

although some years may roll by before the completion of this great undertaking, yet we shall anxiously look forward to the time when, by such a work, commerce shall stride with gigantic steps over those wild and solitary regions now known only as the hunting grounds of the trapper or the red man.

In conclusion, your humble memorialists having presented for your consideration some of the most important subjects to the prosperity and well-doing of our adopted country, do most earnestly and respectfully pray that they may meet such reception and consideration, as shall redound to the peace and prosperity of all interested, and the furtherance of an attachment to the government of the United States of America, as shall cease only with our existence. And your memorialists, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

Attest,
A. L. LOVEJOY,
Speaker.

N. HUBER, Clerk.



THE SPECTATOR.

Oregon City, December 24, 1846.

GEO. L. CURRY, EDITOR—N. W. COLWELL, PRINTER.

RESOLUTIONS

Passed by the Board of Directors at their meeting on Tuesday evening, Dec. 2d, and ordered to be inserted in the "Spectator," till the end of the present volume.

Resolved, That the paper will be continued to all subscribers who have paid, unless they signify to the contrary.

Resolved, That the names of all subscribers to the "Oregon Spectator" who, by the close of this volume, shall not have paid their subscriptions, be stricken from the list and the sending of the paper discontinued.

JNO. F. BROOKS,
Sec'y Board Directors.

Oregon City, Dec. 2d, 1846.

To CORRESPONDENTS.—Some "Compliments to Mary" shall have a place in next paper; we perceive Puget's Sound has got up to the banks of the Columbia. Those verses signed —r, are capital. We will publish them with pleasure.

"Willamette" is under consideration.

THE VETO MESSAGE.—In another column will be found the Message of the Governor upon returning the "Liquor Bill" to the House without his approval. The merits of the document, although it did not affect the result, were generally acknowledged. Col. Hall, of Tuality, in an admirable speech in favor of the bill, paid the Executive a very handsome compliment. Mr. Speaker Lovejoy, in some able and pertinent remarks, in behalf of the bill, also spoke in complimentary terms of the Message. Those for, and those against the bill urged every argument they could command to aid their respective sides of the question. In the opposition, Mr. Newell and Dr. Tolmie were most prominent. When the final vote came to be taken, the scene was serious and impressive.

A HINT.—Our subscribers must understand that if they would wish to see the "Spectator" appear, during the ensuing year, in an enlarged form, they must pay their subscriptions. There is very little prospect of an enlargement, unless our friends come up to the work as they ought. Pay the printer or you get no paper.

A negro man named James D. Saul was brought to this city recently from the mouth of the river, charged with having caused the death of his wife, an Indian woman. He was examined before Justice Hood, the result of which examination we have never been able to ascertain, but the accused is at large and likely to remain so we suppose.

DROWNED.—We are pained to state that Mr. V. W. Dawson, a respected citizen of Tuality county, was recently drowned in the Cowlitz river. He was engaged in removing his family to the Sound, where they were about to make themselves a new home. The family have since returned.

THE MEMORIAL.—This document will be referred to and read with a great deal of interest. We regard it as being good, and doubt not but that it will prove satisfactory to the people. We hardly know whom to credit the memorial to, so many had a hand in it. In the first place, Messrs. Hall, Peers, Summers, McDonald and Boone were a committee that gave birth to one, which was referred to a select committee, Messrs. TVault, Summers and Peers. This committee referred the whole business to Mr. Peers, who revised, rewrote and built up the Memorial as it now stands, and we think it redounds greatly to his credit.

COLUMBIA RIVER, AGAIN.

In our last paper, we took occasion to make some observations relative to the mouth of Columbia river, in order to show the availability of that river as a certain and safe channel of commercial communication. We resume the subject with increased confidence in our ability to maintain the position we have taken.

There is no want of facts to prove that the entrance and navigability of the Columbia is comparatively easy and attended with little or no risk—certainly much less than has been so considerably and minutely published to the world, from sources too, whence we ought to have expected better things—most assuredly more reliable information. The only difficulty we labor under is, to properly arrange these facts—to give them to the public and the people of other countries, and more particularly, our own general government, in such a shape as to have the desired effect—the destruction of that inimical feeling which prejudice, error and an absence of good and brave seamanship has alone created. We are in the possession of information that we were not aware of when we prepared our last article in reference to this matter, and it is with a great deal of pleasure that we take advantage of this opportunity to state, that our worthy townsman, Captain John H. Couch, is eminently deserving of honorable mention, in practically proving the access to the Columbia both convenient and safe, and the navigability of the lower Willamette, perfectly feasible.

In the year 1840, Captain Couch, in command of the brig Maryland, brought that vessel in safety, not only into the Willamette, but up to the Falls of the Willamette, now better known as Oregon City. This was achieved too, be it understood, previously to Captain Wilkes' explorations, without a chart of the Columbia, much less of the Willamette river, when there were no pilots, and the commander could not obtain that information and assistance which now may be enjoyed in a variety of forms. Judgment was his chart, and experience his pilot, and "making" the mouth of the Columbia in the evening, he entered it in safety the next morning, without having been subjected to any delay. Since that time, he has gone out of and entered the river several times, in the discharge of his duty as a commander of vessels, and all his trips have been of essential service in illustrating the practicability of commercial communication by means of the Columbia, and how easy the difficulties at its mouth may be overcome if a proper degree of prudence is only exercised. The same may be said of Captain Sylvester, of the Chenamus. The sea officers of the Hudson's Bay Company's service have likewise done much in attesting the truth of the position we have here assumed.

If we had but a steam tow boat, and it cannot be long, in the nature of things, ere we will have one, our commerce would enjoy a facility that would immediately, by a rapid enlargement, give it a value and an importance which otherwise it may be years in attaining. Vessels in the winter time are liable to be subjected to delay in performing the extent of river navigation necessary to a communication with our markets. The currents of the Columbia are strong and swift, and the winds are not always to be depended upon, nor are they always available. Hence the importance—the necessity of steam "tugs"; for, in giving facilities to commerce, we most certainly forward the interests of Oregon.

LEGISLATIVE DOINGS.

The Legislative Assembly having now adjourned, we propose in the following article, to give a summary of their deliberation. On the third day of the session, the member from Champeog, Mr. R. Newell introduced the following resolution: Resolved, That the House adjourn on Saturday, the 5th of Dec. 1846, to convene the first Monday in May, 1847. But the House preferred to make but one job of its legislation, and so laid the resolution on the table. The standing committees were composed as follows: On Elections—Messrs. Lowndale, Peers and Chamberlain. Ways and Means—Newell, Lowndale and Straight. Judiciary—TVault, Tolmie and Looney. Post Offices and Post Roads—Boone, TVault and Peers. Commerce—Tolmie, Hembree and McDonald. Indian Affairs—Peers, Newell and Williams. Militia—Hall and Looney. Foreign Affairs—Summers, McDonald and Boone. Currency—Hembree, Meek and Chamberlain. Claims—McDonald, Straight and Summers. Seat of Government—Straight, Lowndale and Meek. Education—TVault, Tolmie and Hall. Engraved Bills—Hall, Boone and Newell. Enrolled Bills—Summers, Peers and TVault.

Upon reference to the Journal of the House, we find that a bill entitled "An Act to regulate the writ of *Ad quod damnum*" introduced by the member for Clackamas, Mr. TVault, was the first important measure whereon the yeas and nays were called, which on its third reading, was rejected by the following vote. Yeas, Chamberlain, Straight, TVault and Speaker. Nays, Boone, Hall, Lowndale, Looney, McDonald, Meek, Newell, Peers, Summers and Tolmie. Mr. Lowndale introduced a bill to locate and establish a

territorial road from Portland to the mouth of Mary's river—which successfully passed through its several stages and became a law. Dr. Tolmie offered a resolution "That the Judiciary Committee be discharged from any further duties, as the present Legislature deem it inexpedient to organize the Judiciary at the present time, in any manner different from the present organization;" but the "congregated wisdom" thought it would have a "lick" at the Judiciary any how, and so this excellent resolution was laid on the table; we say excellent, because in view of the daily expected extension of the jurisdiction of the United States, the expense of a reorganization of this branch of our government was not warranted.

The member for Tuality, Col. Hall, in an early part of the session, brought forward "An Act to regulate Weights and Measures, which is now a law. The measure was much needed, and the benefit of it will soon be made apparent to all. Upon the final passage, the vote was as follows: Yeas—Boone, Chamberlain, Hall, Hembree, Lowndale, Looney, McDonald, Meek, Newell, Peers, Summers, Straight, Tolmie and Speaker. Nays—TVault and Williams. Mr. Hembree, member for Yamhill, brought forward "An Act to amend an act in relation to the currency, and subjecting property to execution," the amount of which was a restoration of the currency to its gold and silver basis. The House however, rejected it. Messrs. Hembree, TVault and Speaker being the only votes in its favor. Mr. Boone, member for Polk, reported "An Act to provide for laying out and constructing a road from the S. W. end of Main street, in Oregon city, to the bridge leading to the Island Mills," as prayed for in petition of H. M. Knighton and others, which was indefinitely postponed: Yeas—Boone, Chamberlain, Hall, Lowndale, Looney, McDonald, Newell, Peers, Summers, Tolmie and Williams. Nays—Hembree, Meek, Straight and Speaker. It was argued that the County Court enjoyed full powers to act in reference to this matter, upon which ground alone the bill was defeated. In our poor judgment, it were as well to have granted the petition, rather than to have staved it off in that fashion. On the 11th inst., a resolution of Mr. Hall's was adopted, "That the present Legislature will adjourn Tuesday next, *sine die*." But they "didn't" though, for about that time they had got too deep into the mire to get out conveniently.

The northern boundary line of Yamhill county was defined and established by the passage of an Act introduced by Mr. Hembree. A Territorial road from Salem, Champeog county, to the mouth of Mary's river, was located and established by the passage of an Act introduced by Mr. Boone. In reference to the location of the Seat of Government, the House decided that it was inexpedient to legislate thereon the present session.

An Act for the erection of a Jail, which was presented by Mr. TVault, was rejected by striking out the enacting clause and first section of the bill. This bill occasioned considerable discussion, and there were some warm passages between the honorable members for Clackamas and Tuality. While the bill to "regulate the manufacture and sale of ardent spirits was on 'its winding way" through the House, Dr. Tolmie, of Lewis, introduced the following *feeler*. Resolved, That the present Legislature deem it inexpedient at this time, to legalize the manufacture and sale of ardent spirits, which the House incontinently *slayed* by the following vote: Yeas—Chamberlain, McDonald and Tolmie. Nays—Boone, Hall, Hembree, Lowndale, Looney, Meek, Newell, Peers, Summers, Straight, TVault, Williams and Speaker. A bill to prevent gaming introduced by Mr. TVault, was *euchered* by the following vote on a motion to reject: Yeas—Chamberlain, Hall, Hembree, Lowndale, Looney, McDonald, Peers, Summers, Straight and Williams. Nays—Boone, Meek, Tolmie, TVault and Speaker. A bill amendatory to an Act establishing County Courts, from the Judiciary Committee passed the House by a vote of twelve to four, the Nays were Hall, Peers, Summers and Tolmie. This bill takes from the County Courts their jurisdiction in civil and criminal cases, and confines them entirely to county business. An Act to divorce Nathaniel W. Colwell, reported from a select committee by Mr. Boone, passed through its several readings and became a law. "An Act to regulate the manufacture and sale of ardent spirits," which had been proposed in various shapes by various members at various times, committed to various committees and variously argued, finally came up on its third reading, and was passed by the following vote, after several ineffectual attempts to lay it on the table and to recommit it: Yeas—Boone, Hall, Hembree, Looney, Meek, Summers, Straight, TVault, Williams and Speaker. Nays—Chamberlain, Lowndale, McDonald, Newell and Tolmie. An Act was passed amending the Organic Law, by striking out the words "or more" in Article 3d, Sec. 3d, preventing a partnership of more than two persons in holding land claims. An Act on apportionment, introduced by Mr. Newell, giving an additional representative each to Champeog, Yamhill, and Polk

counties, successively passed the ordeal, and is now a law.

One of the best acts of the session was an Act to establish "A Pilotage on the bar of the Columbia river, and from thence to the limits of navigation on the Columbia and Willamette rivers." The Criminal Court was abolished and an Act passed "To establish Circuit Courts." The following batch of bills was passed on Thursday last—"An Act to amend an Act authorizing S. K. Barlow to construct a road across the Cascade Mountains;" "An Act providing for the election of County Judges;" "An act to establish the county seat of Yamhill county;" "an act to prevent the desertion of seamen,"—an excellent enactment, introduced originally by the member from Tuality, Mr. Meek—"an act to provide for an inspection of wheat;" "an act to revive an act to establish a road from Multnomah city to mouth of Mary's river." That mouth of Mary's river is some for a new country, we reckon, as it swallows nearly if not quite all of our Territorial roads. The House refused, and we think justly too, so to amend the organic law, as to permit claimants to hold six hundred acres in the prairie and forty acres in the timber, though said tracts do not join. We may hereafter speak upon this subject more at length. Mr. TVault proposed to amend Art. 2nd Sec. 6th of the organic law, by striking out the word *regulate* and inserting in its stead the word *prohibit*, which failed by a vote of five to eleven—those in favor were Boone, Chamberlain, Newell, Tolmie, and TVault.

The "act regulating the manufacture and sale of ardent spirits" or otherwise speaking, the *Licenses Law* having been returned by the Governor with sundry objections in the shape of a Veto Message, the House proceeded to a reconsideration of it and by the following vote it became a law: Yeas—Boone, Hall, Hembree, Lowndale, Looney, Meek, Summers, Straight, TVault, and Speaker. Nays—Chamberlain, McDonald, Newell, Peers and Tolmie. On the evening prior to the adjournment, the following bills were passed—"an act establishing a Probate Court;" "an act establishing the office of Auditor of public accounts;" "an act fixing the salary of Prosecuting Attorney;" "a bill in relation to the salary of Circuit Judge." A bill was passed abolishing the Post Office Department, introduced by Mr. Straight. A bill in relation to Revenue and an Appropriation bill, of course, were passed. A bill divorcing Elizabeth Gillihan was "rushed" through, on the day of adjournment. A very excellent Memorial to the Congress of the United States, was unanimously adopted, which may be found on the first page of this paper. The following Territorial officers were elected: Frederick Prigg, *Secretary of the Territory*; Alonzo Skinner, *Circuit Judge*; H. M. Knighton, *Marshall*; John H. Couch, *Treasurer*; Geo. W. Bell, *Auditor*. After making provision for the publication of the laws, and passing the accustomed resolution of thanks to the Speaker, the House adjourned *sine die*.

A salvo of artillery was fired on Saturday evening last—three big guns—and the American flag was flying all day. What was it all about? Was it for the adjournment of the Legislature, or the passage of the liquor law?

ADJOURNMENT OF THE LEGISLATURE.—On Saturday night last, the Legislature adjourned *sine die*, after a session of nineteen days in which thirty two acts and sundry resolutions were passed. The appropriation bill with special appropriations, amounts to something like five thousand dollars, which, in addition to our previous debt of five thousand dollars, makes the whole indebtedness of the Territory amount to about ten thousand dollars. We have had eight hundred and seventy seven dollars worth of legislation, that is to say, our legislation for this year has cost us this sum, which we really hope will be of its full consequence to the public. The members of the House have been truly industrious, nothing occurred to disturb their good understanding, nor the harmony of the session. All the proceedings were characterized by order and decorum, and if errors were committed, we are satisfied they were not of the heart. The Speaker, A. L. Lovejoy Esq., discharged his duty promptly and well, and to the satisfaction of the House, which was expressed in a resolution of thanks, to which he made an appropriate and happy reply, upon the eve of the adjournment.

Captain N. M. Howison, U. S. N., has presented the colors of the late U. S. Schr. Shark to the Territory. The letter of presentation was appropriately answered by Gov. Abernethy. We have now, therefore, a beautiful emblem of our country's glory, whose folds we will fling out to the breeze on brave days.

PROGRESSION.—What is man born for but to be a reformer—a remaker of what man was made—a renouncer of falsehood—a restorer of truth and good—imitating that great nature which embosoms us all, and which sleeps no moment on an olden past. But every hour repairs herself, yielding us every morning a new day, and every pulsation a new life.—Emerson.