

The Dalles Weekly Chronicle.

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MUST PAY TAXES.

The Attorney General of California Decides that the Railroad Must Pay Taxes on Unpatented Lands.

Claggett Presents His Credentials to Congress as Senator from Idaho—Interesting Proceedings.

RAILROAD LANDS.

General Hart of California Declares That Railroads Must Pay Taxes on Them. SACRAMENTO, Feb. 27.—On a question raised by the district attorney of Siskiyou County as to whether lands sold by railroads are assessable, to the railroad companies. Purchasers from them holding such lands could not be assessed because there has been no patent issued for them by the government, attorney General Hart has decided against the railroads. Unless overruled this decision will compel payment of taxes on ten million acres of land in this state.

Congressional Proceedings.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—In the senate a bill was passed amendatory of law providing for the selection of school lands. The house then went into a committee of the whole resuming consideration of the shipping bill.

In the senate papers presented in support of the claim of W. H. Claggett to a seat in the senate from Idaho, (for which the credentials of Dubois were already on file.) They were referred to the committee on privileges and elections.

Sherman stated that he was authorized by the committee on foreign relations to say in view of the state of public business that the Nicaragua canal bill would not be pressed any further at this time and might take its place on the calendar.

The senate passed the legislative executive and judicial appropriation bill and agreed to take up the pure food bill. This makes it unfinished business. It will have to give away however to the appropriation bill.

Consideration of the legislative appropriation bill was resumed.

Confers on bill for repeal of timber culture laws and amendatory land laws generally has practically reached an agreement on an entirely new bill which will be brought forward at the first opportunity. The bill agreed upon will change the general land system of the government manner of doing things. The bill first repeals the timber culture act with a reservation in favor of bona fide claims heretofore instituted.

The President today transmitted to the senate copies of papers relating to reciprocity arrangements between the United States and Brazil.

A VETO TO BE IGNORED.

The Five Per Cent. Public Land Fund Merely Held in Trust.

SALEM, Feb. 22.—The "omnibus wagon road bill" was not received by the governor in time for his exclamation of "veto" with his veto before the legislature adjourned sine die. It was, however, filed Saturday evening in the office of the secretary of state. Following is the veto:

"I herewith return house bill 306 with my dissent. This bill appropriates 'out of the five per cent. public land fund sale fund of the state of Oregon the sum of \$127,000' to aid the county courts of certain counties in the construction of wagon roads specified in the bill. There is now in the state treasury of the fund above mentioned the sum of \$6,389.12. Section 3 of the bill provides 'that whenever the county courts of any county named in section 2 of this act shall certify to the secretary of state that the amount named in said section 2 has been expended in the repairs or construction of the road or roads specified in said section 2, as provided in section 2, or for said county, as provided in section 2, or shall certify that any portion of the sum set apart for the repairs or construction of any road in said county, provided for in said section 2, has been expended and applied as provided by this act, the said secretary of state shall draw his warrant in favor of said county for the sum certified, provided the said amount shall in no instance, exceed the sum set apart in aid of the county court for the particular road certified, as provided by section 2 of this act. It thus appears that the county court must first incur the indebtedness before the state assumes it. This is plainly repugnant to section 8, article 11, of the state constitution, which expressly declares that 'the state shall never assume the debt of any county, town or other corporation whatever, unless such debts shall have been created to repair or improve the same, and the state shall not be liable for the same.' This action of the governor will not disconcert the wagon-road men in the least. The organic act admitting Oregon into the Union provides that the proceeds derived from 3 per cent. of the sale of public lands in the state may be used for the building of public roads or other internal improvements, as the legislature may direct. This bill, which the governor has just vetoed, is not an appropriation of state money, in any sense, but merely a direction of the legislature how the land received from the United States shall be applied. Despite the growing 'Penney boom,' the governor is not yet present, and can hardly hope at the present time to veto an act of congress. The secretary of state will direct the legislative and emergency clause read that it 'shall be in effect from and after its passage.' The county courts of Josephine and Curry counties will test the soundness of this position immediately. The road down Kogue river will be built as soon as possible, and the secretary of state will be called upon to draw his warrant for \$16,000 for the two counties. Should be refused, as he is quite likely to do under the circumstances, suit will be brought in the supreme court to compel him to issue the warrants, and it is confidently expected that the court will hold that the governor has no power to direct or interfere with the legislature in the disposition of this fund. The weakness of the governor's position was pointed out by himself, it is claimed, when he sent his message to the legislature, trying it to take steps to get the consent of congress to the transference of this money to the common school fund."

WHAT WAS HIS FAITH?

Another Letter From Father Sherman Regarding the Faith of His Father. NEW YORK, Feb. 25.—Some time ago the Evening World quoted Rev. Thomas E. Sherman, as saying that his father, the dead general, was not a Catholic.

LOST AT SEA.

The "Iowa" Supposed to Have Collided With an Iceberg.

NEW YORK, Feb. 28.—The captain of the steamer Pennland reports that on February 22nd she sighted the steamer Iowa in a sinking condition. The British steamer Chester, for New York, will bring them to this port. It is believed they are all saved. It is thought the Iowa collided with an iceberg. The Iowa is valued at \$250,000 and has a cargo worth \$35,000. The amount of insurance carried is not known.

THE WHISKEY TRUST.

A Chicago Grand Jury Finds Indictments Against its Ex-Secretary. CHICAGO, Feb. 28.—The grand jury this afternoon returned two indictments against Gen. Gibson, ex-secretary of the whiskey trust, and two against him jointly with other persons whose names are suppressed. In all cases the charges are attempting to commit criminal arson and feloniously procuring gun powder and dynamite for unlawful purposes.

Is a Chestnut This Time.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 28.—The Pacific Coast Wood and Iron, a local journal, has collected statistics in Oregon, Washington and California for the year 1890. Washington produced one billion eight hundred and twenty million one hundred and seventy-one thousand and eight, Oregon eight hundred and twenty-nine million two hundred and eighty-three thousand and California eight hundred and sixty-four million nine hundred and sixteen thousand feet.

Will Hold No Services Tomorrow.

READING, Pa., Feb. 28.—Owing to a fight between Bishop Bowgen and the town fathers of the Evangelical church at Allentown, all churches of that denomination in this city are locked up today and the announcement made that no services will be held tomorrow. The closing of the churches was decided upon in order to prevent the opposing faction taking possession. Some country churches took a similar action.

Will Build to the SEA.

President Hill Comes Back From London With Money for That Purpose. NEW YORK, Feb. 28.—President Hill of the Great Northern railway arrived from Europe on the north German steamer Spreck, yesterday. During his few weeks in London he completed financial arrangements that will enable him to push his road, the old Manitoba, through to the Pacific ocean in very short order.

Horrible Suffering Among Cherokee Strip Settlers.

ARKANSAS CITY, Mo., Feb. 28.—The blizzard last night was the worst of the season. People on the Cherokee strip suffered terribly, men are coming in from the settlement on the Chickasaw river and report several children perished from the cold, and women lying ill in tents south of the city, will probably die as a result of the exposure.

School Mistress Injured.

McMINNVILLE, Or., Feb. 28.—At the teachers examination last evening in the court house a plaster ornament became detached from the ceiling and fell 25 feet on the desk and rebounded striking Miss Forsyth, of Newberg, on her forehead, knocking her insensible. The wound exposed the skull, but is not dangerous.

Another Bad Mining Accident.

WHITEHALL, Tenn., Feb. 28.—A cable incline at the coal mine broke today as the miners were going to work and the car was dashed down the mountain. Two men were killed instantly and eleven seriously hurt, and others it is thought will die from injuries received.

Master Workman McCarthy Arrested.

LYNN, Mass., Feb. 28.—Master Workman McCarthy of the national trade unions of Knights of Labor, which embraces all organizations of leather workers of this city, was arrested by the police this morning for an alleged attempt, with other persons, to unlawfully intimidate non-union workmen.

An Ex-Governor's Son Succeeded.

CHICAGO, Feb. 28.—James Reynolds, head city salesman of the hardware firm of Kelly, Mans & Co., succeeded this morning. No cause is known for the death. Reynolds is a son of the ex-governor of Rhode Island.

Heaviest Snow on Record.

CHATTANOOGA, Feb. 28.—This entire section is enveloped in a blinding snow. Three inches of snow cover the ground and indications are that the fall will not cease before night. It is the heaviest on record in this section.

Democratic by Legislation.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Feb. 28.—Congressional appointment committee of the Arkansas legislature has agreed upon measures providing for redistricting the state. The bill makes all districts democratic.

The Strike at the Hub.

BOSTON, Feb. 28.—The electrolyzers strike is assuming serious proportions. The strike is sanctioned by the International Typographical Union, which complicates matters very much.

An Inmate Act.

PITTSBURGH, Feb. 28.—John Copeland, a wealthy storekeeper, fatally shot his wife this morning and then tried to kill his two children and himself, but was prevented. He is insane.

A Modest New York Official.

NEW YORK, Feb. 28.—Inspector Byrnes has declined to accept the decoration sent to him by King Humbert of Italy.

The Prohibition Law Will Stand.

BISMARCK, N. D., Feb. 28.—The bill introduced in the house to repeal the present prohibition law was indefinitely postponed today by a vote of 25 to 20.

San Francisco Market.

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal. March 2.—Wheat, buyer '91, 1.48; season, 1.45 1/2.

ECHOES OF THE LEGISLATURE.

We are not, at present, concerned with the character of the substitute bill which Mr. Johnston palmed off on the committee on public buildings and falsely pretended to be the bill "the people of The Dalles wanted." This may become a proper subject for discussion, at another time, and we shall not shrink the responsibility. We are dealing with the fact that Mr. Johnston deceived his committee and misrepresented his constituents. The people of The Dalles did not "want" the substitute bill, unless they honor the mayor, the ex-governor and Senator Hilton are "the people of The Dalles." Messrs. Johnson and McCoy surely are not. On the contrary when the "people of The Dalles" heard the treasury of Mr. Johnston, ten of them, chiefly members of the board of trade and common council, representing themselves an easy million dollars worth of property, without delay put for Salem, and demanded a conference with Messrs. Johnston, McCoy and Hilton, in the library of the state building. Before this conference, however, was held, two copies of a paper were printed by a typesetter, which it was intended as a last resource, to have sent to the speaker and have publicly read in the house. One of these papers is now before us, and after the usual preamble it submits the following allegations:

"A petition is presented urging the passage of the bill, without amendment, signed by the representatives of fully nine-tenths of all the real estate in Dalles City.

"A memorial is also presented from the Dalles City board of trade, urging the passage of the bill without amendment.

"A resolution is also submitted of the Dalles City common council, which, without a dissenting vote, approved the passage of the bill, with amendment.

"A substitute bill was presented to the committee on public buildings, to which the bill was referred, and of which Mr. G. W. Johnston is chairman, but no member of said committee, except the chairman, ever saw the bill introduced in the house, nor the petition of Dalles City tax-payers, nor the memorial of Dalles City board of trade, nor the resolution of the common council of Dalles City, although said petition, memorial and resolution were in the hands of said chairman, before said committee took any action on the bill."

This document was read to the two other members of Mr. Johnston's committee. Both declared every word of it was true, protested against the deception of Mr. Johnston, and expressed their perfect willingness to expose his duplicity on the floor of the house.

But "the people of The Dalles" were unwilling to adopt this *deviser* report until a conference was had with Mr. Johnston. Hence the meeting in the library, already referred to. The full delegation of representatives was present and about fifteen persons from this city. The people from The Dalles were intensely in earnest, but we think it cannot be justly said they were discourteous. We speak this, of course from the plane of a common citizen. We can not possibly conceive what great men, so much above us, might consider an insult. We only mean to be earnest. If so, we're sorry—very. In our ignorance of the ways of representatives, we thought that we honored one of them, by voting for him. We don't think any more. He honors us by accepting our vote. We used to think that representatives were elected to represent their constituents. We'll never think so again—at least of Wasco county representatives, till we get a chance to elect a new batch. But this is a dejection. The story of the conference is soon told. Mr. Johnston was pressed to tell us why he changed the bill. The question was put in different forms. He had one answer and only one. He thought his bill was a "good one," and of course it was, for Mr. Johnston thought so, and that was enough. The "people of The Dalles" had no right to think anything. He was asked again if any persons from this city supported his bill. He said he had "letters." "From whom?" one person was named "A. More." "Yes others," but their names he refused to give at that time. At last Mr. Johnston told us he would confer with Mr. McCoy, and tell us what he proposed to do in the course of an hour. (At this stage Senator Hilton left the conference. Mark this, gentle reader. You may see the reason anon.)

Soon after the conference scattered: the representatives to an ex-gubernatorial council, and we to lunch. Less than two hours after a compromise was effected. That night a new bill was framed, measurably satisfactory to The Dalles contingent. They yielded something, the mayoral and ex-gubernatorial representatives yielded something, and the next day the bill passed the house without opposition. But—and here the great genius of Senator Hilton shines out in iridescent glory; he was not bound to support the bill, in the senate, and he didn't!

PIETY A LAST RESOURCE.

A striking example of the tendency of human nature to relegate all matters of religious thought and feeling to the period and circumstance of sickness and death is afforded us by the deep interest the newspapers of this country have taken in locating ecclesiastically the late General Sherman. When the general was alive, as long as he never ran for office, nobody cared to enquire what his religion was or if he had any. Now that he is dead the pious editorial fraternity want to know all about it. That's all right enough. Nobody finds fault with it; but why not have begun the inquiry sooner? Why associate religion only with sickness and death? Simply because it is another illustration of the truth of that well known couplet:

"When the Devil got well, the devil's saint would be,
When the Devil got well, the devil's saint would be."

ECHOES OF THE LEGISLATURE.

The people of The Dalles and of Wasco county have a right to know the legislative record of the men whom they have selected to represent them. This record is a legitimate subject for journalistic comment and criticism. The representatives themselves are entitled to the full benefit of the truth, the whole truth, without malice and without envy. If a truthful picture is galling to the subject the fault is his and not ours. If it hurts the cause of mere partisanship it is no concern of the managers of this journal. Truth has claims above partisanship and the party that cannot stand the truth has no right to existence, while the journal or the man who fears to tell the truth has no legitimate mission in a world of lies and deception. With men's motives, with the springs of action and conduct we have nothing to do. We are not their judges. Their outward acts alone are ours. These only we have a right to judge and approve or condemn. We have already repelled the baseless insinuation, that Senator Watkins was a party to the defeat of the Dalles portage railway bill, but we have not told all that might be told in this connection. We were present when he gave instruction to the clerk of the joint committee, of which he was chairman, as to the character of the report to be submitted to the house. He was strictly charged to report only on the "feasibility, practicability, possibility and probability" of concurrent action of the two states. Nothing was to be said touching the difficulties or cost of a road on the Oregon side; and the senator gave for his reason "Let they should say I had done anything to defeat the bill," and nothing was said. We remember well the earnestness of the senator as he gave these instructions to his clerk. His language might not be that of the Sunday school, but it was none the less vigorous and intense. Suffice it that no member of the Oregon senate served his constituents more honestly, more intelligently or more faithfully than did Senator Watkins. His record needs neither apology nor concealment.

It is well known that the Dalles City council framed a new charter bill for the city, and a bill to amend the water bill that became a law two years ago. Of the merits of these bills we do not now speak. It is sufficient for our present purpose to say that they were both carefully submitted to the council, read section by section and endorsed by approval without a dissenting vote. The Dalles board of trade unanimously memorialized the legislature on their behalf, and the owners of all of three-fourths of all the real estate of the city signed a petition to the same effect. The charter bill was entrusted to the care of Senator Watkins, who introduced it in the senate. Its story is soon told. It's dead, dead as Hector, dead in the full vigor of its young life, dead of no lingering sickness, but by the hand of the assassin. Senator Hilton killed it! We saw him do it and his is the glory or the shame. After introduction the bill was regularly referred to the committee on corporations. Hilton fought it in committee, fought it bitterly and with all his might. He knew better what was good for the people of The Dalles than they did themselves. Certain features of the bill would, if passed, have done for the city what he would have done for himself. In spite of everything the bill was reported back favorably. In due time it came up for final passage when Senator Hilton moved that it be referred to a committee of Wasco senators. Senator Watkins earnestly protested, but in vain. The "skids were greased" and the Joe Simon contingent helped Senator Hilton to lay it in its little bed.

Thus did the joint senator from Gilliam and Wasco, the man whose home and estate is in Gilliam, the man who does not pay a cent of taxes in The Dalles nor in Wasco county, openly and defiantly ignore and condemn the wishes of the vast majority of the taxpayers of a city who helped to elect him to office, but will never, never, while the grass flourishes on the hill-tops of Gilliam, elect him again.

ECHOES OF THE LEGISLATURE.

The Dalles water bill was begotten by The Dalles common council. Its conception was legitimate and honorable, but during the period of legislative gestation, by some occult process of generation it assumed a new parentage and today it is questionable if its own mother would know it. It has a poly-paternal ancestry. At least Representative Johnston, Senator Hilton and his honor the mayor, who else may be responsible for the metamorphosis, the walls of the ex-gubernatorial mansion at Salem alone can tell. The bill was entrusted to the care of Mr. Johnston. It was for convenience in a printed form, and was in due time introduced in the house "by request," as if Mr. Johnston was bound to disown it from the beginning. It was promptly referred, with exquisite propriety, to the committee on public buildings! As well have referred it to the committee on portage railroads. It had no business there; but in the hands of any other committee, outside mayoral influence, it would have been fairly treated, and this was not desired as the sequel shows. After some time the board of trade sent down to Salem, to look after the bill, G. J. Farley and Emil Schanno. Mr. Farley lost no time in finding Mr. Johnston, and enquired after his progress. Mr. Johnston said it was "all right." It had been reported favorably from the committee, and would be called up for final passage in a short time. Mr. Farley asked if any changes had been made in the bill. Mr. Johnston replied "I believe not." Two days afterwards the writer and Mr. Farley went to the clerk of the house and asked to see the bill. We didn't see it! We never saw it! We never will see it! It was gone; and in its place was another,

ECHOES OF THE LEGISLATURE.

lately and surreptitiously numbered "227" (for even the title was changed) and written in the well-known hand of a Dalles lady committee clerk, a guest of the ex-gubernatorial mansion, with corrections and emendations remarkably like the typography of the cashier of the Dalles National Bank. We don't say it was his. It might have been Joe Simons'. It might have been Governor Penney's. We only say it was like his. That's all. An interview was immediately had with the two members of the building committee, Mr. Botkin and Mr. Myers. They emphatically denied all knowledge of the substitute bill. They only knew, so they said, that Mr. Johnston had, in committee, pulled from his pocket, the bill they had subsequently approved, and said: "This is the bill the people of The Dalles want;" and of course this was quite true, for "Brutus is an honorable man." These gentlemen were asked if Mr. Johnston had shown them a resolution of The Dalles City council, approving the bill and urging its passage, without amendment. They replied, "No." They were asked if Mr. Johnston had shown them a memorial of The Dalles board of trade asking its passage, without amendment. They replied, "No." They were asked if Mr. Johnston had shown them a petition, signed by the representatives of fully three-fourths of all the tax-payers of Dalles City, recommending the passage of the bill without amendment. They replied, "No."

And yet, it is no truer that night follows day, than it is true that Mr. Johnston had all these documents in his possession when the bill was in the hands of the committee.

Thus did this representative of the people, whose friends had to lie for him, during the last campaign, by assuring the voters that he was not a "Moody man," when in their hearts some of them knew better, who represented the people of The Dalles, who honored him with their suffrages.

We have no pleasure in writing thus, of one whom we are feign to believe to be an honest and honorable man. A happier lot were ours could we commend and praise, instead of disapprove and blame. If our words seem bitter, it is but the bitterness of truth. We have set down nothing in malice, and we have written nothing that we do not know or believe to be true, and we shall write nothing. The people demand to know the truth. They deserve to know the truth. They shall know the truth, and the tale is not yet told.

There is one lesson that the people of Eastern Oregon ought to learn for all time, namely, never send a man to represent you in the legislature, who is in any way, however remotely, connected with railroad corporations. He'll sell you out and vote for the railroad just as sure as you send him. Select a man whose great grandmother's grandfather was a railroad stockowner and the result is the same. It runs in the blood, and increases as the generations near the original stock owner, like frequent handlings of wheat over a portage railroad, in "geometrical progression."

Last June we selected a man for joint representative of Wasco and Sherman, who owned then and still owns a large warehouse on the line of the Union Pacific. When a question came up in the legislature involving, on the one hand the interests of hundreds of thousands of the farmers and producers of the Inland Empire, and on the other hand, his own, he was true to his lineage, true to himself, true to the railroads, and those of us who supported him by voice and vote, feel like saying, as an aged democrat once said on our hearing, while apologizing for once in his life having scratched his ticket, "If the Lord forgives us for that offense, we'll never do it again."

SUNSHINE AHEAD.

The prospects for good and prosperous times in the near future, for this city and county, were never brighter than they are at this moment. Sufficient rain and snow have fallen on unfrozen ground to thoroughly saturate the soil and give promise of abundant harvests. The mild winter has proved favorable to the stockmen and wool growers and thereby increased the profits of their coming crop. The promise of freight competition through the portage railroad will increase the profits of the farmer and producer, while an open river, with The Dalles as the head of navigation and a great distributing point, if not the new terminus of a line of railroad to the coal fields of Gilliam county, are bound to make this city a profitable place for investment or business. While The Dalles is neither a boom town or a boomed town, we believe a steady, solid, prosperous future awaits it at no remote distance.

The good people of Astoria to the number of nearly two hundred have signed their names to a very flattering address to Representative Welch, thanking him for the valuable services he rendered them during the late session of the legislature. The good people of Wasco, Sherman county, complimented our representatives, Messrs. McCoy and Johnston, by burning them in effigy. We are informed that they stuffed some old clothes with straw and placed powder on the heads of the figures and as the powder exploded in puffs, to each puff was sung the refrain, "That's the way they'll go up, that's the way they'll go down."

Representative Hunsucker has introduced a bill in the Washington legislature which, if it becomes a law, will compel the Union Pacific to not only operate the portage road on the Washington side of the Cascade rapids, but will force them to carry freight from opposition boats, over the portage, at the rate of 45 cents a ton.

We devoutly hope the bill may pass. The more ways for competition with the present monopoly, the better for the people.

JOHN WESLEY.

One hundred years ago today John Wesley, the father and founder of Methodism, died. His history needs no relation here. It is known in every corner of the earth where Christianity has penetrated. The world was his parish and the millions of souls, in heaven and earth, made better by the teaching of himself and the church he founded are his epitaph.

Incidents of Young Editorial Life.

The editor of this journal is rapidly acquiring all the characteristics of a veteran. Five days ago he left his palatial mansion on the bluff, to assume, for the first time, the editorial toga. As he laid his hand upon the door of the CHRONICLE office, he was grasped abruptly by the shoulder, and a huge fist was flourished in mid-air while a stentorian voice exclaimed: "Come out here, sir, and you can have anything you want." The editor didn't want anything. His cup was full. He was going to be an editor.

Yesterday morning as he rested his classic proportions upon his velvet couch, in his palatial mansion, aforesaid, his little niece crept up to him, placing her hand upon his majestic brow, and noticing that his huge brain was pressing upward through his golden locks, tenderly enquired, "Uncle, why do you get so bare-headed?"

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