

JAMES G. BLAINE.

Hon. James G. Blaine died in Washington City this forenoon at 11 o'clock. For several weeks he has been battling with death, and his demise was not unexpected. It has been a matter of surprise to many that, afflicted as he was with a complication of diseases, he should have survived so long. For many years he has labored physically, and the James G. Blaine of the last decade was not possessed of the robust frame he was when, by his eloquence, he bled enemies and friends in awe and admiration. His death will be a national calamity, for no American could leave such a vacancy in statesmanship and create greater sorrow in all citizens' hearts than he who has passed to the silent majority. He has been identified with the policy of the Republican party ever since its organization, and during the past four years, has managed the state department of Mr. Harrison's administration with credit to himself and honor to the nation.

James Gillespie Blaine was born at West Brownsville, Pa., Jan. 31, 1830. He was graduated at Washington college in 1847, and after following a course of study was admitted to the bar in Pennsylvania, but never practiced the profession. In 1853 he removed to Augusta, Me., and became editor of the Kennebec Journal. He was afterwards elected to the legislature, and was speaker of the house for two years. In 1862 he removed to Portland, Me., and had control of the Advertiser of that city. He was soon afterwards elected to the national congress, where he soon distinguished himself as a ready and fearless debater. Impulsive and brilliant, with a wonderful memory of persons, facts and faces, on the death of Thaddeus Stevens he was the leader of the Republican party in the house. In all the important questions of reconstruction after the civil war he took a leading part, and never flinched in defense of the principles of the party during that eventful epoch. As speaker of the house from 1869 to 1875, he distinguished himself as a parliamentarian; but in 1876 the Democrats came in possession of congress. In the national conventions of 1876 and 1880 he was a prominent candidate for president, and secured the nomination in 1884, but was defeated by Mr. Cleveland. He was appointed senator by the governor of Maine on the occasion of Hon. L. M. Morrill accepting the secretaryship of the treasury in July, 1876, and was secretary of state during Garfield's administration and also during the presidency of Mr. Harrison, until forced to resign by reason of failing health. In 1883 he published his renowned work, "Twenty Years of Congress," which is considered a very fair and impartial history of the politics of that period—1861 to 1881—by all students. His management of international affairs during the past four years has placed him high in the list of American statesmen, and no one could die more universally lamented in the United States by all patriots than Hon. James G. Blaine.

THE RIVER OF OREGON.

The Columbia river is undoubtedly the great outlet to seaboard of the interior northwest, and in the extent of country it drains is only surpassed in the United States by the Mississippi. With the Snake made navigable, it would furnish communication to the ocean for a large portion of Idaho, and Eastern Washington has no more available means of water transportation to market for its products. The Willamette, draining a very rich agricultural country and emptying into the Columbia, makes the navigation of this great river a matter of vital importance to Oregon, and this is emphatically true when the fact is considered that the mouth of this artery of commerce is the most commodious and available seaport for the entire state. Farmers of Western Oregon have an open river to the sea by means of the locks at Oregon City, which were constructed by the state; but the country east of the mountains, with the locks completed at the Cascades, derives but little benefit from water transportation while the obstructions to navigation between The Dalles and Celilo remain unimproved. The northwest is directly interested in an open river, and more particularly all portions of this state, for it not only furnishes a highway to the ocean, but at its mouth is a float water bay of sufficient area to float all the shipping necessary to carry the wheat and wool to market.

For these reasons it is not class legislation to ask the members of the legislature now in session at Salem to vote a sufficient appropriation to build a portage road around the obstructions at this point, so as to make the river the highway of commerce to Eastern as well as Western Oregon. The passage of the bill incorporating the port of Portland will not accomplish this purpose, for it will be a joint-stock company, whose shareholders will expect dividends on the investment, and the needed improvement may be delayed indefinitely. Senator Raley's measure is the one most favorable to the people's interest, and we hope it has passed the senate this afternoon and will be successful in the house. The amount of \$460,000 is not exorbitant, and will not nearly place the eastern and western portions of the state on an equal footing, when it is taken into consideration that the latter will receive appropriations for the university, asylum, penitentiary, reform school, deaf and mute institute and the fish landing at Oregon City at this session. There is no denying the fact that the Columbia is particularly

the river of importance to Oregon, and such improvements should be made by the general government or the state, and not by private corporations.

Judge L. Q. C. Lamar, associate justice of the United States supreme court, died very suddenly at his home in Macon, Ga., last evening. He was born Sept. 1, 1825, graduated in 1845, practiced law until 1857, when he was elected to congress, and was colonel of a Mississippi regiment during the late war. At the close of the war he was again elected to congress in 1872, to the senate in 1877, was Cleveland's secretary of the interior in 1885, and was appointed associate justice of the supreme court in 1888. During his incumbency of the high position he has displayed rare ability as a jurist, which was to be expected from his legal training. After the close of the rebellion he exhibited in the halls of congress a broad-minded patriotism, which won the respect of his former enemies. Of a judicial mind, he rarely indulged in rancorous debate, and his speeches were marked by calm and dispassionate judgment. His death leaves a vacancy in the supreme bench, which may be filled by President Harrison, and a more acceptable appointment could not be made than Hon. J. N. Dolph, of Oregon.

A bill has been introduced in the legislature providing for an income tax. This method of raising revenue for the support of the government is very popular with certain classes of our citizens, and was in operation during the late war. Direct taxation has never been considered the most available in free countries, and savors too much of monarchy to receive universal support. Of course, if it could be enforced, it would be one way of making the wealth of the country bear the heaviest burdens; but we believe it would be more effectively evaded than the present method. There will always be efforts made to convert some means to shift the burden of taxation on others, and the person who is the most fruitful of schemes will usually be successful. The income tax cannot close all avenues of escape, and, at best, would furnish only an opportunity to devise new ones. Laws have always been unjustly administered in a certain measure, and taxes have been unfairly levied; but it is far better to attempt to remedy the evils existing by legislation than to inaugurate new and untried methods.

The TIMES-MOUNTAINEER has always contended that our delegation in Washington City would carefully watch the interests of the Columbia river in congress, and since the change of work at the locks from the war department to the contract system, has felt no uneasiness in the matter; but in this community there has been a feeling of distrust that everything was not all right. Reliable information has been received from Day Bros. that not the least difficulty has been experienced by them, and that every help has been extended to them by their authority. This is encouraging news to our people, and it may be confidently expected that the locks will be completed in the quickest possible time. Our confidence in the Oregon delegation has never been shaken, and if, in the future, any difficulty is encountered, we are satisfied that it will be removed by a direct request to either Senator Dolph or Mitchell, or Representative Hermann.

It is very probable that the legislative committee appointed to investigate the jute bag factory at Walls, Walla, will report in favor of the project being inaugurated in this state; but it is very doubtful whether it will pass this session. The employment of state criminals in such a way as not to interfere with free labor has always been a difficult problem with legislators, and has rarely been solved satisfactorily. That a jute-bag factory would furnish a solution is very questionable, and it is not advisable for Oregon to spend \$300,000 in making the experiment. These bags can be laid down in this state much cheaper than they can be manufactured, and it would not be wise for property to be taxed to support an industry that would not pay expenses. There are more profitable ways in which the convicts can be employed, and the one that meets with most general favor is that of improving the condition of our public roads.

The death of Bishop Phillips Brooks at his residence in Boston, Mass., was sudden and unexpected, and will be a sad and startling announcement to his many friends in the Episcopal church and also to the Christian world in general. Bishop Brooks has lived to a good purpose, and all denominations respected him as a ripe scholar and a Christian gentleman. His illness of a few days terminating fatally leaves the church suddenly bereft of his able counsel, and it will be a difficult matter to fill the vacancy with one so acceptable to the people and capable to fill the high position. The death-roll of 1893 is constantly adding the names of the noblest and ablest, and Bishop Phillips Brooks stands foremost among these.

The people of Albina are making a herculean effort for a free bridge between that suburb and Portland, and in this they are opposed by the capitalists of the west side. It was on an implied pledge that this would be constructed that the citizens of the east side voted for the consolidation of the three cities, and they have been paying taxes to support the West Portland officials and municipal government without receiving the least benefit, except in the glory of being tacked on to the metropolis of the northwest. Probably the legislature will grant this desired improvement during the present session, and the small householders who live in Albina will be able to go to and from their work in Portland without paying bridge-toll. It would

THE BLACK-LIST.

The Raley bill was defeated in the senate yesterday afternoon by a vote of 11 to 17, and the opposition came principally from the Willamette valley. This measure was the most important one to the producers of Eastern Oregon that was ever introduced in an Oregon legislature, and its defeat will be the most disastrous blow that the inland Empire has received for many years. Any relief from the general government in the shape of river improvement at this point cannot be expected for a long time, although the Oregon delegation have worked faithfully for a ship-railway, and a bill appropriating funds for that object has passed the United States senate at two different sessions. When this fact became apparent the people turned their attention to the Oregon legislature, expecting that an appropriation would be made to build a portage road around the obstructions above this point. Two years ago the first portage bill was introduced—that at the Cascades—which was passed without much opposition, and its success as a cheap means of transportation induced the producers to hope that at the present session the railroad around the dalles above this city would meet with almost universal favor; but at the outset, in the senate, this was defeated by those who should have been its friends.

It is well at this time to canvass the names of those who voted against the Raley bill and prepare the black list. First in the catalogue is Nalley (or Alley); then follows Bancroft, of Multnomah; Beckley, Douglas; Butler, Polk; Cameron, Jackson; Cogswell, Lake; Cronin, Benton; Cross, Clackamas; Dodson, Baker; Gates, Yamhill; Hayes, Clackamas; Huston, Washington; Looney, Marion; Maxwell, Tillamook; Myers, Linn; Vandenberg, Josephine; Veatch, Lane. To the honor of Multnomah it can be said that only one vote from that county was cast against the bill, while the other Willamette counties to a man supported the opposition. It is strange that Cogswell, who represents Crook and Lake, should have shown his antagonism to the portage road, when such a large portion of his constituents are directly interested in river improvements; and then Dodson, of Baker, another man who represents people who would be directly benefited by this portage. Our friends in Baker and Crook must remember these two men, and if at any time they come before the people for favors they must be blacklisted with a vengeance. For over twenty years we have been under the oppression of a railroad monopoly, and when relief is forthcoming enemies from among those whom we consider our friends turn and join hands with our oppressors. We will not intimate that they were influenced by corporation gold, and that they sold themselves and their constituency for a price; but their actions are inexplicable. Mass meetings should be held in every town in Crook and Baker counties, and the resignations of Cogswell and Dodson demanded, as they have proved themselves unworthy of the trust reposed in them. It may be that Eastern Oregon has no rights that the Willamette valley is bound to respect; but the citizens who reside in the cow counties, in the "barren, sterile plains that only produce sagebrush," can vote, and if any man who said nay on the Raley bill ever give them an opportunity they will wreak vengeance on him at the polls. This black list will be remembered, and there is surely a "day of reckoning" for every man thereon.

It is ascertained that three of the most important members of Cleveland's cabinet have been named, and these are: Hon. T. F. Bayard, secretary of state; Hon. John G. Carlisle, secretary of the treasury, and Hon. Daniel S. Lamont, secretary of the navy. The views of these men on national matters are well known, Bayard having held the portfolio before; Carlisle has voiced his sentiments on financial matters in congress, and Lamont was private secretary to President Cleveland from 1884 to 1888. They will be in perfect harmony with the administration; but whether they will mark out as successful a policy for the nation as the cabinet of Mr. Harrison has during the past four years remains to be seen.

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TELEGRAPHIC.

Annexation is a Pan-American. New York, Jan. 25.—In an interview today Mr. Charles Tupper, Canadian minister of marine and fisheries, who is on his way to France to attend the Behring sea arbitration conference, said he did not think there was much of a sentiment among the masses of the Canadians annexationist with annexation to the United States. It was a subject which was discussed by a few public men only, and could not be said to have very largely entered the thoughts of the masses. There were but three men of prominence in the Dominion, Mr. Tupper declared, who openly advocated annexation. One was a former official named Meyers, who had been retired from office in part as a consequence of his views as an annexationist; another was an editor named Farrar, who had been outspoken in the columns of his paper, but who had not many converts; and the third was Professor Goldwin Smith. "Whatever influence Smith might have as a scholar, and however much his learning might be respected, he would be of little use in the way of an annexationist," Mr. Tupper said, "and could not control any votes if he were to become a candidate for any office."

Caught With Chinese. SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 25.—William Osen, owner of the seized smuggling schooner, together with four indicted officers of the vessel, were arraigned in the United States district court here this morning. The entire number pleaded not guilty to the charge of bringing 85 Chinese into the country in violation of the law. Osen was held for five days time for the men, in which they may change their plea if they desire. Application was made for the reduction of bail under which the accused are held. Judge Morrow, however, declined to make any change in the amounts already fixed. Captain Decker secured five days time for the men, in which they may change their plea if they desire. Application was made for the reduction of bail under which the accused are held. Judge Morrow, however, declined to make any change in the amounts already fixed. Captain Decker secured five days time for the men, in which they may change their plea if they desire. 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