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Portland, Tuesday, Dec. 8, 1908.

THE SHORT SESSION.

The second, or short, session of the Sixtieth Congress, which began at noon on Monday, is not likely to astonish the country either by the variety or the excellence of its legislation.

To say that "Paradise Lost" is or ever was "popular" would be absurd. The title of the book has not fallen off, though people may now keep it on shelves instead of center tables.

What he says about Satan may pass. The Evil One is the true hero of the poem and a splendid creation he is, but some day when The Oregonian is in an argumentative mood it may try to convince Dr. Cline of his frightful misunderstanding of the Miltonic deity.

There is no greater grief, says Dante, "than in the time of sorrow to remember vanished joy." But the poet was wrong. There is a greater grief. It is to see a season of joy for the many, and to see it pass into a season of grief for the few, and this is what happens at Christmas time.

There will be some notable changes in the personnel of both chambers, but neither the Senate nor the House seems to have gained many members of really first-rate parts.

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widely divergent and are subject to changes too radical to admit of this. Dr. Dyott, of the First Congregational Church in this city, is an advocate of both of these propositions and supported them in a sermon last Sunday by an argument that was sentimental rather than logical.

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any great amount of truth in the numerous stories that have floated out of the Chicago wheat pit in regard to the colossal holdings of Mr. Patton and his cohorts.

As that time approaches, Oregon, with the greatest available supply of standing timber, will enjoy a prosperity greater than has ever been experienced by any other timber region.

Where, oh, where, are those biscuits eating Orientals who a few years ago seemed so numerous that Mr. James J. Hill was certain that, if they were not to be called on to supply vast quantities of timber to states that in the past have been timber producers, but we will secure for it much higher prices than were possible when timber was plentiful everywhere.

FORAKER'S LAST STAND. Senator Foraker, who had almost sunk from view, proposes to have one more fling at the President before Congress adjourns.

It is a familiar saying that an attorney who is defeated in a law suit has 20 days in which to "cuss" the court, and probably it is well to give a defeated politician a reasonable time in which to cuss.

WHO COMPLAINS? Rain that should have fallen since September 1... 3.5 Rain that has fallen... 8.3

Our dear old friend the Rain is with us again, to ward off snow, blizzards, chills and colds.

Our rain friend is getting into practice for Christmas. The folks in Snowland brag of their blizzard Christmas, but they are mistaken if they think it helps Santa.

The declaration that killing in self-defense is not justifiable unless the attack is of a character which would endanger life and limb, does not mean that the victim of an attack must stand inactive and wait until the acts of violence put him in imminent danger of death.

It is not alone in the matter of distance that the farmers of the Argentine and of the United States have a tributary to the Atlantic seaboard but a tremendous advantage over the Pacific Coast producers.

Of all the mean, petty-larceny swindlers which cunning leaves devices, that which traps for poor women are crimples, cripples and unemployed seamstresses certainly approaches, if it does not fully reach, the limit.

One trouble with disbarment proceedings is that they are too slow getting started and then they drag too long thereafter.

In his farewell to the readers of the Pendleton Tribune Editor Geer says that he closes 26 months of continuous service in that position.

It would naturally be difficult for any one to believe that the chivalrous West would harbor such knaves of the caliber that would select poor old women and cripples for their victims.

Portland could make a great many public improvements with the amount of money it pays out every year as interest on its debt.

The east wind is what we have been growing about. All an Oregonian wants is rain. Then all is happiness.

There's many a dairyman who will assert that though the price of butter is up, the price of milk feed has increased more in proportion.

The Chicago wheat market yesterday suffered a decline of 2 cents per bushel, the reason given being a much more favorable Government crop report than was expected.

"ANOTHER ESTIMATE OF MILTON. Dr. C. E. Cline Discusses the 'Popularity' of This Literary Giant.

PORTLAND, Dec. 6.—(To the Editor.)—The Oregonian falls somewhat in its accustomed discrimination in the editorial leader of this date on "Milton's Tercentenary."

Milton has ceased to be a popular author and has become a classic only. When the Editor of The Oregonian was a boy, "Paradise Lost" adorned the center table of every intelligent Christian family.

With a former generation, when it was almost worship to open a Greek tragedy or Latin orator, Milton was revered, and his name belongs to yesterday.

Milton's God is a monarch seated always on a throne of iron, high and unapproachable. He decrees so forth, dreads, undimmed, like the Czar of Russia, hurrying to Siberian gloom as wayward subjects, "a pure empyrean sitting high-throned above all heights."

Portland lumbermen have been notified by the United States Quartermaster at Seattle that a contract will be opened in that city for furnishing 2,000,000 feet of lumber, to be delivered at Seattle or Tacoma, for Manila.

In falling to specify delivery at Portland, the greatest lumber port of the world, a port which has shipped more large lumber cargoes than have been loaded at any other port anywhere, the Seattle Quartermaster is merely following a time-honored precedent.

When a boy reading "Paradise Lost," the hell, the Satan and the angels of Milton so haunted me that I thought it necessary to go to bed at night, and when we come to analyze the situation, the things over which science and religion have wrangled are more of Milton's "Gossamer."

It must be admitted, however, that Milton was up to date on divorce. "Taking Milton's great Oratorio in its entire scope, the fatal defect is the ethical character of the Satan, who is also the will of Satan.

What though the field be lost? All is not lost; the unconquerable will, the study of revenge, the magic power, and courage never to submit or yield.

No desire for dark things, no refusal of holiness, simply a combat with the Almighty over who shall rule. "Time is a little after five, and you were well enough 200 years ago for a haughty Englishman who could bring his wife to his feet, but not to his heart, and who chided his own daughter in his dying words."

Milton was an intellectual and literary giant, but his sin is past the meridian. C. E. CLINE.

Young Men at the Front. Washington Letter to Boston Advertiser.

The dinner to Chairman Hitchcock brought together those who assisted him in the campaign and included among the hosts from Massachusetts were John Hays Hammond and Senator William Brewster.

Failure Turned to Triumph. Chicago Tribune.

There is living in Japan now Viscount Aoki, ex-ambassador to the United States, but now living in retirement. He it was who conceived the idea of the agreement between the United States and Japan, just signed, and he had for his palms was humiliated by his home government, the abrupt termination of the negotiations, and his personal repudiation.

Troubles of a Father. Forest Grove Times.

"Daddy," of the Laughlin, is wondering if trouble will never cease. One week a girl is married and goes to housekeeping, the next Mrs. Laughlin is called to Yamhill by the sickness of her mother and today another girl goes to Portland and dresses as usual, but matrimony, he says emphatically, is not running a matrimonial bureau and he wishes all young men so inclined would stay away, at least as long as they can.

MASONS HAVE ANNIVERSARY Lodge 50 Years in Washington Celebrates at Olympia.

OLYMPIA, Wash., Dec. 7.—(Special.)—A two-day celebration of the 50th anniversary of the organization of the Washington grand lodge of Masons began here today at the historic temple of Olympia Lodge No. 1.

Today's programme included an address of welcome on the behalf of local Masons, by Frank G. Blakeless, master of Olympia Lodge, response by Grand Master Royal A. Gove, of Tacoma.

NEW BOAT FOR VANCOUVER Ferry Is Expected to Be Ready for Operation February 1.

VANCOUVER, Wash., Dec. 7.—(Special.)—An expert electrician was sent by the Portland Railway, Light & Power Company to inspect the electric light plant on the ferry to see whether or not it would do for the new ferryboat that is being built for the Vancouver run at the St. John ship-building plant.

THREE SAY GUILTY IN LANE Confess to Violating Local Option Law and Are Fined.

EUGENE, Or., Dec. 7.—(Special.)—This was a day of guilty pleading on the part of three men who were charged with violations of the local-option law. John Williams, who had been indicted for selling beer, changed his plea from not guilty to guilty.

FIND HARRIS SHORT \$173 Vancouver City Clerk Expected to Make Amount Good.

VANCOUVER, Wash., Dec. 7.—(Special.)—The Council committee appointed to examine the books and accounts of City Clerk Harris reported tonight a shortage of \$173. The Council adopted the report without argument.

CARTER'S WOUND IS FATAL Coroner's Jury Finds Will Mack Responsible for Death.

GRANTS PASS, Or., Dec. 7.—(Special.)—Albany, Oregon, was shocked today by the death of Will Mack, last Friday night, died in the hospital today from effects of the wound.

Incorporate Irrigation Company. OREGON CITY, Or., Dec. 7.—(Special.)—The Union Irrigation Company has filed articles of incorporation, with a capital stock of \$5000, divided into 500 shares at \$10 each.

Death of Mrs. Mary DuBois. VANCOUVER, Wash., Dec. 7.—(Special.)—Mrs. Mary Elizabeth DuBois, aged 72, died in this city yesterday.

Mrs. Gibson Dies in Salem. SALEM, Or., Dec. 7.—(Special.)—Mrs. Minnie Gibson, 62, died at her home in this city last night.

Funeral of Fred Koellmeier. OREGON CITY, Or., Dec. 7.—Fred Koellmeier, of Stafford, died at St. Vincent's Hospital on Saturday morning after a brief illness.

Big Deficiency at Albany. VANCOUVER, Or., Dec. 7.—(Special.)—The unusually cold weather which has swept the Willamette Valley for the past few days was broken today.

Accused of Selling Liquor. OREGON CITY, Or., Dec. 7.—(Special.)—The town of Bickleton and Clatsop county, has been arrested on a charge of selling liquor without a license and will have a hearing Wednesday in the Justice Court at Estacada.

More Kicklat Booster Meetings. GOLDENDALE, Wash., Dec. 7.—(Special.)—The coming of the winter has held up booster meetings during the month.

CARLIS IS RE-ELECTED MAYOR Has No Opposition for Chief Executive at Oregon City.

OREGON CITY, Or., Dec. 7.—(Special.)—The annual municipal election passed off quietly today, with only one contest, that of Councilman for the long term in the First Ward.

Quiet Day at Grants Pass. GRANTS PASS, Or., Dec. 7.—(Special.)—The city election passed off quietly today, the vote being below the registration figures.

Elect Erlicher Recorder. ALBANY, Or., Dec. 7.—(Special.)—The following city officers of Siskiyou were chosen in the annual election: Recorder, Charles Erlicher; Treasurer, J. W. Mitchell; Marshal, N. Bridges; Councilman, H. D. Kium, David Ash, H. Partridge, Arthur Spurgeon; Treasurer, P. B. Weber; Councilmen, John Minnie, John Coulter, Dr. Luther, S. W. Bower.

Dr. Prill Elected at Seio. ALBANY, Or., Dec. 7.—(Special.)—Dr. A. G. Prill was re-elected Mayor of Seio in the annual election of that city today and other officers were chosen as follows: Recorder, J. W. Mitchell; Treasurer, H. M. Shope, E. C. Peery, J. F. Laffer and H. M. Arthur.

Realty Sales at Aberdeen Indicate Stone Interests Seek Entrance. ABERDEEN, Wash., Dec. 7.—(Special.)—Thirty-five lots on the west bank of the Wishkah River, adjoining the property recently sold by Mrs. Jean Stewart to Andrew Peterson, have been sold by A. Damito and George Huntley and it is believed the purchase has been made for the Stone and Webster interests, announcement of whose intention to build an interurban line from Tacoma to Grays Harbor has already been made.

SOUTH BEND WILL LEND AID Business Men to Join Aberdeen in Petition for Old Rates. ABERDEEN, Wash., Dec. 7.—(Special.)—This city and Aberdeen, Wash., will lend aid with the cities on Grays Harbor in resolutions to the Northern Pacific against the proposed new rate schedule abolishing terminating tariffs on these routes.

Light Vote in Albany. ALBANY, Or., Dec. 7.—(Special.)—Albany, Oregon, was shocked today by the death of Will Mack, last Friday night, died in the hospital today from effects of the wound.

Trics Fourth Time to Die. WALLACE, Idaho, Dec. 7.—Despondent, Louisa Wallace, attempted to commit suicide this morning by drinking poison. Some girls were drinking and sent a messenger to Miss Williams to join the crowd.

Pay Out \$20,000 at Astoria. ASTORIA, Or., Dec. 7.—(Special.)—By order of the United States District Court, \$20,000 was paid out of the assets of the local plant of A. Booth & Co., distributed over \$20,000 among the creditors resulting in the balance of the amount paid out, nearly \$12,000 went to fishermen and trappers at Chinook.

Northwestern People in New York. NEW YORK, Dec. 7.—The following are registered at the Hotel Waldorf Astoria: Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Finlay, at the Brunette; Mr. and Mrs. T. Stewart, at the Breslin.

Wilkins Mayor of Sweet Home. ALBANY, Or., Dec. 7.—(Special.)—Sweet Home elected the following officers in annual election today: Mayor, J. C. Wilkins; Recorder, F. M. French; Marshal, 40 inches; Treasurer, P. B. Weber; Councilmen, John Minnie, John Coulter, Dr. Luther, S. W. Bower.

Dies at Age of 88. OREGON CITY, Or., Dec. 7.—(Special.)—William Mack, an old resident of Canby, died last night at his home, aged 88 years to a day. He had been bedridden for the past year. He is survived by several grown children residing at Canby.

Aberdeen School Burns. ABERDEEN, Wash., Dec. 7.—(Special.)—Fire tonight destroyed the South Aberdeen schoolhouse. The loss is \$5000, including the contents of the building. The origin of the fire is unknown.