

The Daily Astorian AND Astoria Daily News

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THE OLD AND THE NEW

Side by side in the office of The Astorian and Daily News may be seen the first and, practically, the last linotype machines in the great west—the one, after years of hard service still doing first-class work with its nickel-plated parts and the other, attractive in its simplicity, capable of accomplishments beyond the imagination of even the most enthusiastic dreamer who stopped at the Chicago world's fair to view the wonderful work of the elaborately constructed machine that occupies the place of honor in the composing rooms of this journal. The old machine was built like a vetch and handsomely finished, that it might more favorably impress the hundreds of thousands who visited the Columbian exposition. The enterprising proprietor of The Morning Astorian, among those who first saw the old machine at Chicago, hastened to place himself in communication with the manufacturing concern, and since then this famous linotype has recorded the progress of the world, and more particularly of the Pacific northwest. More operators have "learned the case" on it than on any other three machines in the great west. It has been abused at times by that class so utterly despicable in the eyes of the artistic printer—the "blacksmiths"—and has resented this harsh treatment by refusing absolutely to perform its functions. At other times it has been considerably treated by intelligent operators, and at such times has done its duty well. It has, with human instinct, responded to the touch of reason and rebelled at the touch of ignorance.

The companion of the world's fair machine is the very latest product of the factory, capable of really wonderful things. In two minutes' time its parts can be so altered that it will print any one of half a dozen different sizes of type, of any one of half a dozen different measures. The ordinary roman face, such as is used in this newspaper, and the boldface headletter issue forth from it at the same time, cast on the same line. It requires less attention than its notable partner and generally is such a wonderful mechanical device that its work is little short of marvelous. The old machine has won its spurs; the new has a reputation to make.

With these two machines The Astorian and Daily News will be thoroughly equipped and prepared to

give to Astoria by far the best paper ever published in any of the smaller cities of the coast. The capacity of the mechanical department is fully doubled—the old machine must not be slandered, gentle reader—and the paper is in position to give to its patrons, as it has always done, the greatest quantity and best quality of news.

THE QUESTION OF BABIES.

The Tacoma Ledger entertains no fear of race suicide. There are, our contemporary asserts, plenty of babies born into the world, and the great problem, it thinks, is what to do with them. The Ledger's version of an interesting question is called forth by the lamentation of Bishop Francis, of the Episcopal church who deprecates the fact that the ladies of his congregation are not giving to humanity their share of babies. The Ledger undertakes to reassure the good bishop, offering him as comfort the law of the survival of the fittest, and asserting that, even if motherhood ceases entirely among the ladies of his acquaintance, the cry of the babe will continue to be heard in other homes.

"There are plenty of infants," continues the Ledger. "They are suffering for lack of sustenance. They are growing up in crime and ignorance. They are being developed to fill the asylums and penitentiaries. In due course of time some of them will be hanged. The problem is not as to more children, but but as to what to do with the ones who are here. Certainly the people who are not able to care for their offspring do society a wrong when they unload upon it a large family. Certainly the future of this race depends upon quality. There is no trouble about the quantity except in the excess. The fact is lamented that the ultra-fashionable women do not have children. In this circumstance there is reason for gratitude rather than concern.

"The talk about race suicide is almost all nonsense. Regardless of who may not experience the process of being born, there will be plenty to experience it. So far as the task falls to human agency, the world will be taken care of, and it is idle to fret about the rest. Perhaps the congregation of the good bishop will die out, but he will die out, too. His successor will find a congregation. It may not have descended from the congregation of today, but it will be there, never fear. The race is increasing in numbers. Is it growing better in character? Here is the important question."

And herein is the strong feature of the bishop's contention. His congregation is a fashionable one and the women who comprise it are abundantly able to rear children as they should be reared and afford them the advantages that every child needs in this bustling age. If the stork visited more fashionable homes there would be a less percentage of criminals born into the world. It is not at all likely, however, that the race suicidal arguments advanced will produce any pronounced change in the attitude of those directly concerned.

GUNS AND ARMOR.

A most striking development in guns—and in speaking of guns we usually include the gun-carriage or gun-mount—is the effort now universal to throw the accurate and quick control of the gun into the hands of the people firing it, says John C. Mergs in the Scientific American. It may well be wondered that this has not always been a controlling idea in laying out guns and their mounts, says this writer but at the present time it is in this direction that the greatest effort is being made. The proof of this is to be seen by a

comparison of the guns and mounts made ten or fifteen years ago with those now being made. The latter are arranged much more conveniently, and consequently their rate of fire is much faster. Modern six-inch guns are being fired from ships eight or ten times in a minute at targets about the size of a ship and a mile distant and hitting the target at each shot. Of course doing this from a stable platform on shore would be comparatively easy. The projectile of these guns weigh 100 pounds, the powder charge about 40 to 50 pounds, and the weight of the gun, including all the trussing parts, is about 25,000 pounds. This weight must be moved, to keep the sights on the target, by one man, and it will be seen that it is of the greatest importance to lay out all the shafting and gearing with a minimum of friction and lost motion.

With this advance in the convenient layout of the gun and its mount is going on at the present time a steady increase in the weight and length of guns. Six-inch guns which used to weigh 11,000 pounds, now weigh 18,000 to 20,000 pounds. The weight of the projectile of these guns has not increased, and has remained always 100 pounds, but the velocity at which the projectile leaves the gun has increased from about 2000 feet per second to from 3,600 to 3,500 feet per second, in consequence of a three or fourfold increase in the charge of powder. It may be argued that this change—that is, the constantly increasing weight of guns of a given caliber—is not a wise one. The great care and attention bestowed upon the convenient and accurate moving of the gun, however, can be nothing but an improvement. The growth and progress in change in artillery construction sometimes seems arbitrary—seems sometimes to be as arbitrary as the fashion in clothes. Old guns made 300 years ago, which may be seen in the arsenals in this country and in Europe, had about the same shape and were in many respects similar to the guns of today. In the intermediate period, say about 100 years ago, the guns had shrunk up, and become shorter and larger in diameter, with larger bores. We are now returning, or, perhaps, more correctly, it should be said we have returned, to the fashions in artillery of 300 years ago.

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A man has been arrested in Seattle because, as he expresses it, he is engaged in the business of "making crooked tools for square gamblers." The case should be dropped at once. The man is altogether too valuable to be run out of or placed under restraint at Seattle.

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Overture, Beer is 5c, The Waiter. CLYDE L. CRAIG.
A return Engagement of the Sparkling Soubrette. CARMELITA MEEK.
Overture, "Miss Nell Waltzes" L. V. GUSTIN.
Now we have the sensational hit of the season. JOHN J. LORD, and NEEK CARMELITA, in a novelty act of their own.
Overture, "Bamboo Queen" HARRY VON TILGER.
The peer of Song Illustrators, LUCY CUNNINGHAM, presenting Howley Haviland and Dresser's Latest Successes, "Down in the Meadow where the Green Grass Grows."
Overture, Wait for the Moving Pictures, Edison.
The somewhat different comedian, JOHN J. LORD, will hold your attention.
Overture, "The Lion Hunter" CLYDE L. CRAIG.
In more of the Latest Eastern Successes, MADELINE EARLE.
Overture, "Ben Hur Waltzes" CHAS. HOFFMAN.
The Magnetic Star, CARMELITA MEEK will please you.
Overture, "The Varsity Grid" FRED T. ASHTON.
The Eccentric Comedian, JOHN J. LORD, will pass out a few knock-out drops.
Overture, Don't forget the pictures. Once more with the same old smile, MADELINE EARLE.
Overture, "Marita," Flotow. Edison's Latest invention, The Projectoscope, in different subjects and scenes.

Program is subject to change without notice.

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