

**The Dalles Daily Chronicle.**

The only Republican Daily Newspaper on Wasco County.

EASTERN OFFICE—250 to 234 Temple Court, N. Y. City. E. KATZ, Agent.

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SATURDAY - JANUARY 29, 1898  
IN THE EVENT OF WAR.

Peace between Spain and the United States is made probable by the strength of our North Atlantic squadron. Admiral Sicard has at his disposal for use in West Indian waters a fleet of which any naval commander in the world would be proud. In it are the first-class line of battleships Indiana, Iowa and Massachusetts; the second class battleships Maine, Texas, Brooklyn and New York; two double-turreted monitors, which, though classed as coast defenders, can fight effectively in any waters, naval vessels of their own tonnage; and several cruisers and four or five torpedo-boats. It is comforting to know that we are so well insured against Spain. Against stronger nations we need more ample protection.

The secretary of the navy, says the Inter Ocean, wisely recommends the purchase of armor plate for the completion of the Illinois, Alabama and Wisconsin, which will be ready for launching soon after the plate is supplied. The secretary's recommendation is without prejudice to the erection of a government armor-plate plant, which he believes can be had by an expenditure of from \$3,500,000 to \$4,500,000; but in consideration of the evident impossibility of having such a plant ready for work in less than eighteen months, he urges the speedy completion of the ships now under way.

At present our navy is fifth in importance in sea power, or rather our navy and that of Germany have equal claim to fifth rank. Great Britain, France, Russia and Italy stand first, second, third and fourth in number of warships and force of guns.

We have four first-class battleships in course of construction, not counting the Kentucky and Kearsarge, which practically are completed, though they are not yet formally accepted by the government. We also have sixteen other vessels, armored cruisers, monitors, gunboats, and torpedo boats under construction. When these are afloat we shall surpass Germany, unless, indeed, the emperor prevail upon the reichstag to make appropriations for the large additions that he desires for the German navy.

Yet the strength of a naval force is not solely dependent upon the number of ships afloat. Quality of construction, calibre of guns, ability of officers and seamen, and facilities for coaling and repairing count for much. With all these conditions, except the last named, we have reason to be satisfied. Our ships are the best of their class, their armaments are perfect, and the quality of our sailors has been tested time and again. But we are without a coaling place or harbor of refuge in what may be called the Central Pacific. Samoa would be of immense value in a conflict wherein the Australian or New Zealand trade or possessions of Great Britain were involved, but we have no "coigne of vantage" on the route of the great Asiatic trade, or in the wide reach of waters wherein the battle for possession of the west coast of this continent would be decided. Hawaii offers us the one thing lacking.

For inland war we safely may trust to our volunteers. Yet we need the two regiments of artillery for which General Mills asks special appropriation. Artillerymen are not made in a day, nor in a month. The

cost of maintenance of a navy and coast defenses is the price that we must pay for insurance against the infinite cost and horror of war. These things are "the cheap defense of nations." The power that is prepared for the event of war seldom is called to war.

**NOTICE.**

The committee having charge of the charity fund of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will meet at the Umatilla House parlors for the week commencing Monday, January 24th, from 7:30 to 8:30 p. m. They will be pleased to meet all those who know of any deserving case of charity.

P. W. DE HUFF,  
T. J. DRIVER,  
J. F. HAMPSHIRE,  
Committee.

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Taken Up.

Came to my place on a 3-Mile, about the 25th of November, a straw-bay roan mare, branded V P (connected on the left shoulder, about 5 years old. Owner can have same by paying charges.

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