

The Daily Morning Astorian.

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PRICE, FIVE CENTS.

THE OLD CROWD RETURNING.

Washington Claimants Flocking to the Capital to Prepare for the Coming Session.

One could tell that the meeting of congress was not far off from the way certain persons begin to make their appearance at the national capital. For ever so many years they have besieged congress with claims of nearly every description, and for amounts ranging from a thousand dollars to a million. Some of them have been at Washington for twenty years, if not longer. The ranks are kept good by new cases as one after another drops out. Favorable action by congress in one case will inspire all the rest with hope and determination to stick. Not one of these suits has been at Washington for twenty years, if not longer. The ranks are kept good by new cases as one after another drops out. Favorable action by congress in one case will inspire all the rest with hope and determination to stick. Not one of these suits has been at Washington for twenty years, if not longer.

Claims growing out of the war are the more numerous class. They grow with time. A war claim is equal in value to the average of mining plants. It depends quite as much on how such claim is worked as on the character of the proof supporting it. Some claims ripen with age; the older they are the better. A large claim stands a far better chance than a comparatively small one. A claim that is not large enough to divide up and create the promise of a good thing for several parties, has a poor show unless it has an independent money backing. A claim that is large enough to divide up has a self-propelling power. It will find friends. A claim is often farmed out to a ring of lobby brokers which includes one or more able lawyers familiar with the intricacies of that sort of practice. They go to it systematically, and are content if the first time they can get the claim before a committee, even though no action is taken. That much is counted as progress, and so it is. The next time a report, with or without recommendation, is obtained, and nothing more comes of it for that time. Next time it gets a set-back from an unfavorable report. But that does not discourage the syndicate, who are prepared for that. The next time the attempt is made to have the matter referred to a select committee. If it succeeds it is a piece of good fortune; it is a favorite method. By this time some new proof has probably been discovered. Papers heretofore missing have been found. After a while a bill is reported, which, however, is not considered for a long time, or through persistence of some objector at the only time when it could be got up. But no one is discouraged yet, except the poor claimant, who has spent his time and money hanging around Washington winter after winter, until he can do it no longer, and yet he comes and goes year after year, and so do the contracting syndicate, who with a number of jobs on their hands, manage to make a business of it and pay expenses. But the poor claimant, the victim of hope and delusion, is getting poorer every year, though the syndicate assure him that the prospect is brightening. And so it is in one view; for now and then a claim of this description does go through, either by the direct and exclusive action of congress or by being referred to the Court of Claims. After that there is another and peculiar experience. Managers of claims consider the Court of Claims a good place to be. The reasons are various and familiar to those who have gone through the mill. How inadequately the government is represented in this court outsiders little understand.

NEWS OF THE NORTHWEST.

Gov. Newell has signed the bill for the formation of the new county of Assotin.

Custom Officer Blake has established his headquarters at Whistons, W. T., and will put a stop to the Chinese smuggling business as far as possible. Capt. Jackson, of the steamer Washington, states that Chinamen, generally supposed to have come across the border line, can be seen going up the Sound on his boat almost every trip. The La Comer Mill mentions that A. R. Williamson, the first settler on the Skagit river, above the jam, died at his residence near Lyman on Tuesday, the 6th inst. Mr. Williamson was also the pioneer hop grower on the Skagit, and was one of the first hop raisers in the Puget sound valley.

Business is reported lively in Chehalis, with a steady increase of population. Immigrants are arriving daily and all available dwelling houses are crowded—some with two or three families. New buildings are going up on all sides, and the prospects are that carpenters will be kept busy all winter to provide the necessary shelter for the thousands of new arrivals. Commenting on the division of Yakima, the Ellensburg, W. T., Localizer says: "The people of Yakima City are indifferent as to division of the county. At the next election that end of the county can vote the upper country. There will be over 300 new settlers below Yakima here next spring. They rather court division for the reason that when the county debt is divided, they will have the twenty-five miles completed railroad to help to put their county out of debt, while the upper county will have to struggle for years to pay off the debt that it will have to assume."

THE RAG CARPET.

With the threatened eruption of the rag carpet as a kind of venerable successor to the genuine Boston made Turkish rug, there comes a call on the part of the male portion of humanity and a protest on the part of all health loving humanity.

I rise at this moment as the self-appointed representative of poor, down-trodden and long-suffering man, Alenady lady friends are looking with aversion and covetous eyes on my spring suit, and, in fancy, constructing a stripe of navy blue, while some other man's spring clothes are already spotted for the "hit or miss" stripe of the time honored humberg. It does seem to me that there is enough sorrowing toil going on for nothing already, enough of backache and delirium, without tearing the shirt off a man's back to sew into a rag carpet made to breed death and disease, with its prehistoric perspiration and modern drug store eyes. The rag carpet is commonly known as the Turkish prayer rug, has a sand, worn look, but it does not come up to the rag carpet of the dear old home. Around it there clusters, perhaps, a tradition of an Oriental falsehood, but the rag carpet of the dear old home is a different matter. It is a heirloom that passes down from generation to generation, like the horse blanket of forgotten years, and the ragging of the dead dead past. Here is found the stripes of all wool delaine that was worn by one who is now in the golden hence, or stricken with Dakota fever, living in the square of his home, and there is the fragment of underclothes prematurely jerked from the back of the husband and father before the silver of a century had crept into his hair. There is no question but the dear old rag carpet, with its warm and cozy and sickly yellow and brindle browns and doubtful black is a big thing. It looks kind of modest and unpretending, and yet speaks of the dead past and smells of the antique and the garret. It represents the long months when aching fingers first sewed the garments, then the first dash of gray on the front breadth, the maddening cry, the wild effort to efface it with benzine, the sorrowful defeat, the dusty grease spot standing like a pork plaque upon the face of the past, the glad relinquishment of the garment, with its warm and cozy and sickly yellow and brindle browns and doubtful black is a big thing. It looks kind of modest and unpretending, and yet speaks of the dead past and smells of the antique and the garret.

A Timely Announcement.

Prof. Proctor reasons that the moon has grown old six times as fast as the earth, a comparison of the masses and radiating surfaces of the two bodies making it evident that the earth's internal heat was originally sufficient to last six times as long as the moon's supply. Following up his reasoning he argues that 60,000,000 of years must elapse before we will have reached the stage of life through which the moon is now passing.

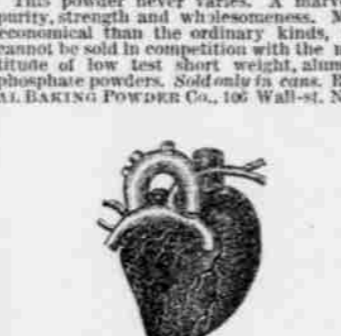
The above is important. While probably no one has noticed that the moon is growing bald or gray-haired, or seen it limping through space on a pair of crutches, there is no question but that the planet is growing old. It has every reason to grow old, and it is no wonder that it has grown old six times as fast as the earth. The moon's work is all night work and that is very straining on the nervous system. But the assurance of Prof. Proctor that sixty million years will have to elapse before the earth reaches that tottering age and "stage of life through which the moon is now passing," comes like a blessed boon to the interested people of the earth. Now people can go ahead and get their farms mortgaged, and lay in just enough flour and coal to last that long, as after the earth gets as old as the moon is now, no one will care to live upon it any longer, and they will let the old thing go to the dogs. Prof. Proctor's announcement comes just in the nick of time.—Peck's Sun.

"Oh, yes," said the eldest Mrs. Culture at Table d'Hotel the other evening. "I breakfasted with the other evening with Mrs. Brainweight, and we enjoyed a delicious repast—excellent coffee, superior bread, and piscatorial globes done admirably." "What?" asked her friend, "piscatorial globes," repeated the Boston virgin. "And what under the sun are they?" "I believe," said Miss Culture, drawing herself up stiffly, "I believe uncultured people call them fish balls."—Hotel Mail.



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