

The Daily Astoria n.
 ASTORIA, OREGON:
 SATURDAY, DEC. 17, 1881
 J. F. HALLORAN, Editor.

Outside.

M. D. Ball, the delegate from Alaska is meeting with considerable trouble in obtaining recognition by Congress. Inasmuch as Congress has authorized no election, and the territory that Mr. Ball seeks to represent is unorganized, the probability is that he will not be recognized; and the 577,390 square miles of ice and timber, and unexplored empire that lies to the north must still go unrepresented. It seems hard that so much country can get no legislation; the magnificent opportunity for special work is so unlimited and the resources so diversified that it looks like positive neglect on the part of the enterprising politicians of the day. Alaska's sun has not yet risen: "they also serve who only stand and wait." Sometime when Senator Miller's monopoly has ceased to exist, and several hundred white men have perished in an attempt to immortalize themselves as pioneers, it may be that Alaska will obtain territorial jurisdiction and congressional recognition; and in the fullness of time may disrupt our national politics by a demand for admission as two or more sovereign states with a congressional delegation whose mixed blood and peculiar "bringing up" will seriously affect their politics. Though not in the advice business to any alarming extent, we would suggest that Mr. Ball do as old Tom Baxter in Iowa in 1836, when he came down to the territorial capital from away to the northwest boundary of the territory and demanded a seat as representative. "Who elected you; what are your credentials; what do you represent?" Tom straightened up and thus did truthfully make reply. "I elected myself; my credentials are that I am the only white man in an area of 2500 square miles, and I represent just that much of the finest land that God's sun ever shone upon." Such a claim in those days could not be ignored. Tom Baxter got a seat in the "Iowa Parliament" on general principles.

Increase of Signal Service.

At a recent meeting of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce to take action to further the increase of signal stations on this coast, says the Alta, the Meteorological committee presented their report, calling the attention of the Chamber to the necessity for the extension of the United States Signal Service on this coast. The only maritime stations at present established are at Portland, San Francisco and San Diego, which are too limited in number and too far distant from each other to admit of observations, which, to a great extent, derive their value from simultaneous comparison at different points, and owing to this fact the commerce and agriculture of the Pacific coast have received but little benefit of this branch of our government service. The connection between these are made by wires, mostly east of the Coast Range, and consequently, such stations as are established on these inland lines can only note local effect, assisting very little in the elucidation of such meteorological phenomena as can benefit maritime commerce. Although the seasons on the coast of California are uniform in character, this does not apply with the same accuracy to the coast of Oregon and Washington territory. The signal service can be of great service to our shipping interests during the rainy seasons along the entire Pacific coast, in which violent atmospheric changes and heavy gales are by no means an unusual and infrequent occurrence. We need the establishment of coast signal stations at the following important points, as Cape Flattery, Cape

Mendocino, Point Conception and Tillamook Head, which will greatly develop the advantages of this service. The committee recommended that the Chamber call the attention of our Senators and Representatives to the necessity for the establishment of these stations, that they may urge the passage of the necessary appropriations to insure connections being made at an early date. If funds are furnished by Congress, it is the express desire of the Signal Service bureau to do the commerce of this coast this service. The committee had no reason to doubt that when the proper representations were made, our reasonable request will be granted.

On motion the report was ordered to be sent to Senator Miller and the other representatives in Washington with a resolution urging them to carry out the desire of the Chamber. Concurred action on the part of the twelve congressmen for this coast ought to make the matter an assured success. The same day on which the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce held their meeting the Board of Trade of that city also met and passed resolutions urging the passage of the appropriation of \$15,000 for a telegraph line from Astoria via Fort Adams to Seaside house, and thence by cable to Tillamook, and also \$25,000 for a line from Port Townsend to Cape Flattery, and on last Thursday the S. F. Produce Exchange resolved to petition Congress to establish signal stations the whole length of U. S. territory on this coast.

In referring to Senator Miller's Nicaragua bill, a Washington dispatch of the 15th says that he believes that the Nicaragua route can be opened for the transit of the largest vessels at half the cost and less than half the time that would be required to construct the Panama canal, and is satisfied that its revenue would from the very first, be much more than sufficient to free the government from any liability under the proposed guarantee of 3 per cent. He urges, however, that even if the net earnings should not at first amount to 3 per cent of the capital stock, the extraordinary advantages granted our government, namely, transportation, the right to assume exclusive control, and the power to regulate all tolls, would unmeasurably outweigh any possible deficit which it might be called upon to make good.

The climax of the Guiteau farce is nearly reached. Scoville, his counsel, lectured on the Guiteau case last Wednesday night to an applauding audience in Washington; at the close of the lecture resolutions of "sympathy" with the family of the prisoner were passed. Think of it! It will be three months next Monday since President Garfield breathed his great soul away. His murderer is posturing in a court room to the delight of the assembled crowd, and that murderer's brother-in-law while defending the wretch, lectures on the case. But one thing more is needed—that Guiteau, Cox and Scoville give a variety show, with Cox as middle man; Guiteau with the bones and Scoville with the tambourine. It is disgusting.

A MONTREAL dispatch alleges that certain Canadian papers have been bribed by railroad officials to advocate certain measures. This certainly must be a base fabrication. It cannot be possible that a man could be found in Canada or anywhere else who could propose to a newspaper man that he, for coin, should favor any scheme; and it is outside the wildest flights of supposition to ever imagine for a moment that any editor, or any one else connected with a newspaper, could be found who would listen to such wicked propositions. The Montreal dispatch is but as the baseless fabric of a vision.

The San Francisco Bulletin very appropriately suggests that the merchants of the metropolis drop "steamer day," an institution that that city has outgrown.

The California University is going to the how-wows fast, by reason of mismanagement. The inevitable "ring" got control of it some time ago, and instead of being a place where youth can get a higher education, the university has degenerated into a convenient means of controlling petty politicians. The present Board of Regents are trying to run the institution in the interests of the Republican party, and while injuring the party they are ruining whatever prospects of usefulness the educational institution possesses.

The Seattle Post-Intelligencer has a sensible article on the "Sunday Law" recently passed by the Territorial Legislature. After pointing out some of the inconsistencies, incongruities and absurdities of that bill it says: "Protect the religious community in the full enjoyment of all their rights and you have done all that can be done. Prohibit all secular enjoyment when it interferes with the rights of others or with the day as a day of rest. Rely on reason and moral suasion for the rest and all that ought to be granted will be secured."

The supporters of the scheme for dividing Texas into four distinct states do not find much heartiness on the part of the Texans themselves. One paper, the Gainesville Register, says: "The people of Texas are loyal to the Democratic party, but they will not carry their devotion to the extent of dividing their state for the purpose of giving the party control of the Senate. We can manage our own affairs without having control of the General Government."

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J. G. HUNTLER, Clerk of School District No. 1, Astoria, Oregon, Dec. 16, 1881.

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