

THE MORNING ASTORIAN

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TELEPHONE MAIN 061.

Official paper of Clatsop County and the City of Astoria.

WEATHER.

Western Oregon—Partly cloudy with probable occasional light rain along coast and in Northern portion.

OUR THIRTY-FIFTH YEAR.

Entering its thirty-fifth year of existence, the Morning Astorian believes it may justly claim a strength and influence, as a communal factor, at least thirty-five times greater than when it sought out the field and started to work for it. It has never deviated a hair from the title it assumed. It has always been a faithful Astorian; and to be that, consecutively and honestly, for thirty-five years, lends warranty to the claim of this paper, that it is first and chief in its line and propaganda.

It has seen its vicissitudes and weathered many a storm and has emerged, always, renewed, and ready, for its one, original task of boosting this city and county to the forefront of consideration and success. It has always been kindly and fairly treated, at home and abroad, and what of enemies it has made it freely forgives and invites into the wide circle of its well-known friends. None need remain beyond the pale of the entire good-will of the Morning Astorian.

For the year 1908 this paper has made no formal resolutions nor laid out any definite plans of operation, save an unerring adherence to the policy of all policies, the good of Astoria and Clatsop. With this for a predicate, we intend to pursue what lines shall commend themselves as next and nearest to that fundamental idea. We expect to differ, contend and fight before the year has rounded out its history, but we shall do so honestly, cleanly, and openly; and what time is not expended in this line will be devoted to making more friends and cinching the cordial relations we already enjoy. We want more friends, patrons and readers, and are not averse to honest critics; we want business and are quite willing to share with any sort of competing field.

We want to see the commercial record of Astoria extraordinarily outclassed in 1908, and will do all that we can to use it to the biggest possible estimate; and to this end we will work hard with all the friends of Astoria, night and day, along such lines as shall prove best and wisest.

To our long list of subscribers, advertisers, readers and friends (including those critics), we send the heartiest of good wishes for a year of abundance far beyond all previous realization, and the earnest assurance that we may be depended on to do our share in the planting and reaping of the commercial harvest.

SIGNIFICANT WAR ORDER.

The summoning of the adjutant-generals of the three Pacific Coast states to Washington for conference with the President and the officials of the War Department, with a view of merging and employing the National Guard of Oregon, Washington, and California with the ordnance arm of the regular service, is significant, not so much of anticipated war, as of the wisdom of the administration in putting the state militia upon an infinitely better footing of utility, adapting it to a wider range of operations and increasing its efficacy along lines to which it is, as yet, unfamiliar, but wholly amenable under proper overtures.

We are glad to see this interest in the defenses of the great stretch of Pacific Coast. It means that the country has awakened to a correct, if somewhat late, estimate of the necessity of better protection out here. And it were well if this interest shall be extended to

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the larger equipment of the best harbors here, with all the agencies that contribute to assured safety, such as navy-yards, arsenals, drydocks, ordnance parks, machinery plants, depots, and storehouses; and this, without overlooking Astoria.

AN ARMY OF "TEDDYS."

There is a veritable army of baby-Americans bearing the name of "Theodore Roosevelt" this, that, or the other; thousands on thousands of them, and it constitutes one of the most distinct compliments ever paid any man, that the desire to perpetuate his name and give distinctive appellation to the new generation, should be so popularly manifest.

If any noticeable ratio of the youngsters so named shall attain to anything approaching the dignity of character their names signify, it will be a pronounced advantage to all concerned, and if but one of them shall but match the man whose name he bears, the country will be blessed by his citizenship and service. The prototype has set a pace not readily followed, yet possible of emulation; it will always be a splendid standard and should inspire the best and hardest effort toward achievement.

INITIAL BUSINESS.

Next Monday will open the initial business week for the city and county and during that period much will be done by way of forecasting the year for Astoria and Clatsop. The council and courts will take up the year's work and formulate the best plans possible for both districts; and it is a safe presumption that what is done officially will be for the material interest of all.

It may be well to remind all in charge of the public finances, that in the light of the immediate past and its panicky conditions and effects, that no more be attempted by way of public improvement than is absolutely essential and that broadcast expense be curbed to the point of requisites generally. We do not know that anything else is anticipated; but we venture the suggestion because we know the doctrine is popular just now; and the general spirit of things is an excellent medium to use at junctures that justify it.

GOTHAM CELEBRATES.

New Yorkers Spend Millions and a Half for Pleasures.

NEW YORK, Jan. 2.—Men who are fond of figures say that New York's New Year celebration cost \$1,750,000. It is estimated that 100,000 people took supper at one hundred hotels and restaurants. At one restaurant that night receipts were over \$20,000. At this restaurant 2000 quarts of champagne were drunk. It is estimated that the diners around town made away with 42,000 quarts of champagne and 66,000 quarts of claret, not to mention the barrels of other drinkables consumed. Souvenir hunters were out in force and every hotel and restaurant lost great quantities of glass and silverware, the guests carrying away everything from small coffee spoons to silver wine coolers.

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LOGICAL SUCCESSOR

Roosevelt Eliminated Who is Next President.

DEPENDS ON LOGIC OF PURPOSE

Protection of the People Against Unrestrained Aggrandizement and Regulation of Corporate Activity in the Public Interest Must be His Work.

Who is the logical successor of President Roosevelt? With the President himself eliminated, this question is everywhere asked. Is he Secretary Taft, as is often said? Is he Vice-President Fairbanks? Is he Governor Hughes? Is he Senator Knox?

The logic of the succession depends on the logic of purpose. What is the object to be subserved in the choice of the next President? If President Roosevelt were not ruled out by the third term principle and if he were to be re-elected, what would he be re-elected for? Manifestly to carry on the great regenerative work which he has inaugurated and to continue the special policies with which he is pre-eminently identified. That is the supreme thought in the public mind.

What are the distinctive Roosevelt policies? What is the work of the President that above all else has given him his hold on the popular support and that the country desires to see steadily and reasonably pursued? Plainly it is the protection of the people against the unrestrained aggrandizement and unchecked abuses of corporations and the regulation of corporate activity in the public interest. Plainly it is the work which has pointed to the prosecution of injurious trusts and unlawful combinations, and which has brought the railroad rate legislation.

The President is lauded with other trophies, but it is as the Hercules who has grappled with the trust hydra and with the railroad discriminations that he has gained his great place in the popular heart. It is this work which is to be upheld; it is this high purpose which in its essential spirit and rational action is to be preserved; it is these reform policies wisely directed which are to be the transcendent issue of the coming President contest; and it is the statesman who next to the President is more directly, sympathetically and responsibly associated with them than any other man or than all other men who is the logical successor.

Secretary Taft is just arriving from a tour around the world, loaded with great and deserved honors. He is an able, versatile and brilliant administrator. He would make a worthy President, and if he was nominated he would command cordial support. He has been peculiarly identified with the President, in some things. He has been the President's alter ego in the Philippines, in Cuba and on the Panama Canal. If the "Roosevelt policies" which are the pre-eminence issue, were the Philippine, the Cuban or the Panama policies Secretary Taft would be the logical successor. But it happens that the real Roosevelt policies did not come within the scope of his Department, and though doubtless in full accord, he had no more to do with them than a hundred other men.

Not even Secretary Root—facile prince who would make a really great President whose breadth and insight and cept among all Administration leaders,

constructive genius are of the Hamiltonian order—not even Secretary Root is specially identified with the distinctive "Roosevelt policies," and, if they are to be the test, not even he would be the logical successor. The one man who beyond all others—so far beyond as to be "eclipse first and the rest nowhere"—is associated with the origin, evolution execution and success of the "Roosevelt policies" is Philander Chase Knox of Pennsylvania.

We do not say this inconsiderately. The record proves it. Nothing can derogate from the greatness of President Roosevelt's service in this direction. The time had come when in the interest of general business morality, in defense of the equal rights of shippers, producers and consumers, in protection of the people against corporate power, it was necessary to call a halt upon evils which going on unchecked would have produced social revolutions. To grapple with these evils needed the moral energy and the aggressive force of a Roosevelt. He made himself the incarnation of the national conscience. This is his incomparable distinction, and no criticisms, not even any faults, can obscure it. But President Roosevelt, with all his courage and all his determination, could not have accomplished what he did without the legal acumen and the masterful generalship of a Knox. In his very able Attorney General the President found a sincere sympathizer and a legal pioneer of remarkable grasp, penetration and skill.

Mr. Knox became at once the exponent and executive of the President's policies. Where all others stood mystified and uncertain at the complexities and doubts of untried, unconstrued and supposedly inadequate law, he struck out new paths of interpretation and triumphantly carried before the Supreme Court a new and enlarged chart of governmental powers. His great speech at Pittsburg in 1902 was the first beacon which threw its illuminating rays along the new course. Confident of the principles therein first clearly defined he entered on the battle for national control and regulation of corporations engaged in interstate commerce, and his judgment was speedily vindicated by notable victories which changed the whole face of the situation in the relation of the government to the great agencies of trade.

Within a few months four important lines of attack had been successfully opened against combinations in restraint of trade—the injunctions on railroads against rebates; the overthrow of railroad traffic pooling in the cotton cases; the indictment and defeat of the beef trust; and the dissolution of the Northern Securities merger for the combination of parallel and competing lines. These triumphs established the reputation of Attorney General Knox as the most consummate master of the whole subject of the powers of the government under the interstate commerce clause and of the most effective method of their application. So high became the estimate of his authority that the Judiciary Committees of the Senate and House under the leadership of Senator Hoar and Mr. Littlefield—themselves legislators of great experience and ability—asked him to point the way to the new legislation required. And his answer was accepted and became the basis of what is known as the Elkins law against rebates.

Nor was this all. Mr. Knox was a pioneer on railroad rate legislation. In 1905 he had left the office of Attorney General and become Senator from Pennsylvania. As such he stood forth as the first and foremost champion of the President's policy of railroad rate regulation. In his speech at Pittsburg in November, 1905, before Congress met, he gave a clear elucidation of the principles on which legislation should be based and said: "I am sincerely convinced that the time has come when Congress must, in justice to the public exercise more fully its power in respect to railroad rates and regulation."

This was the first distinct pronouncement from any public man which defined and clarified the essential features of the problem, and Senator Dolliver of Iowa who was active in pushing the rate bill said: "In drafting this bill the framers of it were guided very largely by the speech delivered at Pittsburg by the Honorable Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. Knox), a speech which reads almost like a judgment from the Supreme Bench." The whole record of Mr. Knox on these vital questions stands unique and alone. Secretary Root in his memorable speech as President of the Chicago Convention in 1904 paid tribute to it and President Roosevelt himself recognized in remarkable terms the great work of his coadjutor when he said at Harrisburg, October 4, 1906:

"During the last few years the National Government has taken very long strides in the direction of exercising and securing this adequate control over the great corporations, and it was Under The Leadership of one of the most hon-

(Continued on page 7)

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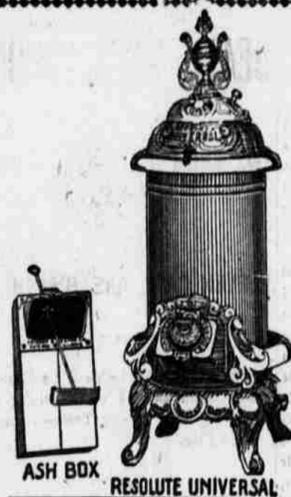
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