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THE SEMI-WEEKLY ASTORIAN.

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ASTORIAN PUBLISHING COMPANY.

NEW BATTLESHIPS.

The Virginia, which was launched last week at Newport News, possesses peculiar interest for those who are watching the development of the American navy. She is the first of five battleships constituting a new class and making a distinct advance upon all predecessors.

One of her most admirable characteristics is the speed she is expected to make. She and her four sister ships are designed to make ninteen knots. How exceptional this is for a battleship belonging to the United States will be appreciated when it is remembered that the Illinois is good for only seventeen and a half knots, and the Missouri for eighteen. These are not only the latest accessions to the navy, but the fastest battleships this country has. Another group of five vessels, displacing 16,000 tons-or 1,000 more than the Virginia class-is now under construction, but they are all designed to make only eighteen knots. Still a third class, about which there has been much talk, but which are not yet under contract, are intended to have a displacement of only 13,000 tons, but revert to seventeen or seventeen and a half knots. Foreign powers are giving so much attention to speed in new battleships that America suffers by comparison.

Another important gain by the class to which the Virginia belongs is the size of the battery. The Illinois has, besides her four 13-inch guns, only 14 6inch rifles in her primary battery. The Virginia will have 12-inch guns in her turrets, but in addition she will carry eight 8-inch guns and twelve 6-inch rifles. Her equipment is distinctly more powerful than that of any other American vessel. For fighting-and that is the main object for which these ships are built-she will be a distinct advance upon the Illinois and the Missouri

In the vessels of the Virginia class a feature has been introduced which was first tried in the Kentucky and the Kearsarge. She has two-story turrets. One pair of the 8-inch guns of the new ships will be mounted directly above her 12-inch guns at each end of the vessel. This idea is exclusively American, and has provoked much discussion. There was much opposition to a further trial of the system when the 15,000-ton ships were designated. The friends of the double turret won, but the latter must still be regarder as an experiment. In the gun practice both the Kearsarge and the Kentucky behaved fairly well, but the wisdom of the new policy has not yet been fully determined. New light will be afforded, perhaps, when the Virginia and her sisters go into commission, two or three years hence.

JAPAN'S FINANCIAL SOLIDITY. The ease with which Japan has recently floated war loan at home has not surprised those who have followed the developments of the financial policy of the Japanese Government. In order to place Japanese currency on a solid basis several expedients have been attempted. One device originally adopted by the Japanese government was to pay out gold to promote industries whose products were to be exported, and thus attract metallic money to Japan. One of the financial journals reviewing the developments of Japanese finance says that later a more sensible plan was employed, namely, "that of buying produce and manufacturing goods with paper money, exporting and selling these for gold, and storing the latter in the treasury. So sucessful was this measure use it. that it was possible to resume specie payments in 1885. The ultimate adoption of the gold standard was facilitated by the payment of the Chinese idemnity in 1895. As in the eastern portion of our own country, gold is seldom seen, says the Ledger, as paper money is generally used in its place. Until Japan did adopt the gold standard she could not hope to borrow large sums abroad. Perhaps she was not over anxious to be saddled with a council of that he is willing to go to Korea as a missionary. foreign bond-holders, like her sister, Egypt. Japan as a government is much more solvent and her resources are much more elastic than foreigners have ing to palm it off on the St. Louis convention. been inclined to believe. The latter have found it difficult to understand how, with such slender resources, she could keep up so large an army as she does. But they forget that the cost of maintenance especially of the officers, is much less than it would be in Europe or America. Two clearing houses were about Springfield, Ohio.

established in 1889; the clearings for that year were \$15,000,000. By 1899 they had reached a nannual to- Appears at St. Peter's First Time Since tal of \$645,000,000."

Over \$63,000,000 in gold was coined at the United States Mints during the month of March. This is nearly as much as the coining value of all the silver that has been mined in this country in any single year since 1890, and it is far in excess of the coming value of this country's silver output twenty years ago. More significant still, it is equal to double the value of the gold mined in the United States in any single year of the decade ended with 1892 and it is equal to 80 per cent of the gold that we produced ommendation, the audience refrained even so late as 1902. It is no wonder that former from applause or crying out, contenting Bryanites now-a-days prefer to talk of the grave and themselves with the waving of handworms rather than discuss the subject of free silver. If abundance of standard money is all that is needed to make everybody rich there ought not be a pauper in the entire republic.

The Chicago minister who staked out a gold mine in Alaska, where he was sent to convert the natives. may have been guilty of an impropriety, but he displayed more sense that the Chicago professor who gave expression of his opinion of John D. Oilyfeller.

If there is any danger of sending Perry Heath to represent Utah in Mr. Smoot's place, the United States senators will hesitate in expelling the Mormon member from their chamber.

Judging from the disorder that has prevailed in recent democratic state conventions, a large portion of the St. Louis police will have to attend the coming national convention.

Perry Heath, of post office notoriety, and Senator Burton, of Kansas, who is under indictment, are about the ouly republicans who are opposed to President Roosevelt.

The democrats are grooming several dark horses for the presidential race next fall. After the run their nag will probably need the service of a veterinary surgeon.

New York has half a dozen possible democratic candidates. It looks as if a son of the Empire state would have to stand the humiliation of the democratic defeat.

Hobson's political aspirations are materializing; he has at last succeeded in having his name placed on the ballot for the congressional election in his dis-

W. Bourke Cockran has been sworn in at the national house of representatives amid the applause of the gallery. The gallery expects to be entertain-

If there are any Mormons on the pension rolls, Uncle Sam can not be expected to provide for five or six families of each soldier.

Just judging from reports, we take it that Elijah Dowie, when he went to Australia, forgot to take his ravens with him.

"Who are benefited by war?" asks the peace-loving Savannah News. Well, there are the mapmak ers, for a starter.

Korea should get herself measured by the Bertillion system so that she may be identified after the fighting is over.

Cleveland is said to be the greatest living, Bryan the greatest dead, and Hill the greatest resurrected

An Oklahoma girl won \$10,000 at roulette. The man who ran the wheel saved his bank by marry-

The G. O. P. has corrected the abuses of the P. O. D. and declared for type-setting machines in the

A congressman may be pardoned if he inquires what is the use of having a pull if he is not allowed to

Booker Washington wants to see the negro elevated, but does not approve the Ohio way of doing it.

Bryan is opposed to the yellow metal, but he is willing to lend his support to a yellow candidate.

Rockefeller has yet to announce to his bible class

Bryan is shining up his old oxidized platform hop

The Mormons have not declared whether they object to their wives having plural husbands,

Wilmington, Del., feels respectable after hearing

POPE SAYS MASS.

Coronation.

Rome, April 11 .- For the first time since his coronation, August 9, 1903, the pope went this morning to St. Peters' to say mass in celebration of the 13th centennial of St. Gregory the Great, who died 604 A. D.

The immense basilica of St. Peter's was filled, more than 70,000 persons being present. The pope was in the best of health. He appeared in the Sedia Gestatoria, although the motion of this chair, carried on the shoulders of bearers, makes him ill. On his express reckerchiefs.

Alarmed About Plague.

New York, April 11.-Stringent measures are being taken to prevent the spread of the bubonic plague, says a Herald dispatch from Valparaiso, Chile, from Antofogasta to other places. Steamers have stopped calling at the DR. VAUGHAN,

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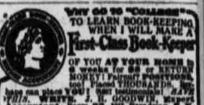
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7:45 a m | Bor Portland and 11:80 a m 10:30 p m 6:10 p m Way Points SEASIDE DIVISION

8:15 a m Astoria for Waren- 7:40 a m 11:35 a m ton, Flavel Fort 4:00 p m 5:59 p m Stevens, Hazamond *10:46 a m and Seamide

6:15 a m | Seaside for War- 12:60 p m Flavel, 7:20 p m *9:80 a.m. renton, Hammond, Fort 9:35 a m Stevens & Astoria

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