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**TELEPHONE MAIN 661.**

Official paper of Clatsop county and the City of Astoria.

**WEATHER.**

Western Oregon—Fair, clear in North portion, except near coast.

\$40,000 SPENT IN 1906.

The fact that Clatsop county through its commissioners' court, has paid out the round sum of \$40,000 since the first of January last, on its old and barely started court house contracts, is not generally known. It is so, however. The money has been spent upon old contracts for labor and materials and for hauling and storing the same and for the plans originally drawn in behalf of the project.

The Astorian is not indulging in any criticism at this particular moment, whatever it may have in reserve for a more opportune season; but it declares frankly and unreservedly, that the time has come for one of two conclusive processes: The final adoption of plans and the prompt building of the edifice, or the immediate stoppage of further expenditures of public money in this direction.

Build the court house, or quit paying out money upon a useless substructure. The thing is a reproach as it stands and unless it is disposed of in definite fashion, one way or the other, is likely to develop into something worse.

It is time the people were taking a hand in this grave matter and making their wishes known to the county court, in order that there may be a sensible and conclusive determination of a matter that is beginning to invoke very dubious comment.

That the building is certainly essential as a public improvement goes without saying. Let it be built and stop the apparently ceaseless expenditures that are swelling its ultimate and disproportionate cost.

**AN ELEMENT OF CONFIDENCE.**

Not in years has there been such a feeling of confidence hereabout, in the matter of the jetty improvement at the mouth of the Columbia as prevails since Colonel Roessler made his clear and definite declaration that the project must have an ample and final appropriation for its immediate completion. It is so much more than any of his predecessors ever said, or even intimated, it is so clearly and cleverly conclusive, and means so much, that it has won the instant confidence of every soul interested all over the state. It is largely indicative of the man, and a tacit avowal of his policy, and warrants the conviction of final, if deferred, achievement. We trust he will be left in charge until the jetties, complete and serviceable, shall be accepted by the government.

**TAFT AND TAFFY.**

Secretary of War Taft, now in Cuba in the interests of peace and such other good things as may be available, has a delicate and important mission; and the common knowledge of President Roosevelt's abundant confidence in him, warrants the conclusion that he is over there with unlimited plenary power in adjusting the mess. All other expedients failing, he will probably annex the "Pearl of the Antilles," which would be the most thorough-going, economical and decisive issue possible. Uncle Sam has the tacit and sole responsibility of Cuba's future on his shoulders, in any event, and the restless, turbulent spirit that dominates the Latin-American being, of itself guaranty of its constant and costly ex-

pression, he might as well take over the actual proprietorship and put the malcontents under wholesome federal discipline, that shall mitigate the situation for all time to come. And the probabilities are that Mr. Taft will invoke this ultimatum if his plans for peace and progress and safety are not recognized without undue loss of time. Such a settlement is inevitable some day and if it be hastened in the present emergency, it will be a wise and diplomatic conclusion.

**EDITORIAL SALAD.**

One of the doctors says all women would have good complexions if they smoked cigarettes. He must have stock in some cigarette factory.

Thin girls can get jobs in the bureau of engraving and printing, but the fat short girls are barred. It is in this department that money is made.

A fourteen-year-old girl socialist was arrested in New York recently for talking on the street, but was released by the magistrate.

The bank examiner is a good deal like a stroke of lightning. The worst has already happened when we hear the report.

Miss Frances Hamilton of New York is the originator of the new profession of "making up" the faces of society women, and she finds it remunerative business.

The first deaf mute in this country to become a nun is Miss Etta Mae Holman, who was recently received into the Dominican order at Hunts Point, N. Y.

A Parisian woman has established an agency for the supply of bridesmaids to prospective brides who are in need of such attendants. As the same girls in the same dresses take part in many different weddings, a fee of a sovereign for each girl is considered sufficient.

Quite a number of strictly up-to-date girls in New York have taken to carrying canes. A goldsmith who caters to the ultrafashionable trade has canes at prices ranging from 50 cents to \$15. He says a good many young women have taken up the fad, which is a recent importation from London.

Prominent temperance workers report that while drinking has decreased among men during the last few years it has increased proportionally among women. They are chagrined at the thought that their own sex has taken up with the habit, just as their influence upon masculinity was beginning to be felt.

Mercedes Lopez, a Mexican woman, is said to possess the longest hair of any person in the world. Her height is 5 feet and when she stands erect her hair trails on the ground four feet eight inches. The hair is so thick that she can completely hide herself in it. She has it cut very frequently, as it grows quickly.

Girls of any age up to a century mark will still find a haven at the Young Women's Christian Association home in New York. The managers of the place will not submit them to the crowning indignity of asking their age, nor will there be an enforced exodus of those whose charms are fading in the twilight of their lives.

The Czar has, by ukase, ordered the sale of 4,500,000 acres of crown appanage lands to the peasants on 23 or 60 years' time, and the announcement will be made in a short time of a similar sale of 10,000,000 additional acres.

The old system of fining derelict postoffice employes has been discontinued, and in its place will be a uniform system of efficiency awards—in other words, rewards and merits. The increase in salary will be based upon efficiency. A negligent employe will suffer a reduction for his negligence. The system of rewards and merits will accomplish for the postal service what it has in business service—better work and greater regard for the patrons of the postoffice.

The hopes of the people that were raised to such a high pitch of having a cheap fuel through the removal of by an act of the last congress of the tax on denatured alcohol, are in a fair way to be entirely dashed by the action of the big Standard Oil octopus. It is understood to have gobbled about all the distilleries of the country, those at Peoria being turned over to the monopoly yesterday. Instead of the price of denatured alcohol being cut to 15 and 20 cents a gallon, it will be kept up to 40 and 50 cents, so as to be held entirely out of the way of competition with the Standard Oil product.

**"Seek For Wisdom, Not For Dead Facts"**



By CYNTHIA WESTOVER ALDEN, Authoress

**T**HE best advice a young woman who still is studying can get from a friend is this: "DON'T MAKE A GARRET OF YOUR MIND."

It has been said that one ought to know something of everything and everything of something. But, like every other rule, this needs explanation before it can convey any definite meaning to the mind. The something of which you should know everything should be RELATED TO YOUR VOCATION IN LIFE. It should give you an advantage as a worker in your own field. It should be useful, not ornamental. It should not be a matter of vanity, but a matter of calculated utility. The something which you should know of everything is in the nature of things limited.

Never take trouble to remember what can be searched out in a reference library or in reference books of your own. It is much better to know WHERE information on a hundred points can be obtained than to know all about five points so that you can give your knowledge as from a book. If you apply yourself to the sort of memorizing that I am approving, you will be astounded at the range of your possibilities. Most human knowledge is recorded somewhere. Make it your business to KNOW WHERE WHATEVER YOU WANT IS RECORDED. When you read, read with that end in view. Keep a memorandum that will refresh your memory as to the exact sort of information to be obtained from a particular book. Let your reading cover a field, but don't load down your mind with what it is bound to refuse to carry.

In practice the pigeonhole is everything. It does for a mental worker what an automatic piano player does for the person behind the keys. The drudgery of fingering is avoided, and one can give exclusive attention to the element of harmony. So, relieved of the drudgery of remembering, the mind is able to devote itself to synthetic work, to original work, TO WORK THAT MEANS SOMETHING for oneself and for the world.

Therefore, I end as I began: Throw away the trumpery of knowledge. Seek for wisdom, not dead facts. Don't make a garret of your God given mind. And remember that, for the mind, as for the stomach, indigestion always is the introduction to dyspepsia.

**WISDOM AND PHILOSOPHY NEVER ARE AMISS, FOR THEY ENLARGE THE MIND, BUT WHEN THE BRAIN IS MADE A STOREHOUSE FOR FACTS AND FIGURES IT BECOMES INACTIVE.**

**ionaires and Jury Duty**

A. K. VANDERBILT, Jr., Who Recently Served as a Petit Juror at Mineola, N. Y.

Every citizen should do his duty on the petit jury when called upon. His wealth or social position should not sway him. The jury service is not particularly pleasant, it is necessary and summoned should serve without grumbling OR HESITATION. I could be excused, as I am a volunteer fireman, but I do not PROPER to beg off.

President Roosevelt has gone in heavy for the Carnegie spelling reform movement. He has announced that he will adopt the new method in all his public documents and the government printer will be instructed to print all official White House literature, including his messages to congress in accordance with the reform spelling plan. This is a sweeping scheme for spellers and proofreaders to follow, as the list embraces a total of three hundred words. Many of them to be sure are already given two ways of correct spelling in the standard dictionaries, and the reform style of these has been generally adopted by teachers and newspapers. In this class comes those like center instead of "centre," and luster, miter, fiber, caliber, niter, meter, theater, specter, etc. Then the English way of spelling ardour, behaviour, favour, succour, rigour, labour, tumour, and a lot more is changed to the American way by leaving out the letter "u". There are a lot of other sensible things in the spelling reform scheme of the Carnegie method and it is bound to prove popular. However, many will rebel against "al-though" for although; "tho" for though; "thruout" for throughout, etc. Also "kist" for kissed; "mist" for missed; and that class—also "blusht" for blushed; "curst" for cursed, etc., will not strike the average person who is not an enthusiastic spelling reformer so favorably.

candidates. It may be merely that the saloons are starting up again.

Take your stand in favor of beauty—but forgive the lack of it in others.

Never ask a woman her age. It's a bad thing to encourage deceit and falsehood.

Flies will not settle on windows that have been washed with water with which a little kerosene has been mixed.

**STARVING TO DEATH.**

Because her stomach was so weakened by useless drugging that she could not eat, Mrs. Mary H. Walters, of St. Clair St., Columbus, O., was literally starving to death. She writes: "My stomach was so weak from useless drugs that I could not sleep; and not before I was given up to die was I induced to try Electric Bitters; with the wonderful result that improvement began at once, and a complete cure followed." Best health Tonic on earth. 50c. Guaranteed by Chas. Rogers, druggist.

**MINIDOKA CONFLAGRATION.**

BOISE, Sept. 21.—The west end of the town of Minidoka was swept by fire last night, causing a loss of \$25,000. The flames started in the Overland hotel. Three stores, five saloons, a lodging house, livery stable, and a number of residences were burned.

**WOOD YARDS.**

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Cord wood, mill wood, box wood, any kind of wood at lowest prices. Kelly, the transfer man. Phone 2191 Main, Barn on Twelfth, opposite opera house.

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THIS IS A PERFECT REMOVER. HAS NO BAD ODER WILL NOT DISCOLOR "ANY" WOOD; CONTAINS NO CHEMICALS AND WILL NOT INJURE THE HANDS.  
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