The Daily Astorian.

ASTORIA, OREGON: FEBUUARY 20, 1887 SUNDAY THE LAND.

THE United States may be regarded as the ideal Republic. The conditions which dreamers are so fond of picturing exist here as a matter of fact. There are no extensive landed estates. Lands are a thing in the United States as the tendency of civilization is forcbeing fand poor. Land, as a con- ing it. sequence, is about as free as it Modern society has brought could well be made. The propri- about a reversal in the matter of etors, of large tracts are only too property not often noticed. For ready to sell. The government a long way down the past has always millions for sale. The real estate was the only prop-

that the European method of beis to say, the acquisition of land in large bodies, was possible in the United States. The fathers were not wholly free from the notion. But most of them who loaded up with real estate found the burthen too heavy for them and were days individual efforts of a like forth, but generally with the same result. There have been numerous instances of failures in that direction in this state. Land canprofitably handle more land than This circumstance, in conjunction he is able to manage himself. No fairer or more just methods could be invented. Land has been as free as air and water in the United states. There are millions of acres which are still in the same condition. When these facts are taken into consideration, the claims oc- There is no place for it here. All independent.

ties or unequal distribution. The immense majority of the land owners of the United States are farmers, owning moderate tracts in fee simple. The most surprising thing, therefore with which we have to deal, is the introduc-

Land in many of the European countries is nostly held by the nobles. There is no way in which t can be acquired by the gre t oody of the people except as tenents. In England lands are ensiled and descend from the father to the eldest son. There is no power of alienation. The owner has only a life interest in the es tate. All that can be done is to put mortgages on it. In ordinary cases the father cannot create held in large tracts by speculators these incumbrances without the and railroads only. But nowhere consent of his son and heir. In is the idea of turning them into Prussia, for a long time, the counmanors and lordly domains enter- try was divided into the lands of tained. So long as the assessors the nobles and the lands of the are elected by the people there can common people. Neither class be no great monopoly of land. could acquire lands belonging to The assessor represents the prin- the other. In the time of Hardenciple of divestiture for the support brough some modifications were of the government. There is, as a introduced, but the aristocratic consequence, a complaint in this system is still maintained. In all country, which is found nowhere these countries there are strong HEMLOCK WOOD. else in the world-it is the poverty grounds for a movement for the which is entailed by the ownership liberalization of the land system. of too much land. There is such Not only justice demands it, but

man or the woman in search of a erty that was considered to homestead can get one for nothing. be valuable or to need the protec-The homestead which can thus be tion of the law. A tedious ceresecured is as large as a moderate mony had to be gone through besized estate in other nations. Ex- fore it could be transferred. In The New Improved Family And cept among cattlemen, and with old Rome the official weigher of them only temporarily, wide areas money and a cloud of witnesses are alone held or claimed, and had to attend. The object was to SINCER Sewing Machine. these for grazing purposes only. fix the memory of the transaction The result of this general system in as many minds as possible, so for over a century is that nothing that thereafter there should be no like European civilization, as re- dispute. All this time personal spects the ownership of land, has property passed freely from hand grown up here. There has been, to hand: It was thought to be a from time to time, the delusion kind of property too mean to be surrounded with legal safeguards. coming great and powerful-that It first began to assert its importance in the case of the Licinii, the great Roman contractors. Since then what is generally regarded as personal property has gone on increasing in importance. Nearly all the wealthy men of the world are the owners of personal, Call and See Him and Satisfy Yourself. forced to lay it aside with more or rather than real property. There less pecuniary loss. Since those are some exceptions, such as the Astors in New York, and the nature have frequently been put Grosveners, or the Dukes of Westminster in London. Personal property is supposed to be more valuable than real property for a number of reasons. It is, in the not long be held in large bodies, first place, more easily handled; for tenancy does not take root in and in the second, can more readthis soil, and the share method is lily elude the assessor, who is the wasteful and ruinous. No man can foe of all large landed possessions

with our system, has loosened the

grip on land completely in the

United States, and is gradually

It is clear from what is above

advanced that communism is an

exotic in the United States.

loosening it in the old world.

casionally advanced by communis- that could be done to secure the tic writers in this country assume free distribution of land has been rather a queer aspect. Land any done. The presence of theorists work-it. By a few years of labor made, is explained only by the he can render himself practically fact that they know no civilization but that of the great cities. They But it would appear that what have no knowledge whatever of is wanted is not virgin acres, which the country, its social forces or the have to be cleared and reclaimed. lines of its development. On the It is the comfortable homesteads face, perhaps, the form of society which other and more vigorous in our great cities is not dissimilar men have created that are regard- from that of Europe. There are Cannerymen and Fishermen. ed with jealousy. This cannot be rich and poor in strong contrast. said to be a wholly new or modern There are palaces and hovels. desire. Men in all ages have been There are great landlords and poor cevetous of their neighbors' acquitenants. These conditions appear sitions. The only thing distinctly to be inseparable from the crowdmodern is the formulation of a the- ing together of large masses of W. E. DEMENT & CO ory which is supposed to gild over people. But they are not nearly and render respectable theft and so absolute and unchangeable with dispossession. It would be im- us as they are abroad. The law of possible for any human society to distribution is as actively at work make a more just disposition of in our cities as elsewhere. But the land than that set up in the the form of society in them is as United States. After long expe- different from that of the country rience, we find no great inequali- at large as if the two did not belong to the same political system.

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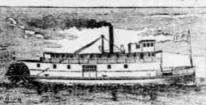
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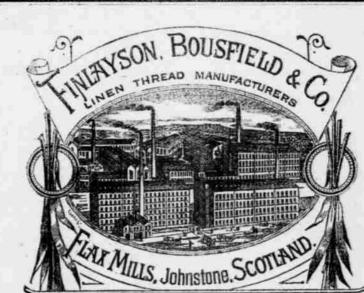
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