

The West.

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Miller's bill appropriating \$10,000 for a highway at Oregon City has passed both houses of the legislature. It is a good measure.

The strongest reason why senators could be elected by the people is presented by the various Western states at present, where the legislature is deadlocked and no other business can be done.

The heart of the nation is heavy with sorrow at the deaths of the noble heroes who have passed to the bourne of that known country from which none return during the month of January, Butler, Hayes and Blaine.

We have received copies of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 9, and Senate Bill No. 170. A description of the latter contained in another column of this issue. The first is a resolution to Capt. J. Symons, recommending that reward be made by him to congress in regard to the Siuslaw river be more in accordance with the facts.

It is now said to be definitely settled that T. F. Bayard will be secretary of the navy and Daniel S. Lamont secretary of the navy. For the other places the following names are said to be on the list: Patrick A. Collins for secretary of the treasury, F. C. Wall secretary of the interior, W. F. Harrity postmaster-general, John Randolph Tucker attorney-general, Hugh C. Wallace of Washington secretary of agriculture.

Eugene Wednesday of last week J. Cheever divided among his eleven children, equally, \$11,000 in money and real estate, mostly the latter. The gift probably worth much more than \$1000 as the valuation of the real estate placed at only about 50 per cent of its estimated value. He has enough for his own use from the gift to keep himself and wife comfortable during the remainder of their lives.

That we are not only to conserve our militia, says the Salem Statesman, but that it is to be put in a more prosperous condition than ever. D. C. Sherman says that \$35,000 during the year from the general fund, they get the one-fifth mill will give them \$22,000 a year. This will be used in purchasing uniforms, overcoats, blankets, hats, boots, leggings, and what is necessary to put the militia in good footing.

Mr. Durham's bill to amend the Australian ballot law is probably the best that has yet made its way through the legislature. The only change is in the printing of the ballots, which at each party should have its name on the sheet side by side with the names of the candidates and in the same manner as the tickets. At the top of

each is a square, which is to be marked with a pencil if the voter desires to vote for that particular one. It is similar to the systems now in use in California and Illinois.

Senator Hayes' bill, which he introduced yesterday, is one of the most important measures that has made its appearance in either house. If it becomes a law the county clerks will be authorized to offer rewards for the apprehension and conviction of escaped criminals. The inability of the courts to do this has been a source of no little annoyance, and many felons owe their escape to that alone, no better instance of which can be cited than the failure to find the murderer, Burdette Wolf. The act also provides that sheriffs shall either accept the reward offered, and not both. This latter is calculated to make the officers of the law do their duty without a double money incentive.—Salem Statesman.

The bill before the legislature requiring railroads to fence their lines is deserving of the support of all the legislators. The railroad companies have obtained their right of way for nothing nearly so, and it is no wonder that they should fence their property as other land owners are required to do. Farmers having stock killed by trains are not sufficiently compensated for their loss, and losses in this manner are quite common. Further than this there is considerable danger attached to the present system of open roads, as wrecks are liable to occur at any time by collision with stock roaming on the track. It endangers the lives of passengers and it is simply a matter of good fortune that more wrecks have not occurred in this way.—Eugene Register.

The announcement of the death of L. Q. C. Lamar, one of the justices of the supreme court of the United States, says the Salem Statesman, caused a great deal of talk around the corridors of the capitol and throughout the state last week. The rumor was general some months ago that Justice Field would retire from the U. S. Supreme bench, and that the president would appoint Senator Dolph to his place. He did not retire. It is supposed by some of course that President Harrison will now appoint Dolph to Lamar's place. Then this legislature would have to elect Senator Dolph's successor. But this writer does not think President Harrison will appoint Dolph or any other Western man. Lamar was from Mississippi, and his successor will no doubt come from the South. It is quite likely that President Harrison will leave the place open or Cleveland.

Queen Liliuokalani, of the Hawaiian Islands, has been deposed from the seat of monarchical power, and the kingdom is now in the hands of a provincial government composed entirely of white rep-

resentatives. The change occurred January 17, 1893, and was occasioned by the passage of a bill which conceded to the establishment of a lottery in the kingdom, the establishment of a new ministry and disfranchisement of white settlers. Annexation with the United States is sought by the provincialists, and commissioners have arrived in the United States to petition the government to that end. However desirable the annexation of the Hawaiian Islands may be to the United States, it is doubtful if such a thing can be accomplished, as it will involve serious complicated questions the end of which cannot be foreseen. There are, nevertheless, many leading influential people of this country who favor annexation and will give it their support.

The excitement about wagon roads which is now agitating the public mind will no doubt be productive of great good. To us in Oregon it can do no possible harm, for our present road laws could not be any worse. They are totally inadequate to the end desired. Take Eugene for instance. It is impossible to haul anything heavier than an empty wagon in or out of Eugene in the winter, and the other cities and

counties are in the same condition. Then let us have some road legislation; it can't worse the matter, but it may mend it. There is a phase of the question, however, that no legislation can reach. To people like those in the sparsely settled country adjacent to Florence no tax of whatever nature can avail, as the settlers have little or nothing to tax. If new roads are to be made they must be made by volunteer labor. For instance, the road from Glenada to Eugene. Many poor men interested in this road are giving as much as 30 and even 40 days work each. This must be the way that for years to come those in remote places must make roads.

SENATE BILL NO. 170.

Senator Alley, Thursday, introduced a bill to create a board of supervisors in the several counties of this state, the members of which are to be elected in the counties. Annual meetings of the board are to be held the third Monday in September. The board, in counties of less than 20,000 inhabitants, is to be in session 15 days, and in counties of over 20,000 inhabitants, the session may continue 20 days in each year. One of its powers is to fix salaries for all county officers, and require the fees paid to each to be turned over to the county treasurer for the benefit of the county, and perform such other duties as are now performed by the county commissioners' court. This, Mr. Alley claims, is the only way in which to give every part of a county a representation in the business transactions of the county. The bill further provides for precinct organizations, the officers of which shall be elected biennially, and consist of supervisor, clerk, treasurer, assessor, justice of the

peace, constable and road-overseer. The three first-mentioned officers are to be known as a "precinct board," and shall do the business of the precinct. The precinct assessor shall assess all taxes according to law, the precinct board to equalize such assessment as to individuals, and the county board of supervisors as to precincts. The precinct treasurer collects all state, county, school and precinct taxes, and is clothed with the power of distress and sale of personal property to collect such tax in his precinct in cases of refusal or neglect to pay. The bill is long, but only aims to provide functionaries to more completely and satisfactorily carry out the provisions of the laws pertaining to counties. This act is drawn in conformity to the law for county government in New York and all the states west of that state to the Rocky mountains. This is a commendable bill in all its chief particulars and reflects credit to its author. This system of officering a county will greatly diminish the system now in vogue.

A MISTAKE.

"The drift of sand is working very disastrously upon our channels at the mouth of the river. They are getting inconveniently shallow. Hank Barretts says he once knew 36 vessels to be detained two months at Coos Bay by drifting sands."—Florence correspondence in Oregon State Journal.

The above is maliciously false. Capt. F. A. Johnson, of the Siuslaw tug service, than whom none are better posted in regard to the condition of the bar, says that when he towed the Danielson to sea last Friday morning (the day the above appeared in the Journal) he found 10 feet of water on the bar at half tide, and that it was never in better condition than at present. Of course we do not blame the Journal for publishing the article quoted—it could scarcely do otherwise. It was simply the victim of a misplaced confidence in the writer, and should note the facts stated here and not publish such stories, which strike at not only Florence but Lane county and Eugene as well, unless they come from a more authentic source.

BLAINE IS DEAD.

At last the great American statesman and patriot, James G. Blaine, has succumbed to the inevitable fate which has brooded over him during the past few weeks, and the suspense of the nation in watching for some sign of improvement in his health has been changed into mourning by the announcement of his death. The end came at 11 o'clock Friday morning, December 27, 1893. Telegrams and letters of condolence are being received from all over this and foreign countries at the family residence in Washington. Mr. Blaine was born in West Brownsville, Washington county, Penn., Jan. 31, 1805, and consequently lacked but four days of being 88 years of age.