

The Daily Astorian.

ASTORIA OREGON: SATURDAY FEB. 25, 1882. J. F. HALLORAN, Editor.

The Craze for Office.

The necessity for civil service reform rests not merely upon the need of a more effective administration of the public service, but not less on the emancipation of our legislators from the claims of office seekers, and the preservation of the people from the mania for place hunting which now has so demoralizing an effect upon a large class in the community.

The root of the evil lies in the idea entertained by many people that the government service is a sort of asylum for incapables, for men who have fitted themselves for no career, or have wasted their time in managing local politics, instead of attending to their business when they had any.

Here is a man who has been a busy politician all his life, who has been through the round of elective offices from dog pelt to representative, and who finds at the end of all that his neglected business has deserted him and that he is too old to make a fresh start.

We learn that an engineer who has large experience in building marine railroads intends visiting Astoria in a few months for the purpose of working up amongst our people one of these institutions for the mouth of the Columbia River.

It is claimed that the marine railway is fast superseding the dry dock on the Eastern Coast. It is cheaper than the cheapest dry dock. Other advantages claimed for it over the dry dock are that a marine railway can accommodate two or more vessels at the same time, and the time required to take out a vessel will not be more than one half an hour to each vessel.

These all have "claims" on their member of Congress, and unite in an assault upon him for place, until his life is a burden to him, and he has little time left to attend to his legislative duties. He cannot give his time to the investigations of the questions that come before Congress because all his spare moments are taken up in answering the letters of office seekers, and going the rounds of the departments, begging for places.

Thus the work of legislation suffers through the mania for office-seeking, and members of Congress in many instances, fail to obtain that position in public affairs to which their abilities entitle them. Their constituents lose their best services by compelling them to become place hunters.

So great has become this tax upon the time of Congressmen that Senator Brown, of Georgia, has introduced a resolution giving each Senator a clerk, at an annual salary of \$1200. His argument is that it is impossible for Senators to attend to their correspondence with their own hands, and their salaries are not sufficient to enable them to employ clerks at their own expense.

A very large percentage of this correspondence comes from place-hunters who put upon Senators and representatives a work which has no proper place in their legislative duties. Were they relieved of this burden they would have no need of clerks, but as it is now the people are asked to increase the pay of Senators \$1,200 a year to enable them to attend to office-seeking!

It is easy to see how this system vitiates the proper relations between the executive and the legislative branches of the government. It was the intention of the constitution that these should be kept separate. But the spoils system robs the executive of its independence and makes office-beggars of the people's representatives.

The remedy for this evil is to be

found in admission only to the lower ranks of civil service by competitive examination, and after probation, and by advancement, by merit, to be ascertained by examination. Such a system as this would take the civil service out of politics, would cut off the herd of office-seekers whose "claims" consist only of party services, and compel that class of citizens who now live upon hopes of office to turn their attention to some honest means of livelihood.

A Dry Dock.

A LARGE dry dock is being built at Portland. There is certainly a certain amount of business for a dry dock at Portland, but the principal object of the dry dock at Portland is to help build Portland up. When a dry dock is built for business and for the purpose of making money on the investment it will be built near the mouth of the Columbia. This is the place to accommodate the vessels just arrived from sea, or that have met with accidents on leaving the river. This is too the place to accommodate the navies of foreign powers, that are continually cruising in the Pacific.

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We hope the project of a marine railway or dry dock at Astoria may be successful.

BORNEO is three times as large as France, and has a population one-half as large as Ireland. Its resources are unknown, but its riches are unquestioned, and it is to-day probably the richest accessible tract in the world, not yet developed. Great Britain has just taken the first easy step toward annexing it by giving a charter, modeled on that of the old East India Company, to the "North Borneo Company," an English corporation, which, for a round sum, has bought bodily the rights and territory of a Sultan, who exercises a loose sway over one third of the island.

It was said of the Bourbons of France, that they never learned anything, and never forgot anything. The remark has been aptly applied to certain elements of the Democratic party; but what more fitting term can be applied to those who endorse the action of alleged Republicans in having a bronze medal commemorative of the Chicago Convention struck off and sent to each member of the "gallant" 306?

SUIT has been brought against a St. Louis man who stole a woman's heart. It seems that after a post-mortem examination had been made on the body of a deceased woman, and when preparations were about to be made for her interment, the heart was missing. It was traced to the doctor who made the autopsy, and he is now to be sued for having stolen it.

In Hillsboro exists a spirit that is antagonistic to the laboring of tramps. Recently when one vagrant broke a show window to get free lodgings in the jail, the indignant citizens laid for him when he emerged, and smote him severely with their fists. Then they told him that was but a sample of stock on hand and that he should "git." He did.

The Washington Territory papers think that it is presumptuous for Oregon to attempt any assumption of jurisdiction over that \$7,000,000 icicle, called Alaska.

The Democratic Blaine.

It is a matter of interest as well as a surprise to read Democratic strictures on Blaine, when the fact of it is that if the Democratic party has a single issue that hasn't been knocked out of wind a dozen times, or a single political dogma that hasn't been given Christian burial at the hands of its enemies, it is the policy that Blaine advocates. He has the true Democratic policy—as far as it goes—and in that he is perfectly right. It is the policy of Monroe, of Jackson, of Stephen A. Douglas. He insists plainly and positively that neither England, nor France, nor Germany shall control any part of the American continent; that the United States has eminent domain on this side of the Atlantic; he is right in the position he so ably maintains, and there are hundreds of thousands of Americans who believe just as he does and would be glad to see those opinions prevail. Since Frelinghuysen went into office there is as much difference from Blaine's policy as there is between a quacking duck and an angry eagle.

On Wednesday last the Democratic State Central committee met at Portland; the next day the Republican State Central committee met, and for the next thirteen weeks matters will be lively politically. There are a good many men in this state who make their living by politics. Some of them pass as "anti-monopolists, and others assume other manifestations of interest in and for the "dear people," and their limited influence, in the aggregate makes up a noticeable amount of patronage, an amount to be noted by the office hunter. In this way there is a close and intimate connection between the humblest office in the gift of the county and the highest position at the disposal of the commonwealth. This is what produces political "activity." It will soon be in order for the party whips to crack; the rules and regulations promulgated; those antique specimens of political joinery called "platforms" to be hammered together for candidates to stand on, and then all the work of saving the country and electing Smith, Jones and Brown will go on.

A GENERAL flood in the Mississippi and its tributaries has inundated hundreds of farms, drowned great quantities of live stock and occasioned serious loss to the inhabitants of the river states south of Iowa.

It is considered a settled thing that Fitz John Porter will be reinstated. His reinstatement will give him his position in the army again, and a little matter of \$115,000 back pay.

'Tis said that the Wilden and the Conkling beams are running neck and neck, with the Sage of Gramercy a little in the lead.

There are eight Irishmen in Congress, five Englishmen, four Scotchmen, and three Germans.

NEW TO-DAY.

MOY & KELLER, CITY MARKET. Dealers in all kinds of

Fresh and Cured Meats, Fine Sausage a Specialty. EVERY DAY FRESH. BEST QUALITY at the LOWEST PRICE. Main Street, Astoria, Oregon.

HANSEN BROTHERS, Architects and Builders, All kinds of House work done at shortest notice. Shop Corner of Cass and Astor Street, ASTORIA, OREGON.

Notice--For Sale. A COTTAGE PIANO, SEVEN OCTAVES, by Bord, Park, nearly new, can be seen on board Br. barque Crown Prince. For particulars apply to Capt. Thompson, or P. Cherry, Astoria, Feb. 24, 1882. daw

MISCELLANEOUS.

A. V. Allen, (SUCCESSOR TO PAGE & ALLEN) Wholesale and Retail Dealer to Groceries, Provisions, Crockery.

Glass and Plated Ware, TROPICAL AND DOMESTIC FRUITS AND VEGETABLES. Together with Wines, Liquors, Tobacco and Cigars

The largest and most complete stock of goods in their line to be found in the city. Corner of Cass and Squemoque Streets. ASTORIA, OREGON.

AT 10 PER CENT. DISCOUNT. I will sell for the next 40 days my entire stock of First Class and Full Assorted Clothing AT 10 PER CENT. DISCOUNT.

Also my entire stock of Furnishing Goods, Hats, Caps, Boots and Shoes. Everything marked in plain figures. A. B. Clark Tailor will make up my cloth, and I will deliver my goods at Main Street, Astoria, Oregon.

Barbour's IRISH FLAX THREADS Salmon Net Twine. Cotton Seine Twine, Cork and Lead Lines, Cotton Netting, all sizes. Seines Made to Order, Flax and Cotton Twine, Fishing Tackle, etc.

BARBOUR BROTHERS 511 Market Street, San Francisco HENRY DOYLE & Co., Managers.

B. B. FRANKLIN, UNDERTAKER, Corner Cass and Squemoque streets, ASTORIA, OREGON

DEALER IN WALL PAPER AND WINDOW SHADES AND UNDERTAKERS GOODS.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the undersigned Committee on Ways and Means of the Common Council of the City of Astoria, Oregon, will receive sealed proposals at the office of the Auditor and Clerk of said city, until 12 o'clock noon, of Tuesday, the 28th day of February, 1882, for city bonds, not exceeding sixty in number, of the denomination of fifty dollars each and bearing interest not exceeding eight per cent. per annum, as provided for in ordinance No. 443 of said city. Proposals must state the number of bonds bid for, the amount they represent, and the interest to be paid. No bonds will be sold under par. The right to reject any and all bids is hereby reserved. FRANK J. TAYLOR, A. G. SPEARITH, J. W. GABE, Committee on Ways and Means. Astoria, Feb. 17, 1882. d-td

Annual School Meeting. THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE legal voters of School District No. 1 will be held at the school house on Main street, in Astoria, Clatsop county, Oregon, on Monday evening, March 6th, 1882, at 7 o'clock, for the purpose of electing one Director for three years, and one Clerk for one year. Also to levy a tax to support a school for the ensuing year in said district; also a tax to pay interest and incidental expenses of said district and to transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting. By order of the Board of Directors. J. G. HUSTLER, Clerk. Astoria, Feb. 21, 1882.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Geo. W. Hume Wholesale and Retail Dealer

GROCERIES, Provisions, Lumber, ETC., ETC., ETC.

Fishermen and Cannery SUPPLIES A SPECIALTY.

AGENT FOR THE San Jose Fruit Packing Company. AND THE

San Francisco Chemical WORKS. ASTORIA OREGON.

MARTIN FOARD, J. J. STOKES, FOARD & STOKES, Wholesale and retail dealers in

Wood and Willow-ware, GROCERIES, Tobacco, Cigars, Wines and Liquors

FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC Fruits and Vegetables, FLOUR, FEED, AND COUNTRY PRODUCE.

AND General Commission Merchants ASTORIA, OREGON. Next to Oregon Railway & Nav. Co's Dock. d&w

HILL'S VARIETIES. GEO. HILL, PROPRIETOR WALTER PARKS, STAGE MANAGER

Open all the Year. Performance Every Night. Entire change of Programme Once a Week. Comprising all the latest SONGS, DANCES AND ACTS.

The theatre is crowded nightly, and all who have witnessed the entertainment pronounce it to be equal to any given elsewhere.

Mr. Hill as a caterer for the public's amusement can not be excelled. Anybody wishing to spend a pleasant evening and see sparkling wit and beauty without vulgarity, should improve the opportunity and come.

The company comprises the following well-known Artists: MISS FANNIE WALTON, MISS LOUISE COOK, MISS MOLLIE CHRISTY, MR. CHARLES KOHLER, MR. THOS. CHRISTY, MR. JOHN COOK, MR. MILTON JOHNSON, MR. JOSEPH PETTY, MR. WALTER PARKS.

All of which will appear nightly in their different specialties. Open air concert every evening; performance commencing at 8; entrance to theatre on Benton street; private boxes on Cheamus street.

WAR IS DECLARED WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE. And no terms of peace until every man in Astoria has a new suit of clothes. MADE BY MEANY.

Look at the prices: Pants to order from 88 00, Pants, Genuine French Cassimere 12 50, Suits from 25 00. The finest line of samples on the coast to select from. P. J. MEANY, Main street, opposite Parker House, Astoria.

W. E. DEMENT, ASTORIA, OREGON

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS, Toilet and Fancy Articles, PATENT MEDICINES, ETC.

Prescriptions carefully compounded at all hours. Homeopathic Tinctures and Pellets, and Humphrey's Specifics also kept.



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One Price to All !!

Lacking room to store our immense stock we shall dispose of all

REMNANTS ON HAND. Worst Dress Goods, at 20 cts. per Yard, comprising Plaids, Brocades, etc., etc., ranging from 5 to 15 yards.

Nonpareil Dress Goods, at 10 cts. per Yard. FLANNELS, CLOAKINGS, SERGES, etc., etc., of all shades and quality. Being impossible to classify from the fact that our stock is

BEYOND IN QUANTITY AND QUALITY ANYTHING EVER SEEN IN ASTORIA.

We have a large amount of remnants in LACES and EMBROIDERY.

5000 Pair of Ladies' White and Colored Hose, slightly damaged, 10 cts. per pair, usual price 35 cts.

Remember our stock of Gents' ware is unsurpassed in quantity, quality and Price in this or any other market. Be sure and call on the old Reliables.

CALIFORNIA STORE, Postoffice Corner, Astoria, Oregon.

The Boss Coffee and Tea Pot

MAY BE HAD OF E. R. HAWES SOLE AGENT. Also, Agent for the celebrated Buck's Patent Cook Stove, MEDALLION RANGE, STEAM FITTINGS A SPECIALTY. None but the best workmen employed. All work guaranteed or no charge.



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THE ASTORIAN STEAM PRINTING HOUSE HAS THE FASTEST AND BEST PRESSES, AND TYPE OF THE LATEST STYLES.



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We purchase Paper, Cards, Ink, and other materials of the manufacturers

At Lowest Cash Rates, And can therefore afford to use, as we always do, the best articles, while charging

ONLY MODERATE PRICES.