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ASTORIA, OREGON, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1884.

PRICE, FIVE CENTS.

BUSINESS CARDS.

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CONGRESSIONAL SENATE. WASHINGTON, Dec. 8. - When the chair had before the senate the naval appropriation bill, recently passed by the house, Hale explained that it was a mere renewal for the coming half year of the lump appropriation made last session, based on appropriation of last year. He thought the senate should take up and refer to a new conference committee the regular appropriation bill, which was before the conference at the close of the last session, especially as that bill contained an important provision relating to new ships. A Mitchell read a letter from General Grant, relating to the bill recently introduced, to give him a pension. General Grant expressed a hope that the bill will be withdrawn, as under no circumstances could he accept a pension, even if the bill passed both houses, and received the approval of the president. Mitchell stated that he had introduced the bill because he was chairman of the committee on pensions, and the president had recommended a pension for General Grant. He (Mitchell) had always felt that General Grant ought to be placed where he was when, to accept the presidency, he laid down the great office he had won in the war. In deference of General Grant's wishes Mitchell withdrew the bill.

A message being received from the house, announcing the non-concurrence of that body in the senate amendments to the bill forfeiting unearned lands granted the Atlantic and Pacific railroad, the senate insisted on its amendment, and ordered a committee of conference. The chair appointed as such committee Morgan, Blair and Plumb. BILLS INTRODUCED AND REFERRED. By Blair - For an appropriation of \$50,000 to promote a colored people's world's exposition, to be held in Chicago in September, 1885. By Ingalls - To amend the revised statutes so as to make the day of the inauguration of the president of the United States a legal holiday in the district of Columbia. Allison submitted a joint resolution which passed, extending the time fixed for submission of the report of the joint commission appointed to consider the organization of the signal service and other bureaus of the government.

DELPH CALLS UP A BILL. Dolph called up the bill reported from the committee on railroads at the last session, providing for incorporation of the Spokane Falls and Coeur d'Alene railroad company in the territories of Idaho and Washington. Harrison criticised the bill as covering a class of legislation properly belonging to the territories, from the number of branches provided for by the bill he thought it likely the company could monopolize all the passes throughout the mountains, and from other provisions it seemed the company could secure lands enough to absorb the public domain, as well as railroads in the two territories named. Dolph defended the bill as containing only the customary provisions. Patt said it had come to be a fashion in the United States to build railroads without any cash capital, and that fashion of building railroads on paper was working infinite mischief. When railroads were so built the people were taxed twice as much for fares and freights as they would be if the roads were built for cash, in order that the roads may pay dividends on the amount of capital stock. Vest inquired if the W. H. Armstrong named in the bill as one of the incorporators was a railroad commissioner of the United States. Dolph replied that he did not know. The amendments proposed by Harrison were agreed to, cutting off the company's right to consolidate with other branches. Further consideration was postponed by limitation of time. After an executive session the senate adjourned.

HOUSE. WASHINGTON, Dec. 8. Keifer, of the committee on appropriations, reported the military academy appropriation bill. Referred. The speaker laid before the house a letter from the postmaster general, asking an appropriation of \$100,000 for the railway postal car service for the remainder of the current fiscal year. Referred. Bills were introduced and referred: By Townsend - Proposing a constitutional amendment, providing that treaties shall be made by and with the consent of the house as well as the senate. By Buckner - To suspend the coinage of standard silver dollars. The speaker said that under the rules the bill should be referred to the committee on coinage, weights and measures. Buckner asked that it be referred to the committee on banking and currency. The bill was referred as indicated by the speaker. By Robinson (N. Y.) - For the restoration of inaugural ceremonies to Jeffersonian republican simplicity. By Cox (N. Y.) - A resolution requesting the opinion of the attorney general whether the provisions of the eight-hour law apply to letter carriers. INTER-STATE COMMERCE MEASURES. The house resumed consideration of the inter-state commerce bill. Findlay advocated the bill of the

committee, especially the section providing for a commission. O'Neil (Penn.) said railroad companies desired proper legislation, and had sought it. The state legislature of various states had enacted laws regulating railroad transportation, and he did not see why congress should seek to bring into the hands of the national government control of these corporations. He favored a commission only for the purpose of obtaining information. Warner (Ohio) maintained that the time had come when the general government should assume regulation of inter-state traffic of railroads. Unreasonable preference to certain shippers, and unjust discrimination against others, was the most crying evil perpetrated by railroad companies, and steps should be taken to eradicate that evil. Rockwell and Rice opposed the Reagan substitute. Pending further discussion the matter went over. The senate joint resolution was passed, extending until the first Monday in January the time within which the joint committee appointed to inquire into the conduct of the coast and geodetic surveys of the signal office, etc., may report. Adjourned.

A CITY IN THE AIR. The Wonderful Pueblo of Ancient Acoma. The pueblo of Acoma, situated ninety miles west of Albuquerque, is one of the most remarkable communities in New Mexico or the United States. To reach it take the Atlantic and Pacific railroad to McCarthy station, and then transfer to an Indian pony and ride eighteen miles south by east. When near your journey's end you descend almost imperceptibly into the valley six miles in width, in the middle of which stands a butte, and on the top of this is Acoma. Eight hundred people are living there, and they and their ancestors have gathered there the sum of their possessions for nearly three centuries. This butte is one of many that are the remnants of a mesa that has been worn away by the erosion of the ages, and survives only in flat topped mountains here and there. The valleys between are fertile, and untold generations of men have seen them covered with waving grain and flocks of sheep. Some time in the seventeenth century the Laguna, or valley Indians made war upon the Acomas for the possession of the country, and the latter, being the weaker, occupied this butte as a defensive position believed to be impregnable. Their judgment has been abundantly indicated. It has proved a Gibraltar of strength and safety. The comparison is not inappropriate, and in approaching it from the north it was struck with the resemblance to the picture I have seen of that grim fortress that frowns over the straits to the Mediterranean. The height above the valley is nearly 400 feet and the walls in several places nearly perpendicular. There are two means of ascent, one by a flight of steps cut into the face of the wall and rising at an angle of 45 degrees, and the other by a fissure in the rock leading up in the heart of the mountain. Both ways have been trodden by human feet until the steps are halloose and the picture is a lifeless heap. The Indians have carved a representation of the accident on a rock near where it occurred, which scarcely serves to steady the nerves of those who go by that route. The top of the elevation is level and contains an area of sixty or seventy acres. At one side stands the pueblo, a blunt pyramid of adobe and stone honeycombed with rooms; at the other, the church and graveyard, and near the center a pond of pure water thirty feet in depth and several rods in extent. - Santa Fe, N. M., Corr. Lawrence Journal.

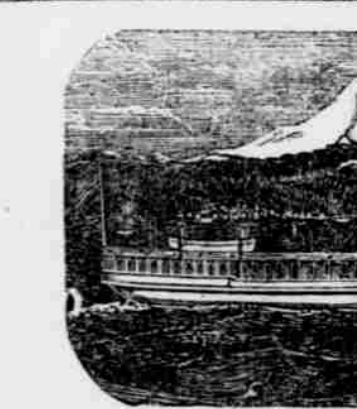
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