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THE DAILY ASTORIAN is the
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VOL. XLIX.

ASTORIA, OREGON, SUNDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 25, 1898

NO. 112

The Only Stove Store
... IN ASTORIA ...

Our Specialty: STOVES AND RANGES

We know the business. Twenty years experience. If you want a
GOOD Stove, see the stock at the

Eclipse Hardware Co.

Christmas!

A FEW GENTLE REMINDERS.

We have a magnificent stock and we want you to see it, we have many novelties not found elsewhere. We call your attention to our

BOOKS

Here is where we shine. We have them in all kinds of beautiful bindings, leather, cloth, buckram and fancy bindings. Juvenile books, standard books, Webster's and Standard dictionaries, Bibles, Prayer books, scrap books, etc. The finest line of albums ever displayed in Astoria. Don't overlook our 2 cent cloth bound books they are beautiful.



Griffin & Reed.

Christmas Presents FOR ALL.

Silver-Plated Ware
Chinaware, Glassware

WHITE SEWING MACHINES

Carving Sets, Etc

Look Over Our Stock Before You Buy.

Foard & Stokes Co.

An Ideal Gift...

You cannot take a small amount of money and buy a Christmas gift half so useful as a

Pair of Good Slippers.

We have the largest assortment ever shown in the city, at the very lowest prices.

John Hahn,

The Reliable Shoe Dealer.

Ladies, Gents and Children

Handkerchiefs

In Linen Silk and Lawn

ENDLESS VARIETY.

ALL PRICES.

C. H. Cooper,

THE LEADING HOUSE OF ASTORIA

DRESS SUITS

Fl. nnigan's Definition of Them.

N' phat's dress suits, anyway? The difference between a laddy's an' men's dress suit is in the way you look at it; they's both cut de collect, which in plain fashion means: cut low down from the top iv the collar bone to the middle iv the wish bone; but there is a difference. A gentleman, when he wears a dress suit, he displays the bosom iv a white shirt; a laddy, when he wears a dress suit displays the bosom iv no white shirt. I wore a dress suit wunst, an' that was at O'Hoolihan's wake. The hostess interposed me to Mr. O'Donovan, an' who is this Mr. O'Donovan, sez I; oh, he's a civil engineer, sez she; a civil engineer, sez I; the next thing I know, I'll meet a civil conductor, or a civil porter; they're all civil enough when ye don't hev any business with 'em.

Talking about dress suits, in course we hev 'em, but our shroing pint is, solid, sensible business suits; we have the sack suit with round or square corners, three of four button cutaways—fer that matter, they're all cut away in the price.

We also have shmal by's suits, an' suits that'll fit larger byes and byes.

An' then we have hats with a little German bend an' French lings an' 'Turkish bath sweat bands.

An' then we have a hat machine that'll turn the wrinkles out iv yer hat, the mornin' after ye have shroon off.

An' then we have soft hats, Fedoras an' Lapdoras; we have caps—night caps an' caps de climax (that's Princh).

An' then we have Xmas presents that's both useful and ornamental.

I'd like to write more about our goods an' our prices, an' about what happened to Jones, but I've ketch'd a cold in me head, so that I can't go ahead with me story, so long.

Throo'ly yours,
FLANNIGAN,
In Care iv HERMAN WISE,
The Reliable Clothier & Hatter,
P. S.—Johnson, the rain maker, sez it'll be a clear day on Xmas mornin', if it don't rain betwix 11 o'clock Xmas eve an' 11 o'clock Xmas mornin'. I'll write on pants in me next effort.

FIRST PLACE FOR AMERICA

This is the Rank the Country Is Striding to in Alignment of Powers.

DICTATES MONEY RATES

For the First Time in the History of Finance Money Values Center in New York.

ALL EUROPE IS ALARMED

Giant Strides of the United States to Her Rightful Place Attracts Attention—The Week in London.

(Copyrighted, 1898, by Associated Press.)
LONDON, Dec. 24.—It is no exaggeration to assert that the foremost topic compelling attention in Europe in general and Great Britain in particular, over-shadowing the evils of domestic politics, is the remarkably aggressive commercial policy which the United States is manifesting. Hardly a newspaper review or public speaker during the past month has failed to notice with what giant strides America is coming into first place in the alignment of the powers. It is certainly the chief subject of conversation on Lombard street and on continental bourses.

The manager of one of the greatest London banks recently drew an American business man into his private office and said, in an awestruck tone: "This is the first time in the history of finance that New York has been in a position to dictate money rates to London, Berlin and Paris."

LONDON SOCIETY EVENTS.

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LONDON, Dec. 24.—Muggy December is winding up with a cold snap which promises a seasonable rule tide.

THE PARKER HOUSE

First-Class in Every Respect.

BAR AND BILLIARD ROOM

Special Rates to Theatrical Parties

A. J. MASON, Prop.
ASTORIA, ORE.

THE PROOF

of the pudding is in the eating and the proof of liquors

IS IN SAMPLING

That's an argument that's conclusive—a demonstration. Ours will stand the test.

HUGHES & CO.

All society has flocked to the country seats where the guests are gathering for the Christmas parties. The Duke and Duchess of Devonshire are entertaining lavishly at Chiswick House, Berkshire, where about two hundred guests, including Mr. Henry White, the United States charge d'affaires, and Mrs. White, and Lord George Hamilton, the secretary of state for India, will sleep during the next fortnight. The duke and duchess of Marlborough have a large party of relatives and friends at Blenheim, and their well stocked covert will be shot over. The Marlboroughs are negotiating for the purchase of the Sefton house, one of the largest mansions in London. It is adapted for entertaining on a generous scale. The Duchess of Marlborough distributed the prizes at the girls' high school at Oxford this week.

The Prince of Wales has a house party at Sandringham, but it is very quiet, owing to the fact of the princess's mourning. Mr. Christopher Sykes and the late Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild, Mr. Sykes, who inherited an immense fortune, practically ruined himself in "going the pace" with the Prince of Wales.

Queen Victoria will spend Christmas at Osborne House, Isle of Wight, in the old-fashioned way. A royal baron of beef will adorn the sideboard of the royal dining room, flanked by the time-honored bear's head and game pie.

The home secretary this week released another Fenian, Terence McDermott, one of the Glasgow dynamites who was sentenced to imprisonment for life at penal servitude in 1883. He does not appear to be any the worse for his punishment, and says he has done with dynamiting and will start in life afresh with the few pounds he has earned in prison.

There was a large gathering at Westminster town hall on Wednesday to witness the marriage of Dr. Stanton Cole, lecturer of the West London Ethical Society and formerly of New York City,

to Adela Wolcott. An "Ethical" ceremony was performed by Frederick Harrison immediately after the civil ceremony. The hall was decorated with plants and flowers, but the congregation was soberly attired. Mr. Harrison delivered an address on "Ethical Ideas of Wedlock."

T. P. O'Connor's "Mainly About People," referring to the report that the Earl of Shaftesbury is engaged to Miss Goolet, says that it is more probable that the fortunate young man will be the handsome Irish Viscount Grosvenor, eldest son of the fourth Earl of Epsom and lieutenant and adjutant in the Royal Horse Guards. His family are said to be desirous of securing the match, and Miss Goolet is always seen with some member of the family at all the smart functions over here.

There is considerable bitterness in the French royalist circles because the queen has not entertained the Duke and Duchess of Orleans, who are now in England, although her majesty has received a broad hint from the court at Vienna that such an invitation would be particularly acceptable at the present moment. Queen Victoria, however, while she had a great regard for the late Count of Paris, does not like his son. Moreover, in view of the present royalist intrigues in France, her majesty has avoided special attention to French royalists from political motives.

Sad news has been received regarding the condition of the Princess Louise of Coburg, daughter of the King of Belgium, whose name figured in a painful scandal during the early part of the year and who has since been confined in a private asylum in Austria. The Princess, who was married to Prince Philip of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, eloped with Lieutenant Metzelevitch-Kaelevitch in the latter part of January last. The prince later fought a duel with the lieutenant with pistols and then, with sword and was severely injured in the right arm. He subsequently took steps to obtain a divorce from the princess. The mind of the princess is steadily giving away and there is now little hope of her ever regaining her intellect.

The king of Italy will receive a curious Christmas greeting in the shape of 80,000 post cards praying for amnesty for the political prisoners convicted in connection with the recent troubles in Italy. The signers are sympathizers with the prisoners and they have succeeded in a monster petition to parliament in the same sense. The post cards bear the portraits of the imprisoned deputies and editors, and will reach the king Christmas morning.

The Sheffield Independent announces "on the highest authority" that the Duke of York will not go to the United States in 1899, contrary to reports that he might do so.

SPANISH COMMISSION ACTED IN BAD FAITH.

Refused to Furnish Copies of Crown Property in Cuba, as Requested by the American Commission.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—The World publishes the following interview with Rear Admiral Sampson regarding the work of the Cuban evacuation commission, of which he was a member.

"It is practically complete," he said. "We have reached a satisfactory agreement upon all points except one, which I confess, is likely to lead to considerable future trouble, but will not lead to a renewal of hostilities. The commission was carefully instructed by the government to obtain a complete inventory of every piece of crown property upon which just claim could be laid. This was to extend to every province. Not a foot of land that formerly belonged to Spain was to be overlooked.

"We have our own source of information, and immediately upon arrival took occasion to secure the originals or authentic copies of certain records. When, however, we asked the Spanish representatives on the commission for such an inventory we were told that it had been carefully made and sent to the peace commissioners. I was then demanded a copy, which no doubt the Spaniards could easily have furnished. We waited two weeks, but never received it. There is every reason to believe that the Spaniards had instructions from Madrid not to give it to us. This was an act of bad faith. Trouble is sure to arise sooner or later out of this matter, because the United States will never budge an inch."

"In what way did they attempt to hide the existence of crown property?" was asked.

"Much of it and many of the buildings have been secretly transferred to private individuals and corporations, especially religious corporations. This underground work began some time ago, but most of it has been done since the surrender of Santiago. The sales are not valid in equity. The same rule will hold regarding all the transfers of Spanish government buildings to second parties."

"What were the facts at Santiago?" he was then asked.

"They were very different from the representations made at the time of the surrender," replied the rear admiral. "For example, General Wood was told that the Spanish government absolutely owned no property in Santiago except the naval hospital. It was asserted that all other government buildings, even the custom house and the palace of the governor of the province, were leased from private individuals. This was untrue. The attempt to swindle the Cubans out of their just rights was too flimsy to be overlooked by the United States as the custodians of their interests. The commission is in possession of most of the original records and no fear need be felt that trickery of this kind will succeed."

SLOAN VISITS HIS PARENTS.

KOKOMO, Ind., Dec. 24.—Jockey Tom Sloan has arrived here to spend Christmas with his foster parents, Mr. and Mrs. D. G. Blosser. This is Tom's first visit home since the beginning of his turf career, ten years ago.

G. A. R. INDORESB MCKINLEY.

MILWAUKEE, Wis., Dec. 24.—Walcott Post, the largest G. A. R. post in the state, at a meeting has adopted resolutions endorsing the sentiments expressed by President McKinley on his recent trip south.

MUST HANG FOR MURDER

Awful Crime for Which a Topeka Youth Will Suffer the Penalty.

MURDERED HIS FATHER

Committed the Crime That He Might Acquire the Old Man's Life Insurance.

CLEAR CASE AGAINST HIM

Unsuccessfully Attempted to Bribe Negroes to Commit the Crime—Probable Murder Case at Spokane.

TOPEKA, Kas., Dec. 24.—"Guilty of murder in the first degree" was the verdict returned tonight in the case of John Henry Collins, charged with the murder of his father, James S. Collins, a prominent real estate and insurance agent of Topeka, who was shot as he lay asleep in bed early one morning in May last.

John Henry Collins, the convict, was a student in the Kansas state university and a licensed lay reader of the leading Protestant Episcopal church of Topeka. The motive of the crime was found in the youth's greed for money which would come to him upon the death of his father. The elder Collins carried \$25,000 life insurance and it was provided that this amount \$5000 should go to the son. The young student was enamored of Miss Frances Babcock, of Lawrence, whose family is considered wealthy, and the trial developed the fact that Collins had lived beyond his allowance.

Jose Harper, of Lawrence, and Johnson Jordan, of Topeka, two notorious negroes, swore that Collins had hired Johnson to assassinate his father. The negroes, after securing money and valuables from the youth, refused to carry out their contract, and then, according to their testimony, Collins boasted that he would do the job himself.

He came to Topeka from Lawrence, pleading sickness, and retired at the usual hour, and, according to the theory of the state, rose before daylight and shot his father as the latter lay asleep in his bed. One of his first acts after the murder was to run to a telephone office and dispatch a message to Miss Babcock in which he said: "Father is dead; tell nothing."

EVIDENCE OF AN AWFUL CRIME.

Spokane, Dec. 24.—The charred bodies of two men were found this morning in the embrace of the chimney burned last night, five miles north of this city. Eight woodchoppers were living in the cabin. Yesterday they were paid off, and all but Archie Carroll and Oscar King came to the city to celebrate Christmas.

There was a gallon of whisky in the cabin and it was at first thought that the men drank themselves into a drunken stupor and perished in the burning building. Blood was found in the snow in front of the cabin, and this and other suspicious circumstances suggested the possibility of a crime. The suspicion deepened when it was found that Billy Banks and Jack Davis, two of the six men who came to town last night, parted from the others and stated that they intended to return to the cabin. They have not since been seen.

The officers have a theory that they returned to the cabin Friday night, quarreled with Carroll and King, and were murdered. It is thought that Carroll and King, after killing Banks and Davis, fled or went into hiding. They came here from Kentucky about two months ago.

GENERAL OTIS ORDERED TO TAKE POSSESSION OF ILOILO.

Admiral Dewey to Detail the Concord and Charleston to Aid the Troops—Spain's Only Foothold.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—A special to "Tom" Washington says: Secretary Taft has cabled General Otis at Manila to take possession of Iloilo at once. The step is taken in advance of formal relinquishment of sovereignty by Spain on account of the situation there, it is supposed. Iloilo is the only port in the Philippines now under Spanish control, and it has been one constant fight with the insurgents to retain control. Admiral Dewey reported recently that the Spaniards were holding Iloilo with eight hundred soldiers and that the citizens had asked him for warships to protect them. General Otis will probably send two regiments, and Admiral Dewey is expected to detail the Concord and Charleston to aid the troops. The Spaniards will willingly relinquish authority over Iloilo, it is understood, as they know they must evacuate soon. What the insurgents will do remains to be seen, but there is little fear in Washington of a serious clash, though the soldiers will be prepared for any emergency.

The war department has no confirmation of the rumor that the insurgents have captured Iloilo. Should it prove true, General Otis may find some difficulty in dislodging them. It is hoped that the report is false, as this government wants to occupy that position before the rebels get a foothold.

Secretary Alger has issued no orders for taking any other point in the Philippines, and he intimates no further step toward the occupancy of the group will be taken until the treaty of peace is ratified.

The proclamation to be issued then has been mailed to General Otis, but it becomes necessary to assume control of the whole archipelago, before the rat-

ification of the peace treaty, the proclamation will be cabled for earlier promulgation. This proclamation contains nothing not embraced in proclamations issued for Santiago and Porto Rico.

PEACE COMMISSIONERS ARE HOME FROM PARIS.

Arrived at New York Yesterday, But Returned to the Hotel de Ville Also Returns From Europe.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—The United States peace commissioners arrived on the St. Louis today. Holding that the rules governing their diplomatic mission are still in force, some of the commissioners would speak regarding their work at Paris. They took the first train for Washington, carrying with them the treaty of peace, which was placed in President McKinley's hands late this afternoon.

The Filipino envoys, Aguinaldo and Lopez, following closely on the heels of the peace commissioners, returned to this city today on the Eturia. They will go to Washington, where they will await the arrival of Juan Luna, General Riego de Eros and Dr. T. Josa, special commissioners sent out by Aguinaldo to the American government.

"Are you still opposed to the annexation of the Philippines to the United States?" Aguinaldo was asked.

"Certainly I am, and why should not I? Has not Admiral Dewey, in his official communication to the United States government, said that the people of the Philippines are more fitted for self-government than those of Cuba? Dewey's word ought to have some weight, and is it right to keep my countrymen back when you promise freedom to the people of Cuba?"

CELEBRATED CASE ENDED.

ALBANY, N. Y., Dec. 24.—State Superior Judge of Public Instruction Charles Skinner has given a decision in the celebrated case of Edward Krysar, who was expelled from the action of the board of education of Poughkeepsie in leasing for school purposes two buildings owned by St. Peter's Roman Catholic church and the employment as teachers of two sisters of charity, who dressed in the garb peculiar to their religious sect and are addressed usually in school by their Christian names provided by the term "sister."

Superintendent Skinner holds that the wearing of religious garb by teachers constitutes a sectarian influence which ought not to be persisted in, and that the same may be said of the language in which such teachers are addressed, and he holds that the continued leasing of school buildings for school purposes is not warranted as an emergency measure. He directs that all these practices be discontinued.

N. P. S TITLE INVALID.

SEATTLE, Dec. 24.—The title of the Northern Pacific Railroad to nearly 8,000,000 acres of land in the state of Washington is invalid, according to the majority report of the special state legislative investigating committee. The legislature will be urged to make up the matter with a view to restoring this immense tract to the public domain. The legality of this transfer of granted lands of the Northern Pacific in this state from the old Northern Pacific Railroad Company, which received the lands under an act of congress to the Northern Pacific Company of Wisconsin, a corporation which succeeded the old company in the possession of the line and its property of every description.

DR. HAMILTON DEAD.

CHICAGO, Dec. 24.—Dr. John B. Hamilton, ex-surgeon general of the United States marine hospital service, died in Elgin, Ill., tonight. For over a year he has been superintendent of the asylum for the insane at Elgin, and it was within the walls of that institution that he breathed his last. While on a visit east two weeks since Dr. Hamilton was attacked by a severe cold and in a few days peritonitis developed. In spite of everything that could be done he grew sicker, and on December 18 it was decided by Dr. Nicholas Seem that an operation was necessary to save the patient's life. The operation was performed and at its conclusion Dr. Seem stated that in his opinion Dr. Hamilton had no chance of recovery.

CASE GOES TO THE JURY.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—Fayne Strahan Moore, accused of "badgering" Martin Mahon, appeared in court again today and issued while Recorder Goff charged the jury in her case. The jury retired to consider the verdict at 1:40 p. m. The jury came into the courtroom several times during the noon and midnight for instructions, inquiring particularly regarding the punishment which would go with conviction of robbery in the second degree. The recorder instructed the jury that they must not find their verdict simply to meet the punishment. The law fixes the punishment, he said, and with it the juryman had nothing to do. The jury was locked up at 3 o'clock for the night, having failed to agree upon a verdict.

ISLANDS AT NORFOLK.

NORFOLK, Va., Dec. 24.—The captured Spanish gunboats Alvarado and Sandoval arrived here today from Guantanamo, Cuba, under command of Lieutenant Blue and Anderson.

ROYAL Baking Powder

Made from pure cream of tartar.

Safeguards the food against alum.

Alum baking powders are the greatest menaces to health of the present day.