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THE QUESTION OF SALARIES

The legislature now in session will be asked to make a general pruning down in the salaries of officers throughout the state, and it is in the interest of all that this reduction of pay of officers be made judiciously, after careful and thorough investigation. Not only should the cutting down be made in the elective officers in many cases, but it should go to the extent of fixing the salaries of all appointive officers, and make their pay proportionate to the service they render, and it should begin at the state house and be continued down through the long list of officers in every department of government.

In the executive department the governor is allowed a private secretray whose salary is at present $1,800 a year, yet whose duties are no greater than many men who are working in private employment on a salary of $100 a month. Beides this private secretary there is a stenographer at a salary of $1,000 a year, who performs most of the work of the office. In the secretary of state's office there is a chief clerk who draws annually $1,800, and for additional clerical aid in this office $6,000 a year is allowed. The state treasurer has a chief clerk at $2,000 and the superintendent of public instruction one at $1,800. These chief clerk positions are perfect sinecures, and the attention of the legislature should be turned toward reducing their pay. They have no particular responsibility to assume, and should be paid only such salaries as they could command in similar employment in private life.

After adjusting the pay of officers about the state capital, the legislature should take up the matter of equalizing salaries of county officers, and fixing the number of deputies they may appoint and also designate what salaries they may receive. What reductions can be made in other counties, we are unable to state, but that there can be reductions made in Wasco county, and still not effect the efficiency of the service is certain. A petition has already been forwarded to the legislature asking that the salaries of the county judge and treasurer be reduced to $600 a year, and a bill will be introduced in compliance with the petition, and an effort will also be made to reduce the salaries of the clerk and sheriff. The provision will be to fix the salary of the clerk at $150 a month, with one deputy at $90. The sheriff's salary will probably be fixed at $2,200 a year, with one regular deputy at $75 a month. Such a reduction could not, we believe, lessen the efficiency of the officers, and it would effect a saving of several hundred dollars a year to the taxpayers, an end very much to be desired.

Wasco county has efficient officers in its service at present, who make no complaint at working for the fixed salaries, at least they were willing at the recent election to accept the positions. Yet the pay of the officers was greatly reduced from what it was under the fee system of a few years aeo. Under the fee system the pay of the sheriff's and clerk's offices was double what it is now, still the officers were no more efficient than those of the present.

Whatever reductions are made they should, however, not become operative as to elective officers during the incumbency of those now in office. They were elected in June of last year with an understanding of what their salaries should be; it was an implied contract between them and the people that their pay should be neither increased nor diminished, hence they are entitled to the salaries provided by law at the time of their election. But if salaries are reduced by this legislature and made operative after the next general election, present incumbents can have no just cause of complaint. If they do not desire the positions at reduced salaries they need not apply for them.

GOVERNOR GEER IS RIGHT.

The people of Oregon, especially the taxpayers, may well take off their hats to Governor Geer. He is the first chief executive Oregon has had for a long time who had the courage to talk plainly to legislators and tell them in plain terms of their extravagances and advise strict economy. It was probably not diplomatic for the governor to assume to dictate to the legislature, but it is common sense, and even if it is disagreeable to some of the members to be told of their extravagance in spending state funds, wasting their time and introducing frivolous measures, nevertheless it is just what they deserve. We heartily command the governor upon his courage and endorse much of what he said in his inaugural message.

After stating that few charges in existing laws were need and complimenting the legislature upon its activity during the special session, the governor said: "The same industry shown during the next 30 days would easily meet all the demands of the people, and it is therefore, earnestly hoped that you will give them a shorter session than the constitutional limit of 40 days. Each day you are at the capital, whether in session or not, costs the state more than $1,000, and since your own compensation is too small to offer any inducement to remain longer than the public interest actually requires, it is hoped that the general wish for an early adjournment will be granted. During the special session in October you appropriated $28,000 for your own expenses, besides $40,000 for a legislative abortion two years before, for which the people did not receive so much as one cent in return. In view of this it is hoped that we are not now confronted by another appropriation of $40,000 for a full forty days' session. As a rule, the best legislative results are secured during the first few weeks of a session, and if any scheme, job or ill-advised measure succeeds it is always the product of the leisure time which the longer session affords. I am extremely anxious that this legislature shall make a record that will meet the approbation of the people, and there is not a taxpayer in the state who would not speak approvingly of an adjournment at the end of a 30 days' session.

"It will not be possible to do so, however, if the usual custom of introducing a flood of bills on all conceivable subjects is to be perpetuated. The number of bills introduced at the average regular session almost, if not quite, equals the whole number of laws on our statute books; and since few of them are of an original nature it follows that, as a rule, they are simply attacks, in one form or another, on existing laws."

The governor then goes on to outline some of the duties of legislators and insisting that the work of the session can be accomplished in 30 days, he calls the legislature's attention to the clerkship abuses in the following language:

"Allow me to say a word here about this matter of clerk hire. My legislative experience reaches back to the regular session 18 years ago, and in the meantime I have seen the most meager employment of clerk hire grow into an absolute public evil, whose tenacity of life seems to successfully defy the opposition of campaign pledges, platform denunciations and even the public wrath itself. The abuse of this privelege has developed into a public wrong, the continuance of which is absolutely without justification, and its abatement, not at some future session but at this one, involves your reputation and mine for sincerity in the matter of public promises to the people of Oregon.

"As a probable means of securing relief to the people in this matter, I have investigated the records sufficiently to discover that in 1880 there were employed in the senate 14 clerks, and 10 in the house. There were 268 bills introduced in both houses, giving an average of 11 bills to each clerk. In 1882 there were 28 clerks, all told, with 292 bills, giving an average of 10 bills to each clerk. In the session of 1893 there were 153 clerks employed to consider 607 bills, or one clerk to consider every four bills. In 1895 there were 155 clerks employed to properly handle 630 bills, or an average of one clerk to every four bills. To press this question a little nearer home, gentlemen, it becomes necessary to say that while the character and quantity of your work in the special session was very commendable, you employed in both houses 110 clerks to take care of 162 bills, or only one bill and a half to each clerk. The cost of this service was $7457, or $61 for clerk and $46 for each bill."

This plain language raised the ire of some of the senators, especially those who had served in former sessions, and called forth some rather pointed criticisms from that source, but none of them can deny that the governor is right in his statements. If they will but heed his counsel, they will merit the commendation of everybody except those who are looking about for easy jobs.

AS OTHERS SEE US.

The city of The Dalles is in a fair way to lose the trade that has built up the city and made it the distributing point for a big portion of the Inland Empire during the past 40 years. The Columbia Southern railroad building from Biggs has reached Moro and in time will reach Antelope, with probably a branch to Prineville. This takes away the trade of that part of Sherman county that has been tributary to The Dalles, and the trade of Crook county and Southeastern Wasco will be lost to it. The projected railroad from Lyle to Goldendale, if built, will take from the Dalles most of the trade of Klickitat county it now enjoys. The only hope for The Dalles to retain her supremacy as the chief city of the Inland Empire lies in establishing manufactories.—Hood River Glacier.

When others see the dangers that threaten us and warn us thereof, it is time that we awake to the gravity of the situation or do something to better our condition. The Glacier is right in saying the only way to retain our former prestige is in establishing manufacturing industries. When we awake to a full realization of this fact we will begin to prosper as we never did even in the palmiest days of the past.

A POLITICAL SOMERSAULT

Wm. McKinley for years advocated free silver coinage, fought for it in congress and eloquently condemned President Cleveland for his attitude on the money question, says the East Oregonian. Suddenly he wavered and became the candidate of the "gold forces" and was elected president. He now favors a world's money. Wm. McKinley was almost the father of protection, of the variety that sought to protect American industry from pauper labor. He sang its praises in such eloquent language that he made the country a convert to his narrow theory. Now, he is for "an open door" policy, which, coupled with a world's money, means free trade. William McKinley has opened his eyes. President McKinley favored peace, abhorred war, kept the war spirit in check, and even after the Maine "incident" at Havana, stood resolute against a conflict with Spain. But the voice of the people was weighty with him and he declared and conducted a war against Spain with much vigor and with great success. President McKinley was at first an anti-expansionist, but now he is a wide open imperialist and is leading the movement of acquiring more territory with his characteristic enthusiasm. A wise man changes his mind, but a fool never does. William McKinley appears to be concientiously interpreting the voice of the people, whether right or wrong time will tell.

An exchange cites the fact that the Filipinos are cruel to their Spanish captives as an argument that they are not capable of self government. The writer probably has not perused American history, and noted the cruelty inflicted by the old patriots, who were the fathers of this nation, upon, not their oppressors, but their neighbors and friends, just prior to the establishing of the American republic. They were capable of forming the grandest government on earth and maintaining it, yet only a few years before they declared themselves free and independent people they were burning "witches" at the stake and inflicting the severest punishment upon those who differed with them in religious beliefs or in the policy of government.

Interest rates for the use of money in Oregon have so reduced in the past year that it will be found a difficult task to extend loans of the irreducible school fund at the rate now charged, hence it will become necessary for the legislature to authorize the loaning of the fund at a lower rate. It should also see to it that all accumulated interest is collected.

SUGAR BEET BOUNTIES.

Hon. Geo. W. Poebstel, joint senator for Union and Umatilla counties, is to father the sugar beet bounty bill in the legislature, and has gone to Salem loaded with arguments in favor of this scheme to compell the people of the entire state to foster an industry in Grande Ronde valley. He explains that the "real reason for the payment of the subsidy is that, with such a law passed, there could be secured a heavy immigration of a certain class of thrifty farmers who already understand the science of raising a high percentage of sugar beets, and at the same time the actual producers now living in the Grande Ronde valley would have simply what might be called an educational fund that would enable a valuable and growing section of country to bring to a permanent basis a most valuable industry." He also insists that the bounty to be paid would only be a nominal sum, as there was only a little more than 8,000 tons of beets raised in the state last year.

This cuts little figure in the case, for the principle remains the same whether the amount to be paid is great or small; it is the taking from one for the benefit of another without compensation. But the object of the bounty is to encourage the industry, else it would be utterly useless to the state, therefore the sum to be paid would be increased many fold another year. Then he would have the bounty to act as an "educational fund," to teach the Grand Ronde farmers how to grow beets. If there were any justice in the claim, why not make it apply to all industries? Give a bounty on wheat, that the wheat farmer might learn how to make more wheat grow upon an acre, or a bounty on butter that would teach the dairyman how to make his cows give richer milk, or a bounty on eggs, so that hens might be induced to lay two a day?

The proposition of bounties is absurd, unjust and unreasonable. Simply because one class of people desires to engage in a certain industry is no reason why all the people should be taxed to support it. Giving bounties is nothing but legalizing robbery, and should never be seriously considered by any legislative body. The bill for the benefit of the Grande Ronde beet farmers should be promptly voted down.

TO ABOLISH GRAND JURIES

Representative Ralph E. Moody, of Multnomah county, has prepared a bill that looks to the abolishing of the grand jury system, and should meet the approval of a very large majority of citizens. It permits district attorneys to proceed on information in criminal cases, instead of requiring a meeting of the grand jury, and the finding of a true bill of indictment, as under the present practice. The state constitution permits the grand jury system to either be abolished or modified. Mr. Moody considers the abolition of the grand jury a radical change, but he does favor a modification along the lines of the bill he will present. This would enable courts to call in grand juries only when necessary, and would prove a desirable change.

The grand jury has always been a sort of "fifth wheel" to the judicial department of the state. It has always entailed great expense upon the counties, and its services, except in rare cases, has been valueless. The investigations made by a grand jury can never be thorough or complete. Its findings seldom throw new light upon a criminal case, hence it is a useless incumbrance. Criminal cases in almost every instance had as well go direct from the committing magistrate to the trial court without the intervention of the grand jury, for the investigations by the magistrate who holds the preliminary examination can be as thorough as those made by the grand jury, and as a rule a considerable expense could be avoided by dispensing with the attendance of witnesses before grand juries. The bill proposed by Mr. Moody is a good one and should become a law.

DON'T COMPLAIN.

The governor, secretary of state and state treasurer have determined that the state tax levy for 1899 must be 5 7-10 mills, against 3½ mills in 1898. This increase in the levy is said to be owing to the appropriations made by the special session of the legislature, which included an item of $41,000 to pay the expenses of the legislature of 1897 that never organized and another of $33,000 for the purchase of the branch asylum site at Union, then there is still the item of something like $75,000 interest on state expenses that accrued because of the failure of the legislature to convene in '97.

When the taxpayers are called upon to bear the extra burden of taxation they should enter no complaint. They are getting what they voted for in 1896 and again in 1898. The party that had been in the majority in the legislature previous to those elections had been wasteful, yet it was returned to power. As a result there was no session of the legislature in 1897, no appropriation to pay state expenses, and the state was run on credit until the convening of the special session last August, and an interest charge of some $75,000 was built up. Then again last year the same party was retained in power, and an appropriation of $41,000 to pay the expenses of those who held up the legislature of 1897, together with the salaries of an army of clerks, was freely made.

A democrat or populist taxpayer might have some grounds for complaint at the increased taxation, but those who voted the republican ticket in 1897 and in 1898 should never murmur. They should take their medicine like little men, pay their taxes cheerfully and look pleasant, for they are getting what they voted for.

NOT A BAD IDEA.

Representative J. W. McCulloch, of Marion county, will urge the passage of a bill by the legislature to cause the state school fund to carry the insurance on public school property. Mr. McCullock has made a careful investigation of the amounts paid annually for insurance premiums on school property and also the losses sustained by fire. He finds that the annual premiums are $18,000, while the average annual loss is only $2,500, thus his plan would save to the state $15,500 yearly.

His bill provides that the school superintendent of each county shall yearly make an inventory of the cash value of all school property in his county and forward a certified copy thereof to the superintendent of public instruction. If there is a loss by fire the county superintendent shall forthwith adjust the same and report to the superintendent of public instructions. In April and August each year the superintendent of public instructions shall make a list of all damages reported to him and forward a statement thereof to the several county superintendents and treasurers. Sixty per cent of the loss sustained by any district shall be paid, and the proportional part each county shall pay on each loss shall be in proportion to the value of all the insurable school property in the county compared with the the value of all the insurable school property in the state. Before the county superintendent of schools of any county in the state makes the semi-annual apportionment of the county school fund, he shall first set aside the amount due from his county to the several districts in this state sustaining losses, as reported to him by the last report of the superintendent of public instruction, and shall draw a warrant on the county treasurer of his county in favor of the district sustaining the loss for the amount due as indicated by the superintendent of public instruction.

The measure possesses merits that will readily recommend themstlves to the legislature. If the school districts are paying annually $18,000 for insurance and the average loss is but $2,500, they are expending too much for their fire protection—too great a commission to insurance companies. And if a saving of $15,500 can be effected that amount will pay for 344 more months of teachers' wages, estimating the average salary of teachers in the state is $45 a month. This would go a long way toward disseminating knowledge among the youth of the state.

THE NATIONAL DEBT.

The government enters upon the year 1899 with a heavier debt than it has in seventeen years, it aggregating $1,977,388,764. The debt is classified as follows:

Interest-bearing bonds	$1,040,215,980
Bonds on which interest has ceased	841,234 200
United States notes	396,681,016
Old demand notes	53,997
National bank notes, redemption account	28,988,814
Fractional currency	6,883,974
Gold certificates	35,808,999
Silver certificates	399,430,504
Certificates of deposit	20,685,000
Treasury notes of 1890	97,523,280
Total	$1,977,388,764

The high water mark in the national debt was reached in 1866, when it amounted to $2,773,236,173. It gradually decreased until in 1893 when it had been cut down $1,545,962,686. Since then it has increased $431,403,078, the greatest increase having been from Jan. 1, 1897, to Dec. 31, 1898, the increase being a little over $170,000.

Speaking of the debt, the Oregonian takes occasion to remark that "a little over half of this debt is in the straight and honest form of interest-bearing obligations. But an astonishingly large part consists of demand obligations, drawing no interest, which the treasury is liable for payment of at any time they are presented, and which it must also keep at equal and uniform value."

These "honest interest-bearing obligations" are what the Oregonian would have thrust upon the country in exchange for the entire public debt and would have the interest burdens of the people increased $30,000,000 to $60,000,000 a year for it objects to the taking up of any portion of the bonded debt, and insists that a portion of the surplus revenue of the nation be applied to the retirement of non-interest bearing obligations, when it says: "But the non-interest-bearing debt can be reduced, and should be. Revenue from the war taxes is so large that, in spite of heavy army and navy expenditures, the treasury is beginning to show a small surplus. The time is opportune to set aside a portion of the treasury's gold for exclusive use of its issue and redemption functions; so that more of the demand liabilities of the government may be put on the safe basis on which the gold certificates rest."

The advice the Oregonian gives the government, it would not accept in the conducting of its own business, nor would any sane manager of a private business enterprise. Had the Oregonian an equal amount of obligations outstanding bearing interest and not bearing interest it would certainly apply its surplus money in taking up that which bore interest in order to stop the drain upon its resources and leave its non-interest-bearing debt stand. This would be only a plain business proposition, and as the government should be run on business principles, it should be the course pursued by the government.

At the beginning of the year the treasury had cash on hand to the amount of $930,431,351 as on offset to the national debt of nearly two billion dollars, of this $281,729,434 was gold. Since the law requires a gold reserve of only $100,000,000 kept on deposit, why should not the remaining 181,729,434 of gold be applied to the redemption of the interest-bearing debt, and also a portion of the surplus silver in the treasury be applied to this purpose? It would be the most sensible method of dealing with the public debt and common sense is what is needed more than anything else applied to our public affairs.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The peace treaty formulated at Paris has been transmitted to the senate, and will no doubt be ratified at an early date.

The most interesting question in Pennsylvania politics at present is whether Mat Quay is going back to the senate or to the penitentiary.

Making up the jury list in Marion county is proving quite interesting work for the county court. The election fraud case is cutting quite a figure in the jury list.

Lord Wolseley pays a tribute to the American volunteers in the war with Spain. Their work was equal to their historic record and Wolseley knows that no more need be said.

Gen. Shafter believes that the Cubans would vote for annexation by a large majority. They will have an opportunity in due time to cast their ballots for the splendid promotion freerred to.

The Roseburg Review issued a splendid New Year's edition that is worthy of note and should be sent broadcast by the residents of Douglas county, for it is a splendid advertisement of the recources of Southern Oregon.

The present cost of maintaining the regular army is $24,443,480. The estimated cost for the enlarged army as provided in Representative Hull's bill is $82,053,865, an increase of $57,761,105. This increase is one of the luxuries we will get from acquiring foreign territory.

That Governor Roosevelt will contest for the nomination for president before the next republican national convention becomes more evident every day. His message to the New York lesislature shows croppings of the presidential bee buzzing in his bonnett.

How is Uncle Sam going to interpret the Monroe doctrine in the future if some European power comes over here, licks a little South American republic, and takes control of it? Since we have started out to gobble up foreign domain it will be difficult for us to say much about the Monroe doctrine.

The New Year's edition of the Oregon Statesman, published at Salem, has been received and is indeed a creditable number. It is printed on heavy calendared paper, well illustrated with half tones, and contains much valuable information concerning Marion county. The publication is a credit to the Statesman and to the capitol city.

That old fossil Alger, secretary of war, objects to Admiral Dewey being governor-general of the Philippines. No wonder. Alger has no use for anybody who administers an office competently. If Dewey were some incompetent upstart who had neither executive ability nor common sense, Alger would approve his appointment.

That there are hundreds of thousands of dollars escaping taxation in Oregon is not questioned. This is largely due to the fact that mortgages are not taxed, and the notes for which the mortgage is given cannot be got at if the holder neglects to list it in his property. The re-enactment of the mortgage tax law would avoid this to a great extent.

Former Gomptroller Eckels recently made a statement that trusts were really a benefit to the United States. Consumers of tin plate would be pleased to have Mr. Eckels' figures on the manner in which their bank accounts will be increased. The tin plate combine advances prices 25 cents on 100-pound boxes, and the jobbers see the raise and go them 5 cents better.

The legislature will be asked to reduce numerous officers' salaries in order to make the pay received commensurate with the service rendered. A petition has been circulated here and quite generally signed asking the legislature to reduce the salary of the judge and treasurer of Wasco county to $600 a year, and it is very likely the reduction will be made, as the present legislature is pledged to economy.

It is rather humiliating to state it, nevertheless it is a fact that there are some men in the legislature who ought to be in the penitentiary. They are those who want to farm out clerkships to relatives and friends in order to even up on their expenses during the session. Their argument is that their salaries are small, and if they can get their wives, daughters or sons appointed clerks, where they have little to do, at from three to five dollars a day, it will help to pay expenses. A legislator who will make such an argument ought to be in the penitentiary instead of attempting to make laws. No man is fit to be at large who would teach his nearest relatives dishonesty.

Sheriff Huntington, of Baker county, goes before the legislature with a request that his salary be raised, his plea being that the salary is inadequate to the service performed. It is indeed late in the day for Mr. Huntington to discover this fact. When nominated for sheriff he was willing to accept the office for the fixed salary, and after having filled the position for six months, if he finds the pay is insufficient, it is his privilege to resign, and let the county court find some one who is willing to do the work of the office for the stated salary. The legislature should pass a law making it a felony for any officer to attempt to get his pay increased during the term of his office. The people are ever willing to pay their public servants a reasonable compensation, but they detest a grafter who attempts to fleece them after he has been entrusted with an office.

THE SITUATION IS GRAVE

Rios Says the Rebels Are Ready to Attack Manila.

MADRID, Jan. 11.—General Rios, the Spanish commander, cables from Manila reiterating his assertion that the situation of affairs in the Philippines is most grave. The rebels, it appears, are concentrating in the neighborhood of Manila, with the intention of attacking that place. Great preparations are being made for the defense of the city.

The Spanish general also asserts that the natives of Visayas have again refused to permit the Americans to land at Ilo Ilo, threatening to resist by force if an attempt is made to do so. The Americans, therefore, according to General Rios, have abandoned the idea of disembarking, and he confirms the previous statement to the effect that the natives are willing to resist by force if an attempt is made to do so.

General Rios also alleges that the rebels are determined to fight the Americans before the reinforcements arrive from the United States.

In conclusion, General Rios says Aguinaldo's proclamation has produced immense enthusiasm among the rebels.

Fell Under the Cars.

TACOMA, Jan. 11.—W. McSweeney, of Taylor, N. D., a switchman in the employ of the Northern Pacific Railroad Company, missed his footing while attempting to board a car in the "half moon" yards here last night and fell under the wheels. The cars passed over him, chrushing both legs and completely severing his left arm. He died shortly after being removed to the hospital.

Dingley's Condition.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11.—The condition of Representative Dingley was reported practically unchanged. He is still extremely weak, but the fact that he has been able to hold his own in the past two or three days without any appreciable change for the worse is favorable.

A Milwaukee Protest.

MILWAUKEE, Jan. 11.—The Chamber of Commerce has adopted a series of resolutions, among which was one indorsing the action of the national board of trade against the provision of the war tariff act, which calls for stamp taxes on sales made on commercial exchanges.

THE CHANGE OF CHIEF EXECUTIVES

Governor Lord Steps Out and Governor Geer Steps in.

SALEM, Jan. 10.—Theodore Thurston Geer was inaugurated governor of the state of Oregon in representative hall of the statehouse today, in the presence of the state legislature assembled in joint session, and an immense crowd of spectators, who packed the gallery and lobby of the chamber to suffocation.

Chief Justice Wolverton, of the supreme court, administered the oath of office to the new governor, and both ex-Governor Lord and Governor Geer made speeches.

QUARRELED OVER PATRONAGE.

Division of polls Causes an Estrangement of Two Legislators.

SALEM, Jan. 10.—The feature of the forenoon's session in the house was the exposure of a squabble over patronage between two members from Marion county.

Upon the assembling of the house, Speaker Carter announced that he had intended making some changes in the make-up of the committees, owing to a disagreement between two members of the house. Being asked what changes he desired to make, he stated that they were the removal of McCulloch from the chairman of the committee on enrolled bills and his transfer to the committee on banking and insurance, and the removal of Flagg from the committee on banking and insurance to the chairmanship of the committee on enrolled bills. Roberts of Wasco moved that the speaker be given the privilege of making the change. McCulloch objected. He said he would consider it a direct slap at him and would resent it.

This brought Flagg to his feet, who described the history of his trouble with McCulloch. He said the understanding between himself, McCulloch and Speaker Carter was that McCulloch should be chairman of the committee on enrolled bills, but that he (Flagg) should have half the patronage. In pursuance of this compact he named one clerk out of four during the late special session, but at the opening of the regular session McCulloch not only denied him the privilege of naming his half of the clerks, but even that of retaining his appointees of the special session. He yesterday appointed two just the same, and had them sworn in, but McCulloch filed a protest with the secretary of state. This brought the squabble for patronage to a focus.

The question before the house being whether the speaker should be sustained in his desire to make the change, the vote resulted: Ayes, 39; noes, 19. The speaker then announced changes in committees as indicated.

SLIGHT CHANGES ON COMMITTEES.

Most of the Appointments of the Special Session Will Stand.

SALEM, Jan. 10.—In the senate this morning President Taylor announced the standing committees, which are mainly the same as at the special session. Michell takes the place of Taylor on the committees on assessment and taxation. Brownell is dropped from and Looney added to the committees on elections and privileges. Mulkey is dropped and Joseph added to the committee on enrolled bills. Haseltine takes the chairmanship of the committee on horticulture in place of Daty, of Benton. Joseph takes Morrow's place on the committee on medicine, pharmacy and dentistry. Taylor is dropped from and Driver added to the committee on military affairs. Smith takes Reed's place on the committee on public buildings and institutions. Looney is dropped from and Brownell added to the committee on roads and highways. Taylor is retired from the chairmanship and Patterson added leaving Mulky chairman of the committee on ways and means. Looney and Morrow are appointed on the joint committee to examine the state treasurer's books.

FIRE ON A JAPANESE CRUISER.

Several Members of the Crew Burned to Death and Many Injured.

SEATTLE, Jan. 10.—News by steamer from Japan says: The second-class Japanese cruiser Kaimon Kan has reached Amoy a partial wreck, as the result of a fire that broke out during a storm at sea. Several of the members of the crew of the cruiser were burned to death and many others badly injured.

The Kaimon Kan was a wooden vessel of the old style, and had on board a number of soldiers besides her regular crew. When a few days out and in the midst of a gale a fire was discovered in one of the bunkers to the rear of the engines.

The Japanese crew behaved with great bravery, and streams of water were soon playing on the fire. At this juncture an accident to the machinery made it necessary for some one to go down the alley. It was a case of almost sure death. Two men volunteered to go down. Before they got to the machinery in need of repair the smoke overcame them. No one would go in after them and the fire soon consumed their bodies. The engines were kept running or the vessel would surely have foundered. The vessel is repairing at Amoy.

MATAAFA IS KING OF SAMOA.

Official News of His Election to Succeed Malietoa is Received.

NEW YORK, Jan 10.—A dispatch to the Herald from Washington says:

Mataafa has been elected king of Samoa, to succeed Malietoa. Official information to this effect has been received here. The election was held without trouble, though Tamasese, who was vice-king in 1881, backed by a small following, endeavored to obtain the office. The situation according to the latest advices is quiet.

Mataafa's election is highly satisfactory, not only to the Washington government, but to the British and German governments, because of the certainty that he will be guided in his actions by the wishes of the consuls in Apia of the signatory powers to the Berlin treaty.

DON'T BELIEVE THE STORY.

Klondikers Think There Need Be no Worry About Dawson.

SEATTLE, Jan. 10.—The story that destitution prevails in Dawson to such an alarming extent that it is considered necessary to appeal to the United States government for relief, is considered by the many people from the Klondike in this city to be built on a very slim foundation.

At an informal meeting of about a score of them yesterday the destitution story was discussed. After the meeting Joseph Barrett, a Klondike pioneer, said,

"I cannot understand how such a story should gain currency, save through the desire of the Dawson press to heighten the feelings against representatives of the Canadian government now in Dawson. There is positively no need for alarm as to the supply of food at the mines. No starvation is there. The Dawson City people stand together as one, and none need go hungry if they will make known their wants."

HOUSE CLERK MATTER SETTLED.

There Will be Fewer Employed Than at Former Sessions.

SALEM, Jan. 11.—The house devoted the greater part of the forenoon session today to the considerrtion of the resolution of Curtis of Clatsop, designating the number of clerks to be employed in the house and fixing their compensation.

The committee on resolutions, to which the resolution had been referred, reported it back with amendments and recommended its adoption. The amendments raised the pay of the clerk of the committee on judiciary from $4 to $5 a day, reduced the number of stenographers to be employed in the house from three to two, and provided for a typewriter for the house at a salary of $5 per day. The amendments were adopted by a vote of 38 to 20, and then ensued a squabble over more clerks. Moody offered an amendment that the committee on judiciary be given two clerks at $4 a day carried

Beach, of Multnomah, chairman of the committee on ways and means, asked for one clerk at $5 a day, one at $3 and a stenographer at $4 a day. Curtis of Clatsop objected, claiming that this committee at the last session had four clerks, two of whom did nothing but draw salary and breathe. Bratton of Lane and McCulloch of Marion also objected to giving this committee more clerks, but the amendment was adopted just the same. Other amendments adopted were for an increase of pay of the clerk of the committee on education from $3 to $4, and increase of the number of stenographers to be appointed for the house at $5 a day, from two to three. The Multnomah delegation was given one clerk at $5 a day.

A HITCH WITH LAWMAKERS.

Governor Geer and the Senate Mixed Over Appointments.

SALEM, Or., Jan. 11.—In the opening of the senate this morning a message was received from Governor Geer asking the return of the nominations of C. A. Dolph, H. S. Bean, H. R. Kincaid, regents of the state university, and S. H. Holt, trustees of the Soldiers' Home, which had been sent in Monday by Governor Lord and referred to the committee. The message was tabled by a decisive vote. After much debate a motion to instruct the committee to report the nominations favorably at once carried by a vote of 19 to 11, leaving the matter in the hands of the senate.

The introduction of the bills was then pushed and soon came another communication from the governor revoking the above referred to nominations, which was promptly tabled, leaving the matter much mixed.

TWO JOBS FOR SHAFTER.

He Will Have Command of the California and Columbia Departments.

NEW YORK, Jan. 12.—A dispatch to the Herald from Washington says: in addition to the command of the department of California, Major-General W. R. Shafter has been directed to assume temporary command of the department of the Columbia thus relieving Major-General H. C. Merriam who will relieve Brigadier-General E. V. Sumner, in command of the department of Colorado, with headquarters at Denver.

General Sumner has been transferred to the command of the department of Missouri, with headquarters in Omaha. Brigadier-General M. V. Sheridan is still in command of the department of the Lakes. If Major-General Wade desires this department he can have it, but it is thought he will prefer the department of the Dakotas, with headquarters at St. Paul.

Hold-up at Tacoma.

TACOMA, Jan. 11.—Shortly before dusk last night two men entered the saloon of John Simon, on Jefferson avenue, with revolvers drawn and cocked. While one of them covered the bartender and a patron the other rifled the cash register, securing considerable money. They then bound the bartender in one of the side rooms, locked the patron in another, and although pursued and shot at, made their escape.

Grip in Oakland.

OAKLAND, Cal., Jan. 11.—An epidemic of grip is prevalent in this city. Health officer Dunn says he thinks there are at least 4000 cases, and if the weather conditions do not aid the health department in checking the disease a repition of the epidemic of 8 years ago may be expected. So far it is only manifest in a mild form, but there have been several deaths and there may be more.

Depot Half Consumed.

PENDLETON, Or., Jan. 12.—The Oregon Railroad & Navigation Company's passenger station here was destroyed by fire early this morning, entailing a loss of from $2500 to $3000. The fire caught in the baggage-room, and totally consumed half the depot building, badly damaging the remainder.

Conditions Improving.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12.—This cablegram was received at the war department this morning:

"Manila, Jan. 12.—Conditions apparently are improving. Citizens feel more secure. Many natives are returning. The city is quiet and buisness active. OTIS."

A Great Battle in Arabia.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Jan. 12. A—great battle has been fought in the Yamen division of Arabia. Turkish troops stormed and captured the insurgent position at Shanel November 30. About 4000 insurgents and 2000 Turks were killed and wounded.

Choate is Appointed.

WASAINGTON, D. C. Jan. 11.—The president today nominated Joseph H. Choate, of New York, to be ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Great Britain.

AMONG OREGON LAW-MAKERS

They Work Four Days Then Rest Three.

SALEM, Jan. 12.—Governor Geer sent to the senate this morning the appointments of Dolph, Bean and Senator William Smith, of Baker, as members of the board of regents of the state university, and Holt as trustee of the Soldiers' Home, the same as Governor Lord had named, and which were withdrawn yesterday, except Smith in place of Kincaid. The nomination of Smith "took the wind out of the sails" of the opposition to the governor, as Selling expressed it, and instead of a fight all were confirmed immediately.

Twenty-four new bills were introduced in the senate before an adjournment was taken till 2 p. m. Monday. Among the most important ones were the following:

By Michell, to add two judges to the supreme court; by Selling, to repeal the annual appropriation of $5,000 for the state fair; by Fulton, to appropriate $25,000 for food fish hatcheries; by Mackay, to authorize the Port of Portland to make further improvements in Columbia river channel and borrow $500,000 therefor, and $250,000 additional to build a drydock, for both of which bonds shall be issued; by Morrow, to exempt homesteads of 160 acres or $3,000 valuation from attachment and judicial sale; by Dufur, to extend the privilege of the Soldiers' Home to the wives and widows of soldiers.

SALEM, Jan. 12.—Upon the assembling of the house this morning the committee on resolutions reported back a resolution providing for an examination of the books of the state board of school land commissioners, with an amendment that the committee be allowed only one clerk, at a salary of $3 per day. The resolution was adopted as amended.

The house joint resolution providing for examination of the books of the secretary of state, and the senate joint resolution requiring the presentation of all claims to the ways and means committee within 20 days, were also reported back by the committee on resolutions, and adopted.

After the first reading of the bill by Besch of Multnomah to regulate building and loan associations, Moody asked the consent of the house to take up and place on its third reading the bill providing for relief of the supreme court, and an increase of the number of justices of the supreme court to five. This lead to a protracted debate, Moody, Whalley and Curtis and urging the passage of the bill, and Stillman of Umatilla leading the opposition. The opposition to the bill was based upon the constitutionality of the act. After the debate had been in progress some time, without any apparent change in the situation, Reeder of Umatilla made an able argument in favor of allowing the question to go before the supreme court by passage of the bill. The bill passed by a vote of 37 to 17.

At the close of the session the house adjourned to 2 p. m. Monday.

ADVISES A PROTECTORATE.

Professor Magill Delivers an Address on the Philippines.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 12.—President E. H. Magill, of Swarthmore college, delivered an address on the Philippines before the Friends Association Monday evening.

Professor Magill discussed various possible courses as to the Philippines, and then said:

"Would it not be better for the United Ststes to continue its protectorate over these people, avoiding by all means treating them as a conquered nation, but rather regarding them as friends and allies and securing their co-operation in establishing a system of self government? Our protectorate must be of such a nature as to prevent the other nations from interfering with this interesting experiment in training other peoples.

"By pursuing this course, too, we should avoid the charge of national expansion, which threatens thus early to become a watchword in the next presidential campaign. This would be unfortunate, for as soon as any form of words becomes a party cry in a political campaign all hopes of reasoning on the subject vanish.

"Why may not the course proposed for the Philippines be as practicable for them as for Cuba, where we are bound to apply it, even so much nearer home, or break our most solemn pledges?

"We should make no promises as to the duration of the protectorate which we would establish and maintain over these incipient nations, but leave it to time and the evolution of the peoples concerned."

STRICT BOARDING SCHOOL.

Three Callers a Year at Twenty Minutes a Call for Girl Students.

The young ladies of the normal school in Winona were lately thrown into a flurry of excitement, says the St. Paul (Minn.) Dispatch. They were called into one of the recitation-rooms and put through a rigid examination about the number of callers each had and a description of each caller. They were told that it was highly improper to receive a caller from out of the city, and that many of the young men of the city were not proper persons with whom to associate.

It was also considered highly improper to receive a call which was of more than 20 minutes' duration. In all over a dozen questions were required to be answered, all of which were in regard to the subject of gentlemen callers.

A number of rules were given to the young ladies, which they were told they must obey. Among them was one forbidding the same young men to call upon them more than three times a year, and then the call must be purely formal and not exceed 15 or 20 minutes.

The young ladies were also requested to furnish a list of their callers and their characters, and as to the general subjects of conversation when calling or riding, and if the landlady where they boarded approved of the young men.

Some of the young ladies are indignant, and say they will not submit to such rules, while others believe they are all right, and propose to follow them.

THE HARDEST-WORKED WOMAN

In the Land Is the Mistress of the White House.

The author of a series of letters, giving "The Inner Experiences of a Cabinet Member's Wife," in the Ladies' Home Journal, gives some new and exceedingly frank glimpses of Washington official life. The letters are undated, therefore the administration cannot be identified. She says of a president's wife, in a letter to her sister, to whom all the missives are indited: "The worst of living in the white house is the lack of privacy and room. The first lady of the land is about the hardest-worked woman in America in many ways. The present lovely incumbent has more leisure than most of those who have occupied the place, because she knows no more about the domestic arrangements than if she lived in a hotel. Everything is turned over to a housekeeper, who does not even report to Mrs. President. The president's wife has not the luxuries nor convenience of ordinary rich people living in large cities. Her quarters are circumscribed, and she is besieged by reporters, especially during the first year, while the mere reading of her letters received every day is a heavy task, although she has a secretary to help her out. This Mrs. President does not even receive the reports of the head steward, the chief official servant of the household. It is said that he went to her not