The Daily Astorian.

ASTORIA, OREGON:

FRIDAY.....FEBRUARY 26, 1886

THE Knights of Labor now number three million. The last presidential election was decided by the votes of 524 men.

IT begins to look as though Postmaster Vilas has the idea that the postoffice department of this government is run for profit.

AN injunction suit brought in Portland to have the registry law declared unconstitutional, was dismissed by Judge Stearns who decided there was no equity in the complaint presented. The case will be appealed to the supreme court forthwith.

THE Tacoma *Ledger* directs attention to the fact that the proposed removal of the duty on coal if successful would bring the British Columbia coal into competition with the Washington territory coal to the probable extinction of the business of mining the latter.

GREAT BRITAIN has expended nearly $90,000,000 in permanent fortifications of new type in the last twenty years. France has devoted nearly as much to the same object, while Germany, with a shorter coast line than Massachusetts and having only six or seven important harbors to defend, has planted $47,000,000 in her new system of coast defense since the close of the Franco-German war.

EAGER miners delving in the gold fields of New South Wales years ago discovered tin ores, but in the search for the yellow metal the baser metal was neglected. The mistake, however, has been discovered, and New South Wales has stepped to the front as the chief source of the world's tin supply. Thirty-five million dollars' worth of the ore was exported last year.

ASTORIA appears strangely dilatory in moving in aid of Congressman Hermann in his efforts in behalf of securing an appropriation for continuance of improvement of Columbia river bar. The road is clear for those who wish to distinguish themselves in such efforts, and who viewed with jealous eye the efforts of this paper in the past in kindred directions. Come gentlemen, stir yourselves, the winter is passing! We stepped modestly aside a year ago to render any jostling unnecessary. Or are you simply content with reproving zeal without emulating it.

EVERY minute of the day seventy human beings are brought into existence and sixty-seven are removed, says a writer. The population of the world is steadily increasing at the rate of three per minute, of 4,320 per day, more than 1,500,000 per year. Just think of the yearly increase of man being equal to the entire population of the Pacific coast. Where do they all go? The home of the human race, so far as we are able to learn, was in Asia, and from there all the nations have come. The rapid increase of population in the United States shows the tendency of the race to scatter and seek new fields.

THERE is a probability that the Fitz-John Porter bill will be defeated in the senate, although it passed that body two years ago. If every man who was in the senate when the bill was up before, votes now as he did then—and there is no doubt on this point—and Senators Stanford of California and Mitchell of this state vote against the bill, as they are expected to do, the senate will be a tie, and it takes a majority to pass. These senators succeeded Democrats who voted for the bill. There is some doubt, however, as to how Stanford will vote. He talks very frankly on the subject and says that in his own mind he is very strongly of the opinion that Porter ought not to be restored to the army, but his estimate of the opinion of General Grant amounts to reverence. He says that he knew Grant intimately for twenty years, and believes that his judgment was almost infallible. In a question of this kind he should not vote against the opinion of Grant without serious reflection, and he proposes to study the matter thoroughly.

COMPARATIVELY few states are represented in the senate by citizens born within their own borders. New York gave Leland Stanford to California, Teller to Colorada, Conger to Michigan, Van Wyck to Nebraska, Dolph to Oregon and Payne to Ohio. Ohio gave Voorhees and Harrison to Indiana, Allison and Wilson to Iowa and Plumb to Kansas. Kentucky gave Cullom to Illinois, Gibson to Louisiana, Vest to Missouri, Maxey to Texas and Call to Florida. Massachusetts gave Ingalls to Kansas and Evarts to New York. Among the states which send native born citizens to the senate are Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, and West Virginia. Jones, of Florida, Fair and Sewell are Irishmen; Beck is a Scotchman, and Jones, of Nevada, is a Welshman. Nevada is the only state represented by two aliens, namely, Jones, born in Wales, and Fair born in Ireland.

THE second and concluding volume of Blaine's "Twenty Years of Congress" has been published. It embraces the period between Johnson's installation as president and Garfield's election. The earlier chapters are occupied mainly with the reconstruction problem, the contest between the president and congress, and the impeachment trial. Grant's eight years of administration are discussed in a generous and catholic spirit, and the closing chapters deal with the current questions of political discussion. In closing Blaine says: "The national government has in these twenty years proved its strength in war and its conservatism in peace. No government of modern times has encountered dangers that beset the United States, or achieved the triumphs wherewith the nation is now crowned. The assassination of two presidents, one inaugurated at the beginning, the other at the close of this period, while a cause of profound national grief reflects no dishonor upon popular government. Neither crime had its origin in political institutions or its growth in the social organization of the country. Both crimes received the execration of all parties and all sections. In the universal sorrow which they inspired, in the majestic supremacy of the law which they failed to disturb, may be read the strongest proof of the government which is founded upon rights fortified by intelligence and inwrought with virtues of the people."

DIED.

In Oakland, Cal., Feby. 25th, David L. Beck, of the firm of D. L. Beck & Sons.

NEW TO-DAY.