

THE OREGON STATE GOVERNMENT.

ON Monday, the 14th of January, the legislative assembly of Oregon met in its fifteenth regular biennial session, at Salem, the state capital. On another page in this number, under the title of "The Genealogy of Oregon," are related the historical incidents connected with the acquisition of Oregon by the United States and the formation of the first provisional government, of which the present government is the lineal descendent. Oregon possesses a most economical form of government, thanks to the primitive ideas of the men who framed the state constitution in 1857. They were men who had lived here in the pioneer days, when industry and frugality were the watch-words, and prodigality and luxury unknown, and the ideas which they had imbibed during that period were naturally impressed strongly upon the document they framed. That they made the mistake of fixing salaries and settling permanently other questions that might better have been left to the legislature to regulate as changing conditions rendered necessary, is now generally admitted. They then little realized how radical a change from pioneer conditions thirty years of statehood would make, and the industrial and commercial revolution since wrought by the railroads was little dreamed of then. It was their aim to establish a simple and economical government, and this they accomplished.

The executive branch of the government, as at present constituted, consists of Sylvester Pennoyer, governor; George W. McBride, secretary of state; George W. Webb, treasurer; E. B. McElroy, superintendent of public instruction; and Frank C. Baker, state printer; and these various officials, singly or in combination, manage all the affairs of state, a concentration of duties and powers unknown in the government of any other state in the union. The judicial branch consists of a supreme court, of three judges. At present Judges W. P. Lord, W. W. Thayer and R. S. Strahan occupy the supreme bench. A legislative assembly, divided into two houses, constitutes the legislative arm of the government. Senators, of which there are thirty, hold office for a term of four years, or two sessions, one-half the number being chosen at each biennial election. The house of representatives contains sixty members, all chosen at each regular state election and sitting in but one regular session. Both senators and representatives are apportioned among the twenty-eight counties according to their population, some of them having more than one of each, and others only having one jointly with another county. Owing to the absence of a lieutenant-governor, the senate is presided over by a president chosen from among its own members, an honor

bestowed the present session upon Hon. Joseph Simon, of Portland. The speaker of the house is also a member of that body, selected for the position by his associates, the choice of the present session having fallen upon Hon. E. L. Smith, of Hood River, Wasco county. The president and speaker receive \$5 00 a day each, and the members \$3.00, and the session is practically limited to forty days by a provision that cuts off the salary at the expiration of that period. Besides much important legislation expected, the present session is charged with the duty of electing a United States senator to succeed Hon. Joseph N. Dolph, the gentleman now holding that position. Politically, the legislature is composed of twenty one republicans and nine democrats in the senate and fifty-one republicans and nine democrats in the house, making a total of seventy-two and eighteen respectively on joint ballot.

Accompanying this number of THE WEST SHORE is a large supplement containing the portraits of prominent members of the legislature, grouped about an excellent engraving of the state capitol, while on another page are given portraits of the governor and other officials. The importance of the offices held by these gentlemen, and of the work done by the members of the legislature, as well as the prominent positions taken by many of them in public affairs, renders the following brief biographical notes of special interest.

STATE OFFICERS.

SYLVESTER PENNOYER, governor, is a well known business man of Portland, and one of Oregon's oldest citizens. He was born in Tompkins county, New York, in the year 1831. His early youth was spent upon a farm. In 1855, after having received his law diploma from Harvard University, he came to Oregon, where he has remained ever since, having been engaged, for the most part, in the lumber business. In 1886 he was nominated for governor by the democratic party, and received a plurality of three thousand seven hundred and two votes, although Mr. Blaine had received, two years before, a plurality of two thousand two hundred and six votes, a change of nearly six thousand votes in two years. His term of office is for four years, and he therefore has two years more to serve.

GEORGE W. MCBRIDE, secretary of state, is a native Oregonian, having been born in Yamhill county in 1854. He received his education in the public schools and in the college at Monmouth. He read law for three years, but failing health compelled him to abandon his studies. He subsequently engaged in commercial pursuits in St. Helena, his present home. By an unfortunate accident Mr. McBride received