

The Daily Astorian.

ASTORIA, OREGON: TUESDAY, NOV. 22, 1891. J. F. HALLORAN, Editor.

Coast Defenses.

In his annual report to the Secretary of War, Gen. Wright, Chief of Engineers of the United States Army, calls attention to a matter that is at present being discussed by every paper on the coast line of the Union. He says:

"The casemated works, of which our seacoast defenses are largely composed, were built when wooden walls were the only protection of guns afloat. Now ships of war are clad in armor up to two feet in thickness, and the old smooth-bores have been replaced by rifled guns, the largest of which throw shot of nearly a ton weight, and which burn at each discharge nearly a quarter of a ton of powder. While other maritime nations are adding to their already powerful navies heavily armed ships of war, which are armed with 81 and 100-ton guns, and which cost, exclusive of armament, more than two and a half millions of dollars, they are building armored defenses for the protection of their own coasts. Great Britain has already more than 500 guns in position behind armored defenses. We have not one such gun, nor have we any armored defenses whatever.

Though the United States is a peaceful nation yet, it sometimes happens that peaceful people can only rest secure in the possession of peace by fighting for it. It is not at all probable that any foreign power will ever attempt to land troops on American soil to subjugate the country, but almost any foreign fleet could dictate its own terms to any sea coast city in the nation. Gen. Wright goes on to say:

I think it is plainly demonstrated, not only that reliance can be placed on no other mode of defense of our sea coast, but that fortifications and torpedoes furnish the most efficient, most enduring and least expensive modes for such defenses, and I earnestly hope that Congress may be induced to grant for the next fiscal year a reasonable amount for the resumption of work on our sea coast defenses.

The suggestions are most appropriate. It might also be well while the government is about it, to stop appropriating money for the repair of worthless old tubs, and build a few vessels worthy of the nation and the times.

Representation.

A WASHINGTON dispatch of the 19th says: General Francis A. Walker, ex-superintendent of the census bureau, has submitted a statement to the secretary of the interior containing some interesting facts concerning representation in the next house. Total population of states, 49,371,340. With the number of representatives at the present figure, 293, this would give one representative to every 169,980 of population. On this basis the following changes in representation would ensue in the forty-eighth congress: Arkansas, California, Michigan, Mississippi, South Carolina and West Virginia gain one each; Minnesota and Nebraska gain two each, Kansas gains three and Texas four; Alabama, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, New Hampshire, Ohio, Tennessee and Vermont lose one each, Pennsylvania two, and New York three. Other states show no change.

It is shadowed forth as a part of Arthur's policy that he intends making all Territorial appointments, and not from political favorites, as has been the custom. This policy would have the prestige of novelty and the probability of success. Considerable dissatisfaction has hitherto been displayed by the appointment of non-residents to important offices in the gift of the President, and as a matter of justice to fledgling sovereignties it would be well to inaugurate such a sensible policy, as is indicated by late utterances on the part of the executive.

Modern Juries.

The present method of empanelling a jury was the invention of an age that had none of the appliances of modern civilization. "News" was simply letters between friends or verbal statements. Then it was consistent to ask a jurymen if he had any opinion in regard to the case he was to pass upon, for unless a neighbor of either party in the case it was almost certain that he would answer in the negative. But today, how changed all the conditions and customs of life! Yet that antique humbug is with us in all its fossiliferous senselessness. As it stands it is a direct bid for ignorance; for none but the ignorant could be legally found competent to sit in a jury in a case of any publicity.

The recent Atlanta Exposition is said to be—next to the Centennial—the grandest industrial gathering ever seen in the United States. The exhibition of cotton machinery, and of evidences of the mineral, timber and agricultural resources of the state were, it is said, most convincing evidence in extent and quality that that section of the Union is on the threshold of a new era of prosperity and progressive success.

As an offset to the alleged Republican intention to have Dakota admitted at the next session of congress, it is reported that the Democrats intend introducing a bill dividing Texas into three portions and admitting each as a sovereign state, thus securing six Democratic senators.

It is recorded as a unique departure from political usage that in the late political campaign in Massachusetts not one of the four gubernatorial candidates made a speech during the canvass, wrote a letter to influence votes, or even formally accepted the nomination.

The generic charge of being "too previous" may, with apparent propriety, be applied to the present action of the Kentucky Democracy, who are now engaged in the arduous work of nominating county officers—to be elected next August.

NEW TO-DAY.

ASTORIA, OR., NOV. 18, 1891. TO THE CITIZENS OF ASTORIA: I see by eastern journals that Mayor Grace, of New York city, is receiving many encomiums because of his summary removing a marshal for insulting a woman. Will the council of our city imitate Mayor Grace and remove officers who have been concerned in a most disgraceful transaction? Why has there been no investigation? Does any one believe that if the guilty parties had not belonged to the ring that they could have remained in office? If charges have been made, who is it that is smothering them? Is it not that we, as citizens, should say "Gentlemen let us have no malpractice." Should we not in the coming city election strengthen the hands of those councilmen who wish to have a clean and honest administration of police affairs? Can drunkenness and licentiousness be deemed good qualities in a policeman; or canning in concealing crime when there is money in it, be the chief quality we want in the man who is at the head of the police force? Is it not time to change this order of things? Is it not a fact that the principle which governs this ring, is simply the making of money, and the holding of office? Did not the Chief of Police say, since last Sunday, that all he wanted the office for was to make money? Do you believe that even a reduction in the force of "twenty-five per cent" on account of a new scandal against the member removed has met the ends of justice or reached all the guilty ones? Should the police force of our city be the guardians of the virtue of defenceless women and children, or be the procurers who lead them into lust and licentiousness? Let us, fellow citizens, answer these questions at the next city election, so that we who love our families, and virtue, and decency, shall stand right before the world and our own conscience. FROM THREE CITIZENS. d-11 Of the Second Ward.

Summons.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE State of Oregon, for Clatsop county. E. E. Bennett, plaintiff, vs. Ida A. Bennett, defendant. To Ida A. Bennett, the above named non-resident defendant: In the name of the State of Oregon you are hereby required to appear and answer the complaint filed against you in the above entitled court, in the above entitled action by the above named plaintiff, on or before the first day of the next term of said court, which will be on Tuesday, the 30th day of January, 1892. If you fail to so appear and answer for want thereof, the plaintiff will apply to the court for the relief prayed for in said complaint, which is a decree dissolving the bonds of matrimony heretofore and now existing between plaintiff and defendant. This summons is published by virtue of an order made by the Honorable Raleigh Stott, Judge of said court, at Chambers November 3, 1891. C. W. FULTON, Attorney for Plaintiff. d-11-Tu

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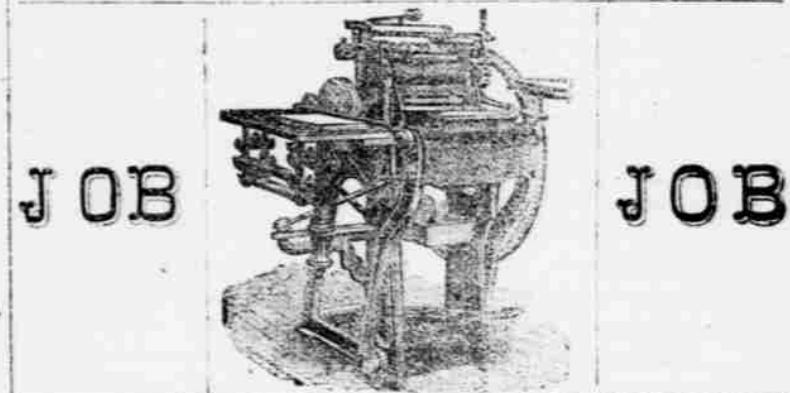
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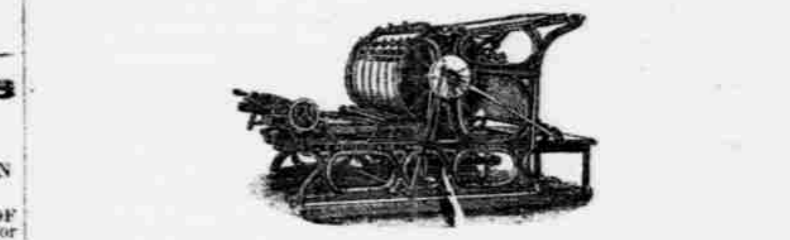
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