

The Daily Astorian.

ASTORIA, OREGON.
SUNDAY, MAY 21, 1885

ISSUED EVERY MORNING.
(Monday excepted)
J. P. HALLOGAN & COMPANY,
PUBLISHERS AND PROPRIETORS,
ASTORIA BUILDING, - CLATSOP STREET.

Terms of Subscription.
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In Advance, per month, \$1.75.
Per Annum, \$17.50.
Five copies for subscribers.

Notice to Advertisers.
The ASTORIAN maintains the largest circulation of any newspaper published on the Columbia river.

The Astorian came in yesterday.
Wm. Beck and Capt. G. Reed returned from Salem yesterday.

The Portland News, like a new and tasty head, symbolizing some of Oregon's principal industries.
The British bark *Zanora*, 418, Captains master, 109 days from Boston arrived yesterday in ballast.

Prof. A. L. Francis, the well-known pianist, is in the city and can be found at the Occident by those wishing his services.

The late distilleries furnished considerable quantities for the grand jury after all. A term of circuit court has got to cost some thousands of dollars anyhow.

The schooner *Berrie Mize* came in yesterday from San Francisco with freight for Astoria shipped by the San Francisco and Astoria packet line.

John Parker, an old citizen of Pacific county, dropped dead Tuesday at the boarding place, with Andrew Wirt, who was seen to jump at the table and left the room suddenly without announcing his dinner.

Our sale of Ball's Corsets is unprecedented.—PRAEL BROS.

QUEEN VICTORIA'S BIRTHDAY.

How It Was Celebrated in Astoria.

Sixty-six years ago to-day the present queen of England and empress of India was born, and as the anniversaries of her natal day roll round, they are universally celebrated by those who are or have been English subjects.

At half-past eight the dining room of the Occident was draped with the flag of England and the United States and brightly with flowers, the brilliant lights shining on a banquet board in the form of a horse shoe.

The city jail, we believe, is as well kept as the limited space it occupies will allow, but would recommend that proper conditions be placed in each and every cell for the cells of nature, so that the prisoners may be kept free from offensive odors.

Having completed our labors, we respectfully ask to be discharged.

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GRAND JURY REPORT.

The Usual Kick About the County "What Is It?"

The grand jury came into court at two o'clock yesterday afternoon, and submitted the following report to Judge Taylor:

In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for the County of Clatsop. To the Hon., the Circuit Court above named:

We, the grand jury, beg leave respectfully to report that we have investigated all the cases brought before us by the district attorney and have passed upon the same according to the best of our ability and judgment, without favor, prejudice or partiality.

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FACTS AND FANCIES.

The Recent Decline of American Humor.

To the casual observer it might appear that American humor was in a flourishing condition as ever; that, notwithstanding the heavy drafts which it has sustained during the last decade, the supply was abundant, not to say inexhaustible.

The most serious evidence of the decline in our national humor is shown by the paucity of fresh subjects; there having been in the first four months of 1885 but eleven new subjects used in the construction of newspaper wit against four-sevenths in the corresponding four months of last year; and while several topics which were once under constant treatment have sunk into desuetude and are now no more heard than if they had never been, it is also true that scores of other favorite marks for the shafts of the funny men have shown a gradual falling off in paragraph favor.

The stoneware joke is a notable instance of the former class just alluded to, the class which has utterly disappeared. This ninth-century which in the year 1876 reached the marvellous proportion of 2,754 paragraphs per month, 33,168 during the entire year, had fallen off in 1884 to 85 per month, or 380 during the first four months of the year while for the corresponding period of 1885 but seven entire cases have been recorded, an average of only 1 2/3 per month.

A similar, though not so excessive falling-off is shown by any other old standing topic, notably the mother-in-law, the cake of soap on the stairs, the oldest man, and so forth. But we have the figures handy. Let us consult them.

During the first third of 1884 the mother-in-law furnished the subject of 487 paragraphs or articles, whereas the corresponding term of the present year can boast of but 215, and 214 of these are essentially repetitions. Goat and the circus poster, 1884, 486; 1885, 24. Oldest man, 1884, 841; 1885, 63.

In almost every instance it will be seen that there has been a great disparity in the present year's figures compared with those of the year preceding.

From our statistics, then, it will be seen that there has been a marked decline in almost every department of American humor; and, as a means of remedy, we present the evidence which we have at hand. We have only given a few samples of a very large volume, which we might draw upon almost without limit.

From this general decline it is dangerous to infer the foundation of but three paragraphs: during the corresponding period of 1885 it has furnished the reason *de'etre* of 17,564 witticisms of different lengths and of various quality.

Finally, then, while deploring the decline of American humor in general, let us think heaven and earth as all his work to you.

Two Dangerous Seasons.
Spring and fall are times when so many people get sick. The changes in the weather are severe on feeble persons, and even those naturally strong are apt, as they say, "to be feeling miserable."

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Manufactured only by California Fig Syrup Co., San Francisco, Cal.

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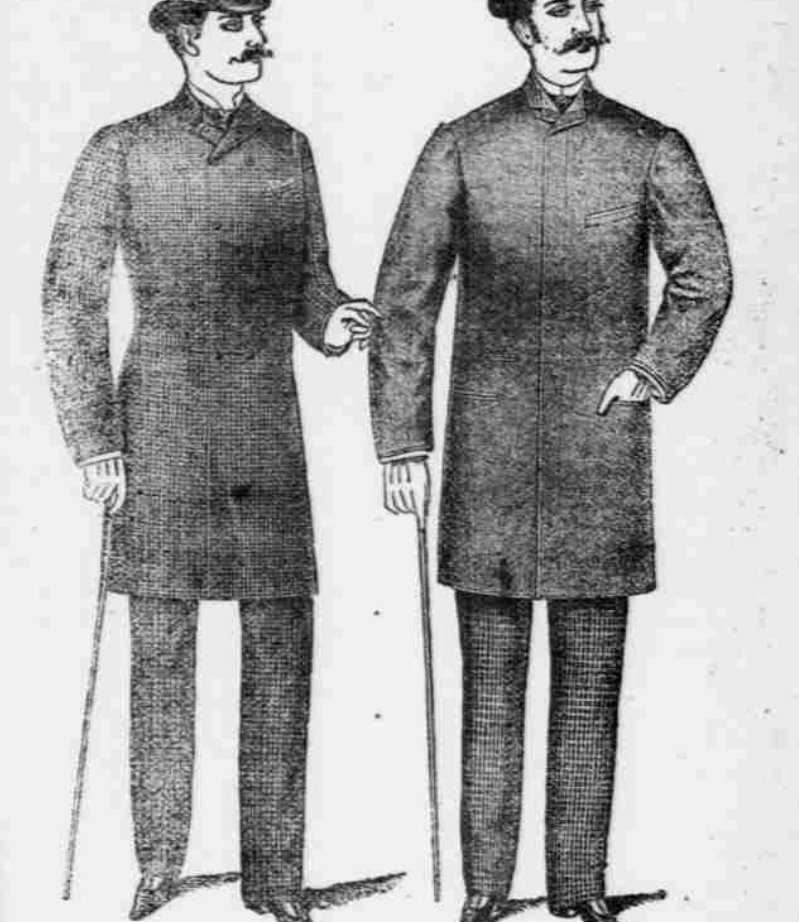
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2d—is a SINGLE BREASTED FROCK SUIT in dark Navy Blue Crepe Cloth, without binding, which makes up one of the finest, and most durable Dress Suits manufactured.

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4th—is a SINGLE BREASTED FROCK SUIT in a fine dark fancy Cassimere, a black diagonal cloth with a fine thread of green and red silk running through-out, without binding.

5th—is a DOUBLE BREASTED SACK SUIT in a fine dark mixed Cassimere, a broken plaid with an old gold silk thread running through, forming a large and almost indistinct plaid. Very neat and durable. No binding.

6th—is a DOUBLE BREASTED FROCK PRINCE ALBERT SUIT in a fine black cloth with black satin lining and stitched edge. Also have same style suits with Fatmer satin lining, and bound with black silk binding.

7th—is a SINGLE BREASTED SACK SUIT in an extra fine blue Cloth with a fine black silk flat binding, the finest Goods made up in Gents' Sack Suits.

Besides the few mentioned lines, I have a large assortment in SINGLE or DOUBLE BREASTED SUITS, and SUMMER OVERTHOATS. Also BOYS SUITS with knee or long pants.

To go with these FINE DRESS SUITS I have an elegant assortment of Gents Fine Furnishing Goods, Hats, Caps, Boots or Shoes.

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