

WEEKLY STATESMAN

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STATE LIBRARIAN.

EDITOR STATESMAN:—We desire to call the attention of the legislature and the public generally through the columns of your paper to the office of state librarian. We understand there are a number of applicants for the position, among whom are law students, and ex-students of the Willamette university. The office is a very responsible one, and requires a person of energy, skill, and ability, and in order to be a good librarian a person will have to give it their undivided attention. No one can perform the duties of the office successfully, and read law or medicine, or do anything else. We have had examples of this kind in the past. There might have been some excuse for a young man fifteen or twenty years ago to have studied law, and run the office at the same time, but since then the library has swelled to an enormous extent. The supreme court is in session nine months during the year, and the librarian is constantly kept busy all the time. We believe in the fittest. The present incumbent, J. N. Putnam, is a very gentlemanly and obliging young man, possessing all the qualities necessary for a good librarian, has served an apprenticeship at the business for two years, knows the library as well as a boy knows his daddy. Call for any book you please, whether it be a text book, patent office report, or the session laws of the English parliament, whether it be day or night, he knows where to put his finger upon it. Then let the legislature remember that when they elect a librarian he is to fill a responsible position, and that the state pays him \$500 a year to do a responsible duty, and not to read law, or do anything else in connection with the duties of his office. NICA-CUMTUX.

THE MEDICAL BILL.

A bill has been introduced in the senate for an act to establish a state board of medical examiners.

This question has been up for consideration at various times before, and was defeated or neglected through rush of business. It is high time to regulate the practice of medicine. Only a few months ago a horse doctor, who set himself up as a regular physician, killed a patient at Canyonville, and such cases have occurred quite frequently, oftener, no doubt, than have come to the notice of the public.

The bill, as introduced, is too lax altogether. It excludes from the necessity of complying with its provisions parties who have practiced medicine for a certain time. It should exclude no one, excepting midwives. This state should have a law like that of Indiana, which compels all physicians to have licenses, and allows none to be granted licenses unless they are graduates of regular medical colleges, or can show that they have a knowledge of the science of medicine. We should discourage quacks and bilks in every profession and calling.

A GOOD BILL.

Mr. Culver, of Marion county, has introduced in the house a bill for an act for the extirpation of noxious weeds, with special reference to Canada thistles. It will astonish many people to learn that it is stated upon good authority that there was enough seed raised from the Canada thistles that grew in Marion county last year to seed the state. This troublesome pest to the farming communities threatens to prove a great detriment, and now is the time to begin to fight it. The bill provides for the notification by road supervisors to the county court of the existence of noxious weeds in their road districts, and it shall be the duty of the county court when so advised to appoint a commissioner for the road district to take charge of the matter and compel the extirpation of the noxious weeds.

MR. DALY STATES HIS REASONS.

EDITOR STATESMAN:—In your editorial columns this morning in the article relating to the State Board of Immigration you intimated that my opposition to the board is because I do not like its president. Permit me here to state that I am not acquainted with any member of that board and do not know who its president is. My sole reason for wishing the abolition of the Immigration Board is, that I think it a useless expenditure of the public money. Truly yours, Jno. J. DALY. Legislative Hall, Salem, Jan., 19.

Let us have a road through the Minto pass.

TAXATION AND REGULATION OF INSURANCE COMPANIES.

We notice that several bills have already been introduced in the legislature in regard to the taxation of insurance companies, and we have understood that there were to be bills introduced regulating all insurance companies (both home and foreign) doing business in Oregon. Both of these movements are heartily approved, of provided they are given careful consideration and are not made burdensome upon the companies. Laws that are unjust and burdensome would prevent other companies from seeking to do business here and most likely drive out a part of those which are now here and prevent the formation of more state companies, which is something not to be desired, as we need more companies and not less, and especially more home companies.

We favor a general insurance law, one that regulates all companies which are located or are doing business in this state, one that will make the secretary of state an insurance commissioner with full power to examine any company which does business here, whether located in the state or out of it, that requires each and every company on the 31st day of December of each year or within twenty days thereafter to file a sworn statement with the secretary of state, sworn to by the president and secretary or general agent of each company, and showing the assets and liabilities of the company in detail, the income in the state from premiums and also from other sources, the expenditures, the amount at risk, etc. The secretary of state should be required to print all of these statements in pamphlet form for free distribution, so that our people can judge by reliable statements of the assets and liabilities of each company, whether they are in good condition or not, and from their income and expenditures whether they are conducting their business in an economical and prudent manner or not, and hence which are the safest and best companies to insure in.

All companies should be required to procure a license from the secretary of state the first of each year. After they have fully complied with this law in all respects, companies located in the state and having their assets here already have to bear their just proportion of taxes, but outside companies at the present time pay little or nothing in the way of taxes, in this state. An Oregon company doing business in Michigan would, before they could procure a license from that state, be required to pay a tax of three per cent upon premiums received in that state during the preceding year, and each year thereafter, and in addition to that amount would be required to pay in fees for filing charter, license, etc., several times as much as any outside company now pays in Oregon; yet a Michigan company can come into this state and get business and pay little or no tax. Michigan, we understand, collects yearly over one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars from outside companies. Oregon collects little or nothing from them. In Pennsylvania three per cent is also required of all premiums taken in that state, and companies are also required to pay fees, which fees amount in the aggregate to more than all the outside companies pay into this state. If it is right and just to tax outside insurance companies in the rich and populous states of Pennsylvania, New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire and other states, why should they be exempt from taxation in Oregon? Is our state and are our people so wealthy that they do not need the tax? We believe that there is no state in the union that has the wants and needs that Oregon has. We understand that outside companies claim that their business has not been profitable in Oregon, and hence they should not be taxed. We would suggest to our legislature that if they are going to exempt from taxation any whose business has not been profitable that they first commence with our wheat growers and farmers, next that they exempt the editors; then business firms located in the state, and not go out of the state and exempt from taxation fifty rich dividend paying outside corporations, simply because they claim that they are not making money, when we notice that they usually declare heavy dividends. A majority of the states in the union require outside companies to pay a tax upon their premium receipts in the state to the state. This is the best and most successful method of taxing outside insurance companies that has ever been devised, and our older states have carefully considered all of the various projects that have been devised for a great many years. This plan the companies have never been able to evade. They have to pay the tax or quit business in the state. Many other plans have been devised, and a number of them tried, but they have failed to accomplish the object sought. A company will not make a sworn statement showing a less amount of premiums than actually received, as they are each desirous of making a large showing of business, and the law should make it a misdemeanor, with a heavy penalty, for making a false statement. This, together with the fact that the secretary of Oregon was liable to make a critical examination of their condition at any time would—as it has done in other states—prevent any false statements, and assure the payment of the full amount of

the tax. This plan was recommended by the tax commission appointed by the last legislature (see page 11 and 43 of their printed report) and they estimated that from a tax of three per cent upon the gross earnings the state would receive \$30,000 each year, and that it can be collected more easily and economically, and with less complaint and dissatisfaction, than in any other manner, and that a tax of three per cent collected in this way would not be burdensome upon the corporations. This is the law of a majority of states, and the legality of it has been affirmed by the courts.

No agent should be allowed to act for any company without first procuring a license from the secretary of state showing that his company has complied with the law, and that he is a duly authorized agent.

No company should be allowed to be incorporated or do business under the laws of this state unless they have a sufficient amount of paid up cash capital to show that they are a bone fide company and can furnish reliable indemnity. They should be examined by the secretary of state before they are allowed to commence business, and he should certify that they possess the requisite amount of capital and are authorized to transact business.

The law should specify what securities companies located in this state can invest in, the same as the laws of other states do.

It should also compel all companies to maintain an adequate re-insurance reserve. In fact it should so regulate all companies doing business here that there will be no question as to their reliability. We notice that two of the bills already introduced require each outside company to pay a yearly license of \$750. These are unjust bills, as all taxes should be equitable and uniform, and these would neither be equitable nor just, as some of the companies doing business here do not receive yearly from business in this state to exceed two or three thousand dollars, and a tax of \$750 would be an outrage upon them, while there are other companies that receive yearly some forty thousand dollars, and \$750 would be too little for them to pay.

One other bill we understand calls for a license fee of \$300, for the benefit of firemen, and requires each company to incorporate under the laws of this state.

This last requirement is unnecessary, on account of a late decision of the U. S. Supreme court. The first part has the same objection as noted above.

There seems to be a general desire among members to take hold of this matter, and we trust that they will see to it that the state will not lose this tax in the future.

THE NEW CHARTER.

The amendments to our city charter, recommended by the committee, are fully set forth in this issue. The amendments provide for the construction of sewers at the expense of the property benefited, provided that one-fifth of the cost thereof shall be paid out of the city treasury. It also includes the amendments of 1867, making provision for the opening and improving of streets and alleys, there being grave doubts as to the validity of that part of the charter as it now stands.

Provision is also made for the trial of the marshal upon complaint being made against him for malfeasance or non-feasance in office, and, after due notice and opportunity for defense, if found guilty, he may be removed from office by a unanimous vote of the council without the concurrence of the mayor, or by a majority of the council, the mayor concurring.

The liability of the city for damages resulting to persons through defective sidewalks and crosswalks is limited to the sum of one hundred dollars in each case, after reasonable notice has been given to the proper officer of the existence of such defect, and a reasonable time given in which to repair the same.

It provides that nothing contained in the charter conferring certain powers upon the common council shall oust the jurisdiction of the state courts within the city.

Its other provisions are chiefly reiterative of the present charter, the action of the committee having evidently been an honest effort to remedy existing defects.

There is nothing objectionable in the amendments. It is quite necessary that the part in relation to the recovery of damages for injury from defective sidewalks should pass and be in force as soon as possible; also that part in relation to the construction of sewers.

ASYLUM AFFAIRS.

It is said that an effort is being made at Salem to remove Dr. Josephi from the position of resident physician of the state insane asylum, a proposition which we do not regard favorably. Dr. Josephi has shown a remarkable degree of ability in the treatment of nervous diseases, and his removal would be felt more keenly by the sufferers under his charge than by any one else. We do not regard the needs of six hundred unfortunate people, bereft of their reason, as any fitting subject for political speculation, and any procedure which brings about such results is a disgrace to our intelligence as a people. —Portland Sunday Mercury.

Juvenile books for the holidays at D. W. Matthews & Co.'s drug store.

THE STATE REFORM SCHOOL AGAIN.

Although he does it incidentally, Gov. Moody calls attention to the need of a State Reform School; a place of confinement and moral training for those of juvenile age, who are just upon the threshold of crime and a criminal life. Gov. Moody, in this matter, reflects the best sentiments of this state, and coming from him, after his long experience as the chief executive of the state, his words ought to have weight with our present legislative assembly. He, as the governor of the state, has been called upon many times during his term of office to witness the incarceration of juvenile offenders in the state prison, and understands perfectly well that the comparison of these new beginners with the hardened criminal means for the first, growth in vice.

It is not supposed that the moral training of a reform school will transform these young offenders into saints, or to send them into the world again, at the end of their sentence, models of every virtue. But it does purpose, and it can, send more than two-thirds of them into the outside world to conduct themselves so that they shall not be any longer subjects for watchfulness on the part of detectives and police, or of legal investigation and punishments. As the institution shall grow, and new and better methods and plans for reformation come into use, better results will show in a greater per cent of the thoroughly reformed. This state can well afford to expend a good deal of money to bring about such results in this direction, as are clearly in view for the first few years of the work.

We understand that plans and methods of what is called the "home-plan" have been talked of here in the state, but it has only resulted in sending a boy or two to a reformatory in San Francisco, to a man who is glad enough to get Oregon money, for what can be as well done in this state, here at home, by half a thousand men. It is an admission that the so-called "home-plan" will not bring adequate results.

In this so-called home, industrial education would not be at all probable, hardly possible. And there are two arguments in favor of this kind of education for these juvenile offenders. First, it is the exception rather than the rule for a representative of skilled labor to become involved in the meshes of the law. Contentment with one's condition in life increases after a certain stage of intelligence is reached, in proportion as that intelligence becomes more varied and practical. Its possessor does not covet what belongs to another. In the second place, industrial education, from its very nature, can safely begin nearer the cradle than any other form of education. The average age of the jail-bird is considerably past the period when the mind and the moral sensibilities are plastic. No one becomes bad all at once, and the predominance of evil tendencies is most frequently the result of persistent activity of one kind of full grown impulse, after counter-impulses have been weakened by long resistance and have lost their power of self assertion which belongs to a healthy condition of youth.

The man industrially educated has a double advantage over his unskilled competitor, being less liable to be out of employment, and better able to seek new fields on occasion. The force of these considerations is not diminished by the fact that industrial education as carried on in paid institutions, may not be called an unmixed success. This industrial education does not differ from any other kind of education in the fact that to attain to its best results the pupil must be young and impressible.

It is to be hoped that our law makers will consider this matter long enough to come into the belief that we need a State Reform School.

A SUNDAY TRAIN.

The question of a Sunday train on the Oregon and California road, to run as far south as Eugene City, should meet with a hearty response from the manager of that corporation. For the first two or three months it might not pay its way, but during the summer days half the population of Portland would take advantage of the day of rest to visit Salem, Albany and other interior towns. It should leave here at 8 in the morning and return here about 9 at night, thus giving plenty of time for enjoyment in the rural districts. —Portland Exchange.

The Polk county Itemizer is making frantic efforts to support Daley's bill to abolish the State Board of Immigration. Mr. Daley's paper has a right to support Mr. Daley's measure, but it ought to remember that the members of the legislature have been reading the printed report of the state board, and that when it attempts to belittle the labor of the commissioners by omitting to state plainly and candidly what has been done, it is only making itself ridiculous. Because Mr. Daley may not like the president of the state board, is no reason why his paper should be used to defeat a good work for the people of the state. That president is not a candidate for re-appointment. The Itemizer is hard up for material when it quotes a Mud Creek correspondent of the East Oregonian, and credits it to Mr. Wager himself. The editor of the East Oregonian ought to correct Mr. Daley's paper.

OUR SATURDAY NIGHT.

EDITOR STATESMAN:—I am feeling better. Oregon now has a governor who feels the dignity of his position. Oregon may now, under the present administration, consider herself independent. She don't want any more interference from the federal courts, and the supreme court will please keep its proboscis (proboscis is good) out of our affairs, or our brand new governor will call on the militia, or the Salvation Army, or a "posse comitibus," or words to that effect. We used to belong to the United States, but now we are leading a charmed life, independent of every body, and we don't care who knows it. The man who gave Oregon her motto was prophetic, and no doubt he had his eagle eye of prophecy upon this very time, when he penned the immortal words, the motto of Oregon, "Alis Volat Propriis," she flies with her own wings. She does fly with her own wings. True, some of our bran, spunkin' new governor's ideas are old enough for the patent to run out on them, and they ought to have the chestnut bell of ridicule rung on them; still he has some ideas that are so new that the wrinkles haven't yet come out of them. The new governor has a great head! He is a cross between Andrew Jackson and Nat Baker. He is an unconscious humorist, and has created a ripple of merriment all over the state. As a prominent democrat remarked, after reading his message, "We've paid the price of admission. Let the show go on."

The following conversation was overheard last week between two members of the H. A. C. Minstrels:

First Minstrel—"Oh, I wouldn't bring that horrid mule onto the stage."

Second Minstrel—"Why? It would be fun, and create a fraternal feeling in the audience."

First Minstrel—"Yes; but the mule is liable to make a jackass of itself."

It is understood that the most popular man among the would-be lady clerks is Speaker Gregg. His extreme modesty renders him especially susceptible to irresistible attacks of these feminine aspirants. During the session of this house, the speaker is the cynosure of all their charming eyes, and their killing glances would make even a less unassuming man blush. Whenever he takes snuff they sneeze. Whenever he makes an unofficial remark that "the room is too warm," a subdued chorus of "yes, the room is too warm," goes around the chamber. They imitate him in everything except striking a match.

NED H. PELL.

THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE.

It is not always easy to understand the reasons which move members of the national house of representatives to wish to become United States senators. It is true that in certain ways, both socially and politically, the latter office is a more exalted one. The senators are, so to speak, the ambassadors of the various states, and they have a share in executive power that is not accorded to the members of the lower branch of congress. They are, in consequence of their treaty-making functions, upon calling terms with the ministers sent to represent foreign governments at Washington, and they have, moreover, a lease of official life running through six years, and do not have to take so closely into account the personal wishes of political leaders and powerful constituents.

But, in spite of these undeniable advantages, the senate is by no means a branch of the national legislature into which a man desiring national prestige would, in all cases, wish to enter. It is well known that, in England, a public man who leaves the house of commons for the house of lords considers that he has made a change far from beneficial to his future, if he aspires to be a great popular leader. Mr. Gladstone or Lord Randolph Churchill would be a very much less important factor in the house of Lords than in the house of commons, and while our United States senate is, in almost every respect, a more powerful second chamber than that formed by the peers of Great Britain, something of the repression which attaches to the second chamber in England is felt in the second chamber at Washington.

It has been the experience of not a few men that the translation from the nominally lower to the nominally higher branch of the legislative government has been seriously detrimental to them. A man who has made his mark in the house of representatives, who has been, in fact, a leader in the house, and has possessed as such an enormous power in controlling legislation, has sunk into relative obscurity in the senate. Not in consequence of the superior ability of his new associates, but because those qualities of mind which served him so well in a large popular assembly are found to be altogether out of place and at a discount in a small and more deliberative body.

Of course the people of this state want a railroad bridge at Portland. It would help out the commerce of the state; but the draw should be at least 180 feet in the clear, so as to allow all kinds of ships and boats to pass without danger at any season of the year or stage of the water.

For fresh groceries of every kind, remember to go to Spire Farrar & Co.'s.

NORMAL SCHOOL MATTERS.

EDITOR STATESMAN:—In last Friday's issue of the STATESMAN was an article touching upon normal school matters, and especially about a bill being introduced in the house asking for an annual appropriation of \$4800 00 for the school at Monmouth in Polk county. The writer does not know all this bill contains, but it is enough, it seems, to know, that no such rail as this bill calls for upon the state treasury should at all be tolerated, and if this Monmouth school is not self sustaining, then it should be abandoned. Other pretended normal schools at Ashland in Jackson county, and Drains, in Douglas county, will likely be on hands asking for similar appropriations. Instead of appropriating more for these schools and for the benefit of a few teachers, let there be more money expended for the common schools of the state, and a more general diffusion of knowledge among the masses, will create a more healthy and enlightened public sentiment among the people. The legislature should and no doubt will be very careful how the people's money is expended, and not let it go in the interests of a few waning or expiring second rate academies, or colleges either, except such as are already provided for by law. Such a bill as above stated, is nothing more nor less than a salary grab bill, in the interest of Mr. Stanley, of Monmouth, and a few other hungry and forlorn pedagogues. A similar measure was defeated by the last regular session of the legislature. There are important measures to be legislated upon during the present session. Such as the assessment law; the regulation of railroad freights and passenger fares. The people demand this, and a reduction of both is expected to free the people from the grinding heel of monopoly. The people also expect of this legislature, redress against swamp land swindlers, and as each succeeding legislature in the years gone by, has failed to probe this matter to the bottom, as it should be, would it not be prudent and the better part of wisdom for the present legislature to appoint a committee to investigate the books of the state officials who have had charge of the sale of swamp lands, and let such committee report at the next session of the legislature, as it is certainly well known that a thorough examination into this matter cannot be made during the session of the legislature, as these hasty examinations amount to but very little.

REPUBLICAN.

FROM THURSDAY'S DAILY.

APPOINTMENTS.—Gov. Penoyer has made the following appointments of notaries public: A. G. Hovey, Eugene; John Moir, Salem; G. W. Rea, Heppner; Wm. T. Wallace, Portland; S. O. Wallace, Albany; E. H. Peery, Portland; John A. Chastain, Phoenix; A. C. Williams, La Grande; J. E. Fenton, Eugene; J. W. Hays, Biggs, Wasco county; James Riley, Harrisburg; J. C. Buckland, Harney, and D. R. N. Blackburn, Albany. Gov. Penoyer's first appointment was that of Mr. Hovey, the first named in the above list, a black republican. It would seem that in the appointment of notaries public, at least, allegiance to no particular party, anti-Chinese or otherwise, is necessary.

THE WHEAT MARKET.—Wheat was yesterday quoted at 72 cents, the same that it has been for the past two weeks; but it is probable that the next few days will see a declination in prices. That is dependent, however, on the condition of the market in California, which has fallen three cents in view of indications of rain, after a long drought. If it does not rain then, the price, other things being equal, will remain the same. Considerable has been selling during the past few days. As the mill has been running very little during the past few weeks, the supply of bran and shorts is running out. The rains of the past few days will raise the river and the time when the mill will be able to start up is uncertain.

HOPS.—From eastern exchanges the following is taken: Brewers' wants are well supplied, and all kinds except strictly choice hops are dull sale. Very fine European recently sold in the New York market for 22 and 25 cents per pound, and some as low as 16 cents, in a moderate way. Reports had circulation at 14 cents. New York state 1885's sold at 9 to 10 cents, and as low as 7 cents was accepted for 1887's. Pacific 1886's and Washington territory were offered at 24 to 25 cents, and California as low as 20 cents.

THE WEATHER.—There was an inch and a half of snow on the ground at Mehama yesterday morning. One year ago to-day the big snow of last year commenced, and one year ago 12 o'clock tonight the snow was a foot deep in the streets of Salem. It was snowing in Portland last night, but the weather of last year will hardly be duplicated this year.

OREGON PROSEKERS.—The board of directors of the Oregon Pioneer association has been in session for the past day and a half at the state house, to transact such business as might come before them. M. Wilkins, of Lane county, is president of the association. It was decided to hold the next reunion in Portland, in June.

EXECUTORS' NOTICE.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE UNDERSIGNED have been duly appointed executor of the estate and last will and testament of Thomas Coakley, dec'd, late of Marion county, state of Oregon, by the honorable court of said county. All persons having claims against said estate are required to present them to us at our residence at the town of Paul, in said county, within six months from the date of this notice, and all persons owing said decedent, are required to make immediate payment to us. J. S. WHITE, JOHNS. KENNEDY, Executors of the estate of Thomas Coakley, deceased. Salem, Oregon, January 19, 1887.