

# The Morning Astorian

ESTABLISHED 1873

PUBLISHED BY

ASTORIAN PUBLISHING COMPANY.

J. H. CARTER, GENERAL MANAGER.

## 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



## RUSSIA'S WEAK POINT IN THE EAST.

A correspondent of the London Times, who is familiar with the details of transporting and supplying an army by railway, gives some instructive figures touching the difficulties with which Russia contends in sending large bodies of troops to the theater of war and caring for them after they get there. It was held by the Japanese staff before hostilities began, and no doubt on sufficient grounds, that Russia, relying upon a single track railroad, could not maintain an army of more than 250,000 men in the far east. The London Times writer goes into particulars to show that, if the railroad were continuously in the best condition, not more than 20,000 men a month could be sent to the east in shape to take the field; and the question of feeding them after arrival would be left unsolved. A gap in the railway still exists at Lake Baikal, which is filled by two steamers, only one of which carries railroad cars. The food alone of an army of 200,000 men and 65,000 horses represents a weight of 1100 tons a day, or a load for five railway trains of 25 cars each. During the recent winter the Russians, with the entire track in order, could not get through more than six trains a day, or barely enough to carry the food, to say nothing of the transportation of troops.

The greatest strain of this kind in the American civil war was in the operations in Kentucky, Tennessee and Georgia, during Sherman's operations against Atlanta. The union army was supplied by a single track railway running from Louisville to Nashville and Chattanooga. The distance from Louisville to Nashville was 185 miles; from Nashville to Chattanooga 151 miles, and from Chattanooga to Atlanta 138 miles, a total of 474 miles. Every bridge and trestle on this route had to be guarded, and tens of thousands of soldiers were thus employed. A little army held some of the stations, as at Altoona, where a famous battle was fought, a whole confederate division making the assault. The distance from Baikal to Harbin is nearly three times that from Louisville to Atlanta, and there are thousands of miles of railway to be reckoned with west of Baikal. Interruptions on so long a line are certain to occur frequently, the track being new and laid with comparatively light iron.

These physical difficulties must be kept in mind in estimating what is going on in Manchuria, and what the decisive results are likely to be. The London Times analyst of the railway situation concludes that as long as Japan retains command of the sea she has the "power of continuously placing two or more men in the field for every one that Russia brings up. She can regulate her action by that of her enemy, and always anticipate it, since she can throw troops into Manchuria with great facility, greater speed and in more efficient condition." Russia must supply her troops over a single track railway or live off the country. The last method is impracticable for any length of time, and the other must be regarded as having, in the present conflict, limitations that can not be overcome.

## THE WASHINGTON EXHIBIT.

The Tacoma Lumberman is very much displeased with the Washington exhibit at the St. Louis fair, and says that it compares most unfavorably with the exhibit of Oregon and California. Those of us who have been assured the Oregon exhibit was an unworthy one will find consolation in the following utterance of the Tacoma journal:

Almost any prairie state in the union has a better exhibit in the government forestry department in St. Louis than the state of Washington. It may be possible there are other things to follow, but up to the present time many lumbermen from Washington must feel a little ashamed to acknowledge their residence. In the government department there is a hollow stump from Washington, a portable house and fir slab. If there is anything more a Washington lumberman, who has just been there, failed to locate it. In the Washington state building one finds another hollow stump, some pieces of fir and cedar, and a small exhibition of eastern Washington pine. In the Hoo Hoo building nothing is exhibited from this state. The Washington state building is unique, but that is about all one can say of it. Altogether, the Washington exhibit, so far as set up,

would better have been burned in the woods. This state has been singularly unlucky in its exhibits in eastern expositions. At the world's fair in Chicago, after the lumbermen had furnished a lot of extra fine interior finish for the state building, someone in authority had it painted; so far as anyone could tell the finish might have been oak or yellow pine.

In contrast to the exhibition of the state of Washington, California's and Oregon's exhibits are marked by a completeness which might lead anyone to conclude they were the only states on the coast which had any lumber. Oregon's exhibit included in the reproduction of old Fort Clatsop is a something that attracts the eye of any visitor. Specimens of wood are finished and arranged to the best effect. The grounds are spacious, allowing the exhibit to be well shown and giving visitors an opportunity to move freely about. The California exhibit, under the guidance of a woman's artistic and practical hand, is admired by all. A beautiful office room, equipped entirely with sugar pine furniture, is ornate yet practical.

Unless there is a change in the Washington exhibit the chances are that hereafter lumbermen going to St. Louis from Washington will register from Oregon or California.

## NO GROUND FOR ALARM.

While discussing the Lewis and Clark fair the question is frequently asked if it will not have an unfavorable effect on business matters in Oregon, and especially in Portland, after it is all over, says the Salem Statesman. It is usually claimed that the years immediately following other expositions have witnessed depressions in business resulting from a relaxation from the unusual stimulant felt during the special activity of the fair year.

We do not believe there will be any such experience here after the Lewis and Clark fair is over, for two reasons. First, our exposition will not be overdone. It will not be larger than the country will justify and the "boom" usually experienced as a part of a great exposition will be less in evidence here than is ordinarily the case.

And, secondly, all former expositions in this country have been in sections old in themselves already, and long before, thickly settled, and the flocking of large numbers of people thither has abnormally increased the population where there was no room for it. This will all be reversed in Portland. There was no room for a new population in Buffalo nor in New York state, neither was there in Charleston, nor yet in St. Louis, a city founded 150 years ago. But the woods still encroach upon the city limits of Portland and thousands of acres of the most productive land in the world are in its immediate vicinity, clothed with brush and light timber, to be sure, but waiting for industrious home seekers.

Oregon can easily absorb tens of thousands of thrifty people, and, indeed, the justification for the Lewis and Clark fair is the hope that it will bring to Oregon a large immigration of that class of people who have the means with which to buy homes, and who are willing to assist in developing the resources of the state.

There is little, if any danger of a relaxation in business in Oregon after the fair, for our country is not even in the first stages of completion. Oregon is a young state yet.

The result of the 79th ballot in the Illinois republican deadlock, nominating Deneen for governor by means of Yates votes, while Lowden's support remained true to him to the end, leads to the surmise that there will be four more years of bait digging for Lowden, while the others divide the fish between them.

Reliable accounts from the seat of hostilities say the Japanese wounded are nearly all shot in the legs and feet, while the Russians are wounded in the upper part of the body and head. Perhaps each side is shooting for the most vital spot.

E. W. Critchton writes that the keeper of the Portland park wants a ferocious seal for the pond—"a rusher and a growler." Seems to us we have heretofore heard these expressions.

Mr. Gorman's friends do not hesitate to remind the democracy that if it wants a man who can talk with fluency, and yet with considerable discretion, Maryland can produce him.

The Japanese are greatly interested in baseball. There is no possible doubt as to the sincerity and completeness of their civilization.

If it is decided to land marines at Tangier, it is possible that Sultan Aziz will wake up some morning to find himself Sultan Aswas.

You can repeat as much as you wish in the regatta queen contest, and the strong arm of the law will not reach out for you.

Some of Mr. Bryan's utterances indicate that his experiences with that will case has left him a little sensitive and irritable.

## JUST FOR INSTANCE.

Over the pleasure resorts of Greater New York there is today a gloom!

Perhaps many that might have taken a ride on the water two weeks ago will hesitate today!

Perhaps many that would be present were it possible are still lying, stiff and cold, in the morgue, waiting for identification by sorrowing relatives!

Perhaps there are little children who have no mother to dress them for church this morning!

Perhaps there are mothers shedding tears because there is no little child to dress!

Perhaps where mothers have scolded because little fingers have stained the windows and woodwork, they would now be grateful if those little fingers could stain again!

Perhaps there are husbands and fathers who cannot see the Sunday paper for their tears!

There may be many empty pews this morning!

Many a man will eat his breakfast alone, with empty chairs beside him!

Perhaps some aged grandmother who was chatting of old times a week ago is missing today!

Maybe there are dresses hanging in closets waiting for wearers who do not come!

In six hundred homes there is no sunshine today!

The day of rest means a day of sorrow to those homes!

Yet it also means a realization of what things are and what they can be without a moment's warning.

Perhaps sombre crepe is the only thing that will cause some men to stop and think!

Perhaps the grandeur of despair will cause some men to change their lives!

Perhaps sorrow will leave a wound that will cleanse the system in healing!

We all receive scars in the battle of life!

But they are not all on the surface!

Some are internal scars!

Scars on the heart—the conscience—the soul!

Marking wounds that never heal!

But to some pain there is a sacredness that passeth all understanding!

Catastrophes have their effect!

We see the effect only, and not the cause!

Of the cause we know nothing!

It is a great mystery—a mystery immortal—that we will never understand!

McCULLY.

## New Books at the Library.

New books have been received at the library as follows:

"The Red Keggers," by Eugene Thwing.

"The Lightning Conductor," C. N. and A. M. Williamson.

"Darrel of the Blessed Isles," Irving Bacheller.

"The Crossing," Winston Churchill.

"The Silent Places," S. E. White.

"The Master of Warlock."

"Inside History of Carnegie Steel Co.," J. H. Bridge.

"A Little Union Scout," Joel C. Harris.

"Overtones; a Book of Temperaments," Hunecker.

"Captured by the Navajos," Captain Charles Curtis.

"Tillie, a Minnonito Maid," Helen R. Martin.

"Korea," Angus Hamilton.

"The Blazed Trail," Stewart E. White.

"Brave Little Holland," W. E. Griffiths.

"He That Eateth Bread With Me," H. A. M. Keays.

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