

The Daily Morning Astorian

EXCLUSIVE TELEGRAPHIC PRESS REPORT.

VOL. XLV.

ASTORIA, OREGON, WEDNESDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 9, 1896.

NO. 281

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THE COLUMBIA'S DIKED LANDS

Future Source of Wealth to the State and the City of Astoria.

TEST OF THE RECENT STORMS

No Breaks Made by High Tides or heavy Rainfall—Fertile Lands of the State.

The reclamation of tide lands on the lower Columbia is an assured success. Experiments have been made in the past few years, both in the vicinity of Knappa and on the mainland on the west side of Young's Bay, which includes Warren and Flavel. The hardest test that the dikes were ever subjected to occurred during the storm of Sunday and Monday. The rainfall in the twenty-four hours ending Monday afternoon was 4.31 inches, the largest since the establishment of the government bureau at Astoria, with the exception of the record of January 23, 1895, which was 4.92 inches. Joined with this excessive rainfall, and which on Clatsop Plains reached nearly six inches, was the highest tide known on this coast in many years. With it all, however, there was not a break made in the dikes on the west side of the bay. The question of diked lands on the Columbia having been brought into prominence by the article published in the Astorian of December 4th over the signature of "Resident," a reporter yesterday investigated the situation on the west side of the bay, in view of the recent heavy storms. Col. John Adair, one of the pioneers of that section, volunteered to act as guide and in driving over the land yesterday gave out much valuable information. He said:

In 1837 myself and brother occupied a piece of land at the foothills here, both of us being bachelors at that time, and in order to reclaim forty acres of low land we built a small dike across from one hill to another, perhaps a distance of a quarter of a mile. This forty acre tract, which cost us forty dollars an acre to have plowed, and put into timothy, produced us a net profit of \$1999 per annum for about ten years.

"The main dike on this peninsula, which was built in 1855, at a cost of twelve to fifteen dollars per acre for the two thousand acres reclaimed, extended from the southwest corner of Eberman's donation land claim northward along the east bank of Skipanon Creek to its mouth, thence easterly along the shore line to the mouth of the Lewis and Clarke river, and thence southerly up the Lewis and Clarke along the west bank to the northeast corner of Truman P. Powers' donation land claim, a distance of seven miles. This dike on the north line of said claim about one mile, and then south a half mile to the foothills on the line of my present property. This diked district covers a little over 2000 acres and includes Hill creek, Holbrook creek, Adair's creek, and Brailier's creek, which are the main natural water courses. These water courses are fresh water, having their springs in the hills to the south, and in the upper waters the finest trout can be obtained.

"The lands in this district are owned principally by D. K. and P. C. Warren, J. C. Trullinger, M. J. Kinney, and John and S. D. Adair. "During last Sunday and Monday's heavy storm and exceptionally high tides I was out personally, carefully inspecting the dikes. Not a single break was made anywhere on the line, and I am more than ever convinced that these rich lands, both here and on the upper river, will prove the greatest backbones of the future Astoria. The cost of diking is insignificant compared with the results obtained. The land each year will produce anything and is enriched by nature's own fertilizers. I am successfully raising sugar beets for one thing, and believe that for this industry alone there is a great future. On the railroad front where town lots have been laid out, in the Sunnymeade, Merrilweather Downs, Warrenton Park, and New Astoria additions, there will be provided cheap residence places for workmen who will be enabled to raise on even a small lot their own vegetables. I certainly most heartily agree with "Resident," of Knappa, on the diked land proposition."

Still, no doubt animals of good draft power would be very beneficial in the cultivation of the soil in that tropical climate.

The promoters contemplate forming the company at an early date as possible, in order to be the first upon the ground, as at the present time the matter is receiving considerable attention in San Francisco, and also at different points on the Sound. It is the intention to place the shares at the par value of one hundred dollars each, in order that the energetic young bachelors can easily join the enterprise. However, one individual has expressed a willingness to subscribe one thousand dollars toward promoting it to a successful termination. They also realize that Astoria, in order to gain commercial supremacy of the Northwest coast, must branch out in trade relations with other cities and shores, and as the latter where the dusky maidens dwell can be made rich in the cultivation of tropical products, and by colonizing them with eligible young bachelors in quest of wives and good homes, a thriving and profitable trade can be built up, which in a very few years will be very beneficial to Astoria.

The main essential point that must first be considered is the enlistment of the bachelor fraternity into the scheme, as upon the willingness on their part to enter upon a life of marital bliss depends the success of the project. Some of the eligible young men that have been approached on the subject think it is a very favorable

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Captain Young surely has the material to select from. Much interest is manifested and the boys are training faithfully.

WHAT FRANCE THINKS.

Comments on Cleveland's Message by a Paris Journal.

Paris, December 8.—The Temps says that "President Cleveland worthily crowns his international administration, which bore the stamp of honesty," and adds: "The reference to Cuba, however, will satisfy neither side and we doubt the efficacy of his offer to guarantee the autonomy of Cuba. Spain will not think of agreeing to an arrangement making the United States the sovereign power in Cuba, while the rebels want independence or American annexation."

CONSPIRACY CHARGED.

San Francisco, December 8th.—Martin Julian stated today that he has evidence complete which will prove that a conspiracy was planned and operated against Fitzsimmons in the recent Fitzsimmons-Sharkey fight. Julian says that the parties to the conspiracy were Referee Earp, Danny Needham, Sharkey's trainer, and Dan Lynch, Sharkey's backer, and the National Club.

A BACHELOR'S VIEWS.

New Realm for Mankind in the South Pacific Ocean.

Astoria, December 7.—(Editor Astorian.)—Some few weeks ago bachelordom of the entire Pacific coast was thrown into an ecstasy of delight by the wonderful tale unfolded by Captain Bergman and crew of the American bark Big Bonanza, recently arrived in San Francisco from Oriental shores, where she had delivered a cargo of Oregon fir lumber that had been loaded aboard of her last June at the port of Skamokawa, as to a marvelous, manless Eden, or Garden of Paradise, where lovely types of female angels dwell.

In Astoria the narrative was read with interest and due consideration, as it partly solved a long-felt want, and a question that had caused many a young bachelor a restless night, and which had also been a disturbing element in their peaceful dreams.

Instantly a few of the older and wiser heads got together and held a mutual consultation, considering the fact that over two thousand husbandless maidens, lovely and forlorn, and in despair, simply because they had no legs lords at their disposal or mates of their bosom to counsel them in their daily cares to console them in their grief and sorrow, or share their joys and possessions.

The same men, acting upon that old adage that it is not wise for man to live alone, concluded to form a company and invite all of the eligible young men under forty-five (members of the bachelors' clubs included) to join in the undertaking and covet what they termed a valuable prize. But after a second thought they decided to delay the matter for a while, owing to the political agitation going on at the time. They feared that bachelor lawyers, book agents, real estate sharks or political cranks (whom they wished to exclude from membership) might gain admission into the enterprise and turn the same into either a political machine or a wild-cat booming speculation.

Nor did they care to allow into the scheme any of the hustled politicians that are continually harping about the security of money—the grinding power of the bankers and corporations—the free silver bubble, the assessment of money in banks, or of notes, stocks, bonds or other collateral security in hand; and last but not least those that are continually kicking because on the assessment rolls they do not appear under the category of horses, asses and mules.

Still, no doubt animals of good draft power would be very beneficial in the cultivation of the soil in that tropical climate. The promoters contemplate forming the company at an early date as possible, in order to be the first upon the ground, as at the present time the matter is receiving considerable attention in San Francisco, and also at different points on the Sound. It is the intention to place the shares at the par value of one hundred dollars each, in order that the energetic young bachelors can easily join the enterprise. However, one individual has expressed a willingness to subscribe one thousand dollars toward promoting it to a successful termination. They also realize that Astoria, in order to gain commercial supremacy of the Northwest coast, must branch out in trade relations with other cities and shores, and as the latter where the dusky maidens dwell can be made rich in the cultivation of tropical products, and by colonizing them with eligible young bachelors in quest of wives and good homes, a thriving and profitable trade can be built up, which in a very few years will be very beneficial to Astoria.

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ANTONIO MACEO KILLED IN BATTLE

Outwitted the Spaniards, but Fell After Crossing the Trocha.

YOUNG GOMEZ ALSO DEAD

Several Battles Reported and the Identification of the Body of Maceo Vouched For.

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Havana, December 8.—It is stated in the most positive terms by Spanish authorities that Antonio Maceo, the great insurgent leader and the heart and soul of the Cuban cause, has been killed in Havana province, after having effected a passage of the western trocha, near Mariel, at its north extremity. With the Cuban leader died the youth, Francisco Gomez, son of Maximo Gomez, who accompanied the mulatto general on his passage of the trocha. The most explicit details of the finding of the corpse of the fallen leader of the Cubans, and of the facts relied upon for identification, are at hand, through the report of the Spanish commander, Major Crujeada, who contested the passage of the trocha unsuccessfully on December 4 (last Friday) with Maceo, and who sustained another conflict yesterday with the forces under the insurgent leader.

It was in reconnaissance, after the latter engagement, that the Spaniards found the two corpses, not separated in death, which they identified as those of Antonio Maceo and Francisco Gomez. The authorities now permit the publication of Major Crujeada's report of the engagement with Maceo, on December 4, when he forced the trocha, and which was a fearful combat, which is the first official admission that Maceo brought with him across the trocha a considerable equipment following and fought a hot engagement to effect his passage. After the Cubans had passed into Havana province the Spanish commander effected a fresh concentration in that province and led the forces of Maceo. He had received confidential information of the proposed movements of the Cubans and arranged his forces accordingly. He had in addition received a detailed description of the horse which Maceo was to ride as well as of his caparisons. The expected battle occurred yesterday, but no details of the engagement are given for publication here.

After the fight the Spanish troops made a reconnaissance of the ground previously held by the Cubans. Here was found the two corpses lying together and indeed, almost locked in the embrace of death. One body was that of a mulatto, a stout man with gray, curly, curling hair, and the other that of a slender, dark-haired youth. Both were dressed in white linen duck suits. When the linen was removed from the corpse of the elder of the two it was found to have underneath it a fine undershirt with the initials A. M. upon it. A pair of black silk socks on this body contained the same initials, worked in red ink. There was a gold ring on the finger containing on the inner rim the engraved inscription, "Antonio Y. Maria." A revolver with an ivory handle and marked, together with a small gold mounted telescope, were also found on the body. The head of the younger man's body was resting upon the body of the first. There was found on it a silver watch, and ammunition bag and several handkerchiefs bearing the initials "F. G."

Havana, December 8.—There was much excitement here when it became known that Maceo had crossed the military line with it, it is understood, a strong force of insurgents, especially when coupled with the fighting between the Spanish troops and the insurgents close to the city.

It seems evident that the insurgents' commander has not only cleverly turned the flank of Captain-General Weyler, but has succeeded in getting on his rear and crossing the famous military line near the port which has been used as the base of supplies for the Spanish troops in Pinar del Rio. The importance of this movement cannot be exaggerated. The exact whereabouts of Weyler is not known, but he is believed to be hunting for Maceo in the mountains in the extreme eastern part of Pinar del Rio, while the insurgent chief has seemingly doubled on his tracks, turned the flank of the Spanish general, and passed in his rear in the direction of this city, crossing the military line at will and possibly being by this time in the vicinity of the capital of Cuba.

If Maximo Gomez has carried out the plan attributed to him, that of pushing westward to the support of Maceo, the junction of the two main bodies of insurgent forces may be expected shortly. Nothing appears to be known of the strength of the insurgent forces with Antonio Maceo in this province. Important events may occur within a short time. There is no doubt that the insurgents have recently increased in numbers about the capital. Bands of twenty and thirty bandits, met by the Spanish troops, have now swollen the insurgent forces from 2,000 to 4,000. It seems to be adopted and believed that

THE SECOND DAY IN CONGRESS

Republican Senatorial Caucus Attended With Sensational Features.

BILLS PASSED BY THE HOUSE

Pension Bill Changes and Three New Postal Regulations Passed—Country Delivery System.

Special to the Astorian.

Washington, Dec. 8.—The most noticeable feature of the Republican senatorial caucus today, as seen from the outside, was the absence of the men who bolted the nomination of McKinley because of the gold standard platform. Those absent on this account were: DuBois, Pettigrew, Mantle, Cannon, Squire and Teller. All except Teller were in the city and were invited to attend the caucus. That their absence was intentional was clearly shown after the following letter, read soon after the caucus was called to order, by Senator Sherman:

"Washington, December 8.—To the Hon. John Sherman, chairman of the caucus of Republican senators—Sir: I hereby respectfully present my resignation as secretary of the caucus of Republican senators. I also resign my position as a member and secretary of the Republican advisory or "steering" committee of the senate. (Signed) Fred T. DuBois."

DuBois' resignation was received without comment. Wilson, of Washington, was chosen secretary, and Shoup was placed on the steering committee in the place vacated by his colleague. The caucus also declared for an international agreement on silver by agreeing to the following resolution introduced by Wolcott:

"Resolved, That a special committee of five members of this caucus be appointed to recommend some plan whereby legislation may be had in this session of congress looking to international conference with the leading commercial nations of the world on the promotion of bimetallism."

Washington, December 8.—The house without wasting time, proceeded to business today, and before the session closed had passed three bills of considerable importance and the first of the returning supply bills, that for pensions. Three of the bills related to postal matters. One provided for the use of private mailing cards, of the same general size and character as the present postal card, when one cent stamps are affixed. Another provided for a limited indemnity of \$10 for the loss of registered mail matter, and the third provided for private carrier service in towns and villages where no free delivery exists. It provides that on application of twenty persons receiving their mail at the same office, the postmaster shall appoint such persons as are willing to undertake the collection and delivery of mail; that the charge is not to exceed one cent for each letter and that the charge shall be paid by the beneficiaries.

The pension bill was passed without factious opposition, but Mr. Grow took occasion in the debate to submit some views in favor of higher tariff duties, based on that portion of the president's message relating to tariff. The pension bill carries \$141,363,880, about \$75,000 less than the law for the current year. Notice was given by Thomas E. Watson of Georgia, who was elected at a special election last spring, which was read to the house and referred to the committee on elections.

Washington, December 8.—The action of the Republican senatorial caucus in referring the Dingley tariff bill to its steering committee, and the circumstances under which this action was taken, are accepted in the senate as practically an end of the agitation in the interest of the measure. The debate in the caucus developed that there was a wide difference of opinion as to the advisability of attempting to pass the bill, even among the Republicans, and the opinion was expressed by some who were on the inside that fully one-third of the Republican senators, not including the bolting senators, were antagonistic to the bill.

WOLLEN MILLS RESUME. Albany, Or., December 8.—Judge I. Flinn, receiver of the Albany Wollen Mills, returned today from San Francisco where he secured sufficient contracts to justify starting the mills. The factory, which has been idle several weeks, will be started in a few days.

Meany is the leading tailor, and pays the highest cash price for fur skins.

STREET CAR HELD UP. Portland, December 8.—A Mount Tabor motor car was held up late tonight at the terminus of the road near Mount Tabor, by two men. The conductor and motorman were preparing to start back to town when one of the men fired a shot, hitting the conductor in the leg. It is not known how much money the robbers secured.

THE MARKETS. Portland, December 8.—Wheat—Walla Walla, 81c; Valley, 82c. Liverpool, December 8.—Wheat, spot, quiet; demand, poor; No. 2 red spring, 6s 10c; No. 1 California, 7s 4d. Futures—November, 6s 8 1/2d. Hope—at London, 45 3/4.

STEAMBOATS LIABLE. New York, December 8.—Under a decision by the court of appeals today, a steamboat company is liable for money and valuables stolen from a stateroom while the room is actually occupied by a passenger.

Highest of all in Leavening Power.—Latest U. S. Gov't Report.

Royal Baking Powder
ABSOLUTELY PURE