

Daily Astorian.

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The Weekly Astorian, the second oldest weekly in the state of Oregon, has next to the Portland Oregonian, the largest weekly circulation in the state.

John F. Hamley & Co. are our Portland agents, and copies of the Astorian can be had every morning at their stand, 12th Street.

It is good news from Washington that both the gold and silver men in congress propose to learn what instructions were given the bimetallic commission by the McKinley administration, and by what authority Senator Wootton declared in the French ambassador at the conference in London that he and his associates were empowered under certain conditions to accept a proposition for free coinage at the ratio of 15% to 1. There has been a great deal of mystery about this mission from the start, and both sides are sick of it. It is also encouraging to hear reports of a growing feeling among the politicians who have tried to keep in with both elements that the game cannot be played any longer, and that they must take sides definitely, one way or the other. It will be an immense gain if the issue can be forced to a head in this way at the present session of congress.

Whether or not, as is the common talk, the ordinance, introduced by Chairman McGregor of the fire and water committee, to take the control of the fire department from that committee and place it in the hands of the council as a whole, is an act of cowardice and revenge, it is certainly not a movement which meets with general approval and is a step that the council cannot consistently authorize. There is no good reason for making so radical a change and there are many reasons why the management of the fire department, one of the most important institutions connected with the city government, should remain with the committee which always governed it. A committee of three men, who give all their public time and work to one department, is certainly better able to conduct its affairs than the council as a whole, where no one member gives special attention to the matters to be considered. It is not probable, however, that at special or regular session the council will pass so injudicious and unpopular a measure.

Senators and representatives who have been importuning the president for offices for their friends receive little satisfaction. The president informed a western senator that he did not think the subject of offices should be considered as important as several other matters with which congress will have to deal. He explained that he was not inclined to dispose of the patronage still remaining until congress had properly dealt with other matters of public interest. The president talked a good deal about the necessity for economy, and appeared anxious that members of congress should give him assurances that they would not swell the appropriations. He pointed out to his visitors that upon the record made by the present congress the republican party will have to go before the people in November next on state and congressional elections. He also manifested a desire to have congress acquiesce in his plan for the establishment of a currency commission on one of the lines suggested by him in the message sent to congress on the last day of the extra session.

It is singular that congress has not long ago enacted a sound bankruptcy law. Tom Torrey's bill, which has been before it in some form for several years, provides for an equitable distribution among all creditors of all the assets in the debtors' possession at the moment he begins to take any steps denoting an insolvent condition. This is right and just, and there is no reason why a law embodying this principle shall not be passed. At the present time insolvency is regulated by state laws. There is no uniformity, except that they very generally permit debtors to cheat creditors. This is done by the system which allows preferences among creditors. As soon as a man discovers that he cannot meet his obligations, he makes one or more persons his preferred creditors. After their claims are satisfied, the balance, which does not usually materialize, is divided among the other creditors. The result of this is that many men have more money after failing than they had before. They have by preference credits transferred to their own pockets, the property that really belonged to other people. To stop this, the Torrey bill provides that a man

shall be declared a bankrupt as soon as his conduct discloses the existence of such a condition. Naturally all persons anxious to swindle their creditors are opposed to it. All the commercial interests of the country are in favor of it, and congress should not let this session pass without action.

There is a vast deal of misinformation in current Washington news concerning the chances of Hawaiian annexation. An effort is making to have the people suppose there is no hope of the treaty's ratification by the senate, and therefore that the whole scheme is dead. To this end alleged polls of the senate have been reported. There are not trustworthy, however. Names of senators appear in the list of anti-annexationists who are really in the doubtful column. That is, while they may doubt the wisdom of annexation, they will vote for it if a good enough reason for such a course can be shown. However, even if the senate will not furnish the requisite two-thirds which are required by the ratification of a treaty, that will not give a death-blow to the annexation project. A concurrent resolution for annexation according to the terms of the treaty will be introduced in the house. It will require a simple majority of both houses to pass it, not a two-thirds vote. A majority is secured in the senate as well as in the house, and the signature of the president is of course certain, as he took strong ground in favor of annexation in his message. The house committee on foreign affairs has already appointed a sub-committee, one of whose duties is to prepare such a joint resolution, which will be all ready should the senate fail to ratify the treaty. Hence it is pretty certain that, unless there is a decided change of opinion among many senators and representatives, the annexation of Hawaii will be accomplished.

ELECTIONS FOR 1898.

Politically, the year 1898 comes midway between presidential campaigns and is the time for the election of the representatives to the second congress of the presidential term. It is thus the opening engagement for the battle of 1900.

All the states will choose representatives in congress, and about one-third of them will choose legislatures which will elect United States senators for the senatorial terms beginning on March 4, 1900. The following states will also elect governors:

Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nebraska, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

Every state will thus have an election of some kind on its hands, and as the contests involve the political dominance of the house of representatives for the two closing years of President McKinley's term, they will be fought on national lines, and fall but little short of a presidential campaign in interest and importance.

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Soft, white hands with shaped Nails, Lustrous Health Clean, Wholesome, and produced by Curity. It is the most effective skin softening and beautifying soap in the world, as well as perfume and sunbathe, for toilet, or laboratory. The only preventive of inflammation and clogging of the pores.

Citicura
Soaps, Skin Softener, the world's finest. For use in bath, shower, toilet, and hair washes.

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AYER'S Sarsaparilla

Is the original Sarsaparilla, the standard of the world. Others have imitated the remedy. They can't imitate the record.

50 Years of Cures**MARINE NEWS.****Tide table for December, 1897**

DATE	HIGH WATER		LOW WATER	
	A. M.	P. M.	A. M.	P. M.
Wednesday, 1	8:06 A.M.	9:15 A.M.	6:15 P.M.	7:24 P.M.
Thursday, 2	8:07 A.M.	9:16 A.M.	6:16 P.M.	7:25 P.M.
Friday, 3	8:08 A.M.	9:17 A.M.	6:17 P.M.	7:26 P.M.
Saturday, 4	8:09 A.M.	9:18 A.M.	6:18 P.M.	7:27 P.M.
SUNDAY, 5	8:10 A.M.	9:19 A.M.	6:19 P.M.	7:28 P.M.
Monday, 6	8:11 A.M.	9:20 A.M.	6:20 P.M.	7:29 P.M.
Tuesday, 7	8:12 A.M.	9:21 A.M.	6:21 P.M.	7:30 P.M.
Wednesday, 8	8:13 A.M.	9:22 A.M.	6:22 P.M.	7:31 P.M.
Thursday, 9	8:14 A.M.	9:23 A.M.	6:23 P.M.	7:32 P.M.
Friday, 10	8:15 A.M.	9:24 A.M.	6:24 P.M.	7:33 P.M.
Saturday, 11	8:16 A.M.	9:25 A.M.	6:25 P.M.	7:34 P.M.
SUNDAY, 12	8:17 A.M.	9:26 A.M.	6:26 P.M.	7:35 P.M.
Monday, 13	8:18 A.M.	9:27 A.M.	6:27 P.M.	7:36 P.M.
Tuesday, 14	8:19 A.M.	9:28 A.M.	6:28 P.M.	7:37 P.M.
Wednesday, 15	8:20 A.M.	9:29 A.M.	6:29 P.M.	7:38 P.M.
Thursday, 16	8:21 A.M.	9:30 A.M.	6:30 P.M.	7:39 P.M.
Friday, 17	8:22 A.M.	9:31 A.M.	6:31 P.M.	7:40 P.M.
Saturday, 18	8:23 A.M.	9:32 A.M.	6:32 P.M.	7:41 P.M.
SUNDAY, 19	8:24 A.M.	9:33 A.M.	6:33 P.M.	7:42 P.M.
Monday, 20	8:25 A.M.	9:34 A.M.	6:34 P.M.	7:43 P.M.
Tuesday, 21	8:26 A.M.	9:35 A.M.	6:35 P.M.	7:44 P.M.
Wednesday, 22	8:27 A.M.	9:36 A.M.	6:36 P.M.	7:45 P.M.
Thursday, 23	8:28 A.M.	9:37 A.M.	6:37 P.M.	7:46 P.M.
Friday, 24	8:29 A.M.	9:38 A.M.	6:38 P.M.	7:47 P.M.
Saturday, 25	8:30 A.M.	9:39 A.M.	6:39 P.M.	7:48 P.M.
SUNDAY, 26	8:31 A.M.	9:40 A.M.	6:40 P.M.	7:49 P.M.
Monday, 27	8:32 A.M.	9:41 A.M.	6:41 P.M.	7:50 P.M.
Tuesday, 28	8:33 A.M.	9:42 A.M.	6:42 P.M.	7:51 P.M.
Wednesday, 29	8:34 A.M.	9:43 A.M.	6:43 P.M.	7:52 P.M.
Thursday, 30	8:35 A.M.	9:44 A.M.	6:44 P.M.	7:53 P.M.
Friday, 31	8:36 A.M.	9:45 A.M.	6:45 P.M.	7:54 P.M.

MARINE NOTES.

The Manzanita will leave out to land supplies on Tillamook rock, as soon as the weather will permit.

The British ship Province carries 30,233 bushels of wheat valued at \$75,351, and is bound for Queenstown or Falmouth.

The Alaska steamer Elder sailed for Mary Island yesterday at 2 o'clock. Her freight capacity was all occupied, and consisted principally of general merchandise.

The steamer Protection, from San Francisco, in ballast, arrived yesterday afternoon and proceeded up to Portland where she loads lumber for Morse landing at the North Pacific mill.

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Lydiate, Forrest, Br sh. 250 tons, Shanghai.
Glenelg, Taylor, Br sh. 184 tons, Royal Roads.

Orontes, Bain, Br sh. 124 tons, Sydney.

St. Enoch, Laird, Br sh. 182 tons, Shanghai.

Windham, Walker, Br bk. 162 tons, Adelaid.

Oriental, Ruth, Br sh. 166 tons, Santa Rosalia.

Algo, Kuhmann, Ger sh. 302 tons, Santa Rosalia.

Nittsukai, Stevens, Br sh. 165 tons, Nagasaki.

Romanoff, Morgan, Br sh. 162 tons, New Zealand, Australia.

Foothill, Peterson, Br bk. 160 tons, Hongkong.

Gwynedd, Davies, Br bk. 163 tons, Hongkong.

Puritan, —, Br sh. 325 tons, Kobe.

Lumit, —, Br sh. 325 tons, Kobe.

Lumber Fleet.

Vessels on the Way and in Columbia River to Load Lumber.

Laura