Marion County Bar Association Prepares a Bill.

SIMILAR LAW UPHELD IN OHIO

Property of Telegraph, Telephone Express and Oil Companies to Be Assessed by the State Board-Manner of Assessment.

SALEM, Or., Jan. 4.-(Special.)-The bill prepared by a special committee of the Marion County Bar Association for the purpose of assessing the franchises of certain corporations is a copy of a law in force in the Sinte of Ohio. The law has been held to be constitutional by the Sin-preme Court of the United States, and for that reason the committee thought it a presse could of the committee thought it a good law to follow in preparing a like measure for this state. The bill applies only to telegraph, telephone, express and oil companies, for the reason that these are the principal companies that transact business in this state without owning any considerable amount of property upon which taxes are paid. The committee is composed of Judge George H, Burnett, W. H. Holmes, George G, Bingham, John A, Carson and W. T. Sister. The bill applies to all telegraph, telephone and express opmpanics doing business in or through This state, and to companies engaged in refuing petroleum and its products or in maintaining depots, warehouses, store-rooms or tanks for the distribution of oil and petroleum products. In the discussion over the bill it was stated that the purw of the bill as to oll companies is to reach the Standard Oll Company, which maintains a tank line and does an enoras business without paying taxes upon any other property than a few warchouses and tanks. It was stated that the company has a monopoly of the oil trade in Salem without paying taxes upon any-thing except a tank and a delivery wagon. After defining the companies which come under the provisions of the law, the bill provides as follows:

Must File Annual Reports.

Section 2. Every express, telegraph, tele-phone and oil company defined in section 1, doing business in this state, shall annually between the lat and Eist days of March, under the oath of the person constituting such com-pany, if a person, or under the oath of the esident, secretary, treasurer, superintendent chief officer in this state of such association or corporation, if an association poration, make and file with the Sec sistion or corporation, make and file with the Secretary of State a statement, in such form as the Secretary of State may prescribe, containing the ing facts

The name of the company.

2. The nature of the company, whether a person or persons, or association or corpora-tion, and under the laws of what state or try organized.

3. The location of its principal office. 4. The name and postoffice address of the resident, secretary, auditor, treasurer and su-

premission, scoretary, monitor, measurer and su-perintendent or general manager. 3. The name and postoffice address of the chief officer or managing agent of the com-pany in. Oragon. 6. The number of the shares of the capi-

The par value and market value, or, if there be no market value, the actual value of its shares of stock on the 1st day of March. 8. A detailed statement of the real estate

ned by the company in Oregon, where situ-and the value thereof as assessed for taxa-B. A full and correct inventory of the perproperty, including meneys and credits, by the company in Oregon on the lat of March, where situate and the value

10. The total value of the real estate owned by the company and situate outside of Oregon. 11. The total value of the personal property owned by the company and situate outside of

as will, in its judgment, make the valu-ation thereof just and equal. The pro-ceedings of said Board of Appraisers and Assessors shall be subject to review by **TO TAX FRANCHISES** the courts of the state for the correction of error or overtaxation in the assess-ment of property for taxation by said State Board of Appraisers and Asses-sors, and to the remission of taxes and penalties illegally assessed thereon. Sec. 4. In case any company required to file a statement under the provisions of Section 2, fails to make and file such state-

Many From Abrond Attend-Historical Sketch Presented-Has Never Been Without a Pastor.

THUSIASTIC CELEBRATION.

ment on or before the list day of March, such company shall he subject to a penalty of \$500, and an additional penalty of \$100 for each day's omission after the list day ALBANY, Or. Jan 4-(Special.)-Toof March, to file such statement, said pen-alty to be recovered by action in the name day is a red-letter day for the Metho. dism of Albany. It is the 59th anniversary of the state, and, on collection, paid into of the First Methodist Episcopal Church the state treasury to the credit of the gen-eral revenue fund. The attorney general, on the request of the state board of ap-praisers and assessors, shall institute such in this city, and the occasion was appro-priately celebrated. Bervices were in progress most of the day, and the church was gaily dressed for the occasion. In-vitations had been sent to all former pasaction against any company so delinquent in the proper circuit court of the state of tors of this church and to church organ-izations throughout the state, which re-Oregon. That the state board of apprainers and assessors shall have power to re-quire the president, secretary, treasurer, sulted in a considerable number of visit-

company in his possession, custory or con-trol, and to testify under oath touching any matter relating to the business, prop-erty, moneys, or credits and the value thereof, of such company. Any member of the board is authorized and empowered to administer such oath. Any officer, em-ploye or agent of such company who shall of the board is further the heard when refuse to attend before the board, when required to do so, or shall refuse to bring with him and submit for the inspection of the board any books or papers of such company in his possession, custody or con-trol, or shall refuse to answer any question put to him by the board, or any member thereof, touching the business, property, moneys and credits and the value thereof, of such company, shall be guilty of a misdemesnor, and on convic-tion thereof before any court of com-petent juricliction shall be fined not more than \$500, or imprisoned not more than 30 days, or both; and any officer, employe or agent of such company so refusing, as tempt of such board, and may be confined, by order of said board, and may be confined, by order of said board, in the juil of the proper county until he shall comply with the requirement of the board and pay the

costs of his imprizonment. Value Apportlened Among Countles. Sec. 6. The state board of appraisers and assessors shall, on or before the first Monday in July, report to the secretary of state the total value of the property of express, telegraph, telephone and oll companies in Oregon, so accertained and accessed by the heard; at the same time, the board shall file with the secretary of state the statements of the various panies and other papers before it. secretary of state shall deduct from the total value of the property of each of said companies in Oregon, the value, as assessed for taxation, of any real estate situate In Oregon and owned by such company, The value of the property of said com-panies in Oregon, after deducting the value of the real estate, shall be apportioned by the secretary of state among the several counties through or into which the lines of such telegraph or telephone companies run, so that to each county shall be apportioned such part of the entire valuation as will equalize the relative value of the property of the com-pany therein, in proportion to the whole value of the property of the company in the state, and in the proportion that the length of the lines of wire owned by the company, or in the county bears to the whole length of the lines of wire in the state. The value of the property of any express or oll company shall be appor-tioned by the secretary of state among the several counties in which the company does business, in the proportion that the gross receipts in each county bear to the entire gross receipts in the state. The socretary of state shall, on or after the lifth day of July, certify to the county assessor the amount apportioned to his county, and the county assessor, upon re-ceiving such certificate shall emeration the ceiving such certificate, shall apportion the amount therein stated to the county, mu-nicipal incorporations, school districts or other taxing districts, after the same machod used for the apportionment of the valuation in the state among the coun-

ties; and the county assessor shall place the apportion-valuation on the tax roll, and taxes shall be levied and collected thereon at the same rate and in the same manner us taxes are levied and collected on other personal property in the county in question.

THE MORNING OREGONIAN, MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 1903

used as a residence. These early dates were not used in reckoning the time for holding the semi-centennial rally, because \$500,000 FOR THE FAIR CHURCH 50 YEARS OLD the church archives contain no official records of that date. METHODISTS OF ALBANY HAVE EN-

The first record made in the books now in the archives of the church was placed there by Rev. Isaac Dillon, who states that he was pastor of the Albany Church in 1853. Hence the semi-centennial is dat-ed from that time. Albany was yet a part of the Calapoola circuit, and contin-ued so until 1857. In that year the first church was built, and circuit-riders

cealed to preach in schoolhouses and hotel buildings. This old Methodist church was the first church edifice in Albany. It occupied the corner of Fifth and Vine streets, which is now the site of Judge L. Flinn's hand-

some home. Some ploneers relate that the first Christmas tree and festivities they ever saw were in this old church. Mrs. F. M. Westfall, who came to Al-bany in 1858 and is the oldest living member of the church, attended services in the old building.

The old church was moved to the site ing postors and laymen, who contributed of the present church, at the corner of to the programme. Among the distin. Third and Ellsworth streets, some time Ing postors and laymen, who controled in the programme. Among the distin-guished visitors who took a leading part in the rally are: Joseph W. Powell, of Buffalo, N. Y.; J. H. Coleman, D. D., president of Willamette University at Sa-lem; T. B. Ford, D. D., of Salem, presid-The first Methodist Episcopal Church of secure good roads. That we will not ob-

REPRESENTATIVE FARMERS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY FAVOR IT.

Also Want State School Fund Better Employed, Good Roads, Corpora-

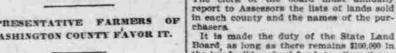
GASTON, Or., Jan. 1 .- At a meeting of the Republican Club, composed largely of representative farmers at Gaston, this

cussed, and the following resolutions were passed: "That we unanimously and heartily indorse the appropriation of \$500.000 by the state for the Lewis and Clark Fair, along

"That we believe measures should be

districts in the state. "That we carnestly favor any reasonable, conservative plan whereby we can

CELEBRATED THEIR GOLDEN WEDDING



It is made the outy of the State Land Board as long as there remains E100,000 in the irreducible school fund, to allow three-fifths of the purchase price of the land to remain unpaid, so long as the pur-chaser of said land, or his assignce, shall pay the interest in accordance with the terms of the certificate, but purchasers tion and Inheritance Tax.

may pay in full at any time they may de When the State Land Board has sold when the State Land Board has sold land to which it cannot give title, it must repay to the purchaser the amount paid thereon, with 5 per cent interest, unless the purchaser of the land has received from the use of the land more than enough to reimburse him for the improve-ments he has placed upon the lands afternoon, legislative matters were dis-

the lines laid down in the bill drafted by the Legislative committee of the Fair.

taken whereby the state school fund, now largely idle, can be loaned out where it will be safe, as, for instance, to school

ceedings are pending. The purpose of the bill outlined in brief In the foregoing is to remove the objec-tionable features of the present manage-ment of the lleu-land business.

Board May Be Reviewed.

A bill has also been prepared and ap-proved by the Bar Association committee making the decisions of the State Land Board reviewable by the courts and mak-ing the board subject to mandamus and injunction proceedings.

Astoria Brevities.

ASTORIA, Jan. 4.—(Special.)-A suit was filed in the Circuit Court yesterday after-noon by the Columbia River & Nehalem Railway Company vs. the Whitney Land Company to condemn a right of way for the plaintiff's railroad across certain property belonging to the defendant and situated in the Nehalem Valley. A large whale came ashore on Clatsop

Spit near the end of the jetty yesterday afternoon, and is now stranded on the beach Bids for constructing a drain on Elev

enth street have been received as follows: C. E. Johnson, \$479 45; W. A. Goodin, \$450; C. G. Palmberg, \$450. As there was a tie between the two lowest bidders, the question of which should receive the contract was left to them. They shook dice and Palmberg was the winner. For making repairs to the bell tower at No. 2 engine house C. G. Palmberg bid 174: Birch & Ja-conseon, 575. The contract was awarded

to Palmberg. Sheriff Linville today made a search of all the outward-bound vessels in the harall the butward-bound vensus in the nar-bor in the hope of finding some trace of G. A. Stinson, the blacksmith, who has been missing for over a week. There was some suspicion that he had been shanghaled, but no trace of him was discovered. Stinson carried considerable life insurance, and this will not be paid while there exists even a vague chance that he might be alive.

The increased activity in real estate cir-The increased activity in real estate cir-cles in this county is attested by the heavy receipts at the County Clerk's office during the past year for recording instru-ments. The total for the year was \$3%s, and this down to the year was \$3%s. and this does not include \$46 deeds given by the Sheriff to the county for property sold for taxes and on which no fees were charged. The month of December was the record-breaker, the receipts during that time being \$721 50.

county in which the land is situated. As-sessors must assess lands held under cet-tificate to the person owning the same. The clerk of the board must annually report to Assessors the lists of lands sold

INTENDED TO BID GIRL GOOD-BYE, BUT SHOT HER.

Statement of Ples Armstrong Regarding Miss Ensminger and the Baker County Tragedy.

BAKER CITY, Or., Jan. 4 .- Ples Armstrong, the young man who shot and killed Minnle Ensininger, near Haines, in this county, Christmas morning, has submitted to an interview, in which he says that it was not his intention to kill her. He says that he was engaged to the

ments he has placed upon the lands. It is also made the duty of the clerk of the board to request monthly a statement young indy or had been for the past two years until about a week before the shooting. Miss Ensminger broke the engagefrom the Government Land Offices in the state a list of all lands which any person may be attempting to declars to be minment and Armstrong said he made up his mind to kill himself. As she was leaving the dance Christmas morning he his mind to all himself. As she was leaving the dance Christmas morning he followed her, intending to bid her good-bye and then go and shoot himself. When within five feet of the young lady he drew his revolver and shot her. He in-sists that he does not know why he did it, because he loved her then and still reverse her memory. When he realized eral in character, with the time and pince of the hearing thereof, and if any such proceedings affect any holder of a certificate issued by the Land Board, it is made the duty of the clerk immediately to notify the holder of such certificate that the pro-

reveres her memory. When he realized what he had done he ran away and at-tempted to shoot himself as he ran. He says he cannot understand how he failed to kill himself because it was his pur-pose to fire a fatal shot. Armstrong insists that he had no occasion to be jealous of Mhes Ensminger and that jealousy had no part in the sad affair.

Drunken Wretch Kills His Wife.

MISSOULA, Mont., Jan. 4 .- Crazed with lquor and opiates, Louis H. Mott emptied the contents of a revolver into his wife this afternoon. She died at the hospital five hours later. Mott was arrested. Mott'o laundry was sold some weeks ago because of his drunken habits. Since then Mott has been drinking heavily and abusing his wife. The couple had words in the parlor. Mrs. Mott, fearing violence, went to the klitchen and then outside. He fol-

lowed and shot her. CHURCH WINDOWS PROKEN.

Necessary to Get Air to Booker

Washington's Congregation.

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Jan. 4.-Booker T. Washington, president of the Tuskegee Industrial Institute in Alabama, spoke twice today to enormous crowds. Tonight in the First Congregational Church, in this city, the throng of people anxious to hear him was no great that it was necessary to bar-ricade the side entrance to the church and place policemen at all doors. Several women fainted in the suffocating atmosphere, and in order to let sufficient fresh air into the overcrowded auditorium many windows on the sides of the church were

broken by the closely packed people. Mr. Washington's topic was the work of the institution of which he is the head, and the general subject of the education and uplifting of the negroes of the South. His appeal for aid in carrying on the work met with generous response.

Bodies Recovered After a Year.

VICTORIA, R. C., Jan. 4.—After being burled under a cave-in for over a year in No.4 sisope at the Union mines, the bodies of the pumpman, T. Nickalls, formerly a sailing ship master on Coast vessels, and a Chinaman have been recovered. They were killed in company with two others during a fire in No. 4 slope in July, 1901.

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MR. AND MRS. JOHN A. SLAVIN.

Mr. and Mrs. John A. Slavin celebrated their golden wedding at their home, near Hillsdale, Multhomah County, on December The rooms and table were appropriately decorated in green and gold. Many friends and relatives were present to enjoy the hearty pioneer hospitality and testified the esterm in which the host and hostess are held by numerous kindly presents. Several pieces of the pioneer furniture with which the young couple set up housekeeping were displayed as relics of old days. Mrs. A. C. Brown, of Forest Grove, Mrs. Siavin's eister and her bridesmaid, related many interesting reminiscences of the trip across the plains and of life near early Portland. Hun. John F. Caples toasted the bride and groom, pointing out the influence of their sturdy, kindly lives on the present progress and prosperity of Gregon.

Mr. John Addison Slavin was born May 9, 1826, In Boon County, Missouri, his parents having moved there from Kentucky. and crossed the plains to Portland in 1850. The following Spring he took up a donation land claim southwest of Portland, be-tween the Marquam and Terwilliger claims. His wife, Emma R. Ross, was born in Delawary, O., February 12, 1858, and came to Oregon with hir stepfather, Israel Mitchell, an old-time surveyor, in 1847. Mr. and Mrs. Slavin were married December 30, 1852, from Mr. Mitchell's home, near Mountsylvania, now Tigardville, and have since lived on their claim, a residence of 50 years. Six children were born to them, three of whom survive-John R. Slavin, Mrz. N. L. Gliham, of Hillsdale, and Mrs. R C. Prince, of Portland.

Mr. Slavin served as County Commissioner during Judge Rice's administration; was instrumental in getting the Slavin road, built, and has repeatedly given land for educational and other purposes. He and his wite have always been known for their helpfulness in times of trouble. Their lives were full of the self-reliance and kindliness that have built the state.

ing elder of this district. Mr. Powell, who is familiar with work of this nature, was particularly active. The day's programme was in three di-visions means and possibly the Taylor-Street Methodist denomina-tion the churches at Salem. Oregon City and possibly the Taylor-Street Methodist tion and inheritance taxes, as recom-Church, in Portland, antedate the Albany church. This front rank in point of time mended by Secretary of State Dunbar in his annual report. makes today's ecclesiastical gathering a That we are opposed to a state coyote notable event among Methodists in gen-eral, indicating as it does another milescalp bounty, believing this a matter for the interested counties to regulate for post in the progress of the denomination in Oregon. From 1853, when Rev. Isaac Dillon made themselves." the first records in the church archives, the First Methodist Church of Albany REVISE LIEU LAND LAWS. has never been without a pastor. Few Bill to Defing Duties of State Land churches in the state can boast of so ion a life without a single "interregnum" of Department. SALEM, Jan. 4 .- (Special.) - A bill has any duration. Further, the Albany church has never experienced a lax in in-terest, but has gradually but continually been prepared and will be submitted to the Marion County Bar Association tomorrow forged ahead financially and spiritually, the purpose of which is to reorganize the until it now enjoys the proud distinction of the largest active membership in the State Land Board and define the manner churches of Albany. Today the member-ship of the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Albany numbers 355. This healthy condition is largely due to the personal exertion and untiring efforts of Rev. M. C. Wire, D. D., the present pasin which it shall conduct the work of selecting lieu lands. The bill proposes to continue the power of the Governor to ap-point a State Land Agent, so that the Democratic Governor will not be deprived of this patronage, but the State Land Agent is made subject to the orders of tor. Dr. Wire enjoys the profound respect of Albanians generally, and is very pop-ular with his congregation. The high the whole board. The two land departments are to work in harmony, and in fact, to constitute but one department, so that henceforth, if this bill should become esteem in which Dr. Wire is held by his church membership is testified by the fact that he has been pastor here for seven a law, there could not recur any such conflicts as have recently caused so much successive years. With but one excep-tion, there is no other minister in the trouble The bill amends sections 3294, 3295, 230 Methodist Episcopal denomination in the 2308, 3309 and 2311 of the Bellinger and Cot-Northwest who can claim a like distincton code. It provides that the Governor. Secretary of State and State Treasurer shall constitute the State Land Board, of Three of the former pastors of the Albany church are yet living in Oregon. They are Dr. N. Doane, of University Park, Portland; Rev. J. T. Abbett, of which the Governor shall be chairman, and that the Governor shall appoint a Ashland, and Rev. S. E. Meninger, of Mount Tabor. State Land Agent who shall hold office at the pleasure of the Governor. It is made duty of the State Land Agent to The day's programme was as follows: Morning, 9 o'clock-Informal greeting to J. W. Powell, et al. Public worship; orcertain the losses sustained by the state by reason of the occupancy of school sec-tions by the United States, and to select gan prelude; historical sketch; hymn; gan preider, instorical sector, aymi, prayer; anthem, choir; Scripture lesson; solo, Mrs. R. L. Burkhart; sermon, J. H. Coleman, D. D.; address, J. W. Powell; hymn; beilediction. other lands in lieu thereof, which selections are to be reported to the board and by the board acted upon before application is made to the Government therefor The Afternoon, 3 o'clock-Sunday school rally and Young People's service, con-ducted by A. M. Hammer, Sunday school superintendent; 10-minute song, service, State Land Agent is also required to have supervision of lands taken by the state on foreclosure or otherwise, to lease the same and to look after the interests of the state in lands given as security for loans from the school funds. The salary of the State led by C. A. Littler; prayer; song, male quartette; three-minute addresses by vis-iting pastors; address, J. W. Powell; Land Agent remains unchanged-\$1800 per annum and traveling expenses. : benediction Evening, 7 o'clock-Public worship; or-It is also made the duty of the board to ascertain the losses that have been sus-tained by the state, and to select other gan prelude; anthem, choir; hymn; prayer; anthem, quartet; Scripture leason; solo, Mrs. C. O. Lee; sermon, T. B. Ford, D. D.; address, J. W. Powell; hymn; benlands in lieu thereof, and perfect title to the lieu land. Lists of lieu lands must be kept in the office of the cierk of the The rally was eminently successful in board, subject to inspection by any person at any time. The bill provides that all lieu lands heretofore selected and yet un-sold, or which may hereafter be selected, every way. Many old ploneer church-workers were brought together, and a great deal of useful historical information shall be withdrawn from sale, except, however, that when any person furnishes base for the selection of lieu lands the diffused. It will be long remembered by citizens of Albany. board shall sell to the person furnishing the base the lieu land selected thereon at QUARTZ CLAIMS BONDED. \$2.50 per acre, but no sale is to be made Scattle Man Will Proceed to Develop until the base has been finally approved by the Commissioner of the General Land Southern Oregon Group. GRANT'S PASS, Or., Jan. 4 .- The Gold Office and the Department of the Interior Under the terms of this bill the facts to be stated in an application for the pur-King group of quarts claims, situated on Josephine Creek, in Western Josephine chase of school lands remain unchanged County, has been bonded by M. Marks, of but there is an additional provision that if any of the facts stated in the affidavit Seattle, for \$10,000. The claims are not developed to any great extent, but present are untrue the applicant may be punished perjury and the sale may be set aside the board or upon the suit of any perfor a rich and vast body of ore. The claims by the are located in the pioneer gold mining disson who is lawfully-entitled to pur the lands secured by the fraudulent affi-

Oregon. 12. In the case of telephone and telegraph companies, the whole length of their lines, and the length of so much of their lines as is with-the length of so much of their lines as is withlines shall include what said telegraph and telephone companies control and use, under lease or otherwise; also the miles of wire in

ach county in Oregon. 18. The entire gross receipts of said com-sandes, from whatever source derived, for the mar ending the 1st day of March, of business

14. In the case of telegraph and express companies, the gross receipts for the year end-ing the 1st day of March, from whatever source derived, of each office within the State of Ore-

derived, of each office within the State of Ore-gon, and the total gross receipts of the com-pany for such period in Oregon. 15. In the case of express companies, the whole length of the lines of rall and water routes over which the company did business on the 1st day of March, and the length of so much of said lines of land and water trans-periation as is without and is within Oregon, naming the lines within Oregon. 16. Such other facts and information as the ferentary of State may require in the form of

errotary of State may require in the form of sturns prescribed by him. Blanks for making the above statement shall a prepared, and on application furnished any ompany by the Secretary of State.

State Board of Assessors.

Sec. 1. The Secretary of State, Treas-Sec. I. The Secretary of State, Treas-urer of State and Attorncy-General shall constitute a board, named the State Board of Appraisers and Assessors, of which board the Secretary of State shall be ex-officio president. In the absence or inability of the Secretary of State, the board shall smooth one of its members board shall appoint one of its members president pro tempore. The Attorney-General shall be ex-officio secretary of the board, and full minutes of its meetings shall be kept. The board shall, annually, on the first Monday in May, meet in the os of the Secretary of State, for the purpose of assessing the property of ex-press, telegraph, telephone and oil companies in Oregon. On the meeting of the board, the Secretary of State shall lay before the board the statements and les returned to him under section L The board shall proceed to ascertain and assess the value of the property of said express, telegraph, telephone and oil companies in Oregon, and in determining the value of the property of said companies in this state, to be taxed within the state and assessed as herein provided, said board shall be guided by the value of said property as determined by the value of the entire capital stock of said compan-ies, and such other evidence and rules as will enable said board to arrive at the true value in money of the entire prop-erty of said companies within the State of Oregon. In proportion which the same bears to the entire property of said com-panies, as determined by the value of the apital stock thereof, and the other evi-fence and rules as aforesaid. The board may adjourn from time to time until the business before it is finally disposed of. In case any company falls or refuses to make the statement required by law, or furnish the board any information re-quested, the board shall inform itself, as best it may, on the matters necessary to be known, in order to discharge its duties with respect to the assessment of the property of such company. At any time sult.

after the meeting of the board on the first Monday in May, and before the as-sessment of the property of any company determined, any company or person terested shall have the right, on write ten application, to appear before the ward and be heard in the matter of the of the property of any company tion. After the assessment of taxation. property of any company for taxation the board, and before the certification the Secretary of State of the apportioned valuation to the several counties as provided in section 5, the board may, on the application of any interested com-

pany or person, or in its own motion, cor-rect the assessment or valuation of the property of any company in such manner

AFRAID OF SCARLET FEVER.

So Astoria Schools Will Not Open-Criticism of Board.

ASTORIA, Jan. 4.-(Special.)-At a spe-dal meeting of the School Board held yesterday afternoon it was decided not to open the city schools next Monday, but to postpone their opening for one week, on account of the prevalence of scarlet fever In the city. The disease is not epidemic, but about 20 cases are known to exist and several deaths have resulted. Three new cases were reported to the health author-lties yesterday, and it appears that there will be no censuiton of the disease for some time, although it is now confined to the cast end of the city. City Physician

Cordiner addressed a letter to the School Board suggesting the propriety of postpon-ing the opening of the schools. The hoard replied to this in an open letter severely criticising the city health authorities for the lax system of quarantining contagious disenses and attributing the extent of scarlet fever to their negligent and in-competent methods.

The Astoria Water Commission at a meeting held last evening directed that a main should be laid to connect with the city water system that would supply the new school building in the west end of the city. This matter has been in controversy for some time, as the expense will be considerable, and the Water Commis-sion insisted that this should be paid for out of the school funds. Now it is decided that the Water Commission will pay for the work if the School Board will comby the work if the School Board will com-ply with some minor conditions. These conditions were accepted at a meeting of the School Board, and the new school, which has been finished for some time, will soon be ready for use, as the lack of water was all that prevented its being opened.

Oregon City News.

opened.

fice for the month of December has just been completed and a summary follows: Homestead entries Acres embraced in homestead en-tries 35

 Acres embraced in homestead en-tries
 4,474.81

 Acres embraced in final home-sicad proofs
 4,474.81

 Acres embraced in final home-sicad proofs
 586.00

 Timber entries
 298.00

 Timber entries
 298.00

 Cash sales
 3,053.67

 Acres embraced in timber entries.
 3,053.67

 Acres embraced in cash sales.
 3,053.67

 Amount received from cash sales.
 3,053.67

 Total shouth received
 10,554.44

 Total shouth received
 10,554.44

Judge T. A. McBride will arrive in this city tomorrow for an adjourned sitting of the November term of Circuit Court, which will probably occupy 10 days. The

Indians Punished for Killing Witch. SEATTLE, Jan. 4 .-- United Staten Marshal Shoup arrived from Juneau today with three Hoonsh Alaska Indians sen-tenced each to four years' imprisonment tenced elich to tour years imprisonment in the United States Penitentiary on Mc-Nell's Island for causing the death of In-dian Isaac, whom they claimed to be a witch. They kept Isaac tied to a tree for eight days, the exposure and hunger re-sulting in his death.

Going to St. Louist

If so, better learn about the new service inaugurated by the O. R. & N. via Den-ver and Kansas City. Inquire city ticket office. Third and Washington.

visions-morning, afternoon and evening. Of these, the morning meeting was prob-ably the most interesting to visitors, as abounded in historical reminiscence. Rev. M. C. Wire, D. D., the present pas-tor of the church, gave a historical sketch, which was rich in anecdotes and useful information of the Albany church in the ploneer days. Dr. Coleman delivered a powerful sermon, and J. W. Powell was heard in an excellent address.

At the afternoon meeting Mr. Powell delivered another address, and the visiting pastors made short talks commending the remarkable growth and progress of the Albany church. The evening service was marked by an

excellent sermon by Dr. T. B. Ford and another address by Mr. Powell. The mus-ical programme at each of these meetings was a feature. Elaborate prepara-tions had been made for the song serv-ice, and it fulfilled all expectations. Sketch of the Church.

This is the first semi-centennial rally ever held by an Albany church. As such it is of surpassing interest not only to members of the Methodist denomination, but also to the entire city. It is a jubllee commemorating the establishing of the first church in Albany, which was then but a small hamlet of a few houses on

the bank of the Williamette. "This rally," said Dr, Wire, "could very well have been held a few years earlier, perhaps in 1859 or 1990, but the records indicate that the first regular pastor for the First Methodist Episcopal Church in Al-bany was appointed in 1853, hence we are commemorating the 50th anniversary of that important event."

that important event." Certain it is that there was a church organization of the Methodist Episcopal denomination in Albany in a very early day. The earliest data obtainable shows that prior to 1550 the Methodist church of the Willamette Valley was united with Californic into what was known as the California into what was known as the "Oregon and California Mission Confer-ence." This union of distant fields, making necessary long and arduous journeys overland to attend conference, continued

but a short time, when a division was made, and the Oregon conference of to-day was set off by itself. It is here there appears the first definite record of a Methodist organization of any kind in Albany. On the conference minutes of

Some idea of the struggles through which the early church passed may be realized when we consider the fact that the two circuit riders above mentioned were to receive a salary of but \$750 be-tween them, and of this but \$183 was paid.

leaving a deficiency of \$567. This, when compared with the prosperous condition of the present church, with its fine buildign etc., shows that the Methodists have just cause to celebrate their 50th anni-versary with joy and thanksgiving.

A letter from one of the earliest Meth-odist workers, Rev. Mr. McGee, of Walla Walla, Wash., states that. In 1851 there was a small Methodist class of four mem bers organized in Albany. The members of this class were A. J. Hyde and wife, Samuel Hyde and Mrs. Huchins, Mr. L. T. Woodard was preacher in charge, and John McKinney was assistant. At that time Thomas, H. Pearne was presiding elder. He held quarterly meetings in what was then known as Hyde's Hotel. This add building is still standing on the This old building is still standing on the water front in Albany, at the intersection of Ellsworth and Front streats, and is

are located in the ploneer gold mining dis-trict of the state, as it was on Josephine Creek that gold was first discovered in Oregon in 1851. The district has long been noted for its production of placer gold, but has not been prospected for quarts till of late years. Mr. Marks has put a crew of men to work and will give his newly acquired claims a thorough and avaiematic development and put them in davit. systematic development and put them in shape for a stamp mill and business.

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