

THE MORNING ASTORIAN. Established 1873.



RATES.

By mail, per year \$6 00
By mail, per month 50
By carriers, per month 60

THE SEMI-WEEKLY ASTORIAN.

By mail, per year, in advance \$1 00

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.

One of her most admirable characteristics is the speed she is expected to make. She and her four sister ships are designed to make nineteen 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.

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 6-inch rifles in her primary battery.

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.

JAPAN'S FINANCIAL SOLIDITY.

The ease with which Japan has recently floated a war loan at home has not surprised those who have followed the developments of the financial policy of the Japanese Government.

established in 1889; the clearings for that year were \$15,000,000. By 1899 they had reached a annual total 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.

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 than 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 only 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 district.

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

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 mapmakers, for a starter.

Korea should get herself measured by the Bertillon 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 democrat.

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

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

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

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 that he is willing to go to Korea as a missionary.

Bryan is shining up his old oxidized platform hoping to palm it off on the St. Louis convention.

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

Wilmington, Del., feels respectable after hearing about Springfield, Ohio.

POPE SAYS MASS.

Appears at St. Peter's First Time Since Coronation. Rome, April 11.—For the first time since his coronation, August 9, 1903, the pope went this morning to St. Peter's to say mass in celebration of the 13th centennial of St. Gregory the Great, who died 604 A. D.

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 Antofagasta to other places. Steamers have stopped calling at the port.

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