The Daily Astorian.

ASTORIA, OREGON:

SUNDAY.....MARCH 27, 1881

D. C. IRELAND.....Editor.

Extra Session Talk.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

WASHINGTON, March 8th.—The subject of an extra session of congress is much discussed. The failure of the funding and the apportionment bills, and the desire for investigations by congressional committees of the methods whereby several Bourbon congressmen were returned elected in the face of overwhelming majorities against them, are among the reasons urged for convening the two houses of congress in extra session. If the inquiries in the southern contested election cases could begin in May we might hope to have decisions before adjournment, and Lowe, of Alabama; Lynch and Buchanan, of Mississippi; Lee, of South Carolina; Stovall, of Virginia, and other liberals would have their seats, in place of men defeated. The slender majority of the administration in that body is attributable to wrongs which should be speedily undone. The vacancies created by the elections of Conger, Hale, and Frye to the senate and the appointment of Morton as minister to France could all be filled by special elections. The apportionment bill ought not to be considered until the contested election cases are settled, if such a course is practicable. The sickness of two or three members on the republican side might enable a temporary opposition majority to prevail in the passage of the apportionment bill reinforcing by a trick of figures the frauds which many fear have been perpetrated in the census. The failure of the funding bill will cost the people, in the matter of interest which might be reduced, from twelve to thirteen millions of dollars.

If an extra session should be called it would enable the President to test the sincerity of those of the opposition who profess a willingness to give a hearty support to the administration. Now, when the new government is just beginning life, with declarations of general good fellowship from many who are of the democrat household, an extra session would perhaps be attended with less friction than would the regular session which is to come after months of time shall have elasped. This is not simply a party question. The sooner the fact can be demonstrated that in each house of congress the friends of the administration are in the majority, the better for the security of business stability. If an extra session would develop the fact that the one hundred and forty-eight regular republicans in the lower house would be reinforced by half a dozen liberals already elected, and eight or ten more who are entitled to seats which have been certified to others, and then if the two independent senators would act in a friendly spirit towards the administration, and perhaps be reinforced by two or three liberal democrats, the power of the bourbon democracy for harm would be ended. These things are all possible, and the accomplishment of a portion of them only would remove the dread which will otherwise be felt as to what may happen in congress in December. The affairs of the country are now in good, healthy condition, which a fair start of the government would continue. A long wait might cause a sense of uneasiness which it would be better to avoid.

But a prudent friend at our elbow expressed fears that an extra session would not enable us to forward the matter of investigating the southern election frauds. He doubts whether the minority would be controllable, and thinks filibustering might be the order of the day upon all measures and propositions distasteful to the democracy. He says the bonds which actually fall due and have to be met can be taken care of by surplus revenue, and over one hundred millions of fours not yet sold. He doubts the accomplishment of anything substantial at the extra session, and thinks congress had better wait for its constitutional time of assembling, and then that "the republicans had better propose what is just right and stand by it, and if the democrats will defeat it, let them do so and suffer the public condemnation." All this gives us pause. It is from a calm, experienced, and judicious man. But, after all, the situation resolves itself down to a fact that the two houses are about evenly divided. The tug must come. The sooner it begins the sooner it will terminate. The house must judge of the election and returns of certain members. We hardly believe that a majority of the opposition are prepared to go to the extent of forbidding by filibustering tactics the investigations which must precede the determination of the right of members to seats. The democracy tried the effect of revolutionary methods in congress in 1879. They are too fresh from the disasters that it brought upon them to be anxious to try new experiments in the same direction. It is true that the failure of the funding bill does not leave the government in any very great difficulty as to the bonds which actually become due this summer. It does cost some millions in the way of interest which an extra session might prevent. We are not ready to believe that the party which was defeated in the late election, and which has the advantage in the new congress of members who were never elected, will attempt a deadlock in the government. The party in power will have accessions from the more moderate and sensible of the opposition if any such attempt shall be made. D. C. I.

Visitors to Washington cannot fail to notice the neat little one-horse Herdic coaches which come up to the curb-stone for passengers. A beautiful Herdic coach made of polished maple and birchwood made its appearance on the Avenue on the 11th. This coach is a trifle lighter than those already in use, and is to be lighted with gas at night, as are all of the coaches now on the line, instead of the disagreeable coal-oil lamp. Mr. Herdic is having manufactured a number of two-wheel covered dog-carts something after the style of the present Herdics, to hold four persons only. These dog-carts are to run all over the city, and each passenger is to be charged twenty-five cents for a trip not consuming more than a half hour. The floor of the dog-cart will be eighteen inches from the ground, and the wheel a foot higher than the wheel on the four-wheel Herdics. The Herdic line is owned by Peter Herdic, the Williamsport millionaire, and Joseph W. Potts, a well known capitalist of Philadelphia. Mr. Herdic says that the beautiful Pennsylvania avenue should not be obstructed by unsightly car-rails, and the success of his coaches will decide the matter.

E. P. Whipple, once so popular as an assayist, is a recluse, and has been making a study of George Eliot.

Minister John A. Kasson has applied for a letter of recall, and expects to return to this country this month.

It transpires that deliberations of the jury in the Kalloch case was mainly regarding the six-shot theory of the defense and self-defense alone was the ground of the verdict, transitory mania being rejected.

Lord Airlie has recently made a large purchase of land in Colorado, on behalf of a relative who intends to settle there as a farmer. He is the author of an interesting article in the Nineteenth Century on the United States as a field for agricultural settlers.

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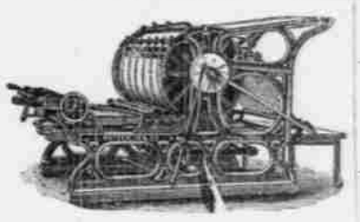

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