

# The Democrat.

FRIDAY..... JANUARY 23, 1885

## CORONAL PLACE.

The governor's message is remarkable for only one thing, that of being probably the most ordinary one that ever emanated from the Executive Office of the State. There is no vigor of expression in the recommendations except in one instance. It contains much glorification of the present state administration because of the reduction of the bonded indebtedness of the state, but when we consider that all the state officials had to do in thus reducing this indebtedness was to set in their cozy offices in the capitol and receive and receipt for the hard earnings of the people collected from them in the shape of taxes, and then pay out this money to those who held the bonded obligations of the state, we are unapologetic enough to believe, and constrain ed to say, that very little credit is due where it is so loudly claimed in this state paper. The truth is that all, nearly all, the credit for paying off the obligations of the state is due to the taxpayers, the sovereigns of the soil, who consent to be taxed of the fruit of their earnings to raise a fund to meet these obligations. His treatment of the swamp land question will not satisfy those who have been looking for better things. Upon the great vital question which now has such deep hold upon the minds of the people of the state, that of assessment and taxation, the governor's recommendations, are so general and indefinite as to render them of no value to the legislature. Nevertheless we hope the legislature will take up this subject and give such legislation as will secure a just and equal taxation of all the property of the state, dealing fairly with every interest and every section of the state:

## STANDING COMMITTEES.

The Linn County members have places on the following committees: Mr. Weatherford is a member of the Judiciary and public lands committee.

Mr. Bilyeu is on the committee on corporations, and railroads and enrolled bills.

Mr. Hout is a member of the committee on counties and federal relations. The democrats have a majority of the following committee:

Judiciary, Claims, Federal Relations, and Printing. The republicans have a majority of 4 in the senate. In the House, Linn county members are given places as follows:

Mr. Montanye is on the following committee: Elections and Judiciary.

Mr. Black is on the Ways and Means and Assessment and Taxation.

Mr. Watts is on engrossed Bills.

Mr. Shelton is on Federal Relations.

Mr. Cyrus is on Railways and Transportation.

INSANE.

The Governor recommends that a water main to connect with the penitentiary pumps be constructed to furnish water for the asylum. He also recommends that the asylum grounds should be drained by a sewer connecting the grounds with the main sewers of the city. The cost of caring for the insane has been reduced to \$3 per week, a reduction of \$2 per week on the cost under the old contract system.

## THE GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

The Governor congratulates the people upon the auspicious circumstances under which the legislature meets. The receipts for the period beginning Sept. 1, 1882, and ending Dec. 31, 1884, are as follows:

Four mill tax of 1882.....	\$255,374.43
Four mill tax of 1883.....	301,227.80
Penitentiary earnings.....	26,055.36
Delinquent taxes.....	6,054.24
Private insane.....	5,363.71
Idaho insane.....	4,705.72
Sale of stamps.....	9,657.97
Sale of books.....	598.80
Miscellaneous.....	43,655.85

Making a total of..... \$652,693.85

Adding to this amount the sum of \$122,608.36, which stood in the treasury August 31, 1882, to the credit of the general fund, we have the sum of \$775,302.24 against which is to be charged the amount of the general appropriation made by the last Legislature Assembly, which leaves a balance to the credit of the general fund at the end of the fiscal year just closed of \$300,000.

The bonded indebtedness of the state has been largely reduced. The funds arising from the sale of lands granted to the state by congress for educational purposes have been carefully loaned by the board of school land commissioners and the several amounts are as follows:

University fund principal, \$78,000;
Agricultural College fund principal, \$77,000;
Common school fund principal, \$80,000.

Of the different classes of lands belonging to the State there has been sold since Sept. 1, 1882, as follows:

Acres.
University lands.....
Agricultural College lands.....
Common School.....
Internal improvements.....
32,743.13

The revenue from the sale of lands belonging to the 500,000 acres granted to the State by the general Government for the purposes of internal improvements, has been, since the act of 1870, granting aid for the construction of the canal and locks at Oregon City, devoted to the payment of the principal and interest upon the bonds for \$200,000 issued in aid of that work. These bonds have been paid in full, principal and interest, and the revenue hereafter arising from the sale of these lands will be devoted to the support of the common schools of the State.

The progress made in securing title to the swamp lands of the State is unsatisfactory, but the delay and uncertainty about the whole matter are attributed to the neglect or refusal of the Comr. of the general land office to pass upon the swampy character of such lands as have in times past been selected by the State. The whole matter of selection and approval of swamp lands, together with sales thereof by the State, is in much confusion. Many settlers are filing upon these lands under the homestead and pre-emption laws of the United States and thus much litigation is entailed.

ASSESSMENT.

Recommends such legislation as will provide for an equitable distribution of the burdens of government among all holders of property subject to taxation.

REGISTRY LAWS.

Your attention will doubtless be called to the necessity of a registry law. The importance of some legislation of this kind has long been felt. Any measure calculated to prevent an abuse of the elective franchise and to secure complete fairness and honesty in the conduct of our elections should receive the encouragement and support of every patriotic citizen. Every safeguard possible should be thrown about the ballot box, so that every citizen may feel, in casting his vote, that it has been cast to some purpose, and will exert its proper influence. Nothing is of more importance to a free commonwealth, to insure its integrity and permanence, than good election laws and a wise and efficient regulation of the elective franchise.

ATTORNEY GENERAL.

The governor urges the creation of the office of attorney general for the state. The state is constantly in need of legal counsel and has to employ such as it may be able to find who will enter the service of the state temporarily.

His excellency recommends that an apportionment of the membership of the legislature be made in pursuance of the requirements of the state constitution. No apportionment has been made since 1872, since which time the relative population of the several counties has materially changed.

Under the present apportionment, certain counties have the same representation in the Senate upon a basis of less than 600 votes cast that other counties have upon a basis of between 3000 to 4000 votes cast. A similar disparity exists in the House of Representatives. The injustice of continuing an apportionment which deprives a large proportion of the people of the State just representation in the halls of legislation is so plain as to require no comment.

THE DALLAS, Oregon, Nov. 4, 1884.

I am entirely satisfied with the honorable manner in which I was treated in regard to my insurance business, and the settlement and payment of my loss by the State Insurance Company. We shall rebuild our house at once, and shall be glad to continue business with your company.

J. E. HARRIS.

"I Don't Feel Like Work."

It makes no difference what business you are engaged in; whether you are a preacher, a merchant, a mechanic, a lawyer or a common laborer, you can't do your work well while half sick. Thousands try to, but all in vain. How much better to keep your body in good order by taking Parker's Tonic when you feel "little out of sorts." It would be money in your pocket. One hour of good, rejoicing health is worth half a dozen hours full of languor and pain.

THE DALLAS, Oregon, Nov. 4, 1884.

We hope the members of this county in the legislature will diligently inquire into the merits of House bill number 58 before voting for it.

REFORM SCHOOL.

One of the most important matters to be considered by you is the provision of some place for the care and proper

education of youthful criminals, many of whom have never had, or have been deprived of, the comforts of a home, and for want of restraining influences have begun a career of crime. There are numbers of the young in almost every community virtually hopeless and homeless, denied many of the most ordinary comforts of life, who are rapidly being schooled in vice and who can only be saved from a career of crime and shame by some act upon the part of the State to reclaim them. Forty-four boys under the age of 20 years have been sent to the Penitentiary during the last two years. One of these is but 13 years of age, and twenty-five of them are under the age of 17. Once there, they are compelled to consort with the most depraved criminals. The influences are necessarily bad, and they are likely to leave the prison at the expiration of their terms of sentence not improved, but rather hardened and more depraved. The strong arm of the State should be extended for the salvation and protection of this class. Suitable provision for their education and elevation, is, in my opinion, imperatively demanded.

## CONCEALED WEAPONS.

A prolific source of crime is the too common habit of carrying concealed weapons. The presence of a weapon in case of a personal encounter always presents a strong temptation for its use, and such use in the heat of passion has come to be too lightly regarded. Anything is to be commended which will tend to repress and restrain this too prevalent habit. If the mere carrying of a concealed weapon were, in public estimation, branded as criminal, fewer instances of justifiable homicide would be reported from our Courts. A stringent law upon this matter is recommended.

## PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

His excellency recommends that some measures be adopted by which the rural communities may more generally enjoy the benefits of our common school system. As compared with our more populous districts they work at a constant disadvantage and are denied their proper share of the proceeds of the school tax. The movable property, of instance, of all our transportation companies is taxed at the home office of such companies, while the entire license.

## HISTORICAL.

By Cartwright to create the county of Whitman.

## BY HOUT.

To punish tramps.

## BY BILLYUE.

To amend the school law.

## BY DAVENPORT.

To regulate freights and fares on railroads.

## BY HAINES.

To regulate the rate of interest.

## BY HAINES.

To amend the assessment law.

## BY HOUT.

To regulate the practice of medicine and surgery.

## BY RINEHART.

To regulate freights and fares on railroads.

## BY MILLER.

To relieve Josephine county from payment of state taxes for 1884.

## BY WARREN.

To regulate the practice of medicine and surgery.

## BY YANHILL.

To regulate the practice of medicine and surgery.

## BY ZEIGLER.

To regulate the practice of medicine and surgery.

## BY COLEMAN.

To register voters.

## BY WEATHERFORD.

To regulate warehousemen and commission men and other bailees.

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