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Vol. IX.

Astoria, Oregon, Friday Morning, June 27, 1879.

No. 50.

EASTERN STATES. Congress Still Sits.

mittee on rules to sit during vaca-Darien ship canal business to the committee on foreign relations.

FOREIGN NEWS.

Yellow Fever at Lisbon.

Lisbon, June 25--Two cases of yellow fever have occurred near this city.

The Eastern Insurrection.

Paris, June 24 .- The insurrection in Algeria is ended, and 4000 insurgents are in the hands of the French.

Want Coin.

Berlin, June 25 .- The directors of the Imperial bank of Germany here, passed resolutions declaring an increase of the silver coinage of Germany imperatively necessary.

Our Sea-coast Defenses.

Washington Star.

The indefensible condition of our long line of sea coast is attracting the attention not only of the ordiof members of congress and other prehend and the most reckless nance department of the army, but public men. An army officer perfectly familiar with this subject says that we badly need guns of a heavy calibre, to cope with the iron-clads of foreign powers. He states that "other nations are remodeling the armament of their forts. Smooth-bore cannon are obsolete. Rifles can alone meet the demands of present warfare, By purchase of manufacturers? and the experience of the last few But few nations depend on their years leaves no doubt that muzzle- own products. Krupp has suploaders must give place to breech- plied Russia, Germany, and Turkloading cannon. We have forts ey. Armstrong has supplied to protect our harbors and road- England and Italy. With the mesteads. These forts must be armed chanical skill and enterprise of our with modern guns, with power people we need not go beyond our sufficient to meet gun for gan the borders for any product we may armament of the iron-clads that require. Twenty years ago we may attack us. Without guns a made the largest gun in the world, fort is an inert mass, a body with- and there is no reason why within out life. The fort has no power the next decade we should not for offense or defense, until sup- again lead the nations. What we plied with modern armament, TWENTY YEARS AGO

The United States led the world in skilled mechanics, The preparathe power of her guns. Other na- tion for such work requires the tions looked in wonder at the grand experiments of years, costly work strides made by our ordnance that consumes tens of thousands of officers of that era, at the head of dollars for the mere preparation to which stood Rodman. The 25 ton begin. Plant for such manufac-15-inch gun, hurling a round shot ture is to be provided. The steam of 450 pounds, was then considered hammer at Woolwich has alone a monster that no ship of war cost over half a million of dollars, could withstand. Now, the iron- and Krupp is erecting one that clads have forced the gun problem is to cost about a million. Withup to the 80-ton gun of England out such appliances guns that and the 100-ton gun of Italy, the weigh when finished 100 tons canfirst throwing a shot of 1,700 not be made. All other portions of pounds and the latter of 2,200 the plant must be on the same pounds.

STILL HEAVIER CANNONS Are among the possibilities of the slowly; in truth we cannot move near future. The iron-clad armor fast. that has forced the gun problem of the same problem. What guns do we need, and how are they to be provided? The old idea that we are not to have wars may do as but is not convincing in the light of our own experience. We will can tell-but we must be prepared as come it will, sooner or later.

OUR FORTS MUST BE ARMED TO PROTECT OUR CITIES

And harbors and commerce, What on the Bosphorus at the muzzle of hext door to the Episcopal church.

we need at present about 1,000 Washington, June 24 .- Not a 10-inch rifles and 1,000 8-inch word yet as to the date of adjourn- rifles, the former for barbette and heavier guns, and the result, her ment. Not the least business of the latter for casemate. These are small guns, but they are mentionimportance was transacted in ed specially because the bulk of either branch to-day. After d's- them can be provided by utilizing cussion a resolution was adop ed our smooth bores on hand. For in the house instructing the com- instance, we have 1,100 10-inch smooth bores that can be converted into 8-inch rifles. We have tion, for the purpose of codifying 325 15-inch smooth bores that can and simplying the rules of the be converted into 10 or 11-inch house. The senate referred the rifles, and these conversions can be done in this country, with our own metal, and the skill of our own people. True, we have 30 10-inch Parrot rifles, and 70 8-inch Parrott rifles, which in their day did most admirable work, and were among the pioneers in the great struggle, but they were not intended for the heavy charges that similar calibres now endure, and the tremendous work that guns must accomplish. These conversions of 8 and 10-inch rifles from the old ASTORIA, smooth bores on hand ought to be carried on as rapidly as possible.

> DO NOT SOLVE THE GUN PROBLEM As it must be solved, but it is a beginning; it gives us guns that will hold their own against the ironclads in the world, certainly against the majority of those that will cross the ocean with hostile intent. But it must be remembered that the surest way to prevent an attack is to be fully prepared to repel it. Powder and shot are the strong advocates of peace. A gun throwing a ton of iron every few minutes with the unerring certainty of a rifle, is an argument that the most ignorant can commust heed. And the only argument that can meet it and conquer it is a gun of heavier metal Losses paid by Oregon branch in throwing a shot weighing more than a ton. If victory always rests with the strongest batallions, it will never desert the heaviest guns. But how are we to procure such

MONISTER GUNS?

need is money, and a fair field for our ordnance officers and our scale. It is money that is needed. In such matters we must move

WE MUST WORK UP GRADUALLY up to its present plane, forces us From smaller calibres to larger, to the solution, as well as we may, attacking obstacles as we progress, overcoming them with our increased experience, laying each day a solid foundation for the next day's work. We want appropriations, an argument in favor of economy, and even without money we must expect reverses, and reverses are often our best teachers. Enghave wars-how and when, no one land spent 12,000,000 on Armstrong guns, and then threw them 1 to meet the shock when it comes, away, and changed her plans and her guns. But now she points with pride to the products of her grand arsenal, and dictates terms

TELEGRAPHIC. guns have we to arm the forts that her 80-ton guns. And yet Engstud our coast from Maine to Tex- land continues her experiments. as, and along the shores of the Her next move will be the adop-Pacific? Not to go into details, tion of breech-loading cannon, with an increase of expenditure, a partial rearmament, larger and place as mistress of the seas. With the small appropriations annually given us we have done much, as much as could be expected; but we want money to provide larger guns-guns that will command the respect of the most powerful iron-clads, and make our harbors as secure as our homes,"

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