

The West.

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The convicts at the penitentiary have nothing to do but wonder what the legislature will do with them.

Candidates for the various offices of the newly charted town of Florence are already beginning to look about for their chances of success.

The Gullixson militia appropriation bill, designed for the placing of the Oregon militia on a better footing, has been defeated after passage by both houses. The governor has vetoed it.

The state of Oregon will, it is said, send to the world's fair some cedar shingles that have seen out door service for over 25 years. They were laid five inches to the weather and are still good for service. This exhibit is expected to prove two things—that Oregon shingles are hard and Oregon weather is soft.—Rural New Yorker.

Annexation with Hawaii is now almost an assured certainty. It is given out on good authority that the president will send a message to congress on the subject this week. The commissioners feel satisfied with the present status of affairs, and make no effort to conceal their confidence of the success of their mission, and evidently expect tangible results in a short time.

Governor Pennoyer has been true to himself in his veto of the world's fair legislation. Technically he may be, doubtless is, right. But we owe something to our state pride. The American sisters are all going to the ball in their richest robes and it won't do to run in Oregon on the Cinderella racket. The legislature doubtless will and should pass the bill over his veto.

It is amusing to read in the various papers throughout the country opinions and comments on Governor Pennoyer's refusal to grant permission for the use of the state cannon in celebrating the inauguration of President-elect Cleveland on the fourth of next March. Madness, childishness, statesmanship, saw-mill monopolism, plutocracy, and other good, bad and indifferent conditions and things too numerous to mention are ascribed as reasons for Pennoyer's extraordinary freak in this matter.

The establishment of a mill for the manufacture of jute grain bags at the penitentiary of this state will probably be one of the things accomplished by the legislature. This is the pet bill of the speaker of the house, Mr. Keady, and for it he has labored faithfully and well, having visited San Quentin at his expense and studied the advantages and disadvantages of the jute mill at the penitentiary in California. He was so pleased with the workings of the California jute bag mill that he decided in favor of the establishment of such an institution in this state, with the result that his bill has passed the lower house with good prospects of becoming a law.

The bill for the repeal of the mortgage tax and deduction for indebtedness laws has passed both houses of the legislature and will become a law, as it has been given out by the governor that the measure will not be vetoed by him. In speaking of the measure Senator Hayes, of Oregon City, said: The question is whether the wealth of this state shall contribute its share to the expense of maintaining the government, or, as at present, escape its share. The Oregon Iron & Steel Company, one of the most gigantic corporations that are oppressing the poor, gave into Clackamas county last year a statement of property worth \$154,580, and an indebtedness of \$228,518. Clackamas county with one voice demands that this injustice be remedied. I repudiate the statements of the gentlemen from Lane and Linn counties that the moneyed men asked for this repeal and assert the demand comes from the farmers of the Willamette valley. The record shows that less than \$14,000,000 of personal property of Oregon pays taxes, while its horses, cattle, sheep and hogs alone are worth \$13,000,000, leaving the money, shares, stocks and bonds of our gigantic corporations oppressing the people by escaping taxation through the deduction clause. Wipe it out and let the rich and poor stand on the same footing.

The New York Press of Feb. 12 contains the following from Washington: "A triple alliance between the United States, Russia and France, such is the international combination of forces for mutual benefit and defense, which has been secretly pending for six years, and which, unknown to either the diplomatic or political world at large, culminated in an executive session of the United States senate two days ago. This is the first public announcement of the weighty meaning which lay behind the seemingly unimportant and formal announcement that the extradition treaty with Russia has been ratified." That was the sum total of the announcement which was given the public. But the ratification of this treaty meant an epoch in the history of this country. It meant that the century would close with what Gortchakof, the great Russian chancellor, once described as "necessary for the universal equilibrium of nations," namely, an alliance between the United States, Russia and France. Singular enough, the ratification of the extradition treaty with Russia leaves before the senate no business of the state department which has not been acted upon. This is a condition of affairs which probably never before existed in our history.

A FISH HATCHERY.

Among the various legislation for the protection and propagation of salmon, none meet with greater approval of the people of Lane county than Alley's bill for the establishment and maintenance of a fish hatchery on Knowles creek near

the head of tide on the Siuslaw river. For this purpose it is proposed to donate \$2000 from the Salmon Industry fund of this state. The passage of this measure will add an impetus to a leading Siuslaw industry by the increased number of salmon entering and taken from the river when the good effects of the measure shall be felt in the future, which will have a marked effect on all concerned. The Siuslaw is the leading salmon stream in the state, excepting the Columbia, it having put out over 18,000 cases of canned salmon, besides many thousand pounds of salt fish.

A DANIEL COME TO JUDGMENT.

The attorney general of Oregon will find something of a sweet savour unto his office in the tax judgment for a cool million against the Southern Pacific in our sister state of California. The court allowed the penalty and interest from delinquency. Not only this, but pummeled the company severely for its insolent refusal to pay its taxes and its utter disregard of the rights of the people out of whom it was making so much money.

After going through the huge volume of evidence, the court piles up the authorities to show that the company has got the ghost of a leg to stand on either in law or equity and equity.

this rich and heartless corporation for its daring outrage against the state. The judge says the road "comes into court offering to pay no portion of their taxes valid or invalid, resisting the payment of every cent thereof and seek to avoid liability by technical defenses which are not sustained either in fact or law."

Behind this decision the newspapers stand solid. The courts, press and people are a unit to make these big corporations pay their share of running the machine just as every poor man has to do. What California has done, Oregon can do, for the road is open and blazed every step. No excuse now.—Sunday Welcome.

A STUBBORN FACT.

CRESCENT ISLAND FARM,
February 15, 1893.

EDITORS WEST—Gentlemen: Inasmuch as the "Old Flag" still floats and to be an American is still a great privilege, and to enjoy the blessings of our Christian civilization a great honor and it would seem that such exaltation in the scale of being should not be lightly thrown aside for vain imaginings and schemes, philosophies and deductions of men who, dissatisfied, discontented, and wishing to gain notoriety, have and are promulgating theories, vain conceptions of every shade and color, well calculated to becloud and befog the unwary and unsophisticated and draw their feet away from the old paths of truth and moral purity into the very maelstrom of destruction, "He who spake as never man spake" says "Beware of the com-

mandments and doctrines of men." And whoever is so foolhardy as to venture aside from this safe path of rectitude and purity will reap sorrow, disappointment, vain regrets and loss of all things. It makes very little difference what our particular theory may be or under what appellation we may array ourselves, whether Christian, Jew, Mohammedan, Brahmin, Arab, Mormon, Spiritualist, Theosophist, Socialist, Nihilist, Communist, each and all shall utterly fail who ignore God. Whoever shall cast out God from the great problem of life shall miserably fail. Whoever shall rest their faith on human conceptions cannot succeed. Whoever shall raise their voice against eternal truth shall meet with failure. We can do nothing against truth—it will stand forever. The wise will listen attentively to him who said, "I am the way, the truth and the life." This is not a debatable subject, it is a fact, and facts are stubborn things. We need not be confused on the journey of life or led aside from the right way, for the same teacher says, "I am the way." It is our exalted privilege to walk in perfect serenity and peace along life's journey.

Very respectfully,

J. ELLIOTT WILSON.

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