

LEGISLATION.

Oregon needs a great deal of legislation next month, and this is fairly outlined by the press of the state.

To repeal the law exempting indebtedness from taxation might be the means of increasing the assessments of some rich men, and yet would be very burdensome upon some poor ones who are forced to make loans to carry on their business.

Experiments have so often been tried to make the wealth of the country pay the taxes and utterly failed that it seems almost futile to make any more attempts in that line.

OPPOSING THE PORTAGE.

The Sunday Welcome, of Portland, sounds a note of alarm, in regard to the Dallas Cello portage, in the following: "There is promise of an active lobby being at work during the session to prevent the passage of any appropriation for the building of a cello portage road around the Dalles obstructions of the Columbia river."

The hot blood of the Frenchmen who have been implicated in the Panama canal scandal seeks a cooling process in the code duello, and standing up and being fired at appears to be ample satisfaction for their wounded honor.

The dispatches state that Mr. Cleveland will be master of the situation after March 4th, and in the administration of national affairs and civil appointments will permit of no dictation from any source.

It is expected that Governor Penney will recommend in his biennial message some action that will cause the Oregon National Guard to disband, and we hope the legislature will not pay any attention to such a request.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Panama canal scandal, it is feared, may have a bad effect on the Nicaraguan canal scheme before Congress.

The telegraphic operator who reports the condition of Mr. Blaine is as unreliable as the weather. He has had the great statesman "dying" several times, but we are glad to state at last accounts he was improving.

The year just passing away has been one of very important elections; but the one which will be ushered in next Sunday will be very quiet in this respect, and nothing will disturb the political atmosphere in Oregon but municipal contests.

Chili and the Argentine Republic are not on amicable terms with each other, and war may be the result. It is a most difficult matter for the South American republics to exist in harmony, and a little "blood-letting" appears necessary to cool their heated temperaments.

Congress is having a recess, and there will be nothing of importance until after the holidays, and then the country may expect lively times. Republicans will not vacate the halls of the national legislature without saying some things which the Democrats will not easily forget.

The French crisis has not yet passed, and the Panama canal scandal has so stirred the feelings of the people that a leader only is necessary to work a complete revolution in the existing form of government.

The snow storms in Oregon have not been at all disastrous; for we have rich, deep soil that can store away all moisture that falls; but in California heavy rains or snow cause swollen streams, which wash away the land and do a great deal of damage.

The way to insure the passage of the Dalles and Celilo portage railroad measure is for Eastern Oregon to become a unit in the demand for an appropriation, and never stop making their wants known until the bill is passed.

The confidence of the wife of Ferdinand De Lesseps in her husband's integrity is unshaken. She says: "I am certain of one thing—the absolute probity of my husband and sons. Misstatements may have been made, delusions indulged in; but they have never committed a dishonest act."

The question which now agitates politicians in this country, is which will bend, Cleveland or the New York Democracy? It appears that Mr. Cleveland does not desire the election of Murphy to the United States senate from the state of New York, and has so expressed himself to the Tammany leaders.

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