Weston Weekly Leader.

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 1885.

MR. RANDALL'S plan for the construction of a new navy is regarded as being comprehensive and radical in character, and on that account has found many active friends and active enemies, the latter mostly among naval officers. The plan provides, first, for the collection of all possible information on the subject of naval construction; second, for the selection of plans, and lastly, for the building of the navy according to these plans without any further action by Congress. The language of the paragraph is that all necessary money to pay expenses of the board, its awards and purchases, and building of the vessels provided for is appropriated out of the money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated. Thus there is no limit to the sum to be expended in the construction of the new navy. The country at large will be satisfied with almost anything which will give a start to the needed work of providing the United States with a navy, but the Democrats are needlessly exposing themselves to certain censure by not appropriating a stated sum for a clearly defined purpose. It will matter little how economically the money is expended, or how well the work is accomplished, there will not be found wanting those who will discover in the transactions evidences of great fraud

GROVER CLEVELAND is now President of the United States. After many years of disappointment and defeat the democracy is once more charged with the administration of our national affairs. To-day, however, it is the young democracy born of the needs of the times and animated by progress and patriotism. Grover Cleveland is not a brilliant statesman, but what is better, he is an honest man of good practical intelligence, integrity of purpose and demonstrated executive ability of the highest order. His earnest republican simplicity, combined with his strength of character and stability of purpose, eminently qualify him for the exalted position which he now occupies and will doubtless do much to lead the nation up to its original high estate of purity and simplicity. The task before him is herculean, but we have a calm confidence in his ability to surmount every obstacle that will be put in his way by the disappointed in his own party and by the mere politicians among his opponents. If he fails we shall be more than disappointed. But the future is glorious with the tinted rainbow of promise.

THE LEADER is not now and never has been an admirer of the political principles and practices of Hon. J. H. Mitchell. His ability no one doubts. His services to the State while its representative, though greatly overrated by his friends, have been considerable. He is very popular with the masses of the people. He is probably better qualified to represent Oregon in the United States Senate than any Republican whose name was prominently brought before the late lamented Legislature. His appointment is now being urged upon Gov. Moody. The Republican press of the State is almost unanimously in his favor. The only notable exception is the Portland *Oregonian*, and its motives are so apparent and unworthy that its opinion in the matter is entitled to little or no consideration. If Governor Moody is to cast aside his own judgment and preference, and be guided by the will of a majority of his party, Hon. J. H. Mitchell will be our next Senator.

CHESTER ARTHUR is again a plain citizen of a great republic. His administration is another proof of the oft-asserted theory that increased responsibility adds to the dignity and stability of a man's character. He has made a good average President. There was nothing during his term of office to call forth any great display of statesmanship. It is unprofitable to conjecture whether he would have risen equal to the occasion if there had been. If he has done nothing unusually great, he has committed no great errors. His nomination as Vice President was received with painful surprise, and his succession to the Presidency was regarded with serious apprehension. The tenebrious forebodings proved to be groundless. Distrust gradually gave way to confidence. His conservative course has commanded general approval and his administration has been on the whole acceptable to the people.

EASTERN Republican papers refer to the late lamented Legislature as having been "inexcusably fractious." That's a new name for lack of common sense.

SALEM SETTLINGS.

Representative Beall's bill to compel railroad companies to build sidetracks to warehouses ensuring 300 tons of freight during a year passed the legislature and will soon become a law.

By provisions of the bill introduced by Representative Beall, which was passed, district attorneys will hereafter receive mileage in attending criminal cases before justices' courts and coroners' inquests.

Persons loaning money can make arrangements whereby the borrower may pay the taxes on the same; but the rate of interest must not exceed eight per cent. in such cases. This is one of the laws of the last legislature.

A new law fixes the rate of road-work at $1.50 a day. Excepting where taxpayers pay cash, this will make but little difference, as those working the roads will do as much work for $1.50 as they did for $2.

According to a law passed by the legislature upon a petition of 100 voters, the county authorities shall put the question, "Shall swine be allowed to run at large," to the voters of the county at the next general election, a majority ruling.

Representative Porter's bill requiring the county commissioners to advertise for proposals to build bridges where the sum exceeds $200 was passed by the legislature. This will give everybody an opportunity to bid on bridgework of all kinds.

The bill to fix the compensation for school clerks, introduced by Mr. Hirsch of Multnomah, was amended in the house so as to give the clerks a percentage upon all moneys received, instead of a percentage upon all moneys collected by local taxation. The effect of it will probably be to give the clerks a percentage out of loans and state school funds received by the districts.

The assessment laws of the State are about the same as they were before the legislature met. Davenport's voluminous bill on the subject and all others were defeated.

A law was passed by the legislature giving parties whose real estate is sold at sheriff's sale one year from date of confirmation of said sale in which to redeem the property. Ten per cent. interest per annum, instead of two per cent. per month, is allowed the purchaser in case of redemption.

Senator Prim's resolution for a constitutional amendment, abrogating section 1 of the State constitution, and empowering the legislature to fix the salaries of the governor, secretary of State, treasurer, supreme judges and other State officers, and further providing that no officer shall receive an increase of salary during his term of office, was passed.

The legislature passed a law confirming title to swamp lands to squatters upon them who have completed settlement under the provisions of the homestead or pre-emption laws. This is a point against swamp-land grabbers.

By provisions of the bill introduced by Senator Prim, and which has become a law, the grand jury will meet four days previous to the petit jury, in order to allow attorneys to make up their cases and at the same time save the county considerable expense, as jurors are often kept waiting at the county seat several days before any business for them presents itself.

The firemen's exemption bill passed by the Legislature provides that after a volunteer fireman has served for seven successive years he is then entitled to exemption from road and poll tax and jury duty. The firemen all over the State will be thankful for the passage of this bill. It will make some inducement to be a fireman, and after serving thus long they can rest from their labors and feel that they are honored by the laws of the land.

The Forfeiture Bills.

The Oregon Central forfeiture has passed the House, but it had no real opposition. The Oregon and California and the California and Oregon forfeiture bills have passed the House and are in the Senate committee on public lands, where they will stay. They are of very little consequence. Only about thirty miles of the Oregon and California road and about 150 miles of the California and Oregon remain unfinished, and the unfinished portions are in a mountainous region where the land is of no value. The House has not yet passed the bill to forfeit about 35,000,000 acres of land granted to that road. The Senate committee also framed and reported a bill to forfeit the Northern Pacific lands, but it is much less sweeping than the House bill. It only proposes to forfeit sections of granted lands opposite that portion of the road not completed. The Senate committee decided not to report for forfeiture any lands lying opposite completed portions of any road, on the ground that such lands had been equitably earned, to say the least. The House Northern Pacific bill proposes to declare forfeited about five times as much land as the Senate bill. But there is but a poor chance of either bill becoming a law at the hands of this Congress.

The Furrell high license bill, fixing the liquor license throughout the State at $500, passed the Minnesota Legislature last Tuesday after a two hours' parliamentary struggle.

His medical advisers are urging ex-President Grant to come to the Pacific Coast for his health.

STATE NEWS.

It is now thought the State Legislature will be ready to vote for a U. S. Senator by January, 1887.

S. O. Swackhammer of Union was confirmed as register of the land office at La Grande, Feb. 24.

The Oregon Pioneer association has decided on holding its next annual reunion at Oregon City, commencing June 15th.

During 1884 on the Pacific coast policies covering $877,984 in risks were written, the premiums received were $6,340,946; losses paid, $2,351,787.

There were 384 bills introduced in both houses of the legislature of which 105 passed and became part of Oregon's laws. This leaves 279 in the hospital for repairs.

Some of the prices current in Portland are: Wheat sacks 6½@8c; hops, 8@10c; hams, 15@16c; chickens, $3@3.50; butter fancy, 30c; inferior, 18@20c; eggs, 16c; dried apples, 4½@5½; wheat, 72c; wool, 12@14c; potatoes, 25@35.

Mr. Grant Helman of Ashland had his right hand blown off and right leg mangled while drying some giant powder Tuesday afternoon. His stove was blown to atoms, but his wife, who was in the same room, miraculously escaped.

Deles Edward Jefferson, a student at the Willamette Medical college in Portland, dropped dead on the stone pavement in front of W. S. Ladd's residence on the south side of Jefferson, between Sixth and Seventh streets, about 10 o'clock Tuesday morning.

A Chinaman, pay-master at Huntington, was recently held up and robbed by several masked men. They relieved him of about $900 in money, his watch and other valuables, amounting in all to about $1000. The Company pay-master had given the money to the Chinaman to pay off his hands with.

The state has notified about 50 settlers in this valley, through the local land office that they are occupying swamp land that belongs to the state. Some of the settlers have their patents to the land. Trouble and expense will follow. It is feared there is a ring at the bottom of this swamp land business. —*Chieftain.*

A young man by the name of P. G. Williams, about 37 years of age, while riding on a load of hay with three other persons near Lostine last week, complained of a pain in his head, and suddenly laying his hand over his heart, remarked that he was very sick, and immediately expired. The deceased was a bachelor, and has no relatives in this state.

Last Wednesday evening, while attending a temperance meeting in the church at Oysterville, W. T., Gustave Ukkola, generally known as Charles Harrison, dropped dead in his seat of heart disase. Mr. Harrison had lived at Shoalwater bay and Astoria for the past fifteen years, was a man of upright character, and always a strong worker in the temperance cause.

Those stockmen of Eastern Oregon who lost horses and cattle during the recent storm, have a way of saving a little something in value from the total loss if they desire to be economical. Besides the hides of the cattle, there are their tails and the manes and tails of the horses, for which a good price can be obtained. Considerable curled hair is used here for general upholstery purposes, and no doubt all the manes and tails that could be collected can be easily disposed of. —*Oregonian.*

The barn of G. W. Ebbert, about one mile east of Springfield, Lane county, was burned Thursday morning. It contained about 1000 bushels of oats, 400 or 500 bushels of wheat, 200 bushels of barley, ten to fifteen tons of hay, and all his farming utensils except a wagon. Mr. Ebbert and his son left the barn one hour before the fire, having taken out the horses. There was no fire there and it is not known how it originated. The barn was a large one, worth perhaps $1000, besides the large amount of property above named. There was some insurance.

A Salem paper of Friday last has the following: "Spring flowers are here, and last week there was shown in a meat market, on Commercial street, a bouquet containing varieties commonly called peppermint, curly lilies and white lilies, with sprigs of pussy willow, and a background of evergreen fir. It was perfectly beautiful, and an omen of spring in the fullest sense of the word. What country in the west can claim such an honor? How we would like to see this bouquet on exhibition at New Orleans."

On Thursday last, at Willaps, Charles Hermann was shot in the arm with a rifle, by William Patton, known as "Nigger Bill." Ever since the presidential election, Mr. Hermann and others had been chafing Bill about the result, saying he would be sold back to slavery, etc. On Wednesday evening this was carried to such an extent that Bill was worked up to a state of excitement closely bordering on insanity, in which state of mind he took leave of his tormenters. The next morning when Mr. Hermann was standing on the porch of the Brookside hotel, he saw Bill behind a stump about thirty yards away with a rifle pointed toward him, and jumped backward, thereby saving his life. Bill walked quietly away after the shooting, and has not been heard of since. Physicians in attendance are of opinion that Mr. Hermann must suffer amputation of his arm.

GENERAL NEWS.

A machine for moistening postage stamps is the latest.

The Roman Catholic priests in Canada have begun a pulpit crusade against ladies tobogganing.

March 27th and 28th, St. Augustine, Fla., will celebrate the 320th anniversary of its founding.

A man named Roscoe Conkling Hendricks was sent to Sing Sing Prison recently for burglary.

A young man of the City of Mexico, attempted suicide by piercing his heart with a corkscrew.

There are 2,000 Italian slaves under the padrone system in Philadelphia, says the *Times*, of that city.

Colored jurors were recently introduced in a Justice's Court at Dallas, Texas, causing considerable discussion.

A bill in preparation in the Pennsylvania Legislature proposed that skating rinks be taxed 1 per cent of their gross receipts.

Over five hundred assessment insurance companies in the United States are said to have gone under during the past four years.

The Supreme Court in Tennessee has decided that a trainer has a lien upon a horse for services, time and expense in preparing for races.

Advices from Cape Coast Castle state the British have hanged ten of the leading participants in the murders and riots in Winnebah.

The Columbus *Medical Journal* reports a case of death on the fifth day, after taking eighty-five grains of bromide of potassium every four hours.

A one-eared man lives in Willimantic, Conn. He lost the other while driving over a bad road, and he wants the town to pay him $10,000 for it.

A letter was received at the Washington Postoffice the other day addressed: "Hon. Mr. Cleveland, in the White House at Washington. Please examine quick."

Mrs. Bony, ninety-six years of age, living alone near Falmouth, Ky., barred the door and windows of her house the other day, started a blaze and perished therein.

About seventy-five machinists in the Wabash shops, at Fortieth street and Stewart avenue, Chicago, struck last week, a short time before the close of working hours.

Bishop Mullen of Oil City, Penn., has condemned roller skating rinks, and pasters of Catholic Churches have notified their flocks that sacrament will be denied those visiting these places in future.

George Hahn and Augustus Sthragle were thrown from a sleigh and killed near New Columbia, Penn. They had been drinking and were unable to control the team they were driving.

A bill making ten hours a day's labor, is being considered by the Rhode Island Legislature. The great majority of the factory operatives in the State are signing petitions in favor of its passage.

The "Temple Farm" at Yorktown, Va., on which is the Moore House, where the Commissioners to draw up the articles of the surrender of Cornwallis met on October 18, 1781, is advertised for sale.

Germany has extended her possessions in Western Africa by annexing the remainder of the coast of the Gulf of Guinea lying between the Cameroons and Old Calabar, including the Cameroons mountains.

The title of the State of New York to a great deal of the Adirondack forest lands is in jeopardy, having been acquired under tax claims which have been declared illegal on account of defects in the tax-levy.

Granville, British Foreign Secretary, said last week that whoever is to hold Khartoum hereafter must suppress the Mahdi, but it need not necessarily be England. The debate on Egypt was adjourned in both Houses of Parliament without reaching a decision.

During the Exposition in New Orleans forty gambling houses, where banking games are run, keep open day and night. Gamblers have assembled there from all over the Union, and New Orleans is, for the time being, the wickedest city in the Union.

On Tuesday night a man in Brooklyn fell dead just after swallowing a glass of whiskey. The same night a Hoboken Alderman, who had taken "quinine" too freely, became so boisterous at a Council meeting that no business could be done.

The liquor dealers of Rome, Ga., says the *Savannah News*, are preparing to "boycot" a large number of men who continually drink to excess, thus injuring themselves and not benefiting the saloons. When the list is fully made out every saloon-keeper will forfeit $50 if he ever sells to a man on the list.

Harrison Hahn of Wind Gap, Penn., has a two-year-old daughter whose ears are bent forward and grown fast to the face. The girl was deformed when born. Both ears are without the orifice, but deafness is prevented by the girl hearing every sound, no matter how light, through her nose and mouth.

According to the recent decision of a Maine Judge, all ponds in that State containing more than ten acres are public ponds, and the right to cut ice upon them is a public right, free to all. In this particular the owners of the shores have no greater rights than other persons who can reach the ponds without trespassing upon the land of others.