OREGON UNION

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY AT CORVALLIS, ... OREGON.

FRIDAY, JAN. 13, 1898.

AT THE LEGISLATURE.

Our Correspondent at Salem Predicts a Clean and Economical Session.

The present legislative session met in better condition to do business than any legislative body since 1893. The absence of the excitement, confusion and partisan spirit which accompanies a senatorial contest is very noticeable. There is no apparent party division in either branch of the legislature, and fusionists and republicans vote for or against every measure solely on their judgment. I think this is very noticeable and peculiar to this legislature for I never saw such harmony before among parties that were so widely divergent at the polls. This augurs well for the enactment of wise legislation and I predict now that the state will get it. There are many good bills already presented and many more talked of, and the only danger to be apprehended is over legislation; we are apt to do too much of it.

Up to the afternoon session of Tuesday, the time of the session was occupied with organization and the inauguration of the governor, which event took place Tuesday forenoon. The houses met in joint session and the platform was occupied by the incoming and retiring officers and the judges of the supreme court. Governor Lord's retiring message was a masterpiece, and Governor Geer's inaugural is very highly spokeu of. At the afternoon session 27 bills were introduced in the senate and the balance of the time until adjournment was occupied in the discussion of the everlasting clerk business, and then it was only settled temporarily for it is sure to bob up again before the end of the session. They have gone through exactly the same experience in the house. Most of their time on Tuesday was occupied debating the clerk proposition and it is still unsettled.

There are various guesses as to the number of bills that will be introduced at this session and they range from 200 to 500. I think midway between these figures will be about the number.

The new state officers are occupying their quarters and have fallen into line as if they were always there. They are a fine set of men and start out well, but it is the home stretch that counts, and let us hope it may count well for all of them.

SOLDIERS, AND SOLDIERS.

Again we want to say that we are proud of the Corvallis boys at Manila. No old women or cry babies among them. They are soldies. Possessed of all the military qualities that distinguish a true supporter of the flag from those vain carpet knights whose courage sits lightly on their finger tips, and whose idle hours are occupied in long drawn out bemoanings of their fate. Of all the letters that have reached Corvallis from her volunters in the Philippines, not one has contained a whimpering clause. Brady Burnett, writing to his parents under date of November 28th, says: "Our life here is not disagreeable. We have drill about one hour each morning and dress parade in the evening three times a week, so that about all we have to do is to eat and sleep. We have to get up about 5:30 but I do not mind that. Our fare is very good. We have fresh meat from Australia. Sickness is exaggerated in the reports you receive. All of the Corvallis boys that I have seen look well."

George Clark doesn't seem to be sulking in his tent, either. He inserts the following paragraph in a letter to his grandmother, which gives rise to a suspicion that the boys are not faring very badly after all: 'Yesterday was Thanksgiving and we were invited to a banquet given by Co. C, 13th Minnesota, and all had a splendid time. We had chicken soup, three kinds of salad, olives and baked salmon, roast turkey and dressing, apple jelly, cranberry sauce, sweet potatoes, mashed potatoes, lettice, onion pickles, pickles, pies, biscuits, tea and a great variety of other drinks, and after all, the bill of fare is not much more than half enumerated. A Filippino orchestra furnished music."

The following extract from a letter to Brigadier-General Beebe, from Dr. Cardwell, chief surgeon U. S. V., bears out the reports of our boys and throws some light on the situation generally. After prefacing his statement with the assurance that he "is still 'one of those volunteer surgeons,' and therefore may be acquitted of any white washing proclivities" he says: "As to the trials and discomforts we have had, they have been very many, and some of them tried men's souls, but inasmuch as we have never been in the habit of sending our foraging parties to gather up all the loose islands in sight before, and could not reasonably be expected to have an intuitive knowledge of just what would occur, and just what would be needed most, I fail to see any very essential points where things could have been bettered by the exercise of 'ordinary care and discretion,' and that is all the great American people allow themselves to demand by law; it is more than they have been willing to pay for in the army, lo, these many years, and I am sure is all they had a right to expect when we started out.

"But many of the hysterical letters which have been appearing in the Oregonians which we are now receiving, are a very 'stench in the nostrils.' Some of them are true, and simply show that somebody is playing the 'baby act.' Others are wholly untrue, while some, those that do the most harm, in that they stir up our wives and mothers and sweethearts because they think we are suffering out here are simply exaggerated, but exaggerated with a genius that was meant for better things.

"Most of them which get such headings as 'Sick Soldiers Cry for Aid in Manila Until Exhausted,' 'Starvation Amidst Plenty, Personal Experiences of a Eugene Boy,' etc., etc., come perilously near the 'official misstatement' spoken of in the regulations.

"No man has lacked the essentials to his well being. No man has been 'neglected,' sick or well, in the proper acceptation of that term.

"In the hospitals there was no sentimentality. There was no time to be lost in 'coddling.' There was no 'dainty touch femininity' visible anywhere, but no man is dead who would have been alive under other circumstances, except perhaps from this one cause. Milk—milk for diet in typhoid. And in this matter you cannot help us. Nobody can help us. The milk is not here and cannot be sent here."

Senator Daly's bill providing for a commission of five to select text books will pass. The effort to detach Portland from the rest of the state in so far as school district government is concerned will fail of accomplishment. The American Book Company has been so extortionate in its charges that even some of the county school superintendents blush when detected among the opposition to Senator Daly's bill.—Clackamas County Independent.

The movement started in the O. A. C. to establish a joint county fair for Benton and Linn counties, alternating the place of holding it between the counties, promises to be successful. If established it will be purely a fair for the purpose of showing the products and resources of the counties.—Express-Advance.

County Court.

At the last meeting of the county court the following business was transacted:

Petition of G. Harding for a bridge was continued until the February term.

The venine of 200 jurors, to serve during the current year, was drawn.

Reports of all road supervisors were laid over until the February term.

The bond of Assessor Asa Alexander was approved. The bond is for $5,000, and the names of Sol King, T. Whitehorn and John McGee appear as sureties.

Petition of G. W. Parker for establishment of new road district from territory now in districts 19, 30 and 37 was continued.

A special session of the commissioner's court will be held January 20th for the purpose of fixing the county tax levy.

New and Select Harness Supplies.

J. M. Cameron carries the largest and best selection of robes in the state of Oregon, outside of Portland. They have just received a very large invoice direct from the factory, and the low prices at which they sell them will astonish you. The prices range from 50 cents upward. They have a full line of saddles and harness, and other supplies in their line, either bought for cash or manufactured in their own establishment. The prices cannot be beat, and the quality they guarantee.

Sugar Beets.

The remarkable opportunities for the extension of profitable agricultural industries in this country through the medium of the sugar beet are duly set forth in a farmers' bulletin on the subject by H. W. Wiley. Experience has shown that the sugar beet reaches its highest development in north temperate latitudes. As a result of years of careful experimentation, it may be said that as far as temperature alone is concerned the sugar beet attains its greatest perfection in a zone of varying width, through the center of which passes the isothermal line of 70 degrees F. for the months of June, July and August. This zone for this country is shown in the accompanying map from the bulletin here quoted.

This isothermal line, for the United States, begins near the city of New York and passes up the Hudson river to Albany; thence, turning westward, it runs near Syracuse and passes in a southwesterly direction, touching the shore of Lake Erie near Sandusky, O.; turning then in a northwesterly direction, it enters Michigan and reaches its highest point in that state near Lansing; then going in a southwesterly direction, it enters the state of Indiana near South Bend, passes through Michigan City; then in a northwesterly course continues through the cities of Chicago and Madison, reaching its highest point near St. Paul; thence it extends in a southwesterly direction until it enters the state of South Dakota, where it turns again northwest and reaches its highest point in Dakota just above the forty-fifth parallel of latitude, where it crosses the Missouri river. The isothermal line then turns almost due south, following very closely the one hundred and first degree of longitude until it leaves the state of Nebraska near the northeast corner of Colorado. Passing in a southwesterly direction through Colorado, it reaches, at Pueblo, almost to the one hundred and fifth degree of west longitude, whence it passes in a slightly southeasterly direction into New Mexico, turns to the west and crosses the one hundred and fifth degree of longitude at about the thirty-second degree of latitude; then turning westward, it passes in a very irregular line through the states of California, Oregon and Washington.

THE SUGA

Extending a distance of 100 miles each side of this isothermal line is a belt which for the present may be regarded as the theoretical beet sugar area of the United States. There are many localities lying outside of this belt in which the sugar beet will thrive, but this will be due to some exceptional qualities of the climate or soil and not to any favorable influence of a higher or lower temperature. A mean temperature of 70 degrees F. in the summer, however, must not be regarded as the only element of temperature which is to be taken into consideration. In those localities where the winters come early and are of unusual severity will be found greater difficulties in the production of sugar from the sugar beet than in those localities where the winters are light and mild, although the mean summer temperature of both localities may be represented by 70 degrees F. As an illustration of this difficulty may be cited northern Nebraska and South Dakota, where the winters are of great severity, and southern California, where there is scarcely any winter at all.

The mean summer temperature of these localities is about the same, but the continuation of a semisummer temperature through the winter in southern California greatly favors the growth and manufacture of the beets. In northern Nebraska and South Dakota the beets, which are to be manufactured during the winter time, have to be protected by expensive silos. In southern California and other places similarly situated the beets can be protected without any covering or at most with only a slight covering of leaves or straw. The season for planting in a mild climate is also longer. For instance, in southern California planting can commence as early as January and continue till June, thus giving a beet crop coming continuously into maturity from the 1st of August to the 1st of December. In other localities the planting must be accomplished in a short time, say from the 10th of May till the 1st of June. Before the first of these dates the ground will be too cold for planting, and after the second the season will be so late as to prevent the maturity of the beets before frost. When the field is properly plowed and subsoiled in the late autumn, the farmer will be able to take advantage of the first favorable opportunity in the spring to prepare the surface of the soil and plant the seed.

Do You Need Help?

Anyone wishing a competent man to do light work in the nature of cleaning yard, trimming vines and hedges, etc., can secure such service by enquiring of T. W. Dilley, the "fixer."

Wanted.

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A Daring Spy.

Perhaps the most thrilling experience remembered by any of the veterans is the following, told by Alexander Munson, now a member of Governor Andrew post and formerly of a Maine regiment.

The hero of the incident was Captain Craiger of an Iowa battery. He had been led by the love of danger and excitement into scout and spy duty. The experience in question was brief, but so charged with peril and nerve tension that in a few short hours he seemed to have lived days and needed a long sleep after it, as though he had been awake for a week. In a single afternoon he left his own camp and rode into the enemy's country, passing two pickets, killed a guard, listened to a council of war in the rebel general's tent, fought his way back through the pickets, who now knew his mission, set off the signal agreed upon, and rode to safety on his unusually fleet horse.

The first picket he met on his way out was misled by supposing him to be a spy of their own returning with information, and from them he got what sounded like the countersign, but not, as he discovered upon, he attempted with it to pass the sentry near the tent of the general. The sentry pulled trigger on him, but the cap snapped on the musket, there was a hand to hand scuffle not 100 yards from the camp, and the sentry was stabbed to the heart. Clad in the sentry's uniform, under cover of the night, he heard from the very lips of the general and his council the secret he was in search of—that the enemy would mass on the left wing to meet the attack of tomorrow — sauntered carelessly about when the council was dispersed, and then mounted his superb gray and was off. It was a perilous ride, for every picket he had passed in the afternoon fired on him as he rode through, and it was indeed a charmed life that escaped the bullets.

The last picket he had to pass was numerous and met him with a volley, followed up with a sharp attack with sabers and revolvers. Shooting, stabbing, slashing and swearing like a fiend, wounded and wounding, he fought his way through them and then fled onward, reeling in his saddle with excitement and loss of blood until, arrived at the hollow stump where his rockets were concealed, he set them both off, thus giving the desired information to his own commander. Then, emptying his revolver at his nearest pursuer, he again rode away, unharmed further by the shots which followed him like hail. What added to the bravery of this deed was the fact that he knowingly went out to replace a scout who had been killed the night before on the very same mission.—Boston Herald.

Plow points are often improperly sharpened. Some blacksmiths slope the plowshare all the way to the edge, like a cultivator shovel. An Orange Judd Farmer correspondent says: "A point so sharpened will always give trouble, running too deep, and if the ground is very hard the point will soon round up, the plow refusing ample penetration unless the ground is rather soft. In working the steel, it is better to heat it slowly. In tempering, heat to a cherry red and dip in water. When taken out, if a blue color, immerse again, and that will toughen it. If the plow is rusty, it is a good plan to oil the share often with kerosene. In painting ironwork, an excellent paint is made of graphite mixed with linseed oil. The color is black, the paint sticks well and forms a fine coating for tin roofs. Farmers should paint the sheetiron work on their binders and other machinery."

There is a missionary in Lambeth, London, so solicitous for the welfare of the inmates of the workhouse that he insists on entering the laundry and praying with the paupers while they are busy over the washtub. The authorities object to this proceeding on the ground that it interferes with discipline, but the missionary maintains that he has Biblical grounds for his action, for does not the Scripture say, "Wash and pray," or something very like it?

Farm Devices.

Homemade Contrivances For Leveling and Smoothing the Soil.

For smoothing ground for onions and other crops where the surface must be made level, it is claimed that there is nothing equal to the drag pictured in the illustration here reproduced from The Prairie Farmer. To make one, take four 2 by 4 or 3 by 4 joists, 8 feet long. Lay them on the floor 3 feet apart and

GROUND LEVELER.

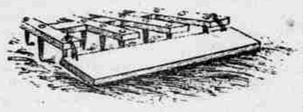
nail on a board 7 inches wide and 1 inch thick. Lay over this another board, and so on until the joists are covered. Nail a board to the end of the joist and put a heavy staple in each end to draw it by. Draw it over the ground so that the edge of each board will act as a scraper and carry the dirt along to fill in small hollows or knock off the ridges. If drawn the opposite way, it merely smooths the surface without leveling

BEET BELT.

it. If the drag is not heavy enough, a few stones may be put on to weight it. In going to the field hitch to the reverse end so as not to wear off the edges of the board.

Many people sow their grain and cover it with the harrow simply. A good brush and a rough roller ought to follow the harrowing, but much better than the simple harrowing (which leaves the land in ridges to dry out rapidly), is an arrangement like that illustrated in the second cut and also reproduced from the authority already quoted.

A heavy, wide plank is attached to the rear of the harrow. The ridges are



DEVICE FOR SMOOTHING SOIL.

thus leveled and any lumps that may have been left are pulverized. But, best of all, the soil is pressed down over the seed, causing it to sprout more rapidly and giving it a better chance to get hold of the ground with its roots.

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12:25 P. M.	Lv Albany	Lv	12:30 P. M
5:20 P. M.	Ar Roseburg	Lv	7:30 A. M

LOCAL PASSENGER TRAIN DAILY (EXCEPT SUNDAY.

8:10 A. M.	Lv Albany	Ar	10:30 A. M
9:00 A. M.	Ar Lebanon	Lv	9:30 A. M.
4:50 P. M.	Lv Albany	Ar	3:05 P. M.
5:40 P. M.	Ar Lebanon	Lv	6:00 P. M.

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4:50 P. M.	Lv Portland	Ar	8:25 A. M
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