

The Daily Astorian. ASTORIA, OREGON: WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 1886

"An alcoholic trance," is the latest phase of the emotional insanity dodge to acquit.

ABOUT every forty or forty-five years the entire property of the United States goes through the probate courts.

THE Times-Mountaineer is authority for the statement that W. Lair Hill has declined the judgeship of The Dalles district.

MR. VANDERBILT was so rich that he could have given every man, woman and child in America a \$3 Christmas present and have \$20,000,000 left.

MISS MATTIE MITCHELL, youngest daughter of Senator Mitchell of Oregon, is reported as about to marry a French duke. Her sister married a government clerk.

It is said that the life of the aged Emperor William alone stands between the present peace and anarchy in Europe. He will celebrate his ninetieth birthday next March.

THE present congress contains ninety-two former Federal soldiers and sixty-six confederates. Those who received a collegiate education number 138. There are three graduates of West Point.

SOME one has estimated that the time thrown away in this world in courting the girl you want to marry and who is ready to marry you would build all the railroads, and bridges, and tunnels, and factories and public buildings.

THE St. Louis Globe-Democrat thinks that he is a very poor arithmetician who calls seventy-six cents a dollar. The Chronicle says the natural reply of the silver man to such nonsense is that it is only a drizzling idiot who calls a dollar seventy-six cents.

CONGRESS is discussing the question of appropriating \$30,000 to test and try the science of spelling. The postmaster general has cut down the mail service between Seaside and Tillamook to a weekly mail and wants to cut down the service between Astoria and the Seaside to twice a week. This is economy.

THE contest over the silver question in congress will come nearer being a non-partisan fight than any other that will arise. On one side will be the common people, upon the other the influence of the great corporations, backed by the president and secretary of the treasury. But the people will win.

ENGLISH objection to the principle of home rule is stated forcibly in a letter written by the Duke of Argyll, who deals from Canadian-American analogy, which is now continually invoked on both sides. He points out that Canada is virtually an independent state, and declares there is no absolute contrast between the union of American states and everything happening or proposed to have reference to home rule in Ireland. A spirit of attraction, he contends, prevails in the American union, and a spirit of repulsion in Ireland.

THERE are 183 members in the present house of representatives who were in the last congress, who have great capacity for work. A majority of these will be assigned to their old places, although there is hardly a man who does not think himself entitled to promotion by reason of previous service. New members are anxious to distinguish themselves, and want to secure good selections. These are the ones who are giving the speaker the most trouble. He realizes that it is utterly impossible to satisfy all, and he is working without much concern for their personal feelings.

LAND COMMISSIONER SPARKS says: "If the president is not sat-

isfied with my management of the land office then I am much mistaken. The complaints come from people who are interested in land frauds and jobs. The complaints in the west emanate from lawyers who have to get along somehow. We have a great many from there. The stories are, I believe, the work of people whose interests have been affected by my methods in running the land office, and I know that one of the articles printed in a western journal was written on the office paper of a big firm here."

THE late Emery Storrs, of Chicago, was a great wit and very sarcastic. Since his death many good things are attributed to him, and amongst them is the shot said to have been made by him at Blaine. "It is well," said Storrs, "that Blaine was defeated. His liabilities of promises were always beyond his assets of patronage. His defeat was a grand bankruptcy of aspiration, but it was the best thing for him." After a pause he added sardonically: "If he had been elected perhaps I would have been chosen for the Cabinet. I had the advantage of not having his pledge."

THE supreme court of the United States on Monday rendered the following decision: Herman Prosser, plaintiff in error, vs. The State of Illinois, in error, vs. the supreme court of Illinois. The principle involved is the right of a state to prevent the armed assemblage of its citizens, and their parading as military companies, when not organized as such under the laws of the state or of the United States. The court affirms the judgment of the lower tribunal, holding that the state may prevent such assemblages. To deny this right, it says, would be to deny the right to disperse assemblages organized for sedition and treason, and the right to suppress armed mobs bent on riot and rapine.

THERE are some things about the star-route cases which probably will never be fully understood. The other day one of these cases was called at Little Rock, Ark., the district attorney answered "Not ready," and the suit was dismissed. It is a little difficult to get at the meaning of this little piece of dumb show. It is apparent either that the government felt sure that it had no case, or that it did not want to try the case, or that the agents of the department of justice need to have their zeal and industry quickened. Which of these things is true the general public have an interest in knowing. The general atmosphere of cloudiness which has hung over the proceedings against the star-routes before seems not to be dispelled even yet.

SOME rough things are being said about land entries. Special Agent S. T. C. Stubbs reports from Vancouver: "I am well satisfied that three-fourths of all the timber entries in Cowlitz, Pacific and Skamania counties are of fraudulent character. * * * I should think one-half the entries in Cowlitz county, of various kinds, are fraudulent." Special Agent T. H. Cavanaugh reported from Olympia: "It is my opinion that fully 50 per cent. of the entries in this district are fraudulent at the time of their inception. * * * It is almost certain that more than one-half the timber land entries in this district are fraudulent. * * * I am convinced, from examination and investigation, that 90 per cent. of the home-stead and pre-emption entries are of a fraudulent character."

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CITY BOOK STORE, Come and See Us, A FULL STOCK Awaits Your Inspection. Plush Goods, Holiday Cards, Toys, Fancy Goods, etc. At Prices that will Astonish you. You will find it to your advantage To Pay Us a Visit.

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EXCURSION TICKETS! FROM ASTORIA TO PORTLAND AND RETURN For \$2.50, ON THE "TELEPHONE," J. H. D. GRAY. Wholesale and retail dealer in GROCERIES, FLOUR, AND FEED Hay, Oats, Straw, Wood, Etc. LIME, SAND AND CEMENT. General Storage and Wharfage on reasonable terms. Foot of Benton street, Astoria, Oregon.

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