

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

Long and anxiously, for in these many months, have the Republican papers of Oregon looked for a vulnerable point of attack on our present able and efficient Democratic State Administration, and at last, in despair of anything better, they have seized upon the recent complications arising out of the action of the State Board of Equalization, and are attempting to hold Governor Grover responsible not only for the acts of the Board but for the passage of the law by a Republican Legislature.

This is as fallacious as it is flimsy and transparent, and can scarcely fail to elicit the contempt of every intelligent and reasoning citizen of our commonwealth. It only requires a reference to the recorded facts to show how completely false and untenable are the grounds of these charges against Governor Grover.

In the Governor's Message to the last Legislature he recommended a reformation of the assessment law, and stated that to cover our growing expenses there need be no increase of the rates of taxation if our assessment law be modified in the proper manner, and a State Board of Equalization be created. The subsequent action of the Legislature shows that they paid no heed to the most important point in the Governor's recommendations in this regard—that of a reformation of the existing assessment laws—but simply proceeded to pass a law creating a Board of Equalization. If this law be either defective or improper, let the blame rest where it belongs—with the Republicans who introduced the Bill and the Republican Legislature which enacted the law.

In the House Journal, p. 199, the following record in regard to this law appears: "Mr. Mallory introduced H. B. No. 50, 'To provide for a State Board of Equalization;' and Mr. Gingles moved to suspend the rules and read the bill now the first time by title."

The motion prevailed. On the final passage of the Bill the following is the record (House Journal, 376).

"On motion, House Bill No. 50 was put on its third reading, and the question being 'Shall the bill pass?' those voting in favor were Messrs. Andrews, Hulse, Barrin, Basley, Blakely, Collier, Crawford, Corwin, Crooks, Clow, Congle, Caples, Darr, Engle, Gingles, Hirsch, Hodkins, Johnson, Langell, Matlock, Martin, Powers, Patton, Riley, Riddle, Shelton, Stott, Simpson, Thornbury, Wright, West, Walker, Waldon, Washburn, Wiloughby, White and Mr. Speaker (Mallory)—37."

Of the foregoing, thirty-seven were Republicans and ten were Democrats, three voted against the bill, in the Senate but two voted against the bill Democrat and one Republican.

In the face of these facts it is the shallowest demagoguery in Republicanism to attempt to shirk the responsibility of the passage of this law or of its defects. They passed the law creating the Board for the purpose of providing a more efficient for their political friends, and their failure to go in joint convention and elect those officers left the Governor no other alternative than to appoint, as the law required him to do.

Many persons condemn Governor Grover for his selection of the gentlemen comprising the Board, and attempt to hold him responsible for the alleged errors of the Board. We believe his Excellency acted in the utmost good faith in the appointment of these gentlemen, and that they were thoroughly competent to act as Equalizers under a comprehensive and directory law. It is extremely doubtful if any three men in the State would have done better—if they did anything at all.

But while they growl at the Governor for the appointment of the Board and the mistakes of the Board, they will certainly be sufficiently fair and consistent as to give him credit for the appointment of Judge Mosher who set the acts of the Board aside. If his Excellency erred in one case (which we do not concede), he certainly did well in the other.

The Roseburg Plaindealer, of last week, in closing an article on this subject, very ably defends the Governor against these unjust aspersions and says the people will not be hoodwinked by all this hue and cry against the State Administration, but will view this matter in its proper light. "Their memories are not so short, nor their gratitude so small as to allow them to forget the valuable services rendered by the Governor to the State, and the dignified, statesman-like and honorable conduct that he has exhibited in all his official acts. They owe him gratitude for his prompt action in the Modoc war, and afterwards for his efforts to protect the honor and dignity of the State and punish the Lost River murderers, and they will not allow his enemies to traduce his noble character without administering to them a lasting rebuke."

A Herald special from Key West says a large storehouse, for naval supplies, will be commenced there immediately. Private advices say the lives of Americans in Havana are in great danger. A number of Spanish spies are there.

THE DEMOCRAT BURNED OUT

Yesterday morning, about 1 o'clock, the DEMOCRAT office was discovered to be on fire, and the alarm being given, the firemen and many citizens were promptly on hand, all of whom worked well and faithfully until the flames were subdued, which was not accomplished until almost everything was either wholly or partially destroyed, our presses excepted. The fire seems to have originated from a hab-box, sitting near the stove in the office, in which some of the employees had placed hot coals during the previous day. The fire burned through the floor and penetrated to the store of Messrs. Senders & Sternberg, just under the office, where goods to the amount of probably \$2,000 were damaged. The building, though considerably damaged was saved, thanks to the superhuman efforts of Chief Webber and his gallant "Onesters."

We have not yet been able to estimate our loss, but it will probably reach the neighborhood of \$900, possibly more. Mr. D. Froman's loss on the building is about \$500. Loss of Senders & Sternberg, \$1,000. Total loss, \$2,400. Fortunately all the losses are covered by insurance.

We laid the outside of our paper worked off, and a part of the inside in type, consequently with what material we saved we are able this week to present to our readers the paper in a much better condition than we had imagined when the fire occurred.

Next week, and probably for two or three weeks, until we can get new material from San Francisco, our patrons are asked to be charitable with us and put up with just what we are able to furnish them—even if it be only very light decoctions of Democracy, and that "on the half-shell."

Meanwhile those who are indebted to us are most earnestly asked to settle up, so that we may have the benefit and use of our money and thus more readily adjust our affairs and put the old "manuscript" again in running order.

We can assure our many friends throughout the State that we shall be grinding away as usual, as soon as the exigencies of the case will possibly permit.

Messrs D. Froman and Senders & Sternberg express their warmest thanks to the firemen and citizens for their assistance in saving their property.

GRANGE NEWS.

E. E. Fanning, Deputy Grange Organizer for this county, instituted a Grange at Sand Ridge School House, in this county, on last Saturday, with twenty-six members. S. Isom was elected Master, and J. W. Mack, Secretary.

There are 42 Granges in Oregon, and 4 in Washington.

A Grange Association for the counties of Multnomah, Washington, Clackamas and Washington Territory, was formed at East Portland last Tuesday.

The Executive Committee of the State Grange of the Patrons of Husbandry, recommend to the subordinate Granges in the jurisdiction that they elect their officers at the last regular meeting of such Granges held in December, A. D. 1873, and the officers then elected be installed at the first regular meeting held by such Granges in January, A. D. 1874.

Hon. A. J. Dufur has been constituted a general business agent for the Granges of Oregon, to hold his office in Portland, beginning March 1st 1874.

The Central Grange Association held its monthly meeting at Pacific Opera House, in this city, last Tuesday. The several Granges of this District were fully represented. Mr. Stump of Polk county, has been selected as the agent for this Association, to have his office in Albany.

Mr. Milton Houston informs us that on last Saturday Knox's Butte Grange (this county) conferred the fourth degree on nine candidates, and had a feast and a good time generally.—That Grange now numbers 30 members, among whom are some of our most thrifty farmers. The following officers were last Saturday elected for the ensuing year: Martin Miller, M. S. W. Crowder, O. H. C. Powell, L. H. T. Probst, S. L. C. Marshall, A. S. R. Conn, C. S. Haight, Treas.; M. Houston, Sec'y; Ed. Trites, G. R.; Mrs. V. E. Houston; Geros; Miss. M. A. Probst, Flour; Miss. M. C. Conn, Potatoes; Mrs. V. Marshall, L. A. S. After Jan. 1st 1874, the regular meetings or their Grange will be held on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month.

A correspondent of the Oregonian speaks in the most flattering terms of the oration delivered by Hon. J. H. Smith before the Union Grange festival at Junction last Saturday. "There was a large attendance and a rare 'feast of reason and flow of soul' indulged in."

Thirty people were killed by a railway collision in England last Wednesday.

AN UNPRECEDENTED OUTRAGE.

Hon. A. C. Gibbs, U. S. District Attorney for Oregon, has been removed, and Hon. Rufus Mallory, of Salem, appointed in his stead. This was done by Attorney General Flaxbrake because Gibbs still persisted in prosecuting those Holladay-Hipple repeaters and their bribers, who voted so extensively in Portland for Hiram Smith. And this man Williams is to be promoted to the highest judicial position in the nation! What a disgrace to the great names of Marshall, Story, Taney and Chase! Every lover of our country will most earnestly pray that the Senate may fail to confirm his appointment.

The Oregonian of yesterday, in referring to this matter, closes with the following suggestive remarks: It may be that the Attorney-General or Chief Justice, which ever he is at this time, can explain the matter consistently with his own innocence. If he can, it certainly behooves him to do so, for unless he does, no matter how exalted a position he may reach, he can never again hope to enjoy the esteem of an intelligent public. This act will prove a stain on his character which all the distinguished services of his past life, and all he may render hereafter, will never be sufficient to wash out or hide from view."

QUITE A MISTAKE.

Last week, in alluding to the decision on Equalization, by Judge Mosher, our paper said that the case on the part of the defendants was ably managed by Judge Clarke of San Francisco, and Hon. Geo. R. Helm, of this city. Those gentlemen represented the plaintiffs or taxpayers, and consequently won the case. The defendants were represented by Judges Strahan, Burnett, Kelany and Chenoweth, who also presented their side of the case in an able manner.

Grown desperate by their defeat in the attempt to force the people of Oregon to endorse the infamous character of John Hipple alias J. H. Mitchell, U. S. Senator from Oregon, and by the discovery of the wholesale bribery and corruption by which that result was sought to be accomplished, the ring have resorted at last to the only line of intrenchments left, namely, the despotic interference with the usual course of justice, by authority from the General Government. In this they will, of course, succeed, so long as the leaders of the ring occupy high positions at Washington and have the ear of the Administration.—But there is coming a time, and that right speedily, when the people will have something to say in these matters, and then these political knaves who now ride rough-shod over the rights of the people will find themselves too dead to be roused by the trumpet of any political Gabriel. The grave of the ring is dug, and they may just as well make up their minds to be laid away in it at the next election.—Oregonian.

If Mr. Rufus Mallory shall condescend to accept the U. S. District Attorneyship and shall proceed to execute the behests of the Ring caucus, dismissing the indictments that may be, or may have been, found against the repeaters, a most serious question will be for the first time in the history of this city presented to its people—namely, that involves the reputation of the city and State and the property rights and personal safety of citizens. The net proclaims an end of the administration of law in this State and city, and the substitution thereof of the unrestrained will of a clique of scoundrels who have outraged the moral sense of the community, disgraced the politics of this city, and prostituted courts, and whose leader is an outlaw of society, an unconvicted criminal, who, to escape punishment, fled from the scenes of his earlier crimes, under an assumed name.—News.

We had a rip-roaring leader, a column long, written up on the subject of the outrageous conduct of Old Flaxbrake in removing U. S. Attorney Gibbs for prosecuting the Portland Ring for illegal voting; but the fire burnt up our leader and we haven't time to write another. The intelligent reader will readily understand our fix, and supply the vacuum to suit himself.

On last Monday a Democratic Mayor was elected in Boston by the unprecedented majority of 18,028. Four ladies were elected on the State Board.

A census down-Easter was lately essaying to appropriate a square of exceeding tough beef at a dinner in a Wisconsin hotel. His convulsive efforts with a knife and fork attracted the smiles of the rest in the same predicament as himself. At last Jonathan's patience vanished under ill-success, when, laying down his utensils, he burst out with: "Strangers, you needn't laugh; if you ain't got any regard for the landlady's feelings you ought to have some respect for the old bull." This rally brought down the house.

PACIFIC COASTERS.

Ros. Gustavus Hines is dead. Walt Smith was buried at Salem yesterday.

Wheat has advanced to 1 1/4 in Liverpool. Good.

Irving, of Nathan murder notoriety, was convicted Tuesday on a charge of burglary, and remanded for sentence.

The Salem Statesman has been seized by the Sheriff, under an attachment, and we understand S. A. Clarke will hereafter conduct it.

It is believed at Washington City that all the remaining passengers and crew of the Virginia have been delivered to the officers in command of the Junniata.

The wind at Port Gamble was so strong last Monday that a man was blown from the raised tramway, leading out to where the slabs are burned, and instantly killed.

A London dispatch of the 9th says a fog of almost unprecedented density overhangs the city at this hour (3 1/2 o'clock). It is so dark that all traffic has ceased, and the streets are filled with men and boys bearing torches to light pedestrians.

A Corpus Christi courier brings news that on Monday night Indians attacked Gray & Grover's rancho, about 70 miles from Galveston toward the Rio Grande, and killed seven and carried off Gray's son. When the courier left fighting was still going on.

Latest accounts in English papers with regard to the conduct of the officers and crew of the Ville de Havre are confused and contradictory. One report says: "The charges against Captain Surmont are untrue, and against the crew generally exaggerated."

Mr. H. K. W. Clarke, the distinguished lawyer of San Francisco who so ably, exhaustively and successfully argued against the legality of the assessment by the State Board of Equalization, before Judge Mosher, at the late term of the Circuit Court, passed through Corvallis last Wednesday evening on his way home, and was serenaded by the people, en masse, accompanied by a brass band. Felicitious, brief speeches were made by R. G. Head and others.

A grand council of various Indian nations met at Oskamaheo, Indian Territory, on the 1st instant, but adjourned after a brief session without doing anything definite. Seventeen different tribes were represented, and it is said all delegations were opposed to the establishment of the Territorial Government for the Indian Territory, but this is probably a mistake, as several members of the council elected last Summer are known to have favored that project.

A Herald special from Paris says a cipher dispatch from Madrid, dated the 6th, announces a heavy fall on the Bourse, consequent upon dispiriting news in regard to Cuba, and Gen. Grant's declining to accept Siskie's resignation and approving his action in the case of the Virginias. His resignation was based on the fact of the Washington Government negotiating directly with Spain and overlooking General Siskie, who claimed that the Government failed to protect him. The Spanish Government claims that it is not bound to surrender the Virginias until the 15th of December.

CONGRESSIONAL PROCEEDINGS.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3.—Senator Mitchell, of Oregon, introduced a bill to authorize the construction of a Custom House and Bonded Warehouse at Portland.

Mitchell introduced a bill granting the right of way to the Canyonville and Galleville Railroad in Oregon. Also, a resolution providing for ascertaining and paying the losses sustained by citizens of Oregon by reason of Indian depredations. Also, a resolution instructing the Committee on Commerce to inquire into the expediency of the construction of a harbor of refuge for vessels in distress on the Pacific ocean at Port Oxford, Oregon.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

Willamette River Transportation Co's STEAMERS

WILL LEAVE FLANDERS' WHARF at 6 o'clock, A. M. As follows:

FOR CORVALLIS AND INTERMEDIATE POINTS—Monday, Wednesday and Friday. FOR ALBANY AND INTERMEDIATE POINTS—Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. FOR DAYTON AND MORNENVILLE—Saturday and Monday.

Passage to Corvallis..... \$2 00 Passage to Albany..... 1 50 Passage to Salem..... 1 00 Passage to McMinnville..... 1 00 H. GOLDSMITH, President.

FRANKLIN MEAT MARKET! J. L. HARRIS, Prop.

WILL KEEP CONSTANTLY ON HAND the best meat the market affords, and will always be found ready to accommodate those who may favor him with a call. For highest market price paid for pork, &c.

CITY MEAT MARKET! W. H. HENDENHALL, Prop.

WILL KEEP CONSTANTLY ON HAND the best meat the market affords, and will always be found ready to accommodate those who may favor him with a call. For highest market price paid for pork, &c.

Advertisements section containing various notices, business changes, and legal notices. Includes 'ADMINISTRATOR'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE', 'NOTICE TO THE STOCK HOLDERS OF LINN COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION', 'EXECUTOR'S SALE', 'COSMOPOLITAN RESTAURANT!!', 'LEBANON FEED STABLE!', 'FIREMEN'S BALL!', 'ALBANY ENGINE CO. NO. 1 GRAND BALL!', 'PACIFIC OPERA HOUSE', 'NEW ADVERTISEMENTS', 'FRANKLIN MEAT MARKET!', 'CITY MEAT MARKET!', and 'BLAIN, YOUNG & CO. NEW GOODS!'. The Blain, Young & Co. advertisement is particularly large and detailed, listing various goods like hardware, dry goods, and clothing.

THIS COLUMN WAS BURNED OUT.

This is not the best paper in the world, but it is good enough. SELAH! SCATTER! This column was insured in the Home Mutual, Ham. Boyd and Eli Carter, Agents.