

OREGON LEGISLATURE

The first week of the Oregon legislature closed with but little accomplished. The organization of the senate was effected promptly on the first day, and Joseph Simon, of Multnomah, who held the same position two years ago, was elected as president. The senate was in session four days, during which time eighty-five bills were introduced, and then the senate adjourned over until Monday, in order to give the state printer time to catch up.

The Unorganized House. The house was unable to perfect or present a quorum not being found present at any time a roll call was had. The members are divided into three factions on the senatorial nominees, each being a minority. All efforts to unite and agree on any member for speaker have been futile. Much bitter talk and discussion has been the rule since the first day.

Senatorial Caucus. Near the end of the week forty-three Republicans and one Populist held a caucus at the state capitol and unanimously nominated John H. Mitchell for United States senator.

New Bills Four In. Patterson of Marion has introduced a bill making general provision for the transportation of all insane persons to the asylum. His bill provides that the county clerk shall notify the superintendent of the asylum that he has an insane person to be conveyed to the asylum. The superintendent then authorizes some employe of the asylum to repair to the county seat, where the insane person will be delivered to him, and he will conduct such insane person to the asylum. All the expense to be borne by the asylum fund.

Senator Mackay has introduced a bill for the appointing of a fiscal agent at New York city, who is to look after the state's financial interests.

Two other bills of a general nature were introduced, one by Senator McClung, which authorizes the mayor of any city to bid in property sold at public sale for taxes. The other was by Senator Smith, authorizing counties, cities and school districts to dispose of real estate acquired at tax sales.

Senator Michell has called attention to the subject of navigation on the Columbia river, by introducing a bill authorizing the governor to appoint a commission to construct and equip a portage railway from The Dalles to Celilo.

The bill of Senator Price of Umatilla, for the collection of delinquent taxes, provides that all property levied upon shall be advertised and sold in the same manner as real estate, but has also introduced a bill which enables a farm laborer to file a lien upon a growing crop, even though there be a mortgage on the crop.

Senator McClung's bill, No. 5, "to define the terms land and real property, for the purposes of taxation," is virtually a re-establishment of the old mortgage-law. It provides, however, for the exemption only of records of indebtedness, and in that particular differs from the old law, and from other proposed statutes.

The registration bill introduced in the senate by Senator Harmon is identical with the measure to be introduced in the house by Thomas of Multnomah.

Senator Taylor's bill amending the incorporation act of Pendleton changes the city charter in three particulars. It provides that (1) the city may be divided into wards; (2) that the present water-works system may be enlarged into a gravity system; and (3) that city treasurers shall hereafter be appointed by the city council, and not elected by the people. There has been trouble in Pendleton over making the city funds immediately available when they are desired for the payment of warrants. It is thought that, if the temptation for candidates to place themselves under personal obligation to financial institutions has been removed, the difficulty about the funds may be obviated.

Senator Mulkey, of Polk, has introduced into the senate a bill covering the subject of taxation. The bill, in effect, is a practically a re-enactment of the mortgage-tax law. It has three general objects in view—(1) the assessment of all property, (2) equal and impartial collection of taxes, (3) economy in operation. Senator Mulkey says it will save the state at least \$65,000 per year. The bill provides for the deduction of indebtedness where the corresponding credit can be found and assessed. It abolishes the state board of equalization as it is now constituted, vesting that duty in the governor, secretary of state and state treasurer. It also provides for the collection of taxes on the original assessor's roll and for the sending of the summary of the roll to the state board of equalization. It makes the county treasurer the collector of taxes up to the point of delinquency, when they shall be collected by the sheriff.

Senator Holt's bill, for the temporary relief of counties in certain cases, provides that, whenever any railroad company shall neglect or refuse to pay its taxes, or any portion of them, in any county within the state, such county shall not be required to pay into the state treasury its portion of taxes on the assessed value of the railroad's property. The county is also to be relieved from all interest or other penalty until one month after the delinquent tax is collected.

Senator Haseltine introduced a bill which provides that all state taxes be paid June 1 each year, and that interest on delinquent amounts begin July 1.

The Portland charter bill framed by Senator Simon was introduced in the senate by Senator Bates.

The act incorporating Baker City, introduced by Senator King, is chiefly intended to correct an error made at the last session, at which time a charter bill was passed; but the enrolling committee omitted the section relating to the election of city officials.

PLAGUE AND FAMINE

The appalling calamity hanging over India. The appalling calamity hanging over India. The appalling calamity hanging over India. The appalling calamity hanging over India.

FERIBLE SCENES IN BOMBAY

Bombay, Jan. 19.—Plague and famine are stalking arm-in-arm through densely populated portions of the British empire; thousands are dead or dying, and the outlook grows blacker and more terrible every day. Millions of hapless men, women and children are starving, and the famished stricken districts, having a population of nearly 40,000,000 people, will have to depend upon the aid of charity for food enough to keep body and soul together until April or later. Other districts, with a population numbering about 50,000,000, are already feeling the pangs of bitter privation from food, and this must be endured well on into spring, before permanent relief will be afforded by nature. Funds for the relief of sufferers are being raised on all sides, but a very large amount of money will be needed to provide food even for those unfortunate people who live on almost nothing (in comparison with Europeans and others).

The calamity, awful in its intensity, is possibly not much greater than the ravages of the dreadful plague here, threatening to spread through the crowded cities to other parts of India, and if it reaches the greatly weakened famine sufferers, the mortality may be terrible. The natives have been reduced by lack of food to little less than living skeletons, in the most heavily stricken districts, and as such they cannot but fall victims by the thousands to the plague.

The mortality here has quadrupled, without counting the deaths which have occurred among thousands of people who have fled in terror from Bombay, in many cases abandoning their all in their hurried flight from the great perils.

Up to recently, Bombay, with its population of about 850,000, enjoyed the reputation of being one of the healthiest cities in India, its sanitary works being equal to those of the European capitals. But all this is changed. More than half of the population has disappeared, and those who remain are either helpless and cannot get away, or are crowding out of the city by rail, water and road, or else compelling so doing unless there is a change for the better shortly. The government officials are seriously alarmed, the native physicians have nearly all left the city, business is paralyzed, the mills are closed or closing, the streets are partly deserted, and on all sides are empty houses, boarded up or wide open. The passage of funeral parties through the streets goes on day and night, burning grounds, or ghats, light the skies with their red reactions, and line after line of bodies there at the public burial spots are awaiting consignment to the flames or to mother earth.

The number of deaths from the plague in this city is now estimated, unofficially, to be 3,000, and there are about 170 additional victims daily, with this number increasing as time wears on. The Europeans, however, have been singularly free from contagion up to the present time, only three deaths among them being recorded to date.

At Karachi, Poona and Bandra, where large numbers of refugees have sought safety, the plague has broken out in most threatening form. At Bandra, for instance, 129 deaths are recorded out of 180 cases of plague, causing consternation, even among the physicians. In this city there are thousands of houses without native servants, nearly all the latter having joined the fleeing multitudes. Employers are helpless because of the departure of clerks and porters, and stores are closed on account of the utter stagnation in business. The mortality during the past week here has been unprecedented, while the returns of deaths from remittent fevers are extraordinarily high above the plague rate, which is naturally interpreted as meaning that numbers of people who have fallen victims of the plague have been officially recorded as having died of remittent fever.

A VENGEFUL HUNGARIAN

He beheaded the man who had outwitted him. Wilkesbarre, Pa., Jan. 18.—After being bested by Joseph Kalata in a wrestling bout, John Courtnot, a Hungarian, beheaded his successful rival. The men were rivals for the hand of Anna Jopkapat, with whose father they boarded.

There was a gathering at the house and Courtnot challenged Kalata to a wrestling match. Courtnot was defeated, and in a few minutes with a butcher knife, rushing at Kalata, he swung the knife around his head, and with all the force he could muster brought it down on Kalata's neck. The keen blade cut its way through the muscles, arteries and jugular vein, severing them and stopping only at the opposite side of the neck. Kalata fell to the floor without so much as a groan.

Corpus Christi, Tex., Jan. 18.—It is a well-known fact among certain parties here that while Dan Stuart was in Corpus Christi last May, he held several consultations with a leading Brownsville attorney, the result of which was the lease of an island in the Rio Grande river from the Mexican government. Several knowing ones here believe that the probabilities are that the Corpus Christi attorney will be pulled off on the island, which is about ten miles from Brownsville.

The Car Poisoned. London, Jan. 19.—The Daily Mail dispatch from Vienna says startling rumors are current that the czar and his family are suffering from indications of poisoning, but the only ground for the rumors seems to be that extensive changes have recently been made in the kitchen of the winter palace.

Trouble Brewing in Uruguay. New York, Jan. 18.—A Herald special from Montevideo says: It is believed here that a revolution of the White party is imminent. This belief has gained considerable ground.

STORY OF ETHEL GILLIAN

Walla Walla, Jan. 19.—William Gray, of Palouse City, who is in Walla Walla undergoing medical treatment, has recently told the Statesman the story of Ethel Gillian, a girl who lives with her parents ten miles east of Palouse. The family is poor but honest and reliable, the parents being devout members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Last August this little girl was taken ill, and after three weeks, apparently died, so the story goes. For three hours she had every appearance of death. She then slowly revived, but was totally blind. She told her parents she had been in heaven, and seen Jesus and the angels and many friends who had gone before. There she saw a tree of life and a river of life. There were little children in the tree eating the fruit. Each inhabitant wore a crown bearing his or her name. The little girl saw a crown with her name on it, hanging up, and reached for it, but Jesus told her she would have to go back to earth and fulfill her mission. He wanted her to teach his people.

Although blind this girl can read by passing her fingers over the printed or written page, and can describe persons whose pictures were handed to her. The latter power was first discovered by J. B. Cawthorn, a photographer, whose mother lives in Walla Walla. He told the marvelous story to a Sunday school in Palouse City, and Mr. Gray and wife, hearing it, drove out to the home of the girl to see for themselves. Mr. Gray first handed the stick girl his watch, and she told him that it was a gold watch, and the time of day, by passing her fingers over the glass, and to make sure that her power was genuine, a paper was held between her face and a photograph that Mr. Gray handed to her, and she described the picture perfectly as that of an old gentleman with gray whiskers, wearing a dark suit and carrying a cane. She read from books and papers handed to her by the use of her fingers.

Mr. and Mrs. Gray tell many other wonderful things in relation to this child. She has now been ill 100 days, and has not been able to digest any food.

As references for the truth of the story, Mr. Gray gave the names of Rev. A. Y. Skoe, pastor of the S. M. E. church, of Palouse; Rev. J. G. Kerwin, of La Grande, Or.; H. A. Gray, Thomas Cox and J. B. Cawthorn, of Palouse.

AT THE INAUGURATION

Washington, Jan. 19.—Washingtonians who are making an effort to arrange the inaugural ceremonies of Mr. McKinley so that none can complain are disturbed by statements circulated in certain parts of the country to the effect that extortionate rates are to be exacted of those who come here to witness the inauguration ceremonies. Speaking to an Associated Press reporter today, Chairman Bell said:

"If the people insist on making their own arrangements, the inaugural committee cannot be held responsible, but I can assure any one who will address Colonel L. P. Wright, chairman of the committee on public comfort, that he will secure for them the best of accommodations at reasonable rates. He has 20,000 to 30,000 persons, mostly in private houses, which are well located, and which are supplied with all modern conveniences. The list is daily increasing. The rates will average about as follows: For lodging only, \$1.25 to \$1.50 for lodging and breakfast, and \$3.50 per day for lodging and meals. Good horses for the parade may be hired for from \$5 to \$10. If persons have equipments it will be well to bring them, although such as they may not possess will be supplied by the committee at moderate cost."

Earthquake in Oakland. Oakland, Cal., Jan. 19.—An earthquake this afternoon was productive of a remarkable scene at the Tenth-avenue Baptist church. Rev. C. M. Hill, the pastor, was just closing an eloquent sermon. Just as he asked the congregation in an impressive manner what stewardship the building began to quake until it seemed that the roof would fall in. In a moment all was confusion. Some of the congregation ran for the doors; others fell on their knees to pray, while others, with faces pale, stood waiting for what seemed to many to be certain death. Deacon Joseph Platt attempted to calm the assemblage. He asked why there should be fear, if they had heeded the words of their shepherd, and were ready for the end. He said that they should rejoice if the end came and found them prepared. The speaker quickly restored quiet, and when he had finished, all joined in prayers of thanksgiving.

Derivatives on the Move. Rome, Jan. 19.—Maslovich advises that the effect of a body of Derivatives believed to be the advance guard of the entire Derivatives force, has entered the Kedard district, and is moving on Agordat. The Italian government is concentrating all the troops available near Agordat, which is well defended.

Cleaned Out a Town. Perry, O. T., Jan. 19.—Late last night robbers took in the town of Newkirk, north of here. Saloons were robbed of all the money and quantities of whisky and beer. Residences were entered and many things were taken out. The officers think the robbers came into town yesterday under the guise of tramps. Five tramps were arrested here yesterday for highway robbery. They are supposed to be members of an organized gang.

Will Prevent Premature Burials. London, Jan. 19.—A dispatch from Vienna to the Chronicle says: Professor Frederick, of Elbing, has notified the Vienna academy of his discovery of a new kind of Roentgen ray, which will infallibly determine in a subject whether death or catalepsy has intervened.

London, Jan. 18.—The Chronicle this morning publishes an interview with Professor Heron, of Iowa, in which he declares that the people generally throughout the United States approve the arbitration treaty.

WOOLGROWERS MEET

Salem, Or., Jan. 19.—At a meeting of the North Pacific Sheepraisers and Woolgrowers' Association, held at the state capitol, pursuant to a call from the president, Hon. John Minto, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

"Whereas, The congress of the United States has authorized the president to proclaim as forest reserve 4,600,000 acres of the Cascade range of mountains, extending in an unbroken body across the state of Oregon, thereby creating a physical division of the state; and

"Whereas, This immense body of land has been placed under the care of the department of the interior, to be protected from the injury of its forest growth by the aid of the United States district court and by its officers, and citizens of the United States, resident of Oregon, have been arrested and put to cost on the assumption that grazing stock (sheep especially) within such reserve is an injury to the forest growth thereon; and

"Whereas, By an experience extending over fifty years, in some cases, members of this association know that despite grazing of sheep or cattle upon the grass lands of Oregon, whether on the mountains or in the valleys, the restoration of open land has extended, extending, over all pasture land, near enough seedbearing trees for the seeds to be carried by the wind; and the truth of this statement is well set forth in papers now published by the state board of horticulture, by persons who have seen these processes going forward for from forty-four to fifty-two years' observation; therefore, be it

"Resolved, These prosecutions of stockowners, whose stock has in past years ranged on the mountains of Oregon, is totally unjustifiable, on the ground of injury done by such grazing; that we, as citizens of the United States, residing in Oregon, claim all the rights of the citizens of other states to the full benefit of the use of the public domain, and of the general laws of the national government, and believe it an oppression, unjust as well as unnecessary, to harass stockmen by trials in the United States court for acts of technical trespass, where benefit rather than damage has been done; that we heartily indorse the concurrent resolution introduced by Senator Mulkey, in the present legislative assembly of Oregon; that we are unanimously in favor of the restoration of a reasonable tariff duty on wool, adequate for the encouragement of woolgrowing, and also favor an import duty being placed on shoddy, sufficiently high to discourage the importation of said article."

Senator Mulkey's resolution, provides for three reserves, instead of one.

THE DAY IN THE HOUSE

Oratorical Tributes to the Late Speaker Crisp. Washington, Jan. 19.—Most of this day in the house was devoted to oratorical tributes to the late Speaker Crisp, of Georgia, who died during the recent recess of congress. The speeches were listened to by nearly all of the Democrats, and a large contingent of Republicans, while many Southern people filled the galleries. All of the members on both sides of the house delivered eulogies, which were unusually impressive, and were listened to with much more than the usual attention.

The bill authorizing the Columbia & Red Mountain Railway Company to build a bridge across the Columbia river, in Stevens county, Wash., called up by Doolittle, passed. Delegate Carter attempted to secure the passage of a bill to give the deserted Fort Marcy military reservation, at Santa Fe, N. M., to the American Loyal Aid Society, of Boston, for the establishment of a sanitarium for pulmonary diseases, but it failed on objection.

Flogging on Shipboard. Cleveland, Jan. 19.—Senators Frye and Hale, who were responsible for the senate substitute for house bill No. 2843, which restored flogging in the merchant marine, are being severely condemned by the 300,000 members of the Western Seamen's Society at various branches. At a meeting of the local trustees of the society, who are prominent business men, resolutions were adopted protesting against the law.

Has Discovered No Lymph. Paris, Jan. 19.—In an interview, Dr. Roux, who is connected with the department of hygiene, denied a report that he had made experiments with an anti-plague lymph. He would know how to prepare the lymph, he said, if it was needed, but he felt that bubonic plague would never get a hold in Europe. The Temps complains of the inactivity of the present Indian government in dealing with the scourge.

Victim of Commodore Wreck. Salem, Mass., Jan. 19.—The remains of the late William Alexander Higgins, who met his death with many others at the foundering of the Cuban filibustering steamer Commodore, off the Florida coast, Sunday morning, January 3, arrived today. The funeral was held at the undertaking rooms, and was attended by a large crowd.

The Death of Maceo. Jacksonville, Fla., Jan. 19.—A letter has been received by one of the representatives in this city of the Cuban junta, confirming the Associated Press dispatch of Friday giving an account of the death of General Maceo. Hernandez, who was encamped with a company of cavalry and other forces near where Maceo was ambushed. The insurgents are reported to be encamped nine miles east of Havana.

A Sells Ulterior Post. London, Jan. 19.—A dispatch from Mendoza, Argentina, to the Chronicle says a telegram has been received from the Fitzgerald expedition, reporting that a Swiss guide, Zurbriggen, had reached the summit of Concaagua, in the Andes, over 24,000 feet above the sea level, after the third attempt.

The Foot Emmerston's Son. Cambridge, Mass., Jan. 19.—Edward W. Emerson, of Concord, son of Ralph Waldo Emerson, has been chosen as post for Phi Beta Kappa day at Harvard next June.

OLNEY'S SUCCESSOR

Senator John Sherman Has Accepted State Portfolio. RESULT OF HIS TRIP TO CANTON. General Alger Being Considered for the War Department—Morace Davis Has No Chance.

Canton, O., Jan. 18.—"I have accepted the state portfolio," said Senator John Sherman to the Associated Press representative at the Fort Wayne depot a few minutes before the senator left for Washington this afternoon. The senator had but a few moments before left the presence of the president-elect. Concerning other matters connected with the incoming administration, the senator was very reticent. Asked as to whether Mr. Hanna would be appointed senator, he replied that he did not know. Senator Sherman was in the city a little more than three hours, and all the while was at the McKinley home, where he took lunch with other prominent callers.

Policy Toward Cuba. Pittsburg, Jan. 18.—The Dispatch says: The Cuban policy of the McKinley administration will differ very little from that which has been laid down by President Cleveland and his secretary of state. This statement is based on remarks made to a reporter by the man who will be premier of the next administration, Senator Sherman, at the union depot this evening.

The veteran statesman was on his way to Washington from Canton. After stating that his position in the next cabinet had been determined, Senator Sherman said in answer to a question: "I think the United States government should not interfere with the Cuban war, either to aid in its settlement or to do anything which would make a peaceful government of the island a charge upon this country. I think Canovas has outlined a program of governmental reforms, which will be applied both in Spain and Cuba. These reforms will give the Cubans practical autonomy, and will, I hope, settle the question."

Adrift on an Ice Floe. Menominee, Mich., Jan. 18.—Twenty-nine men are clinging to a block of ice a few rods square that is being driven out of Green bay into Lake Michigan by a fierce southerly gale. The wind is blowing thirty miles an hour, and carries a snow squall. The men are fishermen, clad only in the none too heavy clothing worn while tending their nets, and unless the ice floe has been blown against Chambers island or Green island, there is little probability they will live through the night. The doomed men are residents of the little fishing village of Menominee, and their wives and children and neighbors are spending the night on the mountains of ice that fringe the beach weeping.

MUCHLY MARRIED. An Indian Territory Man Who Has Sixteen Wives. Dennison, Tex., Jan. 18.—Deputy United States Marshal B. C. Birchfield, of Durant, I. T., has arrived here, having in charge Tom Lowe, 35 years of age, who is wanted in this county on indictment in two cases of disposing of mortgaged property.

Lowe, in the company of Officer Birchfield and Policeman James, confessed to being the husband of sixteen wives, all of whom he has married within the last eight years. The confession was made in writing.

He married wife No. 1 at Purcell, I. T., in 1886; No. 2 in Brownwood, Tex.; the same year; No. 3 in Benton; No. 4 in Hillsboro; No. 5 in Ennis; No. 6 in Marion county; No. 7 in Galveston; No. 8 in Houston; No. 9 in McLennan county; No. 10 in Denton; No. 11 in Paris; No. 12 in Delta county; No. 13 in Mills county; No. 14 in Milan county; No. 15 at Weber Falls, and No. 16 in Young county.

All the wives are alive, and so far as he knows, Lowe says they are not remarried. So far as he knows nineteen children have been born to them within the last eight years.

Killed in the Czar's Reserve. Berlin, Jan. 18.—The Lokal Anzeiger publishes a dispatch from St. Petersburg reporting a lamentable incident, which has occurred in the czar's presence. The czar, it seems, beckoned to a gardener, who was working in the park at Tsarskoeloe. The gardener, seeing the man running toward the czar, shot him dead, supposing he was a would-be assassin. The czar was deeply affected by this occurrence.

Care Piled in a Heap. Bushnell, Ill., Jan. 18.—A wreck occurred on the Toledo, Peoria & Western at Sciota, ten miles west, last night. The engine, mail, baggage and two passenger cars were piled in a heap. The engineer was killed, and the baggage man and five or six passengers badly hurt. The wreck was caused by a broken rail, while the train was running thirty-five miles an hour.

Suffocated by Coal Gas. Chicago, Jan. 18.—The bodies of Mrs. Esther Poole, 60 years old, and her son, Charles, aged 34, who were suffocated by coal gas, were found in their house last night.

Fire in an Orphan's Home. Dallas, Tex., Jan. 18.—At a late hour tonight the boys' department of Buckner's Orphan Home, five miles from the city, was destroyed by fire. Five boys perished in the flames, and several others were burned.

Left the Gas Burner Open. New York, Jan. 18.—William Ferguson, corresponding secretary of the typographical union of this city, and Jacob McKenna, of Brooklyn, were found dead in a room of the Hotel Ulmer. They had died of asphyxiation by illuminating gas, which escaped from a burner that had been left open, probably accidentally. Ferguson had a wide reputation among printers from his prominence in local and international union. McKenna had been vice-president of the International union, and editor of the Union Printer.