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THE WEATHER

Oregon and Washington—Rain in west portion; rain or snow in east portion.
Idaho—Rain or snow.

WRONG COMMERCIAL POLICY.

Press despatches from all over the East indicate that the great business interests of the country are a unit on the policy of raising the existing tariffs of the country; and this in spite of the strong attitude taken by President-elect Taft for a thorough revision of the schedules. This policy, if adhered to will sound the knell of the Republican party four years hence and leave it discredited and defeated under conditions from which it will not rally in many a long year. Never were the people so eager and insistent for tariff revision as they are now and the Congress knows this better than the general public because every man with a seat in house or senate is there with the broadest knowledge of the temper of his constituency and will have no possible excuse for ignoring the demand.

The cost of living increases daily; this is the touch-stone of public sentiment on this grave question and the vast ratios that exist between the fabulous, freak fortunes of the day and the wage-scales and scope of employment, are too widely understood to appeal longer to the tolerance of the nation and when that tolerance breaks there will be some very keen and effective retaliation and certainly a political revolution that cannot be miscalculated nor misunderstood.

ASTORIA'S NEW YEAR.

If there is "no telling what a day may bring forth," what have we not to hope for from the whole year of 1909? We have the invaluable experiences of a century of our own to serve us in the programming and work of the one year ahead, and surely there are lessons enough to steer by and saving courses to follow! If, during that one brief span we may make certain the construction of the electric railway line, the Astoria, Seaside & Tillamook proposition, we will have no cause to deprecate the acumen and energy expended and our immense fund of training will have, at last, proved its value to us. There are numerous things to do, of course, but to do one of this sort, will leave the year by no means barren; and at the same time set a pace sorely needed hereabout. One good thing at a time, well done and securely appropriated, beats a score of ineffectual schemes attempted and unwrought. Of course, if it is expedient to do more, do it, and be glad to the chance of accomplishment; but we ought to bend our best endeavor to that which promises most; and that attained, the rest will come easier. For we will know how to make the second and third, etc., more feasible.

UNISON.

Nothing great is ever achieved by a people save by strong unity of understanding and commonness of purpose and this applies to the masses of a nation as well as to the smaller communal groups of the county and city. If they have not the spirit of unity, then it must be cultivated.

There are many propositions that are primarily popular, and upon which the public mind centers instantly and tenaciously; they invariably

tend to the good of those concerned and the safety and progress of the people at interest, and these things might operate as a lesson in the handling of lesser and more specific benefits.

Astoria, with her wealth and advantages, needs far more of this merging and massing of the people upon the things that must be done to carry her to her real place in business world. We have got to cultivate our capacity for agreeing, working and doing things in a unified way. Other cities have found this out and are forging to the front, and some of them with more to contend with in the line of opposition than we have.

Money is not in it with a strong common purpose well understood and intelligently applied. Let's think it over and get together at once!

Some of the Cuban papers are offended by the remarks in the message on the necessity of good government in the island after the American troops are withdrawn. The Cubans may rest assured that conditions of civil war or anarchy will not be tolerated by this country. It is well to remember that the Platt amendment is part of Cuba's constitution, and means just what it says.

Two South American cities, Buenos Ayres and Rio Janeiro, have a population respectively of 1,000,000 and 800,000, but they are far more intimate with Europe than with this country. Their passenger traffic with Europe is 50 times as large as with the United States. The International Bureau of American Republics has a large field for improvement.

"Any man who is a bear on the future of this country," says Pierpont Morgan, "will go broke." But if in the course of financial events Mr. Morgan considers it desirable to change to the bear he is qualified to spar for second wind a long time.

The border states, Missouri, Kentucky, West Virginia, Maryland and Delaware gave Taft 862,268, Bryan 840,033. There is a Republican party south of the old dividing line and it is growing vigorously.

A bushel of corn brings three times as much cash as in 1896 and there is nothing shaky about the value of the dollars. Naturally the country continues to give a vote of confidence to the Republican party.

The swarm of yellow slanders has given no proof whatever that their yarns about the Panama canal sale were anything more than a malignant attempt to make suspicion, or the shadow of it, pass for the truth.

There are three Ananiases in the New Testament, but only one is known to the world. This fact does not warrant the statement: Be truthful, and you will never be a celebrity.

Admiral Evans says "our latest ships are vastly superior to the Dreadnought." The testimony of one expert like this is worth more than all the naval gossip that drifts about.

Colonel Bryan will entertain and advise with the members of the Nebraska Legislature this winter. His home at Fairview will be utilized as the best available substitute for the White House.

ARIZONA AT OPERA HOUSE TONIGHT

Augustus Thomas' perennial "Arizona" comes to the Astoria Theatre tonight.

It is the Hollis E. Cooley production. Interest in this play is largely dependent on the fidelity with which its "Atmosphere" is represented. Mr. Cooley and his aids have succeeded in this particular and have given us a picture of ranch and military life in the far southwest that is known to be accurate. Mr. Thomas is an expert craftsman, a thinker besides, and a poet with a turn for the practical. His judgment of dramatic values and his fine sense of proportion are perceptible in his choice and placing of characters and in the things he provides for them to undertake—each according to his nature, education and exigent motive.

We never tire of visits from Henry and "Ma" Canby, the contrasting life and she of the hospitable home of the Aravaipa ranchers. Tony Mostano, whose extraordinary ideas concerning the appropriate language of love comprise much of the striking humor of the play; grim and honest old Sergeant Keller of the army, whose chevrons are the symbol of a lifetime of devoted service to the flag of his adopted country; chivalrous Colonel Bonham, the suave scoundrel, Captain Hodgman, faithful and honorable, Dr. Fenelon, the strangely interesting, Lena Keller, the boyishly natural and delightful Lieutenant Fenton, even the weak and querulous Estrella Bonham, find a hearty welcome every time they come to town. This is right. They are human beings, moved by the impulses, passions hopes and weaknesses whereby we ourselves might be moved in like circumstances, and therefore closely akin to us. We follow their fortunes with sympathy, so far as they are entitled to so gentle a sentiment, and with abhorrence when they disclose the contemptible possibilities of our kind.

Miss Lizzie McCall as Mrs. Canby and Charles E. Graham as Sergeant Keller, are ore than pleasing. The remainder of the capable cast, comprises Francis Cambello as Henry Canby, Clarence Heritage as Colonel Bonham, Edward Mulligan as the Chinese cook, Miss Hortense Clement as Estrella Bonham, Miss Julia Morris as Lena Keller, Edward J. Farrell as Lieutenant Denton, Miss Alma Bradley, as the irrepressible Bonita Canby, Frederick Webber as Captain Hodgman, Miss Arline Fort as the schoolm'ann, D. J. Sullivan as Dr. Fenelon, William Morgan as Lieutenant Hallack, Roberto Deshon as the vacquero, Frank Payton as Lieutenant Young and Charles Avers as Major Cochran.

The air of military bustle that pervades the play helps to keep interest up to pitch, while the development of the intrigue is such as to give the spectator views of it from different angles. The story in itself demands and gets sharp attention, and the work of the ladies and gentlemen of the company is generally commendable. Altogether the offering is one of more than common worth.

At The Bakeronian.

The Christmas gifts announced to be given away by the management of the Bakeronian theatre, took place Christmas day and the fortunate ones to receive them were Helen Arndt, ladies' gift number 338; Master Olof Nelson, boys' gift number 117; the girls' gift Agnes Powell, number 10. The presents were highly appreciated by the recipients. By special request Miss Holland will again render that beautiful hymn "Rock of Ages" this afternoon and evening. There will be an entire change of program, today the feature film being "An Unfortunate Mistake." This performance will be well worth seeing as the management has installed an entirely new and modern machine that will show in minute detail every portion of the film. The entertainment this afternoon and evening will be the best that talent and money can produce.

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Germany reports the discovery of diamonds in its territory in Southwest Africa. Talk of diamond diggings in Arkansas continues. Uncle Sam's domain is too big to be entirely lacking in any of the precious stones.

A spanking breeze has been stirred up in Washington, but March 4 is to near that the time may expire without getting a definite count of spankers and spankees.

The future historian should be careful in handling the public documents of the year 1908. He might imagine things of this period worse than they are.

Mr. Taft's next trip to Panama will be the fifth. There is no end of a busy campaign of some kind for this untiring servant of the people.

Another Republican promise kept. The general revival of business is all that was expected by the optimistic.

Beware of Frequent Colds.

A succession of colds or a protracted cold is almost certain to end in chronic catarrh, from which few persons ever wholly recover. Give every cold the attention it deserves and you may avoid this disagreeable disease. How can you cure a cold? Why not try Chamberlain's Cough Remedy? It is highly recommended. Mrs. M. White, of Butler, Tenn., says: "Several years ago I was bothered with my throat and lungs. Someone told me of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. I began using it and it relieved me at once. Now my throat and lungs are sound and well." For sale by Frank Hart and leading druggists.

Why do boys leave the farm? It must be because they are too timid to tackle the \$7,778,000,000 for this year's crops referred to by Secretary Wilson.

"Three years ago I was marked for death. A grave-yard cough was tearing my lungs to pieces. Doctors failed to help me, and hope had fled, when my husband got Dr. King's New Discovery," says Mrs. A. C. Williams, of Bac, Ky. "The first dose helped me and improvement kept on until I had gained 58 pounds in weight and my health was fully restored." This medicine holds the world's healing record for coughs and colds and lung and throat diseases. It prevents pneumonia. Sold under guarantee at Charles Rogers & Son's drug store. 50c and \$1.00. Trial bottle free.

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