

CREMATED ALIVE

Fate of Three Young Children at Olympia.

NO WITNESS TO CATASTROPHE

Residence and Its Contents Also Consumed—Origin of Blaze Uncertain, but It Is Thought Victims Played With Fire.

OLYMPIA, Wash., Dec. 25.—Joshua Lavering's three children were burned to death this morning when their home together with its contents destroyed by fire. Lavering is a cripple, and earns his living by hauling wood. This morning he had gone to the woods to load his wagon, and his wife accompanied him to assist.

TO SIMPLIFY TAX SYSTEM

Senator Mulkey Favors Bill Which Will Be More Businesslike.

MONMOUTH, Dec. 25.—Senator R. F. Mulkey, speaking of new laws which he will introduce or father at the coming session of the Oregon Legislature, said: "I desire to see a simplifying of the machinery in our tax system. Many relics of the fee system are manifest in the requirements of our tax laws. Time and expense would be saved by adding columns to the original returns, and instead of adding an entire copy of the roll to mark its advancement from the Assessor to and through the Clerk's and the Sheriff's office beyond the point of delinquency. Endless loss would be avoided if a simple expression of the statute constituted the tax roll as it exists in the Clerk's hands, alien upon each property owned in the roll for the taxes assessed against it.

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NEW WING HAS BEEN COMPLETED—GOOD CHANGES IT WILL BRING. SALEM, Or., Dec. 25.—The new wing at the Oregon State Penitentiary has been completed, and will be occupied as soon as the steam cooking apparatus can be placed in position. The bathing and steam-heating plant are already in use.

Arrested for Stage Robbery.

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DEAD BY HIS OWN HAND

WELL-KNOWN ASHLAND MAN SHOT HIMSELF THROUGH HEART.

HAD BEEN SUFFERING FROM BAD HEALTH FOR SOME TIME, BUT NEVER INTIMATED SUICIDE. ASHLAND, Or., Dec. 25.—Robert Taylor, a well-known resident and politician of the county, died from the results of a self-inflicted gunshot wound this morning about 9 o'clock, at his farm, six miles south of here. Taylor had been spending the Christmas holidays with his family, who reside in Ashland, and returned to the ranch last night. This morning he told the young boy who works on the place to go out and dig some carrots, while he (Taylor) would go with his gun in search of some hogs on the range.

100,000 FIRE AT CALGARY.

CALGARY, N. W. T., Dec. 25.—The most destructive fire in the history of Calgary raged today, and wrought damage estimated at \$100,000. Several of the finest business structures were destroyed, among them being the Clarence, Eau Claire and New Norman block.

Even Points for Each Team.

CORVALLIS, Or., Dec. 25.—A spirited game of football was played here yesterday afternoon between the Philomath and

GALLERY OF NEW MEMBERS OF OREGON LEGISLATURE.



LOT L. PEARCE, REPRESENTATIVE FROM MARION COUNTY.

SALEM, Dec. 25.—Lot L. Pearce, who will be one of Marion County's Representatives in the lower house of the next Legislature, was born in Polk County, near Salem, September 1, 1860. Most of his youth was spent on the farm. His common school education was received at a country school near his farm home, on the Oak Grove road. In 1883 he removed to Salem, and entered the employ of the hardware firm of R. M. Wade & Co., which firm he has been ever since. He started in as a stock clerk, and by his faithful attention to his duties worked his way up to a clerkship, and in 1890 became secretary of the company.

SALEM, Dec. 25.—Union County today paid \$9000 on its 1899 state tax. Telephone connections to Dayton are complete. Seattle and Tacoma teams will play football New Year's.

WASHINGTON TEACHERS CONVENTION.

ELLENBURG, Wash., Dec. 25.—The State Teachers' Association convened here in annual session this afternoon. About 50 outside teachers are present. On account of the small attendance, only one topic, "Child Study from a Psychological Standpoint," was taken up today. W. E. Colgrove, of Seattle, read a paper on the subject. This was followed by a general discussion. Tonight a public reception was held.

STATE EDUCATORS MEET

CONVENTION OF WESTERN DIVISION OF TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.

ATTENDANCE IS LARGE AND GOOD RESULTS ASSURED—PROGRAMME TO BE CONCLUDED SATURDAY. ALBANY, Dec. 25.—The first annual meeting of the western division of the Oregon Teachers' Association convened in the Presbyterian Church here tonight. A large number of educators are in attendance. It was probably during the term of office of Superintendent Sylvester Simpson that the State Teachers' Association was first mentioned, but it fell to the lot of Dr. L. A. Rowland to introduce the program of an annual gathering of Oregon teachers at some one point for the purpose of mature deliberation.

WHATCOM NORMAL SCHOOL.

TRUSTEES SUBMIT ANNUAL REPORT—ESTIMATE OF NEEDS OF INSTITUTION. OLYMPIA, Wash., Dec. 25.—The biennial report of the trustees of the State Normal School, at Whatcom, is on file in the governor's office. There are a total of 294 students enrolled in this school. The average of the student body is 19 years.

Light and Water Contest Settled.

FOREST GROVE, Or., Dec. 25.—The electric light and water contest here has been settled by the withdrawal of the proposition of E. W. Haines. This means that the city will continue to supply these necessities.

Idaho Notes.

F. Johnson shipped a carload of prunes East from Troy this week. No Christmas festivities were held at Kendrick, owing to the prevalence of scarletina.

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taken back to Moscow. Soequa was held for introducing whisky on the reservation and was confined in the jail to await the action of the grand jury.

Articles of incorporation of the Eagle Corner Mining & Milling Company, limited, of Wallace, capital stock \$1000, have been filed with the Secretary of State; also articles of the New Sweden Farmers' Union, limited, of Idaho Falls. The latter company is organized to deal in merchandise, farm implements and livestock. It has a capital of \$20,000.

Articles of incorporation of 1800 acres of school land were sold by C. B. Steunberger, special agent of the State Land Department. The total acreage offered for sale was 239 acres. The highest price per acre paid for the land was \$15.50, and the lowest \$10. The average was \$12 per acre, and the total sale amounted to \$2250. The first cash payment, which also included interest on the balance of \$1250, was \$1250. The tract bringing the highest price embraced 180 acres, located four miles southwest of New Perce City. C. J. McRea was the purchaser, paying \$250. The land sold all located in the reservation country, near Nez Perce. The state had appraised the land at values ranging from \$9 to \$15 per acre.

The last appropriation is so nearly exhausted that the legislature will be asked to make an appropriation for the winter term immediately upon convening.

The financial statement shows that August 31, 1900, there remained of the fund of \$4000 appropriated for the year 1900, amounting to \$41; \$3500 for books and stationery; the maintenance fund of \$37,000 showed an unexpended balance of \$34,600; the appropriation of \$500 for improving the college grounds has all been expended; \$41; \$3500 for books and stationery is totally expended; also the \$5000 appropriated for equipment of museum and natural history room; the fund of \$1000 for laboratory supplies has a balance of \$70, and the \$2500 appropriated for equipment of the library has a balance of \$215 remaining.

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The planer that used to do duty at the old Mechanical Hall at the Agricultural College, and which went through the fire that destroyed the building, is to be put to work in the paper mill at Lebanon. The latter establishment is to be increased to double the present capacity.

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