

The Daily Astorian.

ASTORIA OREGON
TUESDAY FEB. 28, 1882
J. F. HALLORAN Editor.

Shall Foreigners Vote?

FOREIGNISM is to-day openly at war with Americanism, and the policy of the government must be radically changed towards this conflict, and these elements must be checked by proper legal safeguards. \* \* \* Many of the Germans are infidels of the most pronounced type, at war with all legislation which looks toward the control of private habits, or which protects the sanctity of the church and the Sabbath.—Polaris, 11th.

The oracle of Portland is some what pessimistic in its utterances on this question. The following, from the Californian, is so admirably to the point that we quote at length: It has come to be an axiom in American politics, that a man must represent an idea. By persistent advocacy of the tenets of a political party, Mr. Jones procures himself to be nominated and chosen collector of taxes, with the duties of which office the tenets of political parties have nothing to do. Through the judicious denunciation of a railroad company or a water corporation, Mr. Smith comes to represent the idea of anti-monopoly, and is elected to Congress; although the remedy for the abuse which he has denounced falls within the purview of the domestic and not the federal government. As every citizen is a possible collector of taxes or member of Congress, it may be admitted that this system, inconsequent though it be, may work for the general good, by keeping every one on the alert to relieve the public from some unsuspected burden, and to do a good turn for himself at one and the same time.

Not only is the value of an idea known to our "statesmen," but journalists, as well, comprehend and appreciate it. Said the proprietor of a struggling paper, not long since, to the writer: "If I could only get hold of a first-class issue, my fortune would be made." It follows naturally, from this state of things, that anything in the nature of an issue is eagerly sought and tenderly nourished. Not a day passes, but somewhere in this broad country, patriotism gets the better of a statesman or a journalist, that forthwith breaks the silence, up to that point maintained, and speaks right out of some great wrong suffered by the people, or of some plan for the "betterment of man's estate." Once in a while, the issue "takes"; the statesman is sent to Congress, and the paper doubles its circulation.

Issues have their fashions, too. They come in and go out. We debate fiercely the same questions that our grandfathers debated, but about which our fathers never troubled their heads. One of the most superficial and easily aroused of the prejudices of mankind is that of race against race, and we find it therefore rising, generation after generation, in a tiresome but untiring series of issues. It has been a political bonanza in the United States. On the question of immigration we have gone successively from one extreme to another. At one stage, our political shibboleth is, "America, the home for the oppressed of all nations;" at the next stage we are Know-Notings, and "Americans must rule America."

Just of late, the issue factories are turning out mottoes to fit the latter sentiment. Several journals have raised the hue and cry, and are denouncing foreigners with variety and originality of epithet. A few timid gentlemen, here and there, have formed themselves into secret organizations, and style themselves Patriotic Sons of this and that. The great mass of the population, to be sure, is impassive; but Burke's sentence about the grasshoppers is nevertheless applicable.

Now if these journals and these patriotic "sons" are correct in their

prognostications, it is certainly desirable that we should know it. The pessimist has, somehow, an affection of more acumen than the optimist. The man who tells us we are going to the bad manages to impress us more than he who weakly thinks we are in a prosperous condition. A nation whose bonds are above par; whose national debt is being paid with regularity and rapidity; whose manufacturers are taking precedence in the markets of the world; and whose wealth, more evenly distributed than elsewhere, has increased for a century at a rate unparalleled in history—appears to the superficial observer to be free from constitutional taint. But here the patriotic offspring say that we have progressed, not on account of, but in despite of, our elective system.

The question, whether foreigners shall be allowed to form a part of our body politic, and to participate in the privileges of American citizenship, is a broad one. Surface facts will not solve the problem. No proper judgment can be formed as to the desirability or undesirability of admitting foreigners to our common family, which does not take into consideration all the consequences which follow from such admission. The vote of the foreigner is simply one expression of his new citizenship—the outward token of his influence upon our social and political life.

But the proposition now presented is negative, not affirmative. Foreigners have been admitted to the privileges of American citizenship. For a hundred years they have been one with us. The question now pressed is that of exclusion and restriction, not of admission. It is broader than its original form. It forces the consideration, not only of all that was first involved, but also of all that has been learned in a century of experience. It is, briefly stated, this: What has been the effect upon the republican experiment in America of the free absorption of foreigners? And is it desirable that the same should be interdicted or restricted?

It may be as well, at the outset, to admit some of the objections which are urged against foreigners. There can be no doubt that many of them are illiterate, although it has been the experience of the writer to meet more Americans than foreigners who could not read and write. There is no question that they are given to agitations more than Americans; that they predominated upon the sandlot; that a larger proportion fills our prisons than among the native-born. When we think of the systems from which they came, and remember that for thousands of years they and their ancestors have been subject to those systems, the only cause for wonder is, that the law of heredity has left its malign impress upon them so lightly. Many of the objections, therefore, which are urged against foreigners must, in candor, be admitted. It is not a fair presentation of the case to overlook these, any more than to magnify them, and to suppress facts in their favor.

Starting from this point, one is first struck by the remarkable facility with which all foreigners, except the Chinese (who appear to be obstinately non-assimilating), become Americanized. They are almost immediately interested in our institutions. They take an active part in our politics. They read our newspapers with avidity. They adopt our mode of life and our style of dress as soon as they can command the necessary means. As a class, they vote with a regularity that, surprising as it may seem, is held up as a reproach. They are apparently more interested in the country, and in the exercise of all the rights of citizenship which it confers, than the native-born citizen.

Vicious Journalism.

THERE is a feeling of clannishness manifested among the newspaper people which leads them to say

nothing about the errors of one another, while they pounce eagerly upon one who is not a member of "the third house." For the credit of the press it is to be hoped that this growing spirit will not become the rule. The professional aim of journalism is to advance the cause of the people. This advocacy becomes a sham if journalists decline to criticize one another's vicious acts. Our own state has been lately shocked by several unprofessional and unseemly articles, such as breed the worst sort of social discomfort. Another instance occurred recently in Washington, which ended somewhat disastrously; a gentleman who felt himself aggrieved by articles published in the paper having sought a retraction, and in an interview with one of the editors was killed, and the editor seriously wounded. At this distance one cannot judge of the merits of the case, but it seems evident that the newspaper in question is conducted on the mistaken idea of journalism, that a newspaper has the right to attack any man whose position or acts are opposed to its policy or interests, and which considers a request for retraction as an insult to be resented by force. A newspaper has the right to attack a public man whose acts are corrupt, or who is unfit for his position; but it has no right to take advantage of its power to persecute a private individual for personal or interested reasons; nor has it the right to attack a man for mere wantonness, or to create a sensation.

Oh! The Truth of It!

Last Saturday's Tribune says: Guiteau has made a Supreme Judge as well as a President. There is not a human being in the country so ignorant as to believe that Roscoe Conkling would have been awarded the highest judicial office in the gift of the President if the cold-blooded assassin had not first murdered the President whom the people elected. For that horrible murder no man living is thought by the people of the United States more responsible than Conkling himself. The President gave him five-sixths of the important patronage of his State, and he demanded it all. On the nomination of a single man whom he disliked, he declared war upon the administration. He fought it in the Senate till he found the struggle hopeless, and then he betrayed his party and threw the Senate into the hands of the opposition by resigning, and then besought the State of New York to return him with letters of marque as a licensed privateer to wage war upon his own people. Conkling was beaten in his own State. In the contest he invited he was overwhelmingly, hopelessly and disgracefully beaten. A legislature of his own creatures dared not to re-elect him. The people of the State were a hundred to one against him. When he returned defeated from Albany he could not have been elected road supervisor or justice of the peace in the strongest Republican county of the State. Then Guiteau stole up behind Garfield and fired his shot, and now the man whom Guiteau made President makes Roscoe Conkling Judge of the Supreme Court of the United States.

It would seem that even now, after the dread sentence of the law has been passed upon the convicted assassin of an American President, the hinges of the man's cell are sufficiently oiled to yield easily to the pressure of any vantage correspondent who desires to earn a penny-a-line fee. This is wrong. The ghastly farce has been played out, and henceforth, until the hour of execution, Charles Jules Guiteau should be dead to that world and that community which he has disgraced and outraged. There is no longer any excuse for leniency, for endurance has been already strained too much, and when the last act in the dismal tragedy closes with the hanging of the wretch, it should be tacitly understood, if possible, that his name be never mentioned, nor published more.

NEW TO-DAY. DR. C. C. GLASS, PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON. Office over A. V. Allen's Store. ASTORIA, OREGON.

A. V. Allen, (SUCCESSOR TO PAGE & ALLEN.) Wholesale and Retail Dealer in

Groceries, Provisions, Crockery.

Glass and Plated Ware. TROPICAL AND DOMESTIC

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES. Together with

Wines, Liquors, Tobacco & 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.

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.

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WALL PAPER AND WINDOW SHADES AND UNDERTAKERS GOODS.

Leinenweber & Co., C. LEINENWEBER, H. BROWN ESTABLISHED 1855. ASTORIA, OREGON.

TANNERS AND CURRIERS, Manufacturers and Importers of ALL KINDS OF LEATHER AND FINDINGS, Wholesale Dealers in

OIL AND TALLOW. Highest cash price paid for Hides and Tallow.

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. SPEARHART, J. W. CASE, Committee on Ways and Means. Astoria, Feb. 17, 1882.

Seining Scow for Sale. NEARLY NEW, HAS ONLY BEEN used part of one season. Size, 4x20 feet, 4 foot hold. Good accommodations for twenty men. For particulars apply to CUTTING PACKING CO., Sagie Bldg., W. T.

MISCELLANEOUS. Geo. W. Hume Wholesale and Retail Dealer

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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 WILSON, 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 Chenauss 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 \$3 00, Pants, Genuine Fanned Cassimere 12 00, Suits from 25 00. The finest line of samples on the coast, to select from. P. J. MEANY, Main street, opposite Parker House, Astoria.

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

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ARTISTIC

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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.