

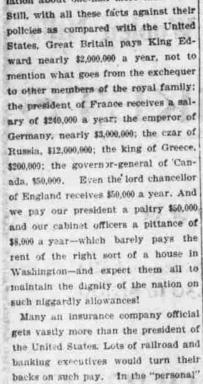
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THE ASTORIAN PUBLISHING CO.

FEDERAL SALARIES.

In most particulars it is a distinctive gain that, as a people, we Americans are conservative to a degree and that our law-makers in their acts reflect for the most part our notions of safety and But these facts do not soundness. justify the extension of a system thirty. forty or sixty years old into times like the present that have obviously outgrown it. Reference is had to the salaries of most of our federal officials. We came near to starving or bankrupting half a dozen of our presidents on pay fixed for the position half a century and more before they were chosen to fill it; and when the salary was doubled not many years ago it wasn't made large enough to fit the times; it ought to be doubled at least before the term beginning on March 4 1905, comes along.

A correspondent of the New York Press at Eayonne discusses this matter both sensibly and forcibly. It is "disgraceful," he says, for this, the mightiest, the richest nation on earth, to offer its chief executive "but \$50,-000 a year." . Our wealth, he shows, is nearly equal to the combined wealth of England and Russia or of Germany and Russia; and it nearly equals that of Russia, Austria, Italy and Spain combined. England's indebtedness is more than double ours, and her population less than half of ours. The national debt of Germany is nearly a billion dollars more than ours and her population one-third less than double ours. The national debt of Russia is more than double ours, and her population about one-half more the



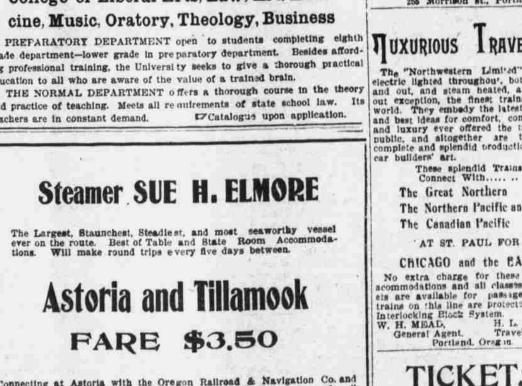
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