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 Official paper of Clatsop county and the City of Astoria.

WEATHER.
 Western Oregon—Fair; increasing cloudiness showers north coast.

PRIMARIES VS. STAR-CHAMBER.

In default of special knowledge as to how the powers that be, in Oregon, intend to provide for the election of delegates to the State Republican convention next year, which, in turn, will name the National delegates, the Morning Astorian here and now goes on record as distinctly and everlastingly in favor of leaving this important matter in the hands of the people at the direct primaries, and casting aside, once and forever, the ulterior and unsatisfactory system of caucus and party-primaries all down the line.

If the direct primaries are good enough and feasible enough for the naming of our officers, big and little, then they are ample for the choosing of the men who shall be sent to the State convention and besides, the work will be immensely simplified as to scope and cost and trouble, and yield identically the same result, which will have the merit of popular selection, minus the ambiguity and bad odor attaching to the worn-out and discredited practice of the old regime.

Anything that savors of manipulation is in disfavor these days, and the people are not disposed to put up with very much of it, especially in cases where fixed expedients are provided by law that serves the whole people at once and alike and at a cost absorbed by the entire body-politic. Every phase of political action that, to any degree, is relieved of dubious methods, and which lessens the chance for interested individual manipulation is to be encouraged, and the Republicans of Clatsop, so far as we can ascertain, held to these doctrines and to this method of selecting and appointing their party delegates, rather than to the cumbersome, costly and circuitous rule that used to prevail.

We would like very much to hear from State Chairman Westgate in this behalf, and without very much delay, at that.

LAW, OR NO LAW?

The action of the District Attorney in providing for the dismissal of two certain criminal cases in the Circuit Court yesterday, that by every rational estimate, were entitled to the most rigid and profound scrutiny, has left a bad taste in the mouth of Astoria, and set afoot the doubt that we are to have, during the balance of his term, any radical exemplification of the criminal code in this County of Clatsop. One was a case of robbery; the other a case of contributing to the delinquency of a minor, which in this particular instance, involved the death of a young girl almost momentarily with her removal from a dance hall here, to the hospital. And the notable phase of the remarkable and unaccountable legal leniency was that the District Attorney deputized his assistant to enter court and do the trick in these two grave cases, rather than do it himself. They were, far and away, the two most important cases before this tribunal and both went off the docket upon very fragile hypothesis, to say the least of it; albeit, the county had gone to the usual range of cost for the retention and production of the necessary witnesses and testimony.

If this is to be the outcome of criminal procedure hereabout, the sooner the Grand Jury is put into service again, and kept there, the better it will be, not only for the public at large and the cause of justice, but for the present incumbent of the very important office of prosecuting attorney and those serving under him. Putting on one lid and taking off another, and worse, is neither creditable nor serviceable.

PAY THE SCALE!

The City of Astoria, or rather, School District No. 1, of Clatsop County, has always been comfortably famous for the

high quality of the teaching-staff that has had charge of its schools, and the last term was peculiarly noticeable in this relation. Now we are confronted with the very disagreeable fact that a number of our long-proven-best teachers are accepting calls to Portland, and elsewhere, on the sole hypothesis that they get better pay.

This should not be permitted. Astoria taxpayers are quite as anxious that their children should have the best advantage that ordinary outlay in money can procure, and the top-scale in teachers' compensation should be paid to the whole staff according to grade and certificate. It is an injustice to the children as well as to the accomplished men and women who teach them, to mince wage-matters. If other communities can afford to pay them the requisite salaries, we, in justice to the high standard of our schools and the patent benefit to our children, can afford to do that identical thing. It does no city good to have its best teachers lured away from service on such grounds, and the sooner it ceases, as far as Astoria is concerned, the better.

There are standards of service and standards of compensation, the world over, and in such an important civic relation as this, it were best to demand the best of one and grant the best of the other. To do less is weakening to the most essential system of public administration with which we have to deal; one that cannot afford to be cheapened at any point of its office or performance.

EDITORIAL SALAD.

Switzerland has just celebrated the 600th anniversary of its independence. It would be a daring flight of the imagination that could deal with the United States on its 600th Fourth of July.

The chief of practical operations at Panama wants authority to go ahead with the big Gatun dam. It is reassuring to hear that the United States engineers see no serious difficulty in its construction.

Michigan is looking into plans to reforest itself. If the state had applied the principles of forestry long ago it would be immensely better off, and not driven to make a rear guard fight to save its remaining timber resources.

Russia is talking of a third Duma. As soon as a Duma begins to get interesting the czar sends it home, and orders another. The little father will take the next step in constitutional government as soon as he can find a sample that suits.

New Haven has a mayor who proposes to call out a battery with fifty rounds of ammunition to produce rain. Fortunately for those who want a reasonably quiet time the experiments in bombarding the clouds have been a failure.

William S. Taylor doubts if he would be given a fair trial in a state that refused to allow him to serve as governor, though he received a majority of the votes. Mr. Taylor was born in Kentucky, but has had extremely poor luck in getting a fair deal there.

CUTTING ELECTRIC LIGHT BILLS.

The incandescent electric lamp is one of the most commonly known and simplest household devices with which we have to deal, writes George R. Metcalfe in Technical World Magazine for October. The lamp in general use is labeled sixteen candle power and the average user of these lamps is generally contented with the mere knowledge of how to turn his light on or off. He will undoubtedly grumble at times at the amount of his monthly bill for lighting, and will often be inconvenienced by the dimness of some of his lamps, but the deficiency in light is made good by turning on another lamp, and the monthly bill is still further increased. It would probably never occur to him that it would be an actual economy in dollars and cents to throw away his old lamps and provide new ones at his own expense, and yet such is the case.

The "smashing point" cannot be accurately determined for any lamp without rather exhaustive tests, but in general it would not be necessary to determine its accuracy. A variation of one or two candle power would hardly be perceptible under ordinary conditions. It is only when the lamp falls off three or four candle power that its dimness becomes appreciable, and it is a safe rule to follow, and it will prove more economical, to buy a new lamp rather than burn an old one after its diminution in candle power becomes noticeable. By this is meant that it will be more economical for the amount of light obtained, because as the lamps fall off in candle power, more lamps must be burned to obtain the original amount of light. If the reduced quantity of light from the old lamps is sufficient, as, for example, in halls or closets, it would still be cheaper to throw out the old lamps and replace them with new ones of smaller candle power.

ANOTHER WESTERN PORT

COOS BAY TOWN STEALS ASTORIA THUNDER AS TO BEING TRANS-CONTINENTAL TERMINUS FOR WESTERN STATES AND SEAPORT OF UNIVERSE.

MARSHFIELD, Or., Sept. 16.—If anyone had doubts about Congressman W. C. Hawley being in line with the development of Coos Bay, and the resultant benefit that will accrue to all the country east in the Coos Bay zone, his address last night before the Marshfield Chamber of Commerce should dispel such misgivings, says the Times. He was introduced to the public by Dr. J. T. McCormac, president of the Chamber of Commerce at 9 o'clock last night and held the undivided attention of his audience for nearly an hour and a half. Though there were other attractions in the city, every seat in the Chamber of Commerce hall was occupied and people stood on the outside.

The Congressman is working along the same line that has been inaugurated by the Chamber of Commerce in endeavoring to concentrate the efforts of all concerned in the building of a road from Wyoming or some middle eastern point through eastern and Southern Oregon to a Pacific Coast terminus on Coos Bay.

This port, said the Congressman, should be a trans-continental, inter-oceanic port, forming a direct outlet for Eastern Oregon, Southern Oregon, and in his judgment presented an opportunity for the Willamette Valley to plow a way through to a direct seaport. Mr. Hawley pointed out that not only Oregon, but Southern Idaho, Wyoming, Utah and Colorado, would be served by such a road, giving all the immense territory referred to the shortest route and best grade to deep water. Even if Coos County should not contain an acre of arable land instead of its timber, mineral, agricultural and horticultural wealth, the speaker stated, the building of a road from this port direct to the east across the Cascade mountains, is justified. The Congressman's position on a trans-continental railroad with Coos Bay for its western terminus, is in harmony with the work of the Chamber of Commerce, which a month ago opened up a correspondence with papers and commercial clubs from the coast to Wyoming, with the purpose of concentrating efforts to this end.

THE FAMILY AUTOCRAT.

When from the seashore she returns, Belinda will display The cruel sun's relentless burns In a contented way. Her freckles all disfiguring Will be possessions dear; And photographs with her she's bring Of friends in costumes queer. That sunburn was, alas, no joke; She almost wept with pain, And father's very nearly broke From the financial strain. But who shall murmur and be sad O'er time and money lost; If it has made Belinda glad, The trip's worth all its cost. —Washington Star.

NOISIEST WHISTLE IN THE WORLD.

If a voice from Bedlam like a triple blast of a monster siren, rendering dumb all the little noises, yelps, toots, and whines of smaller mechanical throats, should suddenly pierce a traveler's ears, it is very likely he would cover them and wonder what had broken loose. A hundred chances to one, when the roaring blast had ceased, he would seek the cause of the uproar to register his denunciation of the giant whistle trust, a noise combine, that has throttled all the smaller whistles in a radius of twenty miles.

But if he sought a resident of East St. Louis—the busy St. Louis suburb across the Mississippi—and necessarily a victim of the nerve-racking and discordant blasts proceeding from the manufacturing, he would be told that the seemingly terrible, three-mouthed monster is a blessing in disguise to the 100,000 people living within the range of its deep, penetrating blasts. With this introduction James Coker Mills writes a description of the noisiest whistle in the world in the Technical World for October.

DOGS DIGNIFIED IN PRAIS.

In Paris dogs—at least some dogs—are treated as well as human beings. They wear automobile togs when they go motoring, they have a hospital and they even have a good-sized cemetery, with monuments and headstones and inscriptions and mortuary wreaths.

An Insidious Danger

One of the worst features of kidney trouble is that it is an insidious disease and before the victim realizes his danger he may have a fatal malady. Take Foley Kidney Cure at the first sign of trouble as it corrects irregularities and prevents Bright's Disease and diabetes. T. F. Laurin, Owl Drug Store.

THE VALUE OF PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE

Personal knowledge is the winning factor in the culminating contests of this competitive age and when of ample character it places its fortunate possessor in the front ranks of

The Well Informed of the World.

A vast fund of personal knowledge is really essential to the achievement of the highest excellence in any field of human effort.

A Knowledge of Forms, Knowledge of Functions and Knowledge of Products are all of the utmost value and in questions of life and health when a true and wholesome remedy is desired it should be remembered that Syrup of Figs and Elixir of Senna, manufactured by the California Fig Syrup Co., is an ethical product which has met with the approval of the most eminent physicians and gives universal satisfaction, because it is a remedy of

Known Quality, Known Excellence and Known Component Parts and has won the valuable patronage of millions of the Well Informed of the world, who know of their own personal knowledge and from actual use that it is the first and best of family laxatives, for which no extravagant or unreasonable claims are made.

This valuable remedy has been long and favorably known under the name of—Syrup of Figs—and has attained to worldwide acceptance as the most excellent family laxative. As its pure laxative principles, obtained from Senna, are well known to physicians and the Well Informed of the world to be the best we have adopted the more elaborate name of—Syrup of Figs and Elixir of Senna—as more fully descriptive of the remedy, but doubtless it will always be called for by the shorter name of—Syrup of Figs—and to get its beneficial effects, always note, when purchasing the full name of the Company—California Fig Syrup Co.—printed on the front of every package, whether you call for—Syrup of Figs—or by the full name—Syrup of Figs and Elixir of Senna.



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Sick kidneys weaken the body through the continual drainage of life-giving albumen from the blood into the urine, and the substitution of poisonous uric acid that goes broadcast through the system, sowing the seeds of disease. Loss of albumen causes weakness, languor, depression. Uric poisoning causes rheumatic pain, nervousness, nausea, cricks in the back, gravel and kidney stones. The proper treatment is a kidney treatment, and the best remedy is Doan's Kidney Pills.

N. S. Williams, carpenter, of 239 Liberty street, Salem, Or., says: "A number of years ago the doctors told me my kidneys were in bad shape I came west on account of the trouble, thinking the change of climate would help me but nothing I did gave me relief in spite of the use of remedies and medical treatment. On procuring Doan's Kidney Pills I found them the best medicine I ever used. At the time I got them, I was suffering from an intense burning sensation as if two live coals were placed directly over my kidneys. The secretions from the kidneys were the color of strong black coffee and of a bad odor. After using two boxes of Doan's Kidney Pills I did not have the least pain in my back or trouble with the kidneys. I give all the credit for this to your valuable remedy."

Plenty more proof life this from Astoria people. Call at Chas. Rogers drug store and ask what his customers report. For sale by all dealers. Price 50 cents. Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, New York, sole agents for the United States. Remember the name—Doan's—and take no other.

INCREASE OF SETTLERS.

Records Show that Colonists Are Flocking to the State.

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 16.—How much more numerous are the colonists coming into California this fall than last fall is evidenced by the records compiled by the passenger department of the Southern Pacific, covering the first eleven days of September. During the eleven days this year a total of 5908 colonists entered California by the Ogden, the El Paso, the Los Angeles and the Portland gateways of traffic, or a general average of 545 persons a day. During the same period last fall a total of 2734 colonists came, or an average of 248 a day. This record on the first eleven days of September shows the surprising increase of 110 per cent over last year's movement of prospective settlers into California.

INDIAN IRRIGATION.

India has 4,835,947 acres of irrigated land in Punjab, an increase of 453,561 acres in one year. The crops are mainly wheat, sugar cane, grain and winter oil-seeds.

MUST HAVE MORE AUTHORITY.

State Department Finds Central Americans Unable to Negotiate.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 16.—An informal conference on the Central American situation at the State Department today developed the fact that only one of the Central American diplomats at Washington, Senor Mejia, of Salvador, has been clothed with proper authority by his government to proceed with the making of arrangements for the proposed peace conference. All of the diplomats interested in the matter with the exception of Senor Ugarte, of Honduras, saw A. A. Adee, acting secretary this morning and discussed the matter with him and with Senor Godoy, the charge of the Mexican embassy.

The result of the meeting today was that the State Department will ask the other governments of Central America to give plenary powers to the representatives here to proceed with the details for the forthcoming conference, as time, place and method of conducting the negotiations. It is expected that responses will be received by Monday, when another meeting will be held to discuss the subject.

A Lesson in Health

Healthy kidneys filter the impurities from the blood, and unless they do this good health is impossible. Foley's Kidney Cure makes sound kidneys and will positively cure all forms of kidney and bladder disease. It strengthens the whole system.

Morning Astorian, 50 cents per month, delivered by carrier.

Cured Hay Fever and Summer Cold

A. J. Nushbaum, Batesville, Indiana, writes: "Last year I suffered for three months with a summer cold so distressing that it interfered with my business. I had many of the symptoms of hay fever, and a doctor's prescription did not reach my case, and I took several medicines which seemed to only aggravate my case. Fortunately I insisted upon having Foley's Honey and Tar in the yellow package, and it quickly cured me. My wife has since used Foley's Honey and Tar with the same success." T. F. Laurin, Owl Drug Store.

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