprises shall stand checked and remain an eyesore for strangers and capitalists to see and discuss, that come amongst us seeking investments.

"It is a lamentable fact that you talk with some of our prominent men and you allude to those conditions and these old grafters and they will say, 'Yes that is so. But he is a smart man or a great general.' He meant a great wire-puller or 'operator'. He will say, if he happens to belong to that party (in his blind partisanship): 'You can't skin him. You can't beat him,' remarks you hear every day. Republicans and Democrats, each of you consult with one another and pick out good, square men; men that have not been fattening at the public crib; men that have not been mixed up with wire-pulling; men that everyone has confidence in; men that Republicans want to vote for when they are nominated in the Republican party, and Democrats of the same stamp in the Democratic party; and let us go into this campaign with clean men on both sides and after the smoke of battle clears away, which ever side is victorious won't matter so much to the voter and taxpayer; but everybody will be benefitted; confidence will be restored; you can get all the money you want to finish up our court house and Astoria and Clatsop county will rise Phoenix like and take her place alongside of her sister towns all over the northwest.

"W. J. INGALLS."

ASTORIA'S GREATEST STORE.

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From 7 to 9 o'clock we will have on sale 10c and 15c Embroidery at 5c a yard.

THE FOARD & STOKES CO.

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FORGER ARRESTED

Chicago Police Arrest Man who Committed Clever Forgery.

PRISONER MAKES CONFESSION

Forged the Pay Checks of Many Firms and With the Aid of Accomplices Succeeds in Gaining Thousands of Dollars.

CHICAGO, March 7.—The principal in the recent $18,000 forgery of Illinois Steel Company pay checks in South Chicago has been discovered. According to his own confession, Louis Longpre is the man. He was arrested yesterday in the office of the Western Bank Note Company, where he has been employed as an engraver.

Longpre protested innocence, but after being closely questioned, he confessed that he made the plate from which the checks were printed and that he assisted in cashing them among the South Chicago merchants. Longpre's wife was arrested Monday and identified by several merchants as having cashed some of the pay checks. There are several others under arrest but the police refuse to tell their identity.

Longpre has been under police surveillance for a number of years and when the pay check forgery was made he was suspected. In many instances he has been arrested on suspicion of being connected with other forgeries, one in Joliet which is said to have netted $10,000 and others in cities of the East. He always escaped conviction, however.

Police officials for various cities, including Joliet and Buffalo have been notified and will send representatives here to try to identify some of the gang.

The swindling in South Chicago occurred on February 10. The members of the gang appeared at places where the workingmen were wont to cash their checks. All the men were attired in working men's garb and the checks were cashed without question. The storekeepers did not discover that they had been victimized until the following day.

DEVELOP WATERWAYS.

This is Regarded as Best Means of Regulating Railway.

NEW YORK, March 7. The development of the waterways of the country as the best means of regulating railroad rates was advocated by Congressman Joseph E. Ransdell of Louisiana in an after dinner speech last night at the annual banquet of the North Side Board of Trade in the Bronx.

"Water transportation," said Mr. Ransdell, "is from three to five times as cheap as rail and it should be developed to the utmost both as a carrier of freight and a regulator of rates. Wherever we have rivers, canals and lakes with good navigation, freights are cheap and there is no demand for rate legislation."

Mr. Ransdell called attention to the cheap freight rates prevalent in France and Germany as a result of the numerous canals of those countries and offered statistics to show that if the total appropriation for all purposes made by Congress, in the last ten years, the rivers and harbors had received only three per cent, and that only one per cent in addition to that had been appropriated for the promotion of commerce, while forty per cent had been expended for the army, the navy and pension purposes."

CONSIDER CURRENCY.

NEW YORK, March 6. Morris J. Jessup, president of the Chamber of Commerce, appointed yesterday a committee to consider the general question of currency reform. The members are Frank A. Vanderlip, Isador Strauss, John Claflin, Dumont Clarke, and Charles A. Conant. This committee has been named as the result of a resolution introduced by Jacob H. Schiff and adopted by the Chamber of Commerce at its February meeting. The report of this committee when completed is to be submitted to the President of the United States and to the Secretary of the treasury.

Torture By Savages.

"Speaking of the torture to which some of the savage tribes in the Philippines subject their captives, reminds me of the intense suffering I endured for three months from inflammation of the Kidneys," says W. M. Sherman, of Cushing, Me., "Nothing helped me until I tried Electric Bitters, three bottles of which completely cured me." Cures Liver Complaint, Dyspepsia, Blood disorders and Malaria; and restores the weak and nervous to robust health. Guaranteed by Chas. Rogers, druggist. Price 50c.

Mr. Bowser and His Ambitions

He Plans to Form an Antitrust Association and a Few Other Clubs.

WIFE'S MOTHER ARRIVES

She Effectually Puts a Stop to Proposed Meetings and Mr. B. Sulks In Gloomy Silence.

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"I'D like you to hurry up dinner a little tonight," said Mr. Bowser as he reached home from the office the other evening and hastily doffed his hat and overcoat.

"What is going to happen?" asked Mrs. Bowser.

"Several things. A number of us are going to meet here tonight to form an antitrust association, and I shall probably be elected president of it."

"Yes."

"Then I expect a committee from the Liberty club. It has been discovered that there are thousands of people in America who don't know the American flag when they see it, and we propose to scatter the emblem of liberty all over the United States. The old president has resigned, and I shall be elected in his place."

"I see."

"Then we are going to organize what will probably be called the honest

THE CAT FOLLOWED HIM.

man's party at the next general election, and five or six gentlemen will call here. I shall be made chairman."

"Aren't you afraid that some of these men may be playing you for a good thing?" asked Mrs. Bowser, as they sat down to the table.

"What! Play me for a good thing?" shouted Mr. Bowser as he held the carving knife in the air.

"Yes. You know you have often been played."

"Woman, what do you mean? Am I to be insulted in my own house and to my teeth? Who has ever played me? Who has ever looked upon me as a man who could be played? Don't try to sneak out of it, but answer me squarely."

"Haven't men come here and pretended they wanted to make you alderman or mayor or governor?"

"Yes; men have come here, but I found out what they were after and gave them the bounce! Played! Played! Mrs. Bowser, get it into your head that I'm no fool. When a set of men start out to play me for a soft snap they've got to get up early in the morning."

"But I don't see why you should meddle with those things you speak of. Why do you do it?"

"I do it because I'm opposed to trusts; because I am a liberty loving American citizen; because I am an honest man and want to see an honest government. A man without ambitions is no man at all."

"Well, I hope they won't bamboozle you," she said, with a sigh.

"There you go again!" fairly howled Mr. Bowser as he knocked his plate off the table with his elbow and caused the cook to come running in. "You hope they won't bamboozle me—me, Mr. Bowser—your husband! By thunder, woman, I don't know what to make of you."

"Why don't you?" asked a voice at the foot of the basement stairs, a voice that almost made Mr. Bowser jump out of his shoes.

The front door had accidentally been unlocked, and the mother-in-law had arrived and walked in.

Mrs. Bowser rose up and welcomed and kissed her, but Mr. Bowser's face turned red as he sat and glared at her.

"Samuel," said the old lady as she removed her hat and shawl and sat down to the table, "you were doing a heap of loud talking when I arrived. What is it all about?"

Mr. Bowser grudgingly named the gentlemen whom he expected to call and announced their objects, as he had given them to Mrs. Bowser, and added:

"Mrs. Bowser was expressing her fears that I'd be bamboozled. If I was regularly nominated in convention for the presidency, she'd think there was some trick in it. What the devil does a woman know about these things, anyway?"

"Samuel Bowser, don't you use another oath in my presence. You are always getting into scrapes, and Sarah knows it and I know it. If there's a woman within a hundred miles of this house who doesn't know more about politics than you do, I'd like to hear her name."

"What! What! Don't talk that way to me!"

"La-la to you! Walk upstairs to the sitting room and take a seat, and when I have finished my dinner I'll have a little talk with you. I just felt it in my bones that I ought to be here tonight."

Mr. Bowser went upstairs and walked to and fro and raged. The cat followed him, and it was a good time to give him a boost, but he neglected it. He was still walking when his wife and mother-in-law came up, and the latter said:

"Now, don't sweat your collar, Samuel. Sit down and listen to me."

"No one asked you to come on a visit," he retorted.

"I asked my-self, and don't you get too sassy or I'll stay a whole year. To begin with, there'll be no antitrust meeting here tonight. The fellows are coming of my invitation."

"I say there will be a meeting!"

"And I say there won't, and that settles it. The Liberty club may come clubbing around, but they won't be invited to drink or smoke."

"You talk as if this was your house and I was only a boy."

"Never mind how I talk. I know what I am talking about. Now, I'm expecting two or three people to dropping in this evening for supper, and they won't be or[illegible] Sarah and I'll entertain them."

It was a [illegible] three people to drop in that evening, and the mother-in-law turned to them and said:

"It's all off, gentlemen. Apply to the president."

They hadn't gotten out of the gate when the Liberty club committee arrived.

"It's been put off, gentlemen," said the mother-in-law within earshot. "Plenty of chairs in the house, but none for you."

They were hesitating what to do when the president-elect arrived. "Is Mr. Bowser in?" was asked.

"He is, but he can't be played this evening. Another evening, perhaps."

"Are you his wife?"

"No. His mother-in-law."

"Then that settles it," said the honest men in chorus, as they almost fled down the steps.

"By the living jingo, madam!" began Mr. Bowser, as she returned to the sitting room, but she walked straight up to him and said:

"Cuddle down, Samuel, cuddle down. Sarah and I are going upstairs for a little talk, and when I come down I want to find you and tell you a few things. If you leave the house I'll hunt you down."

It was two hours later when she came down. Mr. Bowser had taken a seat on the floor to sulk and had fallen asleep. His knees were drawn up, his back humped, and he had the look of an orphan far from lemonade or soda water. The cat lay on his back with his legs up, and there was an atmosphere of homesickness in the room.

"Poor Samuel!" sighed the mother-in-law. "I hate to do these things, but how else can you get along with such a man?"

"I tell you I run this house!" said Mr. Bowser, speaking in his sleep.

"He may, but I guess not!"

"And I'll have who I want here!"

"You think you will, but, you see, your mother-in-law is here."

"And if you don't like it you can go to grass!"

"Sleep, Samuel; sleep," said the mother-in-law as she turned away. "I have come to stay a month or more, and you'll need all your strength to stand up under the strain."

M. QUAD.

A Lively Tussle

with that old enemy of the race, Constipation, often ends in Appendicitis. To avoid all serious trouble with Stomach, Liver and Bowels, take Dr. King's New Life Pills. They perfectly regulate these organs, without pain or discomfort. 25c at Chas. Rogers, druggist.

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MORE COMFORT THAN EVER.

On Sunday, December 17th, the Denver & Rio Grande railroad will inaugurate a daily line of standard and tourist sleeping cars between Denver and Los Angeles in connection with the new Clark road. Both cars will leave Denver daily at 9:30 a. m., and arrive at Salt Lake City at 1:35 p. m., the next day. At this point the cars will be held over until midnight, thus allowing through passengers the privilege of a stop-over of ten hours and a half in Salt Lake City. Eastbound, these cars will leave Los Angeles at 8 p. m., and arrive at Salt Lake City at 6:30 a. m., second morning where they will remain over until 3:50 p. m., thence to Denver where they will arrive at 4:20 the following afternoon. This stop-over at Salt Lake City of the regular line of sleeping cars promises to be an attractive feature for transcontinental

The Morning Astorian, 65c a month.

NOTICE.

All voters of Clatsop county, irrespective of parties, are hereby invited and requested to meet and participate in a mass meeting to be held in "Logan hall" at Astoria, on Saturday, April 21, 1906, at 10 a. m., for the purpose of nominating a full county ticket to be voted for on Monday, June 4, 1906.

C. J. TRENCHARD,
Chairman of the Citizens' Committee of Astoria, Ore.

MAX W. POHL,
Secretary.