The Dalles Daily Chronicle.

The only Republican Daily Newspaper or Wasco County.

TUESDAY - NOVEMBER 30, 1897

INTERESTS OF THE ARMY.

standing army, of course, just as they military despotism. know there is an Akhoond of Swat, but they seldom have any more practical reminder of the existence of the one than of the other. They see a casions and hear of the work of the troops now and then in the repression real value as the navy, yet the latter spring blocming. has in recent years attracted probably ten times as much popular attention as the former. The develophas now, however, says the Tribune, 1897. begun to set people to thinking more about the army, and may well move the government itself to adopt a more liberal policy toward that important branch of the public service.

The annual report of the secretary of war and the letter from the majorgeneral commanding the army, just made public, make clear two salient facts. One is that the construction of coast and harbor defences is being pushed to excellent effect. The pubhe has probably little idea how well this harbor and other important points on the coast are already defended. It is within bounds to say that when the works now in hand are completed New York will be practically impregnable to any hostile fleet that might be sent against it, and so will the other great ports of both coasts. Large sums are asked for the completion of these works. But in comparison with the interests at stake they are mere trifles. All that is asked for the insuring of New York against invasion is not a fire or other disaster.

This refers, however, solely to the material equipment. The still more D. W. VAUSE, Third St. important personal factor is another matter, and these same documents make it equally plain that it is sorely deficient. Individual writers and speakers, and so important a body as the chamber of commerce of New York, have called attention to the need of more skilled soldiers to man the fortifications. Now the same need is officially emphasized by the highest military authority in the land. A modern fort, with its elaborate mechanism, is an establishment that cannot be manned by raw recruits, no matter how brave and willing they may be, any more than the engineroom of a great steamship could be taken in charge by a Gloucester fisherman. Trained mathematicians and engineers are needed, and of such there are not now in the whole army enough to man the guns already in place. It is evident that all the fortifications in the world will offer the coast and harbors no protection unless there are competent men at hand line of desirable articles, the largest line to work the guns. It is equally evident that to build elaborate fortifications and leave them without such men would be as senseless as to build fine ships and provide no engineers to navigate them.

The commanding general asks, and 175 Second Street the secretary approves the request, for two more regiments of artillery. The request is a modest one, and may well be granted at once. If it is rot, the construction of fortifications may as well be abandoned. Better have fewer forts and guns and all of them properly manned, than a great and costly array of them and not enough men to keep them in working order. Nor are the requests for other enlargement of the army So be considered extravagant. The

army is now notoriously overworked, and the opening up of Alaska and other enterprises are constantly making new calls upon it.

The army is at present so small as EASTERN OFFICE-230 to 234 Temple to be insignificant. If increased to Court, N. Y. City. E. KATZ, Agent. the meximum suggested by General One Week and Saturday Mati-Miles, it would still be a mere handful. One soldier to every two thousand of population would not be too large a national police force for the Military affairs, apart from the service required of it. One soldier doings of the local militia, usually to every one thousand of population command little attention in this would be no menace to free institucountry. People know there is a tions nor the slightest approach to a

See the Chrysanthemums.

The public is invited to come and see the chrysanthemums. They are now in few army officers on ceremonial oc- full bloom, and this is the best time to get your plants. The lily, hyacinthe, tulip, early and late narcissus and jonquil bulbs are now ready to plant for of Apaches or Debsites. But that is spring and winter blooming. Now is about all. The army is of as much the time to get paney plants for early

> 19 2w Mrs. A. C. STUBLING & Son. Cash in Your Checks.

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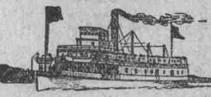
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