


THE MORNING ASTORIAN
 Established 1873.
 Published Daily by
THE J. S. DELLINGER COMPANY.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

By mail, per year\$7.00
 By mail, per month..... .60
 By carrier, per month..... .75

WEEKLY ASTORIAN.
 By mail, per year, in advance. \$1.00

Entered as second-class matter June 24, 1885, at the postoffice at Astoria, Oregon, under the act of Congress of March 3, 1879.



Orders for the delivering of this paper should be made to either residence or place of business may be made by postal card or through tele-grams. Any irregularity in delivery should be immediately reported to the office of publication.

TELEPHONE MAIN 66.

far below expectations. The country is heavily in debt and being impoverished was in no condition to drive from Manchuria the formidable army gathered about Gunshu Pass under General Lin-vitch. Victory in the field would not have sufficiently affected the rates of interest at which the mikado's government was being compelled to borrow its millions to pay the cost of the campaign; it was a question of peace or loss of credit. The real condition of the national finances has been kept from the people, who being without this logical explanation for the sudden termination of the war and the relinquishing of fruits about to fall, naturally are open in their criticism of the Tokio cabinet.

The news that the south is likely to fight revision of the tariff helps to explain why the democracy has been searching since 1896 for a new issue as diligently as Japhet in search of his father or Coelebus of a wife. The south is where the democrats live, or people who call themselves democrats, though now most of them are firmly in line for policies distinctly republican in their origin. Time as well as politics make strange bedfellows.

There is encouragement in the report that the representatives of the zemstvos and municipal councils in Russia have decided to accept the plan of a national assembly and make the best of it. That is right. The plan is by no means perfect. Indeed, it is very faulty and inadequate. But it is still a long step forward, and it ought to be regarded and improved as such. The next step will, because of it, be all the easier to secure.

The Hamburg-American company has had a pleasant surprise. Having decided to experiment with a steam turbine, it finds that the ship which was equipped therewith develops a higher speed than the contract called for. Some day the managers of the other prominent German trans-Atlantic line may be convinced that they have been too cautious in hesitating to adopt Mr. Parson's famous invention.

Harvard university, oldest and largest institution of the kind in the United States has just begun its 270th academic year. Last year it had 5393 registered students and the number this year will be still larger. It is young, however compared with the two leading universities of England. Oxford was founded in 1248 and Cambridge still earlier.

Now there is to be an organization to diminish wife desertion. It has never been determined whether wives are best pleased to be regarded as luxuries or as necessities.

THE TELEGRAPH'S NEW RATE.
 The swift steamer Telegraph leaves Callender dock, Astoria, daily, for Portland, except Friday, at 2 o'clock p. m., arriving in Portland at 8: 30 p. m. A round trip fare of \$2.25 has been established for the next 60 days, going into effect today. No better way to observe the beauties of the Columbia river.

NO REASON FOR IT
 When Astoria Citizens Show the Way. There can be no just reason why any reader of this will continue to suffer the tortures of an aching back, the annoyance of urinary disorders, the dangers of diabetes or any kidney ills when relief is so near at hand and the most positive proof given that they can be cured. Read what an Astoria citizen says:
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SOME FATAL BOOKS.

Authors Who Met Terrible Deaths Because of Their Writings.
 In 1830 an Austrian pamphleteer named Telki was shot at Grats for writing and publishing a book reflecting on the good faith of Count Buol, the foreign minister. The work was published at 9 o'clock in the morning, at 10 it was ordered to be suppressed, half an hour later the unhappy author was being tried by drumhead court martial, and before noon he had been pronounced guilty and executed.
 Napoleon gave equally short shrift to writers who offended him, shooting some and hanging others with scarcely even the form of trial. One of the most notorious of these judicial murders was that perpetrated at the expense of poor Palm, a Nurnberg publisher, who was shot because he refused to give up the name of the author of a book attacking the usurper. Later the Bourbons had troublesome authors quietly "removed" by hired assassins. After this fashion died the gifted Paul Courier, whose foul murder on April 10, 1825, aroused to fury all lovers of liberty.

Edward Kelly, the friend and champion of Dr. Dee, had his ears cut off at Manchester for writing in defense of that notorious magician.
 Daniel Defoe narrowly escaped a similar fate for his "Short Way With the Dissenters," and, as it was, he was three times stood in the pillory besides suffering all the horrors then incidental to a long imprisonment in Newgate.
 Urban Grandier because he offended the mighty Richelieu in a book entitled "The Shoemaker of Loudun" was burned alive.

Simon Morin in 1647 published at Paris a little work called "Thoughts." For so doing he was sentenced to perform public penance in his shirt, with a rope round his neck and a torch in his hand. Afterward he and his book were burned together and the ashes thrown into the air.
 The similar punishment meted out to Sevretus at Geneva because of his book "On the Restitution of Christianity" is historical. By a refinement of cruelty the brow of the unhappy author was adorned with a crown of straw sprinkled with brimstone, and new, moist fagots were purposely used in order to prolong his sufferings.

Antoptus Paleartus, an Italian author of the sixteenth century, had the audacity to write a book attacking the Inquisition. He was sentenced to be "hanged, strangled and burned." Jordan Bruno, the friend of Sir Phillip Sidney, was punished in like manner for having written a book entitled "The Expulsion of the Triumphant Beast."
 A sorry fate befell John Williams, who foolishly sent two samples of spring poetry to King James I.

For safety the unhappy poet inclosed the verses in an iron box, and James, who always feared assassination, jumped to the conclusion that the latter contained some sort of an infernal machine.
 When the real nature of the contents came to light the timorous monarch and his counselors became the laughing stock of England, and James in revenge caused the unfortunate Williams to be hanged, drawn and quartered.—New York Globe.

Gray Squirrel Migration.
 Early writers tell of wonderful migration of American gray squirrels, which, must have arisen from the rapid increase and consequent overcrowding of a locality. Thousands of this species would start off in a regular army, all moving in the same direction and with considerable rapidity. Although these little animals have an extreme aversion to water and do not excel as swimmers, yet whenever a water course, no matter what width, barred their progress they would not hesitate for an instant, but plunge in and struggle desperately for the opposite shore, seizing upon anything in the way of floating sticks or chips to assist them in the passage. Unless the river was very narrow by far the smaller percentage of the band reached the farther shore, the rest becoming exhausted and drowning. These armies never seemed to reach any destination, but gradually their numbers would decrease by death from drowning and other hardships until the band faded entirely away.

The Acme of Politeness.
 In the line of absolute and abstract politeness nothing can quite reach the heights attained by a certain English baronet who became the high sheriff of London. It was his invariable custom when hurrying along the street to salute any of his numerous acquaintances with a bow, a touch of the hat and the words, "Sir, I wish you a very good morning."
 As high sheriff of a county it once became his painful duty to attend the execution of a criminal, when, having seen that all the preliminary arrangements were complete, he bowed, touched his hat to the culprit, whose black cap was already over his face, and took his leave with his customary: "Sir, I wish you a very good morning."

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