

OREGONIAN UNION

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CORVALLIS, OREGON.
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We have received copies of the most important bills now pending before the legislature. Parties wishing to see them may do so by calling at the UNION office.

HOUSE AND SENATE.

Deluge of Bills. Daly School Law Attracting the Most Attention.

Bills, bills, nothing but the introduction of bills has so far occupied the serious attention of either house, and there are bills on every variety of topics from a proposition to hang men only within the walls of the state prison up to regulating the practice of the profession of barber. There are now about 230 bills introduced in the house and 134 in the senate, and the supply to come seems still abundant. Although, perhaps not more than one-fifth of these will pass, yet it must be remembered that up to the third reading most of them will receive the same attention as the bill that becomes a law, and the time of legislators is fully occupied if they do their full duty in watching this mass of rubbish and segregating such laws as he thinks the state needs.

The bill that has attracted most attention so far is what is called the Daly school law bill. One thousand copies of it have been printed and yet it is hard to find a copy outside of those in the books of the members. It has been scattered broadcast throughout the state, and is a matter of great importance to everyone. It has passed the second reading in the senate and is now in the hands of the committee on education. The clause providing for the selection of text books will be introduced tomorrow as a separate bill and will also be retained in the main bill.

Two bills have been introduced in the house on the good roads question and one in the senate.

Two good bills on assessment and taxation have been presented. They contain many necessary changes in the present method of making tax rolls, as well as a very fair deduction for indebtedness clause.

A bill has been presented for the creation of a new railroad commission, providing for one commissioner and a clerk. In its present form it provides that the railroads shall pay them, but this clause will be struck out as it is illegal and has been so decided by the supreme court. The bill ought to pass for the people must have some say in railroad matters, and then the railroads need protection from each other.

A bill was introduced to add several sections off of Lane and Lincoln counties to Benton county, but as objections have been raised to it there is no chance for it to pass, as Mr. Nichols will not push it farther.

The clerkship business is practically settled and the most strenuous efforts have failed to reduce it much. It is very hard for one not thoroughly acquainted with the business to understand the enormous pressure brought to bear by clerks who want positions here. It seems a simple matter to outsiders, but here everyone knows it largely affects legislation, and I see no way to remedy it except by a bill providing for future legislatures by law. Such a law has been introduced and will pass.

The members of the legislature are pretty generally aware that efforts are being made in Corvallis to provide an excursion train for a trip to your town, and I think if you succeed that they will all go.

Talk of adjournment before the forty days limit expires is all nonsense. It will take every hour of the time to secure the passage of much needed laws, as all laws good or bad have to go through the same course, and the bad ones cannot be weeded out until towards the close of the session.

There is not a sign of factionalism in the legislature, all are working together for the good of the state, and so far the most cynical critic has no truthful reason to growl. The delegation from Benton and Lincoln are working harmoniously and are carefully watching the interest of those at home. They are not in the background anywhere.

A bill has passed the senate

amending the incorporation laws of Philomath, and another bill has been introduced and read the first time in the senate amending the corporation laws of Corvallis.

A bill providing for a close season for fishing on the Alsea, and a bill against using push cars on railroads by any but employees have also been read the first time in the senate. Senator Daly has also introduced a bill reorganizing the state land laws making many decided improvements and reducing the interest on the irreducible school fund to 6 per cent.

There are no deep laid plots, or plans or schemes on the carpet yet, and none talked of, although there is plenty of time for them to develop. If they come at all it will be with the appropriation bill towards the close of the session, but there are bills in providing for that also, and all except the actual expenses of running the state is to be eliminated from the bill.

IS IT IGNORANCE OR FORGOTTENFULNESS?

It is rather amusing to watch the antics of numerous papers throughout the state as they bob about like a drop of water on a hot griddle, trying to get on the popular side of the question of expansion. What is right in their own judgment seems to have little weight with them for they apparently have little faith in their stock of this article. Many of them fired in the air, without waiting to get a good look at the question, as soon as they got an inkling of its approach. A closer and better view of it now convinces them that they have wasted their ammunition and discovered their position to the enemy. A local paper is an instance of this squad of raw recruits who embarrass the very cause they so awkwardly seek to support. Several months ago, it let go several volleys, cracked its heels together and demanded the retention of the Philippines—ignorant of the fact that we hadn't them yet to retain—and declared that "to pull the flag down on any soil over which it had been placed by our soldiers or marines, would be little short of treason."

But events have transpired since that time. Colonel William Jennings Bryan has spoken. His orders are "Cease firing! To the rear. March!" And our doughty private in the rear rank here in Oregon discovers, as the smoke of his premature discharge clears away, that "The lives of more than one generation of teachers and preachers as well as hundreds of millions of dollars have been spent in the effort to civilize the American Indian. We covered the nation with blood and dead men and spent millions upon millions of treasure in the effort to make the negro a freeman and a countryman. Contact with the hated Mongolian aroused the resentment of our people and produced scenes of disorder, agitation and riot that can never be forgotten." And asks, "Is it not folly to undertake the conquest, the civilizing and the government of eight million yellow barbarians and black savages in the Philippine Islands?"

Is it possible that this high private did not know all these things when he demanded some months ago that we undertake the civilizing and government of these same yellow barbarians? Or has he forgotten since he turned his back upon the Philippines and broke for home, that the flag is still waving over Manila? Is the act of running away and leaving it there to rot down, less treasonable than to haul it down with the honors of war when events prove that to be the proper and honorable thing to do?

Let us stand by the colors, and face the foe until he retires from the conflict, then it will be time enough to determine what shall be done with the trophies of victory.

A STATESMAN SPEAKS.

At a recent complimentary dinner tendered United States Senator George Gray, of Delaware, by the local board of trade at Wilmington, Senator Gray, who was a member of the Paris peace commission, was the principal speaker of the evening. His response to the toast "Our Guest of Honor," is a clear and concise summing up of the present status of the Philippine question and a deliberate and able discussion of the momentous issues which have resulted from the war with Spain, and our duty as citizens in the settlement of them. In the course of his remarks, he said:

"While our country was in war with Spain we were ready to make

I hope, every sacrifice to insure the success of American arms and bring victory and honor to the American flag. And when the war was over, I believe the patriotic instincts of American citizenship demanded, as your president enjoined upon us, that we would exhibit magnanimity to a prostrate foe and moderation in the hour of victory, as we had faced the war with steadfastness and courage.

"The acquisition of territory by the United States was not one of the objects of the war, and we solemnly declared in the resolutions of congress that our only object in demanding the relinquishment of the sovereignty of Cuba by Spain was not to hold it ourselves, except that we might pacify it and fit it for self-government by its own people. But in this, as in all else, man proposes and God disposes, and it is one of the things that make thoughtful men desire to avoid war where it can be avoided, for no one can tell what its consequences may be. I ardently desired that we might escape the necessity of taking the Philippine islands, and assuming the burden that their taking will impose upon us, and I know that the president of the United States was equally anxious to the same end. But it became apparent that without our seeing, unexpected conditions had been created, and out of these conditions unquestionable duties had sprung which could not be avoided or evaded by the United States.

"It was argued that the performance of duty is sometimes not only unpleasant, but has dangers attendant upon it; nevertheless a brave man and a brave nation will not shrink from it on that account. On the other hand, if American sentiment did not justify the return of those islands to Spain, no more could it justify leaving them derelict in the eastern ocean, the prey of the first occupant of European rapacity.

"So it was thought best by the president and his advisers to take the cession of their sovereignty from Spain and hold it in trust to be administered in conformity with those high ideals and liberty-loving traditions which animate and glorify the history of our country. Duty cannot honorably be avoided because it may bring pain or danger, nor can responsibility always be evaded because of its burdens.

"But now that we have the Philippines, it does not follow that we are committed to a colonial policy or to a violation of those great principles of liberty and self-government which must always remain American ideals, if our own free institutions are to endure.

"No country, and this country least of all, can afford to trample on its ideals. I have no fear that it will do so. Without assuming for a moment any right to speak for the president, I think I can assure you, with some knowledge whereof I speak, that he fully appreciates the duties and responsibilities of the situation, and that he is committed to no policy calculated to discourage, much less strike down, aspirations of liberty-loving people all over the world. I belong to a different political party, but I should be false to my sense of justice and to that pride which I feel as an American if I did not declare my confidence in the patriotism and purity of purpose of William McKinley. He is no usurper of power, no stranger to American institutions, but one of the American people, called to his high office by their suffrages, and it would be strange indeed if he did not share to the fullest extent in the love of our constitution and the principles that underlie it. What less than this can be truthfully said of an American president? It would be the beginning of the end to our great career as a nation.

"But the solution of the problems which confront us is not with the president. When the treaty is ratified no policy can be adopted without the sanction of congress. And the whole American people will determine, through their representatives, what relations we shall sustain to the Philippines. Shall we hold the sovereignty in trust for their people, as we will do in Cuba, or shall we, with their consent, establish a protectorate over them or govern them as we will the island of Porto Rico? All the questions will properly come up for determination after the ratification of the treaty. I will not entertain the fear that the American people will not stand by the principles of the constitution and

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the declaration; that they will not curb the ambition of territorial aggrandizement and exhibit to the world an example of moderation, justice and self-restraint that will be worth to us in moral strength more than all the islands of the sea."

The mammoth New Year's edition of the Oregonian, which was delayed on account of slowness in printing the pictorial part, reached subscribers Monday. Twenty-three thousand copies in excess of the usual number were printed, but so great was the demand that the supply was exhausted before 10 o'clock of the first day. This is the largest and most valuable edition of any paper ever gotten out in the Northwest. It contains a write up of every county in the state by the best posted and most reliable men in these various sections, so this number is not only an artistic and enterprising venture, but a most valuable piece of literature to send to prospective comers to Oregon, and a great advertisement of its resources and possibilities.

The Democrat has several times commended Secretary of State Kincaid, but the Oregonian today through its Portland correspondent Mr. Holman, gives facts which show him to be a very small man. Among other things just before he went out of office he allowed the Eugene Journal, his paper, \$90 for subscription for thirty-four years. In view of the fact that he refused to allow the bills of other papers sent state officials for a short period this is particularly nauseating. Vale Kincaid.—Albany Democrat.

The Salem Statesman sounds the note of warning when it tells of the gathering at Salem of a school book lobby. If any one item needs honest sincere and judicious thought and action this term, it is the question of school books. It is the work of no "spring chicken" to successfully pilot a good bill on this subject through the legislature without the effect of the "third house" being felt. May Hon. John Daly prove to be a Dewey in this battle for the school children of Oregon.—Lincoln Leader.

Governor Geer's inaugural address was a splendid effort. There is not a dry sentence in it. It is pregnant with excellent and practical suggestions and shows that the new executive has not only the ambition and intention to serve all the people with fairness and fidelity, but that he has the ability and moral courage to put these into execution.

"The good men do live after them," said Shakespeare, but that does not apply to old pioneers like Harrison R. Kincaid, whose petty shortcomings are more than overbalanced by good service rendered to the people.—Capital Journal. Better wipe the dust off your Shakespeare, and look it over again, Neighbor Hofer.

Mr. John Stewart lost a very fine young horse last Wednesday morning in a rather peculiar manner. The animal, a colt which was just being broken, was brought in from the pasture about three weeks ago, and has since been kept in Mr. Stewart's livery stable. It has been in splendid health. Wednesday morning, Bert Sharp led it to the drinking trough. It suddenly reared up and plunged about, dragging Bert around the barn. He succeeded in getting it in its stall when it dropped dead. Heart disease is supposed to have been the cause of death.

Indoor Baseball at O. A. C.

The first public exhibition of indoor baseball ever given in Corvallis was witnessed at the college armory last Saturday afternoon. A picked team from the junior and senior classes were met by nine freshmen and sophomores. Both teams had practiced carefully for this match which proved to be very interesting. The seniors and juniors got quite a lead in the first few innings, but their opponents rallied and played much the better game during the latter half, the final score being, freshmen and sophs 21; juniors and seniors 22. About 400 excited students and townspeople witnessed the sport, and admirers of either team seemed to be very evenly divided. Enthusiasm ran high, and the din which followed a clever play was almost deafening.

With slight alterations the game is played practically the same as in outdoor exhibitions. Everything, except the score and the ball, is on a somewhat reduced scale. A bat is of the usual length, but only 1 1/2 inches in diameter, while the ball has a diameter of six inches and is very light. The marvelous quickness of the players and the accuracy with which the ball is handled, make this game seem more scientific and interesting than the outdoor variety. There is excellent material in the college for a great team, and it should be cultivated.

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Another name has been added to Oregon's roll of honor. Last Saturday, Prof. J. B. Hawthorne, of Eugene, received a cablegram from Manila announcing the death of his son, Wistar, of paralysis of the heart. He had been in good health since arriving in the Philippines, and news of his death was a most sorrowful surprise. Wistar was born in Corvallis, December 6, 1878, and lived here until his parents moved to Eugene. This makes five deaths that have occurred among the volunteers from Eugene.

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