The Daily Astorian.

ASTORIA, OREGON:

THURSDAY .....FEBRUARY 5, 1885

CONGRESS.

THE present senate stands 36 Democrats and 40 Republicans, including ing Mahone and Riddleberger. The Republicans have won two seats in the forty-ninth senate—that is to say one in Oregon and one in California. This will increase their strength in that body to 42. There is a dispute over the seat of John A. Logan in Illinois. It is not easy to calculate what is going to be the upshot of the dead-lock there. But if there should be a failure to elect, a Republican will be appointed by the Republican governor to the vacant place. The new senate will probably be called in extra session on March 5th, according to usual custom, to confirm the appointments of the new president. It will be seen that when party lines are drawn no Democratic appointment can be confirmed, and no Democratic measure can become a law, should the senate determine to oppose the appointment or the measure.

The political complexion of the senate of the fiftieth congress, or that which will be organized during the second half of President Cleveland's term, is a far-off speculation. In the contest for control of that senate, the Democrats will have the advantage which the possession of the federal offices will confer upon them.

The next house, according to the latest figuring, will consist of 182 Democrats, 140 Republicans and 2 Greenbackers. There is a vacancy in the nineteenth district of Pennsylvania. The two houses will assemble at the first regular session in December next, unless an extra session of congress should be called in the meantime, which is not at all likely, however. In the present house the Democrats have 197 votes, the Republicans 118, and the Greenbackers 10. The vote which elected the Democratic president reduced the Democratic strength by fifteen in the house. It is a curious political circumstance that the Republicans have retained control of the senate, except for a single session, since the war. On one occasion there were but eleven Democrats in the senate. In 1879 they ran up to forty-three, leaving the Republicans thirty-two seats and one independent. But their strength began at once to fall away. In 1881 they could do no more than divide or neutralize the senate The parties in that body then stood thirty-eight Democrats to thirty-eight Republicans. but two Democrats, Mahone and Riddleberger, passed over to the Republicans. and the lines have since been forty Republicans to thirty six Democrats. The Republicans, as above shown, have made a still further increase in the forty-ninth congress.

Grant, who started in with the senate and house on his side, ended with an adverse majority in the house rolled up in 1874 by the first Democratic tidal wave. Hayes began his work with a majority of two in the senate and a Democratic house. He wound up with an antagonistic senate and house. Garfield commenced with a senate Republican by the action of Mahone and Riddleberger and a thin majority in the house. Arthur has had an adverse house all the time. Cleveland will begin his administration in the opposite way. He will have the house on his side but a hostile senate. From the examination to which the matter has been subjected it is probable that the conditions will continue the same to the end of his term.

FISH AND FISHERIES.

THE report of the work done in 1882 under the direction of Prof. Spencer F. Baird, United States commissioner of fish and fisheries, relative to new observations, discoveries and applications connected with fish culture and the fisheries, has recently been published. The volume consists of reports and contributions from over two hundred sources, both official and non-official, giving a vast number of interesting details concerning the progress of fish culture in all sections of the United States and in foreign countries; transfer of certain kinds of fish, such as shad and salmon, from one stream to another, and in regard to the fishing interests generally.

It is to be regretted there is so much delay in the publication of these important reports.

The commissioner states that the work of increasing the supply of valuable fishes in the waters of the United States, whether by artificial propagation or by transplantation, although very successful, may be considered as yet in its infancy. Special attention has been given to increasing the supply of California trout and the lobster, the decrease of the latter being marked. Referring to the oyster supply, the report says: "In no department of the American fisheries has there been so rapid and alarming a decrease, and the boasted abundance of this mollusk on the Atlantic coast, especially in Chesapeake bay, is rapidly being changed to a condition of scarcity, which threatens practical extermination, as is almost the case in England. A fishing industry producing millions of dollars is menaced with extinction, and needs the most stringent measures for its protection."

Relative to the oyster industry of the world, it is said that about five and a half billions oysters are produced in North America, and two and one-third billions in Europe. As to the future of the oyster interest of this country, Lieut. Winslow says: "The area of the great beds of the Chesapeake and Delaware bays is 471,171 acres, and the product per acre was in 1880 41 bushels. At present it is certainly not more than 25 bushels. If the deterioration continues at the same rate, the result is too evident to need comment. That remedial measures should be taken is an imperative necessity."

Of the loss of life in the New England fisheries, Capt. J. W. Collins says: "In the ten years from 1873 the total loss of vessels has been 147, of which 82 have foundered at sea, seven of the latter having been abandoned in a sinking condition. The total value of these vessels was $735,126. The total loss of life has been 1,233 men, 895 of whom went down in their vessels, which foundered at sea. It is a little difficult to get at the exact number of bereaved families which lost their natural protectors, since, for one or two years of the period under consideration, accurate record was not kept of the widows and fatherless children left by these disasters at sea, and, even if it had been, it would not show how many almost helpless parents have been deprived of their only means of support. As near as I can get it, making what I believe to be an underestimate for the years of which I can obtain no statistics of the widows and children left, 322 women have been made widows and 658 children left fatherless by the disasters to the Gloucester fleet alone. Many of these families have been left in utter destitution."

The commission has had prepared a model of a fishing-boat which is believed to combine the excellencies of both English and American vessels, and will seek to have its merits tested.

"BRADSTREET'S" accounts for the true spirit of Christian fortitude with which modern traders contemplate the possibilities of foreign wars in the following naive style: The effects upon general trade of a war could not have been better illustrated than by the returns of the amount of food supplies sent to Egypt to be used in the English expedition to Khartoum. The following, says the *Journal of Commerce*, are a part of the supplies to be used by the army, which, it is estimated, will not number over 5,000. Of meats, bacon, etc., over 2,000,000 pounds were shipped from Woolwich, of biscuits over 1,750,000 pounds, of flour 160,000 pounds, of sugar, 192,000 pounds, and of tea over 80,000 pounds, This list was but a fraction of the amount of food supplies sent out, and the balance included all manner of medical and commissary supplies. The fact that the United States furnished a large quantity of this food supply invests the subject with peculiar interest to the people of this country. With an extension of the area of Europe involved in war the question as to the disposition of our surplus food products would be readily s olved.

CONCERNING the discontinuance of the New York *Star*, the *Journalist* says: "There are several journalistic morals which can be drawn from this tale of the *Star*, but the one which is perhaps the most prominent is the additional proof which it furnishes to the theory that the public don't want to read editorials. The editorial columns of the *Star* have always been above the average. Mr. Clancey and his associates are gentlemen of brains and newspaper ability, and their page has ever presented a marked contrast to the rest of the paper. But the fact that their excellent editorial work could not keep a single reader or advertiser is proof positive that the day of the long editorial in daily papers is past."