

Morning Astorian

Established 1873.

DAILY EXCEPT MONDAY.



RATES.

By mail, per year \$6 00
 By mail, per month 50
 By carriers, per month 60

THE SEMI-WEEKLY ASTORIAN.

By mail, per year, in advance \$1 00

ASTORIAN PUBLISHING COMPANY.

AS TO RIVER IMPROVEMENT.

The Portland Journal, which recently constituted itself an authority on the subject of quality of jetty rock to an extent that made it ridiculous in the eyes of the state, is out with a declaration as to the manner in which river improvements should be made. There is one excellent feature of the Journal's discourse: it urges improvement of the river at Vancouver. This is a needed improvement, would cost a comparatively small sum of money, and should no longer be disregarded. The people of Vancouver are just as much entitled to moderate depth as the people of any other community, and, especially in view of the fact that the United States maintains a large barracks there, the depth should be provided.

But the Journal, as is customary when discussing harbor improvements, runs off the track. "In addition to this (improvement of the river entrance) a campaign should be inaugurated in the line of permanent improvements in the channel of the Columbia river clear to the mouth. The same theory that is being followed at the mouth should be put in operation clear up to Vancouver. Dikes must be built at various points so as to concentrate the channel of the river so that it will sweep itself clean."

Our advice to the engineers is to get along with just as few dikes as possible. We of the lower river country have had ample experience with the diking system to know that it is an utter failure. The dikes now in the river above Astoria have almost ruined our harbor and it is the belief of many of those well posted that those dikes have been responsible for the continued shoaling of the bar. It is reasonable to suppose that river depths can be increased at places only at the expense of other places by means of this antiquated diking system. "Jetties," as they call these infernal devices, have been planted in the Columbia above Astoria until it is essential to keep dredges at work to offset the damage they wreak.

The dredging method is the only proper one to employ in inland river improvements. Fifteen years ago there was less than 18 feet of water in the Portland channel. Now the depth the year round will average more than 22 feet. This result was attained by dredging. Jetties, it must be admitted, have helped a few very bad places along the river, but they have done so much damage elsewhere as to have proved conclusively their utter worthlessness. Harbor improvements for the benefit of our community must not be made at the expense of any other community.

DEMOCRACY'S CANDIDATE.

The Boston Post, a democratic organ, undoubtedly orthodox in all respects, is convinced that "the masses of the republican party want Roosevelt for their candidate, and will undoubtedly get him." Taking this fact as settled, it gravely, and after its own staid fashion, admonishes New England democrats to this effect:

"What this means from the democratic standpoint is that the candidate in opposition must be a level-headed, conservative man, who will get not only the votes of his own party, but those of republicans who feel that Theodore Roosevelt is not a safe man to hold the destinies of this republic for four years more. With the republican nomination settled this early in the season, the democrats have ample choice."

This is all very well, but who is this level headed conservative democrat? Where can he be found? Doubtless Mr. Bryan and Mr. Hearst will have to be passed up as not meeting the requirements, at least in the opinion of the Post and its constituency Mr. Gorman would follow next, his course in the senate, recently, having tended to lessen rather than to increase any reputation for head levelness that he may have had. Mr. Cleveland is out of the question for reasons he has himself given, and, for others Mr. Williams, of Illinois, and Mr. Wall, of Wisconsin, are not well enough known to democrats outside their own states to command either confidence or respect. There remains Mr. Olney and Judge Parker both level-headed enough and conservative enough perhaps, but can they get the votes of their own

party? What votes could they get from the republican party? inquires the Ledger.

If there are any "republicans who feel that Theodore Roosevelt is not a safe man to hold the destinies of this republic for four years more," possibly one or both of these candidates could get their votes. It is probable, however, that their number is not sufficiently large to seriously affect the results in even a single state.

What the democrats seem to need more than anything the Post has mentioned is a handful, or such a matter of principles, which a sufficient number of people could believe in to form a party. It also needs a candidate that a united party could support. At present it is evidently short of both these things. The members of what once was the democratic party could not now unite in support of one-half the declarations of the platforms of 1896 or 1900. They are not agreed as to a financial policy; there is no harmony of opinion among them as to how the trusts are to be regulated or controlled, nor as to what is to be done with our insular possessions; they are not united on the canal question. They no longer hold to the ancient democratic view with regard to the tariff, many of them admitting that the policy of protection is now established and must needs be maintained.

This being the condition of things, and it no doubt is the condition of things, it is a great deal more likely that Mr. Roosevelt will get votes from democrats who will not be able to support the candidate who will be nominated at St. Louis than that any democrat will be found who can break the republican line.

EARLY IMPORTANCE OF THE ISTHMUS.

The politicians who are trying to obstruct the president, and are encouraging the Bogota government to recover dominion of the isthmus, in order to apply to it that policy of eastern isolation which Lewis Cass said we "must not permit," seem to have closed their eyes to history and their patriotism to all the promptings of American aspiration, says the Call.

In 1827 the chairman of the naval committee of the house in the nineteenth congress, Mr. Storrs, made a report on "communication across the isthmus of Panama." It recommended an appropriation to build two schooners and to rebuild the Nonesuch, for the purpose of conveying mails and keeping us in touch with our naval forces. Mr. Storrs said: "The increasing importance of the nations bordering upon the Pacific ocean and our increased commerce with those nations are highly interesting to every portion of the union. Our trade on the northwest coast, our extensive whale fishery, all demand the vigilance of this government, and the government, duly estimating the interests of the country, has wisely stationed a portion of our navy to protect our property and preserve our rights." In those days the passage from the United States to Valparaiso, around the Horn, was 120 days, and it took from six to eight months to send a letter and get an answer.

Adams was president. California and Texas were Mexican. The boundary of Oregon was unsettled. Lunalilo was king of Hawaii. Perry had not opened Japan. Yet our trade in the Pacific was so important that it called for rapid transit across the isthmus, and the protection of our rights by warships. If deserving the care of the government then, how much more deserving now!

Yet there are men who are willing to hold up progress while they feel with their mouths for a political issue, and let all our vast interests wait and mark time.

While it is to be regretted that wheat shipments have fallen off, we of the Columbia river district are making up for the loss in the matter of lumber exports. Thus far during the year more than 20,000,000 feet of lumber has been shipped out of the Columbia, and a large lumber fleet is engaged in the coastwise and oriental trade. The increase in the lumber business will give us many new industrial enterprises, and the falling off in grain exports will not take from us any boon we have enjoyed in the past. The farmers will do better, in fact, operating thus independently of the exporters.

Having declined the republican vice-presidential nomination so graciously tendered him by his staunch democratic friend, Jeff Meeyers, Editor of the Oregonian, may still be regarded as in the running for Senator Mitchell's place, when the time arrives, of course.

For the benefit of an inquirer we will say that Abraham Lincoln was the 16th president of the United States; that he was born February 12, 1809, and that he died April 15, 1865; that requests for such information as this are surprising.

The San Francisco Call is daily printing wonderfully complete and accurate accounts of the progress of the war in the far east. The Call's special service is an excellent one and it will keep San Franciscans well posted.

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LEAVE	PORTLAND	ARRIVE
8:00 a m	Portland Union De-	11:10 a m
7:00 p m	pot for Astoria and Way Points	9:40 p m

ASTORIA		
7:45 a m	For Portland and	11:30 a m
6:10 p m	Way Points	10:30 p m

SEASIDE DIVISION		
8:15 a m	Astoria for War-	7:40 a m
11:35 a m	renton, Flavel Fort	4:00 p m
5:50 p m	Stevens, Hammond and Seaside	*10:45 a m

6:15 a m	Seaside for War-	12:50 p m
*9:30 a m	renton, Flavel, Hammond, Fort Stevens & Astoria	7:20 p m
2:30 p m		*9:25 a m

*Sunday only
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