

## OFFICERS OF THE IDAHO LEGISLATURE.

The first Idaho state legislature has been in session at Boise City for two weeks, and is making a splendid record as a deliberative body. The president of the senate is Hon. John S. Gray, a well known attorney of Boise City. He was born in Albany, New York, November 25, 1833. In 1861 he came to Idaho from California, where he had resided for several years. Mr. Gray has always taken a prominent position in the affairs of the territory and state. He has occupied the positions of probate judge of Boise county; member of the territorial legislature of 1880; member of the committee for the revision of the territorial statutes, in 1886, and now represents Ada county in the senate. He was in the two Indian campaigns of 1877 and 1878. Mr. Gray's experience, ability and legal attainments eminently qualify him for the honorable position he occupies. He is a staunch republican in politics.

The speaker of the house of representatives is Hon. F. A. Fenn, representative from Idaho county. Mr. Fenn was born in Jefferson, Nevada county, California, and was educated at the United States naval academy at Annapolis, Maryland. He has been a resident of Idaho since 1862, and has held several county offices, besides serving in the territorial legislature in its fourteenth session. He served as a volunteer during the Nez Perce war in 1877. He is a merchant, and is largely interested in sheep raising. Mr. Fenn is an ardent republican, and has always taken a great interest in the success of his party.

This session is a most important one, and calls for the greatest legislative ability and wisdom. It is necessary to enact a large number of important laws to render the provisions of the constitution operative.

## OFFICERS OF THE WASHINGTON LEGISLATURE.

The senate of the state of Washington, now in session, is presided over by Hon. Eugene T. Wilson, the gentleman who managed the republican campaign last fall as chairman of the state central committee. Mr. Wilson has long been known in newspaper and political circles as a man of brains, energy and executive ability. He was born in Madison, Wisconsin, December 11, 1852. At the age of thirteen he crossed the plains to Montana. In 1876 he settled in Columbia county, in the then territory of Washington, having been for the six years previous engaged in mining and lead smelting in Utah. He served in the Nez Perce Indian war of 1877, as first lieutenant of the Lewiston volunteers. In 1881 he founded the *Pomeroy Republican*, and two years later purchased the *Dayton Chronicle*. In 1885-6 he was chief clerk of the territorial council. In 1887 he sold the *Chronicle* and removed to Ellensburg. Mr. Wilson was a member of the Vancouver republican territorial convention in 1882, of the Seattle republican convention of 1884, and of the Tacoma republican convention of 1890. He was member and secretary of the Tacoma republican convention of 1886, and also of the Yakima republican convention of 1889. He was elected a member of the first state senate, from the county of Kittitas, and, being one of the holdovers, is now serving his second session in that body. He is now a member of the hardware firm of Wilson & Agats, of Ellensburg. Mr. Wilson is a clear-headed, practical, spirited debater, a good parliamentarian, and a safe, level-headed party leader.

The speaker of the house is Hon. Amos F. Shaw, of Vancouver. Mr. Shaw was born January 14, 1839, in the town of Franklin, New Hampshire; brought up on a farm until 1859; emigrated to the then unorganized territory of Dakota. Was elected a member of the provincial legislature that met at Sioux Falls, Dakota, in the winter of 1859-60. In January, 1862, he enlisted in Company A, Dakota volunteer cavalry; served three and one-half years. Was sheriff of Clay county, Dakota, from 1866 to 1869. Served as secretary for territorial council, session 1869, as member of the house of representatives, sessions 1871 and 1875, and council, session of 1881. Came to Vancouver in the fall of 1881; bought and cleared land and planted a prune orchard; remained until the spring of 1884, when business interests called him to Sioux Falls, Dakota. Appointed warden of the Dakota penitentiary, at Sioux Falls, in the spring of 1885, serving two years. Returned to Vancouver in July, 1887. Is senior member of Shaw Brothers, prune growers and packers. Was a member of the first state legislature.

## MOUNT SHASTA.

The snow peaks of the Pacific coast are the objects of the admiration of every tourist who visits the golden west. Of them all Mount Shasta is considered by many to be the most beautiful. It is situated in Siskiyou county, in Northern California, and close to the line of the Oregon branch of the Central Pacific. This noble mountain is 14,443 feet high, only one foot lower than the kingly Mount Rainier. On the center page is given an engraving of the mountain as it appears from Strawberry valley, through which the railroad runs. As the valley is but 3,000 feet above the sea, the mountain rises from it as a distinct peak nearly 11,500 feet, much higher than any

other on the coast. It is easier of ascent than any of the others, and its summit is visited by many venturesome spirits every summer. Fourteen years ago the government coast and geodetic survey erected a monument twenty feet high on its summit, which was carried up and placed in position with great difficulty. The mountain has two peaks, one of them about 500 feet lower than the other. The lower peak is but the shell of a huge crater half a mile in diameter, filled with snow. The extreme summit of the higher one consists of a barren ridge of rock, rising a hundred feet above a comparatively flat tract of an acre or more in extent. On the flat are hot mud springs, the last indication of the great fiery furnace that built up this great heap of earth. The heat keeps the snow melted on the summit, and once saved the lives of two men who were caught on the mountain in a fierce storm. By lying all night in the hot mud, parboiling on one side and freezing on the other, they saved themselves from perishing, and were rescued the next day in a most pitiable condition. A very good trail has been made to the top of Shasta, and tourists will find it the most accessible of all the western mountains to climb. Good summer hotels are kept at its base, where everything necessary for the ascent can be procured. More than thirty years ago, John R. Ridge, a Cherokee, whose *nom de plume* of "Yellow Bird" appeared below many fine poems in the papers of California, wrote the following fine ode to this beautiful mountain:

Behold the dread Mount Shasta, where it stands  
Imperial midst the lesser heights, and, like  
Some mighty, unimpassioned mind, companionless  
And cold. The storms of heaven may beat in wrath  
Against it, but it stands in unpolluted  
Grandeur still; and from the rolling mists upheaves  
Its tower of pride e'en prouder than before.  
The wintry showers and white-winged tempests leave  
Their frozen tributes on its brow, and it  
Doth make of them an everlasting crown.  
Thus doth it, day by day, and age by age,  
Defy each stroke of time; still rising highest  
Into heaven!  
Aspiring to the eagle's cloudless height,  
No human foot has stained its snowy side;  
No human breath has dimmed the icy mirror which  
It holds unto the moon, and stars, and sov'reign sun.  
We may not grow familiar with the secrets  
Of its hoary top, whereon the genius  
Of that mountain builds his glorious throne!  
Far lifted in the boundless blue, he doth  
Encircle, with his gaze supreme, the broad  
Dominions of the west, which lie beneath  
His feet, in pictures of sublime repose  
No artist ever drew. He sees the tall,  
Gigantic hills arise in silentness  
And peace, and in the long review of distance  
Range themselves in order grand. He sees the sunlight  
Play upon the golden streams which through the valleys  
Glide. He hears the music of the great and solemn sea,  
And overlooks the huge old western wall  
To view the birthplace of undying melody!  
Itself all light, save when some loftiest cloud  
Doth for a while embrace its cold, forbidding  
Form, that monarch mountain casts its mighty  
Shadow down upon the crownless peaks below,  
That, like inferior minds to some great  
Spirit, stand in strong contrasted littleness!  
All through the long and summery months of our  
Most tranquil year, it points its icy shaft  
On high, to catch the dawning beams that fall  
In showers of splendor round that crystal cone,  
And roll in floods of far magnificence  
Away from that lone, vast reflector in  
In the dome of heaven.  
Still watchful of the fertile  
Vale and undulating plains below,  
The grass grows greener in its shade, and sweeter bloom  
The flowers. Strong purifier! from its snowy crest  
The breezes cool are wafted to the "peaceful  
Homes of men," who shelter at its feet, and love  
To gaze upon its honored form, eye standing  
There the guarantee of health and happiness.  
Well might it win communion so bliss  
To loftier feelings and to nobler thoughts—  
The great material symbol of eternal  
Things! And well, I wene, in after years, how  
In the middle of his furrowed track the plowman  
In some sultry hour will pause, and wiping  
From his brow the dusty sweat, with reverence  
Gaze upon that hoary peak. The herdman  
Oft will rein his charger in the plain, and drink  
Into his inmost soul the calm sublimity;  
And little children, playing on the green, shall  
Cense their sport, and, turning to that mountain  
Old, shall of their mother ask: "Who made it?"  
And she shall answer—"God!"

The Indian name of Shasta is "Ieka" (the white). The name Shasta is a corruption of "Tehastal," given it by the Russians of Fort Ross, and originally spelled "Chasta" by Americans. The name "Ieka" has been corrupted to "Yreka," and is borne by the chief city of Siskiyou county.