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## TELEGRAPHIC DISPATCHES.

### WASHINGTON NEWS.

#### What the Coast Senators are Doing.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21.—Senator Slater presented in the senate a petition of citizens of Oregon, asking for improvement of the Coquille river, and the appropriation of \$100,000 therefor.

Senator Miller introduced an amendment to pay claims of California, and Dolph those of Oregon, against the United States for losses incurred in consequence of Indian hostilities. They cannot be added to appropriation bills, however, if the senate insists on its rule to stave off and keep out all new legislation on appropriation bills.

#### The Capital Society.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—The social regime which has borne sway ever so long will come to an end when Arthur goes on. What next? is as much a question in Washington society as anything in the political future. The receptions, parties, and social affairs of every kind have had the White House for their radiating center—Blaine's excepted. A new order of things will follow the change in the administration. The present social leaders are feeling that their time is nearly up. Of course much depends on the cabinet. The families of cabinet officials will decide much. It is for this reason that the question of the cabinet becomes a social question. It is but natural, therefore, that social Washington should be on tiptoe about Mr. Cleveland's cabinet appointments.

#### A Black eye for Silver.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21.—The house committee on appropriations this afternoon, by a vote of 8 against 7, decided to assert in the sundry civil appropriation bill a clause authorizing the president, in his discretion, to suspend the coinage of silver dollars for one year from the 1st of next July. By the same vote it was decided to offer a vote in the house next Wednesday—the first of the last six days' session—to pass under suspension of the rules, the whole of the sundry civil bill except the aforesaid clause, and another motion—under suspension of the rules—that the house shall then go into committee of the whole to consider that clause.

#### Called Session.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21.—The question that is receiving the greatest attention just now from members of Congress is, will there be a called session of the Forty-ninth Congress? It has been alleged that Republicans are working to secure this result, but those who have any acquaintance with the facts know that this allegation is without foundation. If there should be an extra session it will be necessary by the failure of the regular appropriation bills. These measures are in charge of Mr. Randall's committee, which is composed of 15 members, of whom nine are Democrats. No one has charged that the six Republican members of the committee have attempted to obstruct the progress of these bills in the committee, because to do so would be untruthful and silly.

#### Good News for Alaska.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—An amendment was adopted by the house to-day to the naval bill, assigning to the treasury department for revenue service in Alaska waters the vessel known as the Bear, used in the Greely relief expedition. This is substantially in accordance with bills introduced by Senator Dolph and Congressman George, and supplants George's bill already favorably reported to appropriate \$175,000 for the construction of a marine cutter for Alaska.

#### The O. R. & N.'s New Mortgage.

New York, Feb. 23.—It is stated that the Oregon Railway and Navigation Company will hold a meeting in a few days to decide details of a new general 5 per cent. mortgage, intended to take up the outstanding six million 6 per cent. first mortgage bonds, and \$1,200,000 8 per cent. scrip, paid out several years ago as extra dividends on stock. The new mortgage will also include six million 7 per cent. debenture bonds, issued last year to build the line to Huntington, connecting with the Oregon Sport Line.

## WASHINGTON LETTER.

(From our Regular Correspondent.)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13, 1885.

Crowds of people went to the Capitol on Wednesday to see both Houses of Congress, in joint session, to count the Electoral vote. The formality was monotonous as usual, but for reason that it occurs but once in four years rather than for any other, it always draws a crowd. During the progress of the proceeding several amusing mistakes were made in the count, which were greeted with laughter. When the result of New York was read the democrats broke into applause. Vice President Edmunds rapped with his gavel and called for order. Presently there was another outburst, and another. Mr. Edmunds, who has long been accustomed to the quiet, dignified, almost sphinx-like serenity of the Senate Chamber, was disgusted with such demonstrations, and declared that they could not be tolerated. He then requested the Sergeant-at-Arms to take into custody any person disturbing the proceedings in any way. Although many distinguished people were present, Justice Miller was the only member of the Supreme Court in the Hall, and Secretary Teller was the only member of the Cabinet in attendance.

An extra session of Congress is growing more probable every day. The outlook for important legislation during the past session is not promising, and members who feel interested in other than appropriation bills, express determination to have something done, even though the Forty-ninth Congress be called to do it. Those who would gladly have averted an extra session by hard work, could not work alone. Mr. Randall, on being asked if the House could not proceed with appropriation bills at night sessions, replied, "That would waste gas, and gas costs money. Only those who want to spend money come to night sessions. The opponents of extravagance stay away, and as they are in the majority, the House could not get a quorum." He added that it would not pay to light up the dome, the corridors and Hall, whereby to meet and adjourn.

The truth is there is much bitterness over Mr. Randall's antagonism to the River and Harbor bill, among members from districts bordering on the Mississippi river. There are also many friends of the bill who are not re-elected to the Forty-ninth Congress. They are disposed to join in the filibustering tactics against the regular appropriation bills. This feeling, coupled with the resolute decision of the Senate to eliminate every species of new legislation from appropriation bills, points to embarrassments seldom surrounding the passage of necessary bills, and makes the extra session almost certain.

Interest in public affairs, instead of declining, as it often does, with the close of a session of Congress, will increase this year after the fourth of March. It will be greatly augmented too, by the call of an extra session. A new Congress, a new administration, a new political regime, will combine to make the situation decidedly interesting.

Cabinet talk is as confusing as ever. The latest arrangement places McDonald at the head of the treasury. Mr. Whitney in the Department of the Interior; and gives the Post Master Generalship to Mr. Vilas of Wisconsin. There will be a later Cabinet to-morrow, and still a later one next day.

Of the Democratic statesmen who returned from their New York pilgrimage, Senators Lamer, Jonas, Pugh and Gorman were much interviewed by those who did not go, though none of them could shed any positive light on the Cabinet situation. It is stated by the friends of Senator Pendleton, that he wishes to go as Minister to France instead of having a Cabinet portfolio.

The sale of tickets to the inaugural ball has begun. There were four thousand applications for tickets awaiting the opening of the sale. They cost five dollars per capita, and supper at the ball will be one dollar for each person. Add your carriage hire to this and decide how many persons you will take with you, and you will know just what it will cost to attend the inaugural ball.

The work of getting the pension building ready for the occasion goes on night and day, electric lights being used for the night work. The public comfort committee is kept busy providing accommodations for people from all parts of the country. The demand increases daily, but all can be furnished with quarters.

#### Special Session of the Senate.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—It is expected that the senate will be convened in special session almost immediately after adjournment of the present congress, and that such time as is not consumed in the consideration of appointments be devoted to discussion of pending treaties.

#### Extradition Treaty.

OTTAWA, Feb. 22.—As far as can be gathered from the outlines of the new extradition treaty between the United States and Great Britain, which has been submitted to the Dominion government for approval, the proposed treaty is somewhat more extended than the treaty with Belgium, this enlargement having been made to more effectually meet the requirements of the tradition between the United States and Canada.

## Bills Passed.

The following bills passed both Houses during the past week:

S B No 47, by Dorris, to establish size of hop boxes.

S B No 130, by Dorris, quieting title to swamp lands.

S B No 93, by Cartwright, creating the County of Crook.

S B No 48, by Simon, defining legal holidays and making bills payable the preceding day.

S B No 150, by Hirsch, cutting down fees of School Clerks.

S B No 51, by Siglin, regulating transfer of proceedings from the County to Circuit Court.

S B No 60, by Hall, cutting down fees of Sheriff.

S B No 23, by Simon, amending the law of procedure in the administrations of estates.

S B No 6, by Lee, amending the charters of Universities and colleges.

S B No 80, by Hare, amending section 36, title 2, chapter 27, Miscellaneous Laws.

S B No 94, by Davenport, defining duties of certain officers.

S B No 30, by Simon, amending section 701, Chapter 8, title 3, Civil Code.

S B No 90, by Weatherford, appropriating \$10,000 for fish ladder at Oregon City.

S B No 35, by Prim, amending the charter of Ashland.

S B No 73, by Shrupe, amending section 5, chapter 56, Miscellaneous Laws.

S B No 13, by Reed, fixing salaries of Circuit Judges at \$3000 per year.

S B No 37, by Prim, providing a Code of Civil Procedure.

S B No 44, by Warren, submitting to a vote the relocation of the county seat of Yamhill.

S B No 150, by Weatherford, to legalize the acts of the officers of the Santiam Academy.

S B No 152, by Siglin, amending the charter of Coquille City.

S B No 62, by Lee, defining the duties of Road Overseer.

S B No 54, by Rineheart, requiring railroad companies to make annual reports to the State.

S B No 38, by Prim, amending section 914, Code of Civil Procedure.

S B No 150, by Weatherford, to refund money paid for school land to which the State could give no title.

H B No 151, by Cameron, Medford charter.

H B No 184, by Bilyeu, Junction City charter.

H B No 172, by Lyle, Dalles City charter.

H B No 65, by Bilyeu, to amend sections 306 and 307, chapter 28, title 1, criminal code.

H B No 102, by Black, amending the mortgage tax law.

H B No 126, by Lieneweber, amending sections 59, title 5, Miscellaneous Laws, establishing uniform course of instruction.

H B No 14, by Burne, Registry law.

H B No 139, by Porter, amending laws in relation to bridges.

H B No 66, by Keady, regulating the liquor traffic.

H B No 91, by Cox, for completion of public buildings.

H B No 159, by Montayne, by appropriating \$2,000 for a stone for the Washington monument.

H B No 115, by Gilbert, exempting firemen and exempt firemen of Volunteer Departments from jury duty and road and poll tax.

H B No 156, by Lieneweber, to create a boatman at Astoria with authority to serve process.

H B No 88, by Cole, to define the boundary of Columbia county.

H B No 202, by Story, to amend section 24, title 2, chapter 7.

H B No 129, by Keaworthy, to amend the Fire Department laws of East Portland.

H B No 8, by Lewis, authorizing The Dalles to sell certain property.

H B No 124, by Cameron, for the relief of A. W. Prealey.

H B No 205, by Bilyeu, regulating proceedings in Justice Courts.

H B No 62, by Mayo, providing compensation for Assessors in Multnomah county, to take the census in 1885.

H B No 229, by Kenworthy, amending the Portland Charter.

H B No 228, by Ways and Means committee, general appropriation bill.

There were 228 bills presented in the House and 155 in the Senate, a total of 383. Only 110 got through. A majority of these were charter and local bills.

#### Let the Majority Decide.

Rogers' bill, which provides that the majority of voters in each ward or precinct in the state shall decide beforehand whether liquor licenses shall be issued in such precinct or not, has passed the lower house of our state legislature, and ought to become a law. A Salem correspondent ventures to give some opinions on this subject, and says the bill ought to fail because it will "make a whisky fight in every precinct in the state," and "would completely rout the republican party." The correspondent does not make himself clear as to how a whisky fight would be fatal to the republican party, unless he means to say that the republicans would be on the whisky side of the fight.

In that case it would surely be routed, and ought to be. But everyone who knows anything about the attitude of the republican party in Oregon on this question knows that such would not be its position. If, on the other hand, he means that the republican party would take the decency side of the fight, and, as a consequence, be routed by the whisky element, he grossly slanders the people of Oregon, as every person knows who has been watching the moral and political movements in this state. Morally, the great majority of the republicans of Oregon are on the side of decency and good order, and the overwhelming sentiment of the people generally sustains them. Politically, the republicans have stood with the people on the grand old political maxim that the majority shall rule. There is a whisky fight in every precinct in the state now, and through the machinations and trickery of the whisky sellers they have managed to get a license to sell their crime breeding compound against the majority in most communities. This bill simply provides that in this moral fight, as well as in every political fight, the majority shall rule. If the most of the people in a community want whisky sold, this bill gives them the privilege. (2) If, on the other hand, the majority believe it to be a promoter of disease, crime and disorder, let them have the privilege of voting it out.—Telegram.

#### The Astoria Land Grant.

A correspondent in the Astorian says: Since the Astoria land grant has been declared forfeited by Congress it becomes of interest to know how far the forfeited lands extend.

A fear has been expressed that the Northern Pacific would claim some of the lands on the south side of the Columbia. This is not possible for the reason that the Oregon Central land grant was made May 4th, 1878; while the grant to the Northern Pacific (for its Portland and Tacoma branch) was not made until May 31, 1880. The Oregon Central, therefore, is the older grant and this is the decision already made by the Secretary of the Interior.

The land grant will not pass to the Northern Pacific, because grants to either railroad along the route are specifically deducted in the terms of the charter.

"How much land in Washington Territory will be thrown open by this Astoria land grant forfeiture?" I can not say, for the northern limits of the Oregon Central land grant were never fixed by the Land Commissioners. I would suppose, however, a large part of Pacific, Wahkiakum and Cowlitz counties would be forfeited.

When we consider also what a very large country is now thrown open to settlement in Clatsop, Columbia and Tillamook counties in Oregon, we can well say that thousands of families can find homes in the forfeited lands of the Astoria grant.

#### Mr. Virtue talks against Portland.

J. W. Virtue, Oregon commissioner of mines, while in Chicago recently, en route to the New Orleans exposition with an exhibit of the mining industries of Eastern Oregon said: As the legislature did not act on the project until January the exhibit, Mr. Virtue says, is not as full as it otherwise would have been, but as it is it will place over 3000 specimens on exhibition. On his table, scattered promiscuously about, was nearly \$10,000 worth of gold in quartz and nuggets, but the most valuable of the collection had been sent by express. Mr. Virtue believes that the trade of eastern Oregon naturally belongs to Chicago and other eastern cities rather than to towns on the Pacific slope, and his great object in making the best showing at the exhibition is to attract the attention of capitalists and business men to the resources of his region, which are not generally appreciated. Heavy gravel mines are but beginning to show their value, and the region of which Baker City is the distributing point is making rapid advances. If eastern manufacturers and wholesale houses, he says, would reach out for its trade it would be an easy matter to secure it against Portland and San Francisco.

#### Mark Lane Beware.

LONDON, Feb. 23.—The Mark Lane Express, in its review of the British grain trade during the past week says: English wheats declined 5d Friday. Extreme dullness prevails in the Market. Sales of English wheat during the past week were 58,109 quarters at 22s 4d, against 53,196 quarters at 30s 11d during the corresponding week last year. Flour is 6d cheaper. There is limited business in barley, and its tendency is weaker. Oats improved in price. The foreign wheat trade is wretchedly slow, and prices are against sellers. The prospects are of deep gloom, if that is possible. Foreign flour is very dull and difficult of sale. American guinea in London is quoted at 22s 6d, ex-ship. At Liverpool this is quoted irregularly, but in favor of buyers. Round corn maintained a much higher relative value owing to its scarcity. Four cargoes arrived; one cargo was sold and three remain. Two are California. About twenty cargoes are due, chiefly California. Inferior samples of English wheat are 1 shilling lower. Foreign wheat is cheaper to-day. English flour is 6 pence lower. Foreign is slow, with dragging sale. Maize is steady. Malting barleys are dull and weaker.

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