

OREGON MIST.

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OUR FOURTEENTH YEAR.

The Mist has already entered upon its fourteenth year. The paper was first issued in January, 1883, and many patrons who began their subscriptions with the first issue of the paper are still regular yearly contributors, financially, to the success of the enterprise.

BONDS, MORE BONDS.

The house of representatives last Saturday, by a vote of 170 to 136, passed the bond bill recommended by the president in his recent message.

The bill, as passed, amends the resumption act so as to permit the issue of 3 per cent coin bonds redeemable after five years at the pleasure of the government, and payable in fifteen years with the specific provision that nothing in the bill shall be construed to repeal the act of 1878 for the resumption of the greenbacks.

This bond issue was, no doubt, actually necessary for "temporary" relief, but it is to be hoped that by the time this amount is exhausted a republican president will occupy a position in the White House where it will be safe to present a tariff bill that will raise revenue, without the fear of its being vetoed.

An Ohio Judge has decided that wives are legally responsible for the support of their husbands and their families, provided their husbands themselves are unable to furnish the support. The decision is said to have greatly surprised the lawyers, and also the new woman. But the judge contends that the law of Ohio in this respect is the same as that in Illinois, Iowa, California and the Territory of Oklahoma.

CANNOT REPUDIATE.

Judge Eakin rendered a decision in the circuit court at Baker City a few days ago, which, if sustained by the supreme court (and there is little doubt but it will be) will forever settle the question as to the right of a county to repudiate its debts, even though they be in excess of the limit fixed by the state constitution.

"County warrants for the purpose of the decision in this case may be divided or arranged in three classes:

"1. County warrants issued for the payment of claims in pursuance to the direction of the law, such as jurors' fees, witnesses' fees, salaries of county officers, court expenses and many other such claims as the law directs shall be paid, and are not matters for allowance or disallowance for the county court.

"2. Warrants issued in payment for debts created or contracted by the county up to the limit of \$5000 which may be created or refused by the county court in its option, such as contracts for county building, courthouses, jails, bridges and many other claims that are deemed contract indebtedness.

"3. Warrants issued in payment of debts created by the county, or contracted by it, of the same class, is included in No. 2 herein, over and above the \$5000 limit referred to.

"The first class mentioned must be paid by the county, and the validity of such debts does not depend upon the

amount of indebtedness outstanding. "The second class are also valid and binding obligations regardless of the outstanding debts or unpaid warrants which belong to the first class. "The third class are unauthorized and are in violation of law and the payment thereof may be restrained by a suit of this character.

BEGINNING TO REALIZE.

Even democrats like Napoleon Davis are becoming convinced that free trade is in the interest of England, and saps the life-blood from American workmen. A great many of his party, however, may be convinced of this fact, but they dislike to acknowledge it. Below is given an extract from a letter written by Mr. Davis, who is secretary of the democratic state central committee, which was published in the Oregonian of Monday:

"There is another strong reason for anti-English feeling on our part. It is a matter of political history that no alleged statesman of the United States has ever proposed free trade or any system approximating free trade with England but that he has had the most enthusiastic support of England and her dependencies, whose people would be quick to reap the advantage of such industrial legislation.

"The millions of working men and women of the United States must feel anti-English when they contemplate the possibility of being compelled to labor for European wages because of the English standard of money forced upon this country, or because of the adoption of a tariff system formulated in the interests of cheap labor.

"In finance and in trade we should cultivate anti-English feeling for the protection of the best interest of the masses of our people."

SOME of the leading papers of England seriously object to the term "arbitration" as applied to the Venezuelan dispute, and suggest that if a board of "conciliation" were appointed instead, that country would agree to it. However, they express a willingness to have the board of "conciliation" perform the same work as that outlined for the board of "arbitration," but they now simply desire the use of another word with the same meaning. It might be pertinent to inquire what difference it makes what term is used so long as the object sought is attained? This seems a very small crevice through which to escape the humiliation following an unsuccessful bluff.

THE New York World, one of the very few leading papers of the country that opposes President Cleveland's attitude toward England, says: "If this country must have a war why not interfere in Cuba? There is a brave band of patriots close to our doors struggling for freedom and the right to govern themselves, just as our revolutionary fathers did. Cuba annexed, or as a friendly independent nation, would be worth more to the United States than half a dozen Venezuelas." The World is becoming demagogical. Were the United States to offer to intercede in Cuba's favor, it would be one of the first to raise its voice against the meddling with the relations of any government with one of its colonies.

THE demand for the election of our United States senators by a direct vote of the people is almost universal among the voters of the great republic. Senator Mitchell and Representative Hermann of this state, and Senator Peffer of Kansas, have introduced resolutions providing for a constitutional amendment taking this power out of the hands of legislatures, but there is little hope that either of them will succeed in getting through the senate. Too many members of that body owe their election to the influence of corporations in state legislatures to take chances in going before the people with their cases at general elections.

THE American people have a calm confidence in their military strength. It is not based on vast standing armies, but upon a knowledge of what they have done in past emergencies. They were not trained for war in 1861 yet within the next few years carried through the most deadly conflict of modern times. They are a peaceful people, preferring arbitration if it is possible. When arbitration is rejected as it has been by Lord Salisbury, they know their duty, and will never surrender their honor.

ACCORDING to the report of the assessors of Oregon there is but a million and a half dollars in money in the state, or about \$4 per capita. It is a little strange what becomes of all the money about the time the assessor comes around. Everybody knows there is at least six times that amount, but to find it is the question that has puzzled all the art of man.

INSURGENTS SUCCESSFUL. Cuban Revolution Becoming More Desperate. HAVANA, Dec. 31.—The most conflicting reports were in circulation again today regarding the movements of the insurgent forces under Generals Gomez, Maceo and Bandera. The Spanish officials continue to claim that the insurgents are in retreat, and that the Spanish troops are pursuing them out of the province of Matanzas; but the friends of the insurgents point to the fact that even the authorities here were compelled yesterday and today to admit that detachments, at least, of the insurgents are still in the vicinity of the city of Matanzas, and they are still doing damage.

Only yesterday it was reported from Camaricoa, 15 miles from Matanzas, that insurgents said to number 2000

were moving in that vicinity, which would indicate the determination of the insurgent commanders to capture Matanzas. Strong detachments of insurgent cavalry are also reported to have passed that place going northward from Jaruco and southward from Guines, two important towns within a short distance of Havana. However, it is believed the forward movements are made by the cavalry only. Adherents of the insurgents' cause here assert that the insurgent infantry and artillery will follow the cavalry westward in due course of time, and that Gomez and Maceo have simply been collecting necessary supplies and ammunition, preparatory to a final movement upon Havana. Indeed, there are rumors here that the insurgents have been awaiting supplies of ammunition, etc., which should now be within their reach, and that they will be "on to Havana" within a few days.

Spanish Commands Routed.

KEY WEST, Fla., Dec. 31.—An account has been received here of the fighting around Colon, and of the rough manner in which the Spaniards were handled. Some of the Spanish commands were nearly cut to pieces.

One brigade, composed of 2000 men, was practically destroyed. This brigade, early in the engagement, became detached from Campos' main army, and tried to make its way to Cienfuegos. The guides proved treacherous, and led the Spaniards through a country swarming with insurgents. From every point of vantage the insurgents poured in a withering fire on the Spaniards and all semblance of discipline was lost. The Spanish retreat became a rout, each man seeking shelter from the bullets of the concealed foe. After four days of incredible suffering the remnants of the brigade reached San Domingo, on the road to Cienfuegos. Of the 2000 soldiers who began the retreat 1100 were missing. More than half the officers of the command were also missing. Many of the soldiers and officers had perished by insurgent bullets, but the larger number had died from exhaustion. For three days the troops were without food. All the horses belonging to the command were killed and eaten. Those who reached San Domingo were in a pitiable condition. Their guns had been thrown away, their feet were bare and blistered, and the clothing of many was in rags. The account concludes by describing the wounded Spaniards pouring into the hospitals at Matanzas, Cardenas, Havana and other points since the recent fighting.

FACILITIES FOR WAR.

The United States Navy Not What It Ought to Be.

A report sent out from Washington recently gives the comparative naval strength of the United States and Great Britain as shown by the statement below. It is not stated, however, from what authority the report comes, therefore each one will be his own judge of its accuracy. One thing seems apparent, though, that in making the sum total of ships in the English navy, a great many old hulks are counted, such as second and third class cruisers, screw sloops, special service ships and dockyard reserve vessels, which would cut little or no figure in case of actual hostilities.

The United States has in commission 64 vessels, thus:

- Battle ships..... 3
Coast defense vessels..... 16
Armored cruisers..... 1
Unarmored cruisers..... 21
Protected cruisers..... 12
Gunboats..... 8
Torpedo vessels..... 1
Torpedo boats..... 2

The United States has under construction 25 vessels, thus:

- Battle ships..... 5
Armored coast defense vessels..... 4
Armored cruisers..... 1
Gunboats..... 8
Torpedo boats..... 7

Great Britain has in commission 172 vessels, thus:

- Battle ships..... 15
First class cruisers..... 12
Second class cruisers..... 11
Third class cruisers..... 31
Screw sloops..... 11
Gunboats..... 27
Torpedo boats..... 5
Coast guard battle ships..... 8
Coast guard cruisers..... 4
Port guard battle ships..... 5
Dispatch boats and troop ships..... 33

Great Britain has under construction 172 vessels, thus:

- Battle ships..... 22
First class cruisers..... 14
Second class cruisers..... 30
Third class cruisers..... 10
Screw sloops..... 3
Gunboats..... 17
Torpedo boat destroyers..... 17
Coast defense vessels..... 13
Special service ships..... 3
Dockyard reserve..... 55

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Tickets will be numbered at the door upon entering the hall. Masks will be lifted at 11 o'clock.

TREASURER'S NOTICE. COUNTY TREASURER'S OFFICE, ST. HELENS, Or., Dec. 13, 1895. NOTICE is hereby given that all Columbia county warrants heretofore presented and endorsed "Not Paid for Want of Funds," up to July 29, 1893, will be paid upon presentation at this office. Interest on the same will not be allowed after this date. D3917 E. M. WELTON, Treasurer of Columbia County, Oregon.

DISSOLUTION NOTICE. NOTICE is hereby given that the partnership heretofore existing between W. L. Sweetland and J. H. Sheldon, doing business under the firm name of Sweetland & Sheldon, is this day dissolved by mutual consent. The business will be continued by J. H. Sheldon, to whom all firm accounts are due and payable. JAMES H. SHELDON. Dated at St. Helens, Oregon, this 1st day of January, 1896.

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Ladies Shoes from..... 1.00 to 3.50
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