# The Daily Astorian.

ASTORIA, OREGON:

TUESDAY .......................JUNE 5, 1888

## UNANIMOUS OPINION.

EVERY party which holds a convention or passes a resolution in the nature of a political credo declares that immigration must be restricted. The notion is common to the Republicans. the Democrats, the Prohibitionists, the American party and all forms of the labor party. There appears to be substantial unanimity throughout the whole country, in so far as the declarations of all kinds of political organizations can be regarded as giving expression to its true sentiments.

If the new idea should be traced back to its source it would probably be found to have originated first in the conviction that the country has attained to such a growth that there is no room for anything but the natural increase. The population of the United States has been estimated by competent authority to amount to 67,000,000, exclusive of the immigration from Canada, of which there is no authentic statistics. The increase in population from immigration for seven years past has been as large as the increase from regular sources The ultimate fact is that we are growing just twice as fast as we should naturally. The belief that we are expanding too rapidly is reenforced by the fact that many of those who are now gaining an entrance, are alien in blood, language, race, literature and traditions; are in some cases wholly of digestion; have no conception of purposes. A judicial waking up all unassimilable, and in others difficult our mild form of government, accustomed as they have been to force and repression; showing in many instances but scant thankfulness for the hospitality extended to them; are turbulent and unmanageable, and are altogether undesirable additions to our population.

The opposition to further immigration has taken a more absolute form on the Pacific than on the Atlantic. We are here confronted with the semibarbarian hordes of Asia. They are, by atl odds, the worst class of persons of its resources. They are, for the most part, in bondage. They are foragers rather than immigrants. They bring in their train a new set of the most degrading vices, and a formidable supply of the most contagious disup absolute exclusion. But that restriction has been more in the nature of a legal fiction than a fact, in consequence of the peculiar action of the federal courts. Notwithstanding the alleged restriction it is now generally admitted by those who are competent to judge that there are twice as many Chinamen in the United States as

# rid of that class by the extension of the franchise.

It follows, naturally, from these premises that the policy of the restriction of immigration, while highly desirable all around cannot assume so absolute a form on the Atlantic Coast

as on the Pacific, for the conditions are not alike. The difference is between semi-barbarous and civilized people. There must be some modification, therefore, on the Atlantic sea-board. The same rigidity in the rule necessary here might not work satisfactorily there. It is quite evident that the laws we have on the subject are headed in the right direction. What is principally needed is their improvement, together with a more exact definition of the powers

of the federal judiciary in relation to the politicial power of the government. Indeed, in this matter we

have not so much to complain of our laws as of the manner in which they are interpreted. If the courts, in the first place, had done their duty, the spectacle of ignorant foreigners exercising the electoral franchise would not often be witnessed.

The courts have the right to inquire if the applicant is attached to the principles of the constitution? No illiterate person can possibly give the answers, which, in the contemplation of the law, alone entitles him to admission to the rights of an American citizen: But instead of that the whole process has degenerated into a mumble through which a Newfoundland dog could as successfully go as some of those who pass

the pretended ordeal. Not only this but the mechanism of the naturalization has been worked for fradulent around on these several subjects would do as much if not more, than new laws or regulations.

STATISTICS just published by the Russian government give some inter esting facts about Siberia as a penal colony. The number of convicts and political exiles sent to Siberia from 1754 to 1884 numbered nearly one million men and women. Fifty thousand were sent between 1863 and 1873, while the number sent out during the present reign reaches 146,-370. The number of escapes during seeking America. They are not only the past twenty years has amounted unassimilable, but they drain the land to twenty-four per cent. Women form one-fifth of the total num ber of exiles. As most of them are over 40 years of age very few marry, and to make matters worse marriage is prohibited for the first five years of exile. Two-thirds of the crimes in eases. On this coast, in relation to Siberia are committed] by the exiles, them, the federal government has set and because of this, of their misery and of the numerous escapes the Russian government is seriously considering the advisability of abolishing the present system of Siberian deportation.

> The tendency to increase in indebtedness is manifested even in the outhern American republics. A late



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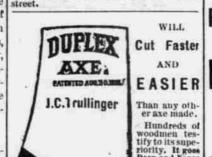
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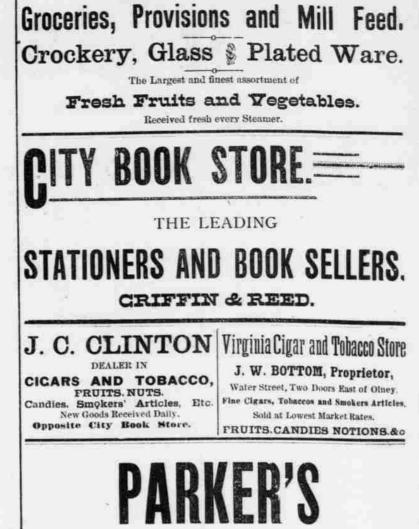
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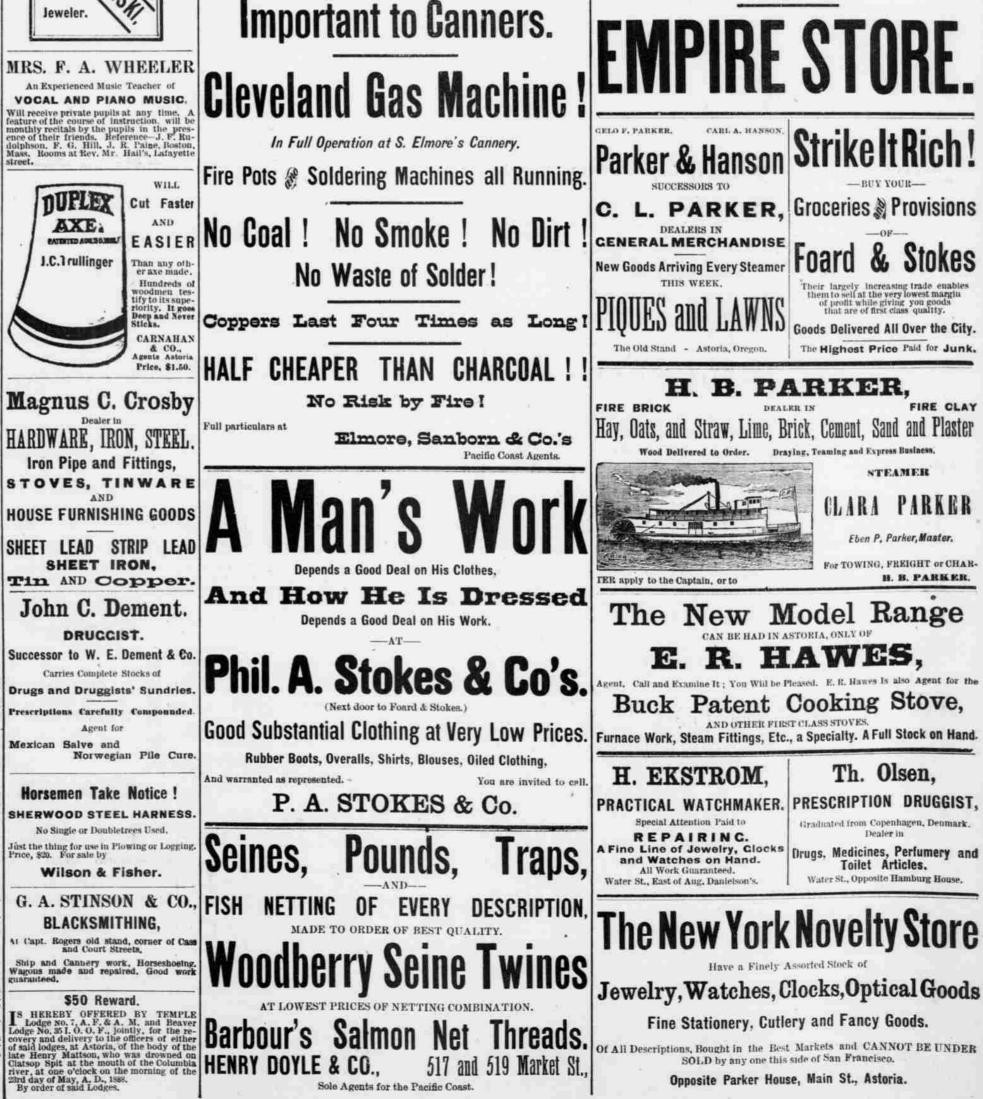


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there were at the time of the taking of the last census.

The question on the other side of the continent is beset with more difficulty. It would not be possible for the United States to shut its doors absolutely against all-comers. In the exercise of its sovereign power it might nonation would have a right to com-

plain. But it would simply be a retro gression of a very extraordinary kind, to Other nations, to be sure, are doing There seems to be a pronounced na- to her. tional reaction all around, which is by no means a thing to be deprecated. But whether the United States should take the lead in the movement and shoot far ahead of all the others is the question that is really up for settlement, It is supposed by some that without formal exclusion the obiect held in view could be accomplished by the repeal of the naturalization laws, or the extension of the privilege of citizenship only to a to a residence of twenty-one years. This would be a remedy if it was the the remedy for you. Sold by J. C. Deprivilege of citizenship which was the chief attraction of immigration. But it may be doubted whether in reality such is the fact. Most of these people come here to better their conditions. Whether the denial of citizenship would do them or us any good is not so clear. It has not been held to be good for the progress of society to have two classes of population-citizens and Auditor and Police Judges' Notice. classes of population—citizens and merely residents. The exclusion of the latter from the electorial franchise would not prevent turbulence and rioting on their part. It would not work at all in war. The non-voters of England kicked up all the rows on election day. It was their business to way-lay, intimidate and attack the voters. England has just nearly got

volume of the United States consular reports shows that the mania for bor rowing large sums abroad has seized nearly all the Spanish-American countries, particularly Chile and the Argentine republic. In fact, taking the whole world in the survey, about the only countries which are reducing set up any new rule that it pleased, and their debts are the United States and England.

A WALLA WALLA court has sen exclude civilized people from entry. tenced a woman to be hanged. This is consistent. A woman (in Washingso on a small scale. The Russians ton territory) has just as much right are excluding the Germans; the to kill a human being as a man has, French are doing the same, though and if she sees fit to exercise that indirectly; the Germans are shutting right, she has the same privilege to the doors against the Poles; the En- be hanged for it as any man would glish are importuned to put up the have. That's fair enough. Hang the bars against various continentals. lady by all means. It will be a lesson

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