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THE OREGONIAN AND THE TRUTH.

Our highly esteemed contemporary, the Oregonian, delays to shipping at the Columbia river, and to chide of Russia, France will be isolated on the continent. point out with persistency the case of the government are joined in the same form of alliance as that be transport Dix, which should have gone to sea from Astoria on Thursday, February 18, but which is still tied up in the lower harbor. The Oregonian says Mikado. in part:

wrecked so many vessels and left such a trail of destruction in its wake, it is highly probable that, had the Dix been at sea, she would have sustained injuries much more costly than has been the slight dedoes not contend that the Columbia bar is in perfect condition. Were such a claim at all reasonable, no further effort would be made to improve conditions at the mouth of the river. The unobstructed passage of the Dix from Portland to Astoria shows the river to be in excellent condition, in fact larger and down without delay on a smaller stage of water. large constituency in eastern Washington, have always professed a desire to do everything possible to and aid in placing the bar at the mouth in as good condition as Portland has placed the channel above Astoria."

Once again, not so much for the benefit of the Russian policy. Oregonian, but for the edification of the papers of the sound and the officials of the government. The Astorian desires to relate the facts in the case of the arrived down the river from Portland, and The Astorian intends that the Oregonian's misrepresentation of the circumstances leading up to the delay of the transport shall not go unnoticed.

of February 17. We have the Oregonian's statement for it that hers was an unobstructed passage down the river, but the fact is that she did not reach February 18. In other words, her trip down the river occupied 30 hours' time. It is interesting in 80 fathoms of chain cable. The vessel was about to run aground coming down the river and the anchor was hastily dropped in order to avert the disaster. idea may not appeal very strongly.

she would have reached Astoria at 8 o'clock on the then find it impossible to break through. evening of February 17, and on the following mornto get to sea.

the river from Portland, and any other statement re garding the matter is deliberate falsehood.

#### RUSSIA'S COMPLAINT.

The Russian government has addressed to the powers a diplomatic note impeaching Japan for violating international law. The serious charge is for violating the neutrality of Corea by landing troops in that empire. Unless Japan can make such use of Corea, she would have no land base for her military operations. The complaint, the Call thinks, comes with bad grace from Russia, after violating the neutrality of China by occupying Manchuria as her land base, and erecting on Chinese soil military camps and fortifications during the time in which she agreed with the western nations to prepare for evacuating Manchuria. Last year she promised the United States to observe her agreement to evacuate on October 8. But that date found her increasing her forces on Chinese soil and busy usurping the civil administration of Manchuria, against the protests of China and the violation of her word to the allies in the Boxer war.

It is said that France sympathizes with Russia her view of the case. This is probably a play in the game going on between France and Germany to court the favor of Russia. If Germany insinuates has again taken upon itself to discuss the matter of herself into the place now held by France as an ally those Puget sound papers which have seen fit to But it must be remembered that England and Japan tween France and Russia, and if France should go so far as to give aid, even diplomatically, to the czar. England may be expected to go just as far with the

The rest of Eussia's complaint runs to Japan's act "Considering the fury of the storm which has of war at Port Arthur, in advance of a formal dec laration. It is not the first time that has occurred. We did it in the Mexican war, and had an action at arms in advance of a formal declaration by congress. It may be said, too, that every day that Russian troops remained in Manchuria after the date lay experienced. At the same time, the Oregonian agreed upon for evacuation was an act of war. Such continued occupancy is understood by every government to have been a warlike menace, directed against the independence and existence of Japan.

Russia's note is published concurrently with a boast that she will wipe out the Japanese armies next August. If she expects that in such an event she will also have permission to do as she pleases with and deeper ships than the Dix have been passing up Japan she is probably mistaken, for it is inconceivable that the world will consent to her absorbtion Puget sound papers, with a desire to conciliate their of that empire. There is no intention anywhere to permit Russia to become the dominating power of the planet, as she would be with Japan, China and Corea absorbed into her system. In this the United open the Columbia river. If there is any sincerety States is equally interested with other western nain their professions, and the Dix matter is one-half tions. Such expansion of Russian power would pracas bad as they are endeavoring to make it, here is a tically drive us out of the Pacific, and while it is golden opportunity for them to join with Portland not probable that we would make war in the matter, it is probable that we would join a concert of such western nations as desire to preserve a just balance in the world's trade, and preevnt the spread of the execrable scheme of government represented in the

We stand at present on Secretary Hay's note, enforcing respect for the neutrality and territorial integrity of China. It is a most important action, and Dix. Ten days have now elapsed since the vessel makes a foundation for future action in protection of our interests in the Pacific and in the trade of

American public opinion and view of the morals of the eastern conflict are exactly uttered in the many The Dix left Portland at 10 o'clock on the morning pulpits in this country, in which the subject has been discussed. In not a single case has the Russian side met with any favor. The superior civilization of Japan is recognized, as it should be, and the su-Astoria until 4 o'clock on the afternoon of Thursday, perior system of her governments has not escaped endorsement. Japan has a high degree of popular government, with parliamentary institutions and a this connection to note that, during this "unobstruct- perfect system of jurisprudence founded on the comed" passage, the Dix lost a 12,000-pound anchor and mon law. Americans will not see there institutions submerged in the brutal autocraey of Russia.

Russian talk about being able to hold Port Arthur This sort of thing may have an "unobstructed" for a two years' siege sounds omniously like a conappearance to the Oregonian, but to the government fession of weakness. If Russia cannot overcome Japan department which operates transports the Portland in much less time than that she must be regarded as a vastly overrated power, and she would do best 524 Commercial street. The distance from Portland to Astoria by water to make peace at once on the most favorable terms is approximately 100 miles, and the Dix made the she can. Before two years are gone Japan would trip over that expanse at the rate of three and one have a double-track railroad from the strait of Corea third miles an hour. Had the big vessel been able to the Yalu, and a line of fortifications along that to navigate even at the low rate of 10 miles an hour river and from it to the Leao, which Russia might

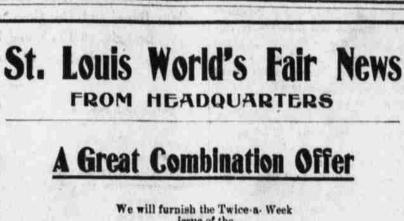
ing, when the tide was very high and the bar as | Colombia will have a sensible president in General smooth as a mill pond, would have been able to put Reyes, and during his administration no countenance to sea. As it was, she did not arrive down until 4 will be given to any scheme to "hold up" this couno'clock on the afternoon of February 18, or too late try. In due season we shall send polite greetings to the new president, wishing him luck, and his 578 Commercial St., Shanahan Building The Oregonian is striving to make it appear that country prosperity, which might have been better the bar has caused the delay of the Dix, and is alone assured with a canal running through it, but which responsible for her detention. The predicament of will be, in a measure, promoted by it as it runs the ship is the direct result of her slow trip down through the territory of a neighboring republic.

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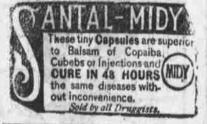
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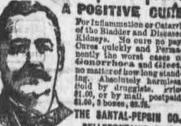
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