The Daily Astorian.

ASTORIA, OREGON:

FRIDAY MARCH 27, 188 HIDDEN TREASURE.

Eveny year or so some imaginative Bohemian of the Washington press revives the old story of untold wealth in the form of jewels that are hidden away in the vaults of the treasury department. Each time the value of the treasure is magnified until at last accounts seven or eight figures are required to express it. In point of fact, there is a quart or more of precious stones in the bond vault of the treasurer's office, but, singular as it may appear, no one can be found who has any conception of their value. About thirty years ago, during Pierce's time, an eastern potentate with an unprononnceable name sent to the president of the United States several swords heavily jeweled, a bottle of attar of roses and a jeweled casket. The swords and presents could not be received by the president, inasmuch as a clause in the constitution prohibits the acceptance of gifts of this character. Etiquette prevented their being sent back and they promised to become a white elephant on the government's hands.

In this dilemma they were deposited in a case in the model-room of the patent office, where they remained for years, until a clever thief, who went for that purpose, succeded in stealing them. After the lapse of some months the jewels were recaptured and placed in the treasury vault the lower Mississippi. They pick up for safe keeping. There for eight the drifting logs, turn them into lumyears have they remained sealed up ber, and sell the product to the plantin bottles and hidden away in a rough pine box out of sight and almost forgotten, except by those to whose keeping they are especially intrusted. These custodians of the vault differ widely as to the value of the contents. One says the lot would be cheap at \$100,000, while another thinks \$1,500 a stiff price for the

No one owns them. The United States really has no more title to them than the king of the cannibal islands, except that the United States holds possession. The jewels are liable any day to be stolen again, and treasurer Wyman says the successful thief will probably reap the benefit of the haul next time, as it would be exceedingly doubtful if the ownership of the government could be established. There is only one way in which the treasure can be disposed of, and that is by amending the constitution so as to allow the heirs of ex-President Pierce to dispose of it. The curious visitor roses fills the vault for days.

Somerning more than half of the normous Egyptian debt is held in England. The Egyptian finances are in a very bad condition, and heavy taxation, even heavier than the grievous taxation of past years, is inevitable. By the new law foreigners who have hitherto escaped taxation are to be taxed, but it is very certain they will evade the levy, and the poor fel-

laheen will, as usual, bear the heaviest burden. The great debt of Egypt was the work of Khedive Ismail, who in 1862-4 borrowed, in two loans \$50,-000,000, and in 1868 had increased the figures to \$125,000,000, and when he was deposed he had brought the

amount up to \$450,000,000. REAR ADMIRAL JONETT, commander of the north Atlantic squadron, is reported to have said before leaving Washington for New Orleans: "The French are at the bottom of the Central American war intending thus to prevent the construction of any but the Panama canal," and adding, "we will have to take a hand in this matter, and the sooner the better. Fitteen thousand workmen on the Panama canal are French soldiers."

A POBTLAND assayer visited Tillamook recently to ascertain the facts relating to the reported silver discovery in that locality. He assayed rock from tunnels run in the mountains and the highest grade he found was in one ounce of rock from which he got three-fourths of an ounce of pure

silver. There are several tunnels being run and much interest is manifested regarding the discovery.

FLOATING saw mills are common on ers along the shore.





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