

The Daily Astorian.

ASTORIA, OREGON: FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 1885. RUSSIA AND HER POLICY.

PERHAPS no diplomatic war in modern times has been watched with more anxiety and interest than that now in progress between England and Russia. Both powers have immense strength, and each would prove a worthy antagonist for the other. Each has under its control an immense proportion of the world's area, and holds in its charge the destiny of hundreds of millions of the world's population. Each has peculiar advantages to offset its disadvantages, so that in case of actual war they would stand on very nearly equal terms. Russia is poor, while England is rich; but if England is inexhaustible in riches, Russia is inexhaustible in soldiers. If England has the most powerful navy in the world, Russia has few places to be protected from attack by sea. If elements of England's strength are found in every part of the world, Russia finds hers consolidated at home. If England has extended her conquests over the globe, Russia believes that she is one day to conquer the world.

With regard to this great northern power which is yearly becoming more prominent and more important in the world's history, it will at this time, says the San Francisco Bulletin, be interesting to know what a distinguished Englishman has written. Concerning the character of the Russian people, Alison says:

Formidable as the power of Russia is, from the boundless extent of its territory, and the great and rapidly increasing number of its subjects, it is still more so from the military spirit and heroic disposition by which they are distinguished. The prevailing passion of the nation is the love of conquest, and this ardent desire, which burns as fiercely in them as Democratic ambition does in the free states of western Europe, is the unseen spring which both retains them submissive under the standards of their chief, and impels their accumulating force in ceaseless advance all over adjoining states. The energies of the people, great as the territory they inhabit, are never wasted in internal disputes; domestic grievances, how great soever, are overlooked in the thirst for foreign aggrandizement; in the conquest of the world the people hope to find a compensation, and more than a compensation, for all the evils of their internal administration. * * * Every Russian is inspired with a conviction that his country is one day to conquer the world, and the universal belief in this result is one of the chief causes of the rapid strides which Russia of late years has made towards its realization.

The rudest nomad of the steppes pants for the period when a second Timour is to open the gates of Derbend, and let loose upon southern Asia the long-pent-up forces of its northern wilds.

In connection with these common beliefs in the future greatness of Russia, it is interesting to note Gibbon's statement that, centuries ago, the belief was widespread that a statue was buried in Constantinople, bearing the prophecy that Russia would one day be mistress of that city. That the Turkish capital has not long since passed under the control of the czar is owing neither to the feebleness of the Russian armies nor to the power of Turkey.

In view of the diplomatic contest now in progress between the cabinet of the queen and that of the czar, the following extract from Alison will be of interest, especially as the present state of affairs seems to show that the English historian has given us a surprisingly correct idea of Russian policy.

The policy of the Russian cabinet, from the earliest time that Muscovite power has stood forth an object of alarm to the surrounding nations, has been governed by one ruling principle, which differs widely from that of any people who have hitherto made a great impression on human affairs. It is founded on the haughty maxim of the Romans, to spare the submissive and subdue the proud, nor the more politic system of the English, whether in Europe or Asia, to support the weak against the strong. It rests on a combination of physical strength with diplomatic address, of perseverance in object with versatility in means, which was never before exhibited in the theater of the world. Its leading characteristic has been explained, perhaps with more candor than prudence, by the eloquent Russian historian, Karazin: "The object and the character of our military policy has invariably been to seek to be at peace with everybody, and to make conquests without war; always keeping ourselves on the defensive, placing no faith in the friendship of those whose interests do not accord with our own, and to lose no opportunity of injuring them without ostensibly breaking our treaties with them." The slightest survey of Russian history will be sufficient to show that this character is well-founded; and that, formidable as the military power of the state is, it has prevailed in every age, rather from pacific encroachments than warlike subjugation.

The Russians never originate a contest, but are always ready to carry it on. Passion never makes them anticipate the period of action; success

never relaxes the sinews of preparation. So forcible is their weight, when fairly aroused to exertion, that the powers with whom they are engaged in war, despairing of making any durable impression on such a colossus, are generally glad, even after victory, to purchase a respite from hostility by a concession of territory; and, surprising as may seem, Russia has reaped greater advantages from her defeats than other nations from their victories. * * * Never, since the god Terminus first receded with the Roman eagle in the provinces beyond the Euphrates, has so steady and uninterrupted advance been made by any empire towards universal dominion; and it is hard to say whether it has prevailed more by the ability of diplomatic address or the vigor of warlike achievement.

From the reports which come to us it appears as though Russia were now striving by diplomacy to maintain the advanced position she has taken, without the cost of warlike achievement. That she has advanced her forces to stay, if her power is strong enough to maintain her position, is evident. That she would prefer to gain her end by peace rather than by war, is apparent, not only from the course which negotiations are taking, but from what is known of her past history. But that she will relinquish without a struggle any advantage she has gained, can neither be inferred from her action in the matter of the Afghan frontier, nor from the character which so careful a historian as Alison has given of her policy. In fact, recent reports, which, however, have been denied by the English cabinet, make it appear that Russian diplomacy has a fair chance of succeeding in its object. Already English journals are complaining that too much has been ceded to Russia, and that Mr. Gladstone is about to treat with the czar on the latter's own terms. Whether peace or war will be the result of the present negotiations, it is yet hard to say; but the indications are that Russia will maintain at least a portion of the advantage she has obtained, through diplomacy if possible; through war if necessary. At present there is in process a diplomatic contest of absorbing interest, and it remains to be seen whether the boast that the Russian armies have never advanced without obtaining some advantage, will be refuted, or whether the fear of English journals that Mr. Gladstone will concede the most essential points in dispute will be justified. That Russia has entered into the contest to win, is evident. Whether or not she will win depends upon the skill of Mr. Gladstone or upon the strength of her armies. In case of war, the nice balance of strength and advantages will make the contest one of absorbing interest to the world.

It has been said several times since the inauguration that Mr. Cleveland should call congress to meet and pass a river and harbor bill, which the last congress failed to pass. There seems to be no call for special anxiety on the score of the omissions of the late congress, but there may arise a contingency when an extra session would be desirable. If war is declared between England and Russia this country would have a commercial opportunity such as is seldom presented to a nation. The most of the carrying trade is now entrusted to British bottoms, and these vessels, in the event of war, would sail under a belligerent flag and be subject to the dangers of search, seizure and capture by the enemy. American ships, on the contrary, as belonging to a neutral nation, would suffer none of these risks or annoyances, and could nearly monopolize the Atlantic commerce.

In reply to inquiries from several states concerning the taking of the semi-decennial census, the secretary of the interior has prepared a circular in which he quotes the act of March 3, 1873, providing for the taking of such census. The circular states that if the semi-decennial census is made by the state authorities, beginning on the first Monday in June and the result reported to the secretary of the interior by the 1st of September following, such states will be entitled, upon the requisition of the governors thereof, to a sum equal to 50 per cent of the amount which was paid to the United States supervisors and enumerators employed within such states or territories in the taking of the last United States census. It will be confined to such subjects as population, agriculture, industry and mortality.

GEN. MILES says that President Cleveland has the character that would make him a great success in the military line. There are plenty of Democrats hereabouts, says the St. Albans Messenger, who are of the opinion that under his method of distributing supplies an army would perish of starvation the first month of a campaign.

A MAINE editor thinks that the candidates will be, as last year, Blaine and Cleveland.

A FEW weeks ago Barrios was president of Guatemala, had a fortune of eighteen million dollars, and was possessed of every facility for enjoying life. Now Barrios and his eldest son are dead, the rest of his family driven into exile, and his large fortune dissipated. Doubtless if a candid expression of opinion could be obtained from the late "dictator," it would be to the effect that he should have let well enough alone.

PANAMA has had four presidents since the 1st of January. There is always room at the top in the politics of Central American states.

A PORTLAND friend of Mr. Blaine says that the latter is already hard at work for the nomination in 1888.

CHICAGO polled 85,000 votes in the recent municipal election, against 41,000 in St. Louis.

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Ship Mount Washington WILL NOT BE SOLD. As previously advertised. TAYLOR, YOUNG & CO., Portland, Oregon.

Abstracts of Title. THE UNDERSIGNED HAS COMPILED A SET of Abstract Books from the records of Clatsop County and is now prepared to furnish complete and correct Abstracts of Title to any Real Estate in the County, at reasonable rates. C. R. THOMPSON, Attorney at Law, Astoria, Oregon. OFFICE, Room 5, over City Book Store.

Net Found. OFF SKIPANON, APRIL 19TH, SIXTY fathoms net in three pieces. Apply to ROBT. LOWE, Ft. Stevens, April 21st, 1885.

For Sale. SINGLE UPRIGHT MARINE ENGINE and boilers, built by Delamater & Co., New York, 240 horse power; Steam Donkey Pumps; Surface Condenser; independent air-circulating and feed pumps; tools and connections complete. For price and particulars apply to FRANK WOOLSEY, Cor. First and A Sts., Portland.

For Rent. THREE FINE ROOMS in BUILDING recently occupied by J. Pilger. Suitable for offices, etc. Apply to C. S. GUNDERSON.

Boarding House For Rent Cheap. A TWO-STORY BOARDING HOUSE with basement, with accommodation for 20 boarders. Spring water up and down stairs. Fixtures if required. Apply to L. G. HAAVEN, Upper Astoria.

The Annual Meeting OF THE STOCKHOLDERS OF THE ASTORIA Iron Works will be held at the office of the secretary, Main street, wharves of Thursday evening, April 30th, 1885, at 7:30 o'clock, for the purpose of electing five directors, and transacting such other business as may come before the meeting. By order of the president, J. G. HUSTLER, Sec'y.

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We take pleasure in announcing to the Cigar Trade of the Northwest and California that we have this day appointed L. K. G. SMITH of Portland, Or., our sole Agent for the whole Pacific coast, and kind recommend him as such to our old and new patrons.

We guarantee that, as heretofore, all Cigars from our factory are and will be made of the finest and choicest Havana Tobacco only, and that we will not fail to keep up our very established reputation on them. Very respectfully, V. MARTINEZ YBOR & CO.

In accepting the honor of representing above manufacturers, I do so with a thorough conviction, and after a careful scrutiny that nothing in the Key West Havana line could be offered or produced superior to these world-renowned "FLOR DE MADRID."

Should be pleased to fill all orders intrusted to me for any style or size, either direct from factory from our various depots in California or the northwest. Responsible dealers in the interior wishing the agency in their respective sections will receive a prompt hearing by addressing

L. K. G. SMITH, Stark and Front Sts. Portland. Depot for Astoria at L. K. G. SMITH'S Cigar Store, Chenamus Street. THEO. BRACKER, Manager.

Notice of Administratrix Sale. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT BY virtue of an order made on the 7th day of April, 1885, by the County Court of Clatsop County, State of Oregon, I will on the 11th day of May, 1885, at the Court house door of said county, at the hour of two o'clock in the afternoon sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, subject to confirmation by said court, all the title and interest of the estate of J. W. Robb, deceased, in and to the following described real estate situate in said county, to-wit: Lot No. 5 of block No. 6 of block No. 107, in the town of Astoria as laid out and recorded by John McClure and extended by Cyrus Olney, and lot No. 6 of block No. 53 of the town of Astoria as laid out and recorded by John McClure. J. M. ROBB, Administratrix of the estate of J. W. Robb, deceased.

Summons. IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON, for Clatsop County: J. O. Bozorth and A. F. Johns, partners doing business under the firm name of Bozorth & Johns, Plaintiffs vs. P. P. Hennessy Defendant.

In the name of the State of Oregon, to the above named defendant: You are hereby required to appear and answer the complaint of the above named plaintiffs filed against you in the above entitled court and action, on or before the first day of the next term of this court, to-wit: the 18th day of May, 1885, and if you fail so to do the plaintiffs will take judgment against you for the sum of \$1,000.00 and costs and disbursements, and for the sale under execution of certain personal property attached in this action consisting of carpenter's tools, hardware and building materials. This summons is published by virtue of an order made by the Hon. F. J. Taylor, judge of said court at chambers, on the 1st day of April, 1885. FULTON BROS., Attorneys for Plaintiffs.

HAS RETURNED. J. P. LEATHERS HAS RETURNED and is ready to turn out some fine beach boats for the river. Shop on the beach between Kinney's and Elmor's canneries.

For Sale. STOCK AND FURNITURE OF THE OLD Corner saloon. Inquire of J. W. STEARNS, Agt. Astoria, Oregon, April 1st, 1885.

To Rent. THE FINE BUSINESS STORE FORMERLY occupied by J. Pilger. A desirable location. Apply to C. S. GUNDERSON.

House to Let. CENTRALLY LOCATED. Apply to BOZORTH & JOHNS.

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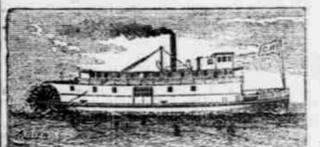
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