

The Dalles Daily Chronicle.

The only Republican Daily Newspaper on Wasco County.

EASTERN OFFICE—230 to 234 Temple Court, N. Y. City. E. KATZ, Agent.

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THE IMMIGRATION QUESTION.

Much has been written and said of late, both in and out of congress, regarding the restriction of immigration. The question is one of vital concern to the commercial and political life of the nation. It has been seriously urged that the United States could not assimilate properly the mass of immigrants who were flocking hither from foreign shores. The congestion of population in large cities and the poverty and distress consequent upon it, has made the fact obvious that the nation has reached a point where the supply of labor is exceeding the demand. To the laboring class belong most of the people who come seeking homes in America.

As a nation we owe much to the sturdy home-seekers who have cast their fortunes with the American people and sworn allegiance to our laws and institutions. Without the influx of people from other countries the United States could not have attained the wonderful greatness at which the whole world now is marveling. Whatever legislation shall be passed regarding foreign immigration will be done in kindness, and not with malice.

A recent study of immigration statistics shows that if further foreign immigration is undesirable, the falling off in the number of immigration makes any very drastic regulations unnecessary.

As a matter of fact, since the enforcement of the law of March 3, 1893, immigration has come to a standstill. In the fiscal year 1894 the total of arrived aliens amounted to 285,631; in 1895, to 258,536; in 1896, to 343,267, and in 1897 to but 230,833, an annual average for the four years under the present law of only 279,566 against an average of 526,450 from the years from 1850 to 1892. Besides, a very large percentage of those recent arrivals (much above 40 per cent) are the parents or children, brothers or sisters of former immigrants, the exclusion of whom is impossible without the most reckless and cruel separation of families, parts of which are American residents. Another very large percentage (about 20 per cent) of these so-called immigrants are but returning to the United States after a visit abroad. Deducting these two classes of very much qualified immigrants, all that is left as immigrants proper amounted in 1894 to 98,377; in 1895 76,011; in 1896 to 119,636, and in 1897 to 88,666, an average of 95,672 per year. As a further matter of fact, a very much larger number of "foreigners" have in every one of these four years left this country and returned to their fatherland.

So the "immigration question" is not the bugbear some alarmists would have us believe.

The appearance of the big battleship Maine in Havana harbor will not strike the Spaniards as being strong evidence of the love of the American nation towards Spain. Events have so shaped themselves that Cuban success remains no longer doubtful, and if the presence of the White Squadron in Cuban waters will hasten the end of a miserable warfare, the American people will not complain.

The project is being discussed of some means being devised for the transmission of electrical power from the Deschutes river to The Dalles. A committee of the Commercial

Club, we are informed, has the subject under investigation and will make a report shortly. There can be no question but that such a scheme would mure to the great benefit of The Dalles, and give this place such advantages as would force it to the front as a manufacturing center. The cost need not be great, and anything which would tend towards attracting outside capital should be heartily encouraged.

More than the usual amount of general interest has been taken in the Maryland senatorial contest because the election of a Republican meant the retirement of Gorman, one of the most unsavory of American politicians. Gorman has long been an unattractive figure in public life, and all lovers of high statesmanship will pray that he may never secure domination enough to allow him a return to the senate. There are others who could be spared from congress with nearly as good grace as Gorman.

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Taken Up.
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 M. S. EVANS,
 The Dalles, Or.
 dec22-1m