

THE OREGON SCOUT.

AMOS K. JONES EDITOR.

City and County Official Paper.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

Cleveland's tariff bill, now in the hands of the secretary of the treasury for revision, places lumber and wool on the free list.

Congress has been in session now over a month, and the usual quibbling over matters of minor importance occupies the attention of many of the members. Much is needed to be done at this session, and much is expected of congress, and the time is none to long to perform the work entrusted to it to be done.

Through carelessness in directing letters, 18,000 of them reached the dead letter office daily last year. Of the whole 5,000,000, money was found in 17,745 amounting to \$28,687. Negotiable paper amounting to \$7,644,486 was found in 22,226. Then there was job lots of books and merchandise and in 103,778 letters there were postage stamps enclosed. Nearly all the money and commercial paper was returned to the senders.

We shout for the American girl. It is said that Miss Winslow, an American girl, took away the breath of all Europe. It was at Hamburg, when she waltzed at a ball. The Prince of Wales saw her and sent his equerry to summon her to a waltz with him. "Convey my regrets to his royal highness, and say that I do not wish to dance again," was her answer. "But," said the equerry, "are you not aware that the request is a command?" "Are you aware?" she answered, "that I am an American, and do not obey royal commands?" This ended it, and Europe had a cold chill. But the lady deserves American thanks for her independence.

The estimates upon which the state board made their levy for the year 1888, with the deficiencies of 1886 and 1887, is as follows: Executive fund (salaries of state officers) \$10,500; judicial fund, \$68,000; incidental fund, \$12,500; insane and idiotic fund, \$75,000; insane fund (conveyance of insane and idiotic to asylum), \$8,000; convict fund (conveyance of convicts to the penitentiary), \$7,000; fugitive fund, \$1,500; printing fund, \$12,500; indigent fund, \$1,500; penitentiary fund, \$33,340; general fund, \$94,470; special appropriations not authorized by law prior to 1887, \$180,109.42; for those amounts appropriated by the legislature of 1887, in excess of the estimate therefore, \$21,100; for those amounts omitted from the estimate of 1886, \$400; total, \$485,709.37.

Somewhat more than a year ago A. S. Carpenter, a proof reader on the Minneapolis Tribune, and S. G. Goodson, conceived the idea that electricity might be employed to do the work of type-setting, and finally submitted their plans to C. L. Redfield, a mechanical engineer. He made some valuable suggestions and completed the drawings. The three at once set to work on having the models constructed. These worked well, and recently a machine was completed. It did the work perfectly well, and at the astonishing rate of 200 impressions a minute, or 5,000 "ems" an hour against the 1,100 "ems," which the average compositor can now set. The success of the machine was such that a number of local capitalists were at once interested in it, and the Electro Matrix company was incorporated with \$1,000,000 capital stock.—EX.

The United States assay office in New York is engaged in melting up the last 300,000 of the silver trade dollars recently redeemed by the Government. The amount received by the sub-treasury and turned over to the assay office for melting into bullion aggregated \$3,500,000. As the old dollars are melted up they are cast into bars or bricks and deposited in one of the grates vaults in the assay office, where they are piled around the four sides of the vault to the height of a man's head. Opening out from the silver vault is the gold vault. The amount of the precious metal and the manner in which it is stored reminds one of the treasure vaults in the halls of the Montezumas, through which Cortez walked. Though no more trade dollars can be redeemed by the Government they frequently find their way to the assay office among the deposits that are left daily to be melted up and refined for customers. But as silver is worth only 86 cents an ounce, and a trade dollar weighs but seven-eighths of an ounce, the actual bullion value of each coin is only 75 cents. If the Government received a dollar in value for them when issued, it is making a handsome profit by reason of its expudiation.

The Government has taken possession of the corporation known as "The Church of Jesus Christ, of Latter Day Saints," at Salt Lake, and will wind up its affairs and disband the concern. Of course there was some protest on the part of the Mormon elders, and some ominous threats, but Uncle Sam had set his foot down and was bound to have his own way for once in that unruly city.

Every little rumor of war, from Europe, makes the farmers and wheat-dealers chuckle, as in their Utopian imaginations they see their cornucopians overflowing with the precious metal. It is a ghastly thought, but, "If there is war in Europe," says everyone, "prices in breadstuffs are bound to go up, for war in the Old country means prosperous times in the United States."

Much pressure is being brought to bear on both democratic and republican members of congress, against the confirmation of Lamar to the supreme judgeship of the United States; not only for the reason that he has been and is now extremely disloyal, but that as a lawyer, he is below a mediocre in the profession, and is entirely incapable and incompetent for that position of honor and importance. There are democrats whose character, loyalty and endurance in the legal profession entitle them to positions of importance, over those whose legal training has been sadly neglected.

THE GETTYSBURG PAINTING.

With entire assurance it may be said that of the great battle pictures on exhibition in various cities, none surpasses the "Gettysburg," now completed and thrown open to the public in Portland. Every one who has seen this painting and the "Gettysburg" of Chicago pronounces the Portland picture greatly the superior one. It has a depth that the Chicago painting has not; distance is represented to better advantage; the topography of the field has been studied anew for the present picture, and information gained from a large number who participated in the battle on either side, has been utilized to secure an effect that corresponds as nearly as possible with the actual situation at the crises of battle. The number of figures delineated on the canvas is about double the number in the painting at Chicago and the whole is brought out with an effect brightened by the experience of a number of years in painting and mounting great battle pieces.

It is impossible to give the reader any adequate idea of this great work. No praise can exaggerate it. Every description must fall far short of its greatness and merits that, no matter how much one may have heard of it, he is overwhelmed with surprise as the view of it bursts upon him. The extent of the picture, the spirit of it, the power that is thrown into the tremendous scene before him, fill the spectator with astonishment. And there is so much of it that it may be studied upon repeated visits without exhausting the details.

In this painting Portland has an attraction that cannot but command the attention of the whole Northwest. It is a superb work, excellent both as an historical study and as an inspiration of patriotism.—Oregonian.

WAR CLOUDS IN EUROPE.

If war early in the spring is averted, official anticipation will be deceived and military expectation disappointed. Within the past few days it has become a settled conviction in diplomatic circles that the czar's pacific tendencies have been overborne by the pan-Slavish faction, and that he is now under the control of the war party leaders, some of whom are likely to precipitate a war by some act of provocation, committed without the czar's full consent.

The return of General Von Schweinitz, German ambassador to St. Petersburg, was hoped to be signalized by a decisive turn of the tide peaceward. The conference between Von Schweinitz and De Giers, the Russian prime minister, recently, had a contrary result. Whatever passed during the interview has deepened the distrust in Berlin and increased the irritation of the Russian government towards the czar's ministers. De Giers appears to have abandoned his policy of peace pressure upon the czar and to have thrown his influence upon the side of the military party. He is reported as telling Von Schweinitz that the czar is sincerely desirous of peace, but is unable to tolerate longer Austrian duplicity in thwarting Russia's endeavors to obtain the first fruits of her sacrifices in the Balkan campaign. De Giers has also complained of Kalasky's language in reference to Russia declaring it unbearable and that it justifies every measure Russia might take to reinforce her troops on the frontier.

An ominous indication of the extreme tension of the situation is the

bellicose tone of the St. Petersburg papers towards Austria, Bulgaria, the papers say, must be deprived of any shadow of individuality and become a Russian province, while Austria must be forced to evacuate Bosnia and Herzegovina. An inspired article in the Grashdamm states that the Russian government has obtained knowledge that the terms of the treaty of alliance leaves Germany free, not to interfere unless Austria is threatened with a collapse which would involve territorial losses. This is contrary to the official press of Vienna and Pesth, which treats the war question as a common matter between Austria and Germany. Berlin official views concur with that of the Austrian press. The report that count Von Wolkenstein, the Austrian ambassador at St Petersburg, had received assurances from De Giers that the movements of troops had ceased, is semi-officially denied from Vienna. The reassuring representation would be useless in the face of facts during the past week. Russian cavalry and light artillery have been pushed forward to the extreme outposts. A careful estimate gives Russia eight and a half army corps within the frontier districts of Warsaw, Wilna and Kieff, with 120 field batteries against the combined Austrian and German force of five and a half army corps, with 82 batteries. Russia has also an immense preponderance in cavalry strength.

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