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### CAN COUNTRY LIFE BE MADE BETTER

COMMUNICATION WITH IN-  
QUIRIES SENT HERE FROM  
ROOSEVELT'S COMMISSION.

Perhaps one of the most interesting communications received in this city in a long time was a letter to the Chamber of Commerce yesterday from the "Commission on Country Life," asking for information in relation to the well-being of the rural population of this neck of the woods. The questions contained therein were of much interest.

This commission was appointed by President Roosevelt. The plan was also his, and it has attracted attention all over America and in the old country as well. Probably most readers are familiar with it. President Roosevelt deemed the subject of the condition of the rural population of such vital importance that he succeeded in appointing a commission to make a wide and exhaustive research into the matter, and the men who are conducting the investigation are gentlemen eminently fitted for such a laborious task. Some have speculated that long after some of Mr. Roosevelt's more pronounced deeds of greatness have been forgotten—like the peace he wrought between Japan and Russia—this measure of his to uplift the rural conditions will be remembered as a great step forward.

The commission has sent out 12 preliminary questions. The first one in the communication received yesterday asked if the farm homes "are as good as they might be or should be in this vicinity."

Mr. Whyte, by occupation and perhaps by generous nature an enthusiast replied to this question by stating substantially that the farm homes of Clatsop county cannot be beaten, the world over.

"Are the country schools training the boys and girls satisfactorily for life on the farm?" was another question. Questions were also asked in relation to the railway service, the telephone service, and if farmers are satisfactorily organized to promote their buying and selling interests. The status of hired men, and of farm labor generally were also asked after. Sanitary conditions and social intercourse were asked after, especially as regards the women, and the last question asks what is the most single important thing required to bring about a betterment of conditions on the farm.

It would be interesting if some of these matters could be answered by some of the farmers themselves, and also by some of the farmers' wives. The commission wishes to secure its answers from those who know

whereof they speak, and naturally the best answers could be given by farmers who are intelligent and who have traveled, so as to compare their conditions with the conditions of others in this or other countries.

That conditions in Clatsop county are, upon the whole, very good seems to be recognized by all—especially along the lines of prosperity, but others who have perhaps looked beneath the surface aver that much is wanting in the lives of many of the farmers and especially of the farmers' wives in this county.

For in Clatsop county, as in other parts of the country, boys leave the farm, never to go back. Girls also leave. In England and some other countries it seems impossible to make those leave the soil who can stay on it, but it is not so here. Perhaps there is something wrong that this is so. Some of the teachers who take the district schools in this county complain of a terrible loneliness. They feel it, they say, and see its effect in the women folks around them. Perhaps there is something here that can be bettered. Divorces from the country districts in this county are numerous. Other things along these lines might be added, but they are enough to denote that, perhaps, there is real need of some betterment in the lives of the rural population here—entirely aside from the question of material prosperity, which, after all, may be the least important thing. "Is there any real joy, any real content, in the lives of the farmers here? that is at the bottom of the inquiries sent out by the commission.

In one of the richest districts contributory to Astoria, where the farmers are all well-to-do and have much leisure, they seem to take very little pride in their places. Occasional spears seem to be their one great joy. The boys leave home. The girls may have a piano, but they have no love or knowledge of music.

Perhaps after five or six years the commission may be able to get at the bottom of some of these perplexing problems that now seem to add an enormous total to the discontent of the country.

### PERSONAL MENTION

Anthony Klein, one of the best known shoemen on the coast, was doing business in the city yesterday. Mr. Klein's home is in Salem.

J. W. Casey, the popular representative of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway Company, was a business visitor in this city yesterday.

W. R. Hollister of Portland spent the day in Astoria among the hundreds of other visitors noted here.

J. W. Viele, of New York, was in the city yesterday on business bent.

B. W. Smithson of Waukesha Wisconsin, spent the day here yesterday on business matters.

Dr. F. J. Friedrich, the well known dentist of this city, will leave tomorrow.

### SOME REGATTA DETAILS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

TREASURER HERMAN PRAEL  
RESPONDS TO IMPORTUNITY  
OF THE REPORTER.

An inquisitive reporter for the Morning Astorian, acting in the interest of a lot more people quite as inquisitive, and probably a good deal more anxious about it, sought out one of the officials of the Fourteenth Annual Regatta of Astoria yesterday, and besought him for an exposition of the affairs of the big committee that might yield something tangible to those who are entitled to the information and at the same time placate the absorbing curiosity of the public so long denied the facts. This gentleman (no other by the way, than Herman F. Prael, the treasurer of the Regatta Committee), admitting the equity of the call and cause, and for reasons of his own, which it is not our province, perhaps, as yet, to enlarge upon, at once gave out the following explicit data, which, to its last detail is confirmed and verified by repeated checking with his colleagues of the committee in touch with the financial end of the business; all of which is taken from the report heretofore submitted by Treasurer Prael to Hon. Herman Wise, mayor, and Chairman of the Regatta Committee.

This compendium of the cash business of the committee, has to do only with Mr. Prael's office as treasurer, and, of course, deals only with the receipts and disbursements of actual cash, and nothing else, and shows, in solid totals, the following summaries:

Cash received from all sources, \$8463.83.

This total includes the sum of \$722.96 balance on hand from the Thirteenth Annual Regatta.

Cash disbursements, upon the orders and signed by the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Secretary, of the General Committee, \$8404.03.

And this total includes the sum of \$415.55 paid over to the Fourth of July Committee of 1928.

This leaves a balance on hand of \$58.80; against which there are out five unpaid vouchers aggregating the sum of \$88, the numbers of the un-presented claims being as follows: Nos. 676, 693, 790, 804 and 809. Thus, it will be seen, there is a very considerable deficit in the annual budget, of \$33.20, a mere bagatelle in view of the huge undertaking and the adverse conditions of weather, etc., which prevailed against the waterfest this year. Mr. Prael, of course, has nothing whatever to do with this minor shortage, his relation beginning and ending with the handling of the cash committed to his official custody as treasurer.

Treasurer Prael has handled his task with punctilious care and has pursued the business just as he disposes of the affairs of his own private concern; giving receipts to the different chairmen of the committees to cover each item, and depositing the moneys with the Astoria National Bank, or the Astoria Savings Bank. And in the matter of disbursements, all orders were properly authenticated by the proper officers before being recognized at all.

This gives a fair, general idea of the business end of the last Regatta, and the same will in all probability, and the same will in all probability, reports of the associate officers when they shall be ready to report to the public.

### ARRANGE FINAL PLANS FOR THE CLUB

TO PURCHASE FURNITURE  
AND GYMNASIUM APPARATUS AT ONCE.

At a meeting of the directors of the Athletic Club yesterday afternoon the committee on purchasing furnishings for the club rooms was authorized to go ahead and buy the furniture, billiard tables and other articles as selected. It is proposed to furnish the club house in the best of shape and this expense alone will probably amount to considerably over \$2000.

The Athletic committee was also authorized to make all the expenditures requisite in thoroughly fitting out the gymnasium. This means that the gym is to be fitted out in first-class manner with the best of apparatus. The directors also agreed that a manager for the club house shall be employed, though who he is to be has not been decided upon. It was also agreed that the physical director to be employed must be of the best, and the directors are willing to pay a first rate salary for the right man. The manager of the club house will be expected to take care of the building, to keep the accounts, to care for the billiard tables, the reading room, and the like, while upon the shoulders of the physical director will fall the real burden of making the club a success. He will be the instructor in gymnastics, will lead the classes, and generally will be the one to develop interest and enthusiasm. Fortunately there are many such men in the country now, who are trained for such places, and it should not prove a difficult task to get the right man, in time at least.

The directors yesterday also hired Oliver McClure to act as janitor of the building.

On the first of December the Athletic club house will be opened to members, and already there is a membership of nearly 300. While it had been announced that the \$5 initiation fee would be continued for three months after December 1, it is now said that this may be raised to the regular \$10 at almost any time. Those who wish to join would perhaps do well to get in their applications at once.

The Athletic Club's building is really a fine one; the interior is handsomely finished in dark stain. The windows are large, and the building is well lighted. A casual view of the place would indicate that it will prove a fine place for the young men of Astoria, though perhaps none too commodious for the large membership expected. Yet that it will be large enough seems assured, and the city should felicitate itself upon having such a fine club house for its young men. It is said the running expenses may aggregate approximately \$6000 annually, and this fact will tend to show that it is planned to have the institution of the very best. If the directors are fortunate enough to secure the right man as physical director from the start it would appear as if the club is to commence its existence under the most favorable auspices.

Those in the meeting yesterday were: G. C. Fulton, president; H. F. Prael, vice-president; Harry Hoefler, treasurer, and F. G. Johnson, William Eigner and A. V. Allen Jr. E. R. Blair, who had been elected treasurer, resigned as he is to leave the city, and Mr. Hoefler was selected in his stead.



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- Miss Laura McCann ..... Alto
- Miss Hattie Wise ..... Pianist
- Miss Esther Sundquist ..... Violinist
- Trio—Mrs. A. A. Finch, Soprano; Mrs. J. T. Allen, Alto; Miss Nellie Utzinger, Contralto

Miss Anna Campbell and Miss Louise Wise, Accompanists

Tickets and Reserved Seats at Whitman's Book Store

ADMISSION ..... \$1.00

G. T. Markley of Tacoma was in the city yesterday en route to his home via the north shore route, row morning for an extended trip throughout the east, and will be gone several weeks.

H. E. Sangster of Boston spent the day here yesterday and went on to the metropolis last evening.

C. B. Atkinson of Ashland was here for a few hours yesterday, going homeward on the evening express.

H. W. Martin of Los Angeles was among the swarms of visitors on the streets of Astoria yesterday.

State Factory Inspector Charles Gram leaves this morning for Seaside.

### What Would You Do?

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