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SOME OF THE BILLS

Passed by The Recent Session of The Oregon Solons.

A LIST OF THE SENATE BILLS.

They Are Now Being Carefully Examined by the Governor

- 50—Cross, to fix salaries of sheriffs, recorders and clerks. 205—Woodard, recording of wills. 86—Gates, to protect game, fish and wild fowl. 217—Willis for lighting state buildings and purchasing electric plants. 114—McGinn, repealing state board of charities. 45—Willis, amending code relating to jurors. 101—Weatherford, consolidating school districts in cities. 206—Alley, for the propagation of salmon in the Siuslaw. 142—Blackman, pertaining to elections. 192—MaJock, for branch insane asylum in Eastern Oregon. 27—Blackburn, to regulate the amount of money paid on insurance policy. 70—Bancroft, providing for issuance of bonds for street improvement. 209—Myers, making counties liable for damages by reason of defective roads or bridges. 37—Blackman, to amend code relating to persons who cannot testify. 59—Dodson, fixing time for holding circuit court in the sixth district. 109—Blackman, for efficiency of deaf mute school. 29—Butler, to amend code, estates in dower. 22—Bancroft, to define and punish obstructionists. 128—Cross, collection and return of taxes. Denny—To enable married women to convey real estate. 140—Denny, distribution of personal property. 24—Cross, fees of assessors. 55—Bancroft, to build, and furnish schoolhouses. 159—Willis, satisfaction of mortgages when foreclosed. 108—Myers, for fish and game warden. 799—Gates, relief of J. J. Hembree. 145—Hayes, authorizing county courts to offer rewards for criminals. 23—Myers, to provide for filing chattel mortgages. 125—Hirsh, for advancement of reform school. 118—Cross, to provide for laying out and constructing county roads. The house bills will be printed tomorrow.

New Assessment Tax Laws.

House bill No. 343, which was introduced by Representative Manley, of Albion, and has become a law, is claimed to make some excellent provisions in connection with making assessments and of collecting and paying taxes. The first section provides that in the assessment and tax rolls of the several counties, in addition to the columns elsewhere provided, there shall be added four columns—one of which shall be headed "Cities," one "School Districts," one "Am't City Tax," and one "Am't School Dist. Tax"; and it shall be the duty of the several county assessors, in making their assessments, to enter opposite each item of property assessed, in its appropriate column, the name of the city or incorporated town and the number of the school district in which each item of property assessed is assessable. In preparing the tax rolls in the several counties after the several assessments therein have been finally equalized, it shall be the duty of the clerks of the county courts in the several counties

to compute the aggregate value of all the assessable property in each of the incorporated towns or cities and in each of the several school districts in each county, and to compile the same upon a page or pages of the roll in each county, showing the names of the incorporated towns or cities arranged alphabetically, and the number of the school districts arranged consecutively, with the aggregate valuation of the assessable property in each town or city and of each school district shown opposite to the name or number thereof respectively.

All the taxes hereafter levied by any school district or incorporated town or city shall be levied upon the property therein respectively assessable upon the valuation of such property as shown by the assessment roll last compiled before the levy is made in the county in which such school district or incorporated town or city is included; and it shall be the duty of the clerk of the county court in each of the several counties, upon application of the clerk or board of school directors of any school district and of the recorder, auditor or clerk, common council or board of directors, or trustees of any incorporated town or city, to furnish a certificate under the seal of the county court showing the aggregate valuation of the assessable property in the school district or incorporated town or city from which such application shall have been made.

It shall be the duty of each school district and each incorporated town and city to notify, in writing, the clerk of the county court in the county within which the school district, town or city is respectively situated, of the rate per cent of the tax levy made by it on or before the first day of February in each year, which notice shall be kept on file by the several clerks and remain a part of the records of the office.

Section 6 provides that all such taxes shall be collected by the same officer in the same manner and at the same time as taxes for county purposes are collected. It shall be the duty of the tax collector to pay to the county treasurer in his county as often as once a week all taxes collected, and he shall inform the treasurer whenever he pays over to him any of the money so collected what amounts thereof are to be credited to the several funds for which they are respectively collected, taking the receipt of the treasurer in triplicate for the amount paid into each fund, one of which receipts for each fund he shall retain, file one with the clerk of the county court and furnish one to the school district, town or city for which each of such amounts are so paid in.

The treasurer shall keep the moneys received from the tax collector in separate funds, and shall pay over to the several school districts, towns or cities, upon demand made by them, the amounts thereof to which they are respectively entitled, taking their receipts therefor.

All laws providing for assessors in or assessments of property by any school district, incorporated town or city, and all laws in conflict herewith be and the same are hereby repealed.

A Fake Earthquake Story.

ST. PAUL, Feb. 20.—The terrible earthquake reported as having done so much damage in Yellowstone Park seems to have been confined to the brain of a fake bard, for the whole story is denied by the men in charge of the buildings in the park. The only excuse for such a story, they state, is the fact that the boiling springs at Norris Basin overflowed, leaving some mud on the roadway.

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THE MOJAVE DESERT.

A Vivid Description of It by a Private Correspondent.

An extract, which we are permitted to take from a letter from Norman C. Wilson, who is collecting plants and specimens for the Botanical gardens at Berkeley, Cal., gives us a glimpse of the "Mojave Desert," which may not be uninteresting to our readers. He says: "As I came rolling across the desert, a little over a week ago, I thought of my promise to give you some description of it—and, between spells of reading 'Nature's Serial Story,' I looked out upon one of the strangest sights I ever beheld. The Mojave Desert is not barren. There is a kind of 'grease-wood' and a 'creosote bush,' which divide the honor with the cactus family of clothing the desert in a sombre and fantastic dress. Neither is it level, but is relieved by mountain ranges, the very climax of ruggedness and uselessness. There is one redeeming feature about the whole scene. Never have I seen such atmospheric effects in coloring, and never have I seen such ragged crags, such heaps of rocks, in such fantastic shapes, such barrenness spread over a growth of shrubs, such seeming utter worthlessness, to need the kindly touches of a wonderful atmosphere, to lend some beauty to mountain and valley scenery. In the foreground, supposing that we are in the middle of a plain, the ground presents a yellowish, clayey color, set off with the gray and brown, in many shades, of the desert shrub, cacti (one variety) loom up in places, almost like stunted pines, the tops more rounded out, and not so tall. In other cases, they seem to obey no order or law of nature but to be fantastic. So stretches the plain for miles and miles. We come to a glistening lake, it reaches away for miles in front and to right and left, but as we dash into it, the only spray is sand. It has a bluish look, and reflects the sunlight as though it were water, but the sand holds full away and is colored by deposits of alkali, hard blue, glistening and to the weary, water-starved traveler merciless. Yet it is a lake, a great lake! Again we lose all plant life, miles of rock, and it seems to have been tamped down, so smooth is its surface. The color here is brown deepening to black! It seems as though a fire had swept over the whole expanse, spreading a thin layer of pitch over rock and pebble, which has since petrified and become a part of the rock itself, but looking away in the distance, who can paint with brush or pen, the wonderful changes from terrible ugliness to surpassing beauty, can give the touches which clothe the desert in beautiful mystery, the vast, the ugly, the deadly, yet beautiful unexplored, mysterious desert? Surely not the 'collector' in overalls plucked too soon, reddened boots, shabby hat and coat, and unshaven chin, who is taken for a 'tramp' wherever he goes. Such desultory thoughts ran through my mind, as I crossed the desert. I have since explored it enough to find that its mystery is chiefly death and desolation, that its poetry and beauty on more close acquaintance, are but the luring forces that draw men on to destruction the most terrible.

It's sometimes said patent medicines are for the ignorant. The doctors foster this idea. "The people," we're told, "are mostly ignorant when it comes to medical science." Suppose they are! What a sick man needs is not knowledge, but a cure, and a medicine that cures is the medicine for the sick. Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery cures the "do believe's" and the "don't believe's." There's no hesitance about it, no "if" nor "possibly." It says—"I can cure you, only do as I direct." Perhaps it fails occasionally. The makers hear of it when it does, because they never keep the money when the medicine fails to do good. Suppose the doctors went on that principle. (We beg the doctor's pardon. It wouldn't do!) The opportunity to get the encyclopedia will soon close.

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