

PENITENTIARY MANAGEMENT.

An ex-convict lectured the other night at Salem about abuses practiced in the Oregon state penitentiary.

And yet prison reformers should not relax their efforts to secure the best possible treatment of the unfortunates confined behind stone walls.

It is too true that men who handle this class for any considerable length of time become callous and see the men under their control in the worst light.

RECORD OF THE YEAR.

At the close of November the record of the three leading cities of Washington for bank clearances for 11 months looked like this: Seattle, \$62,423,484; Spokane, \$40,329,238; Tacoma, \$40,090,040.

SENATOR DRIVER'S LATEST.

Lane county is represented at the state capital by an individual who seeks, and gains notoriety by talking on every subject that comes before the legislature no matter what special, or other knowledge, he possesses as to the matter under consideration.

"What is regarded as the strongest point made against the initiative and referendum system of law-making in this morning's debate on the proposition was contained in Driver's remarks. The senator objected to it, as incompatible with a representative system of government.

What is a legislature? Are not the members that compose it selected from the people, by the people? Has not legislature after legislature throughout the Union iniquitously misrepresented the people who selected their members?

county when they elected the mountebank and political charlatan who misrepresents the manhood and intelligence of the community.

The presence of such impractical one-sided men in legislatures is the strongest argument in favor of the initiative and referendum system of lawmaking.

A Press dispatch from San Francisco says: Something is in the wind in the Southern Pacific Company's affairs, and the general belief is that it refers to the possibility of the Vanderbilt interests, now made especially strong with the government by the election of Chauncey M. De Witt to the United States senate, forcing the Central Pacific railway on the market.

The district attorneys of the state are attempting to bunco the legislature into passing a law extending their terms of office two years, a full term as fixed at present, and increasing the salaries of their offices to an exorbitant point.

Before Lane county members of the Senate vote to pay bounties to a few Eastern Oregon sugar beet growers they might make an effort to secure bounties for Lane county stock, hay, and wheat growers.

This cold wave extends over the West and Northwest. Montana, upon the backbone of the Rocky mountains, takes the lead as usual with temperatures ranging from 24 to 30 below zero.

The San Francisco Chronicle believes that among the benefits to be derived from the completion of the Nicaragua canal will be an improved market for our Pacific Coast mutton that anticipates that the business of shipping frozen mutton from this coast can be developed.

Salem Journal: It was the Soldiers' Home investigating committee that recommended doing away with the soldiers' home commission, and Representative Gray is the man entitled to credit for the suggestion.

It may be interesting to know that a fast transport steamer has made the voyage from New York to Manila in 54 days. Uncle Sam will have to spread himself if he retains the Philippines.

The paper trust is rapidly absorbing the principal concerns all over the country. It may be noted that this is made possible by a considerable protective tariff on paper products.

Salem Sentinel: "Banker A. Bush assaulted the editor of the Sentinel on the street Saturday last and was kicked down for his trouble. The charity that we entertain for the mentally defective is the only thing that saved the coroner the trouble of sitting upon what remains he might have been able to scrape up from the gutter."

Dr. Johnson Eat Horse?

Dr. Johnson in his journal mentions the interesting fact that he had on a certain day had "palfrey for dinner."

Palfrey is defined in Johnson's celebrated dictionary as "a small horse fit for ladies," and some have thought that the doctor (whose feats as a trencherman were notorious) may have broken a record on the day in question and disposed of a small horse.

The word palfrey (sometimes palfrey) by the interchange of l and m is still in use among the rustics of Scotland and the north of Ireland, and means young colts when they first come to table in the spring.

Russian horsemen were coming on foot, and a grim silence fell on the highlanders. Then, as the beat of the hostile troops sounded deeper and louder, a curious quiver ran down the long two deep line of the Ninety-third.

The Russians were now within range, and the fire of the highlanders rang out sudden and sharp. A few horses and men came tumbling down, and the Russian cavalry wheeled instantly to the left, threatening the right flank of the highlanders.

M. P. Le Grand, an Alabama farmer, says that many negroes in the south are ruined by mules, and he thinks he has proved it. He owns a great deal of farm land, which he rents to negroes on condition that they shall do their work with an ox instead of a mule.

Effect of Lime on the System. A medical scientist is authority for the statement that children and old people especially suffer from a lack of lime in the system.

Do You Think She Did. He—Do you love me well enough to become my wife? She—I think I do, but I must have all the money I want, and I must always have my own way, and go when and where I please, and come home when I please, and stay away when I please. Yes, I think I really do love you well enough to marry you.

Talking to an Invalid. A physician, in an article illustrating the evil custom of talking to an invalid about his pains, says that once he requested a mother to mark a stroke upon a paper each time that she asked a sick daughter how she was.

The surface of the sea is estimated at 150,000,000 square miles, taking the whole surface of the globe at 197,000,000, and its greatest depth supposedly equals the height of the highest mountain, or four miles.

Mysteries of Sound.

Many of the manifestations of sound are still a complete mystery to science. One of the best architects in New Orleans remarked the other day that a building with good acoustic properties was always a lucky fluke, and that it was impossible to be absolutely certain in advance.

There are old seafaring men in this city who can tell strange stories of fog sirens and bell bongs heard now for an incredible distance and again not heard at all when right at hand.

A Remarkable Lake. The most remarkable body of water in the world lies in the vicinity of the Colorado river, in southern California. In this region of dry volcanoes, desolate wastes and stony swamps, the strangest phenomenon of all is what the naturalists call a "lake of ink."

An Italian Peasant. The Poletti's little cottage stands in a field and is semiburied. Like many of their class in Italy, they have a great love for and pride in their home.

Jobber. Albany Democrat: "On Curtis' jobs in the legislature was a bill that would extend the office of district attorney to a term of four years instead of two as now. It was discovered and defeated.

The Weather. The Portland weather bureau sharp, who yesterday gave out a "probability" that the weather would moderate today, sadly failed this time.

Quit Business. People passing the Guard office early this morning got no satisfaction from the thermometer that has done business on the front of the building for years.

Skating. Ice has formed on still water in this vicinity sufficient for skating. Today the mill race and the pond near the University have been utilized for this popular sport by large crowds.

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ANOTHER COBURG CASE

H A Daniels Accused of Embezzlement.

Coburg is again in the front with a crime charged to one of its citizens. This is the third time in about three weeks that officers of the law have taken a citizen of that place in charge with the commission of a breach of law placed against him.

The complaint was made out in the court of Geo A Drury, justice of the peace of the Willamette district. Daniels waived examination and was bound over in the sum of \$250. Mr and Mrs Samuel Smith, parents of the defendant's wife signed the bonds for his release until the grand jury meets.

Another Unfortunate. The conductor of today's northbound overland put a man off the train at this place in a demoralized condition. He was taken in charge by the officers and held for examination.

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BRAITAIN AND VIRTUE

Both These Gents Have Female Clerks.

THE STATE PAYS THE BILL. We are requested to publish the following from the Salem Independent of February 2:

Last week, we told our readers how Representative Virtue (a unionist) secured a lady clerk for a committee of which he was a member, but had no earthly use for her whatever. We stated also that the chairman of that committee, Mr Brattain (a republican) opposed the application of Mr Virtue, for the reason that there was no work on the committee for a clerk to do—

"The house, however, voted Mr Virtue his clerk. Next day, the house saw the error it had committed, and a resolution was submitted to the effect that all proceedings connected with the appointment of said clerk be rescinded and that the clerk be discharged. Mr Curtis thereupon moved that the resolution be referred to the committee on resolutions, of which he himself was chairman. On Thursday last, Mr Brattain called up his resolution, but it was indefinitely postponed, and thus Mr Virtue by a four-fifths vote was made the happy possessor of a blooming female assistant.

"Now in which way is Mr Brattain to be blamed for this? Did he not tell the house that the committee had no need of clerical aid—that there was not a single bill before it for consideration? He did not. But there was one thing he did not tell. He did not tell that he himself, as chairman of a committee with not a bill before it, had a female clerk from the very first, and with nothing on earth for her to do! Ah, that was kept up the back ground, and it was not until the naturally concluded that he had as good a right to a female clerk as old Mr Brattain, and by the way a large majority of the house seems to have thought so too. And so the state today witnesses the spectacle of these two old fellows, both members of the same committee, each in the possession of a female clerk, each drawing from the state \$3.00 a day with not a bill in sight, and never likely to be."

BOTH SATISFIED. It is currently rumored around the house that Mr Brattain refused to allow his clerk to file any of Mr Virtue's bills, and this so angered Mr Virtue, who is a perfect Adonis himself, that he resolved on having a bill-sticker of his own. And the house, liberal to the last degree, thought so too. Both gentlemen are now satisfied. But just what view their constituents will take of the matter is another question."

INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM

Dr Driver Votes Nay—Dr Kuykendall Aye.

From yesterday's proceedings in the senate:

The committee on revision of laws reported favorably upon H J R No 1, proposing a constitutional amendment for the initiative and referendum.

Senator Smith moved that the resolution be adopted, and spoke ably for it, not as a partisan, but as a citizen having the utmost confidence in the people.

Dr Driver spoke strongly against the resolution as being against the representative government. He argued that the citizen employs experts to carry out his ideas and administer to his wants of all kinds, and for that reason selects the legislator to make his laws.

Senator Dufur spoke for the resolution in moderation and with good logic. Senator Brinnell spoke forcibly and pointedly on the subject, and made good his campaign pledges that he favors direct legislation. Senator Adams explained that he was against the principle but willing to vote for the resolution. Several other senators spoke in a like strain, and the following vote resulted: Ayes—Adams, Bates, Brownell, Clem, J D Daly, B Daly, Dufur, Fulton, Howe, Josephi, Kelly, Kuykendall, Looney, Mackay, Patterson, Porter, Reed, Selling, Smith, Wason, 20. Nays—Cameron, Driver, Haines, Hamon, Haseltine, Michell, Mulkey, Taylor, 8. Absent—Morrow, Proebstel, 2. APPOINTED GUARDIAN.—Frank Reiser has been appointed guardian of Sidney Brooks, a spendthrift. He receives a benefit of \$24 per month and is 72 years of age.