

WEEKLY STATESMAN

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THE IMMIGRATION BOARD.

As to this Immigration Board feature of our state, the members of the legislative assembly cannot afford to be close or niggardly in the matter. As legislators, elected to make the best possible provision for the state, they cannot afford to give ear or attention to the petty objections raised against the continuance of this department.

The great state of Oregon cannot afford to be close-fisted in this matter of an immigration board. We cannot afford to play the dog in the manger method of doing business.

It is not a question of management. It is not a matter of personality. If the Board is continued, the incoming governor will appoint a new commission, and that commission will choose its secretary.

The STATESMAN has published a summary of the work of the Board for the twenty months ending October 31, 1886. Every member of the legislature has had, or will have the printed report of the Board, for that period.

The STATESMAN has seen fit to make a close examination of this report, and the records behind it which are its verification, and is satisfied that it represents the work of the Immigration commissioners.

THE MESSAGES.

The message of Hon. Z. F. Moody, the retiring governor, is an able document, and makes a most splendid showing for the state's condition and the conduct of its affairs of late years.

The message of Governor Pennoyer is, to say the least, unique. The new governor is at least consistent, in what, on some points, might be termed inconsistency.

FREIGHTS AND FARES.

There is a disposition on the part of a great majority of the legislators to pass a law reducing and regulating the freight rates on railroads. It is but a matter of justice and fairness that this should be done.

Our members should push the question of a road over the Cascades through the Minto pass. It is a natural highway. A road can be easily and cheaply opened through this pass, and it will be of incalculable benefit to the people on both sides of this range of mountains.

STATE BOARD OF IMMIGRATION.

The present legislative assembly will either appropriate money and continue the existence and work of the State Board of Immigration, or refuse to make an appropriation, and discontinue that department.

When you come to discuss the matter with opponents of the Board, their objections to it narrow down to two or three points; opposition to and jealousy of Portland for one; charge of a discriminatory policy on the part of the Board as another; charge of railway influence in the settlement of new-comers as still another; a charge that the secretary of the Board has been partial to certain portions of the state as against other localities.

Let it be distinctly understood that the STATESMAN is not pleading the cause of the personality of the State Board of Immigration, or the secretary, Mr. Carlisle. The gentlemen comprising the Board, Messrs. Dodd, Corbett, Ladue, Miller and Rothchild, are among Oregon's best citizens; all of them occupying exalted places of trust and responsibility, and the idea that these gentlemen, in their individual or collective capacity, as commissioners of immigration, have done anything but that which was in all respects for the best interests of the state as a whole, will not be entertained for a moment, by the people generally.

A gentleman just from the metropolis informs us that there is considerable opposition to bridges across Portland's harbor, unless a wide draw is placed in them. A few nights since, during a fog, a steamboat was half an hour getting through the Morrison street bridge, as it could not hit it right till after several attempts, as the piers could not be seen until the boat was so close to them that it had to back up a number of times in order to get the right position to "shoot through."

It is practicable for a steamboat to go through a hundred-foot draw in clear daylight; but when there is fog, which is generally the case during the freshets of winter, when heavy drifts are running, a steamboat which was to back up against a strong current on finding it is not in the right position to go through the draw, as in the case referred to, takes the hazardous chance of getting its wheel or rudder fouled by drift logs, in which event the fatality of the accident would be as sure and sudden as in the case of the Bentley.

The O. R. & N. company wants a franchise for a bridge across the Willamette river near the lower part of the city of Portland. They are willing to make the openings therein 150 feet in the clear; but that is not sufficient. Every bridge across the harbor of Portland should have a draw of at least 200 feet, or be made high enough for navigation under them. Surely no draw should be less than 180, and a law should be passed to make all bridges conform to the same requirement.

We understand that Gov-elect Pennoyer is well posted on this subject, and will oppose any bridge across Portland's harbor, which does not have due regard to the vast riparian interests which are above (upstream from) the proposed railroad, or any other, bridge.

It is the duty of legislators to protect the rights of individuals, while encouraging the improvement of railroad facilities. There has been considerable complaint, and there has been cause for it, about the supreme court reports and other printing that of right belongs to the state printer, and should be done within the state, being sent away to San Francisco, and the money that should remain with our own people and furnish employment to our own laborers, going for the benefit of those who have no interest common to ours, and who care for our prosperity or advancement only as it helps to fill their purses.

DYING YOUNG.

Gladstone closes a year of work with his seventy-seventh birthday, and in the promise of his future activity refrains from saying an unkind word in answer to his senior, John Bright. In France, Grey enters upon a second seven-years' term, at eighty—a record which already passes that of a Thiers or a Palmerston. As for Germany, the nonagenarian emperor is only two years ahead of his warrior chum, Von Moltke, while Bismarck is a mere boy of seventy-seven.

How different the record here! Of the distinguished Americans who died last year not one had reached the age of seventy. In political life the veteran Simon Cameron stands alone. The statesmen of to-day belong to a younger generation. All of our presidents, since Buchanan, went into office young, and not one of them is living except Hayes; not one of our vice-presidents except Wheeler. Not only those who gained the presi-

dency, but those who were nominated and defeated have failed to reach old age. Tilden lasted until seventy and Fremont to seventy-three. But Grant, Johnson, Arthur, Hancock, McClellan, Colfax, Brown, Blair, Wilson, all died at an age when European statesmen look forward to twenty years' of active work. In the army two generals are old enough to be retired at the early age of sixty-three. In local politics there are no old men.

What is the explanation of it? The exceptional cases of longevity in this country prove that Americans can live long. The death-roll proves they do not. It is not the climate that kills; it is the pace. We live too much, we live too fast. The machine is overworked; it carries too much strain; it is not allowed time for repairs. We know how to work, but we do not know how to rest and begin the new day's work before the old day's work is over. The strain is perpetual, the wear and tear unceasing. We keep our nerves always at their full tension, and the mind wears out the body. Then after success is achieved, after the powers of the mind are ripened and the experience of years has given wisdom, just when all the gains of the lifetime are ready for use and of value to the man and the nation, the body breaks down, and the nation is called on to mourn a real loss, where it might otherwise have hoped to enjoy the harvest of the life's fruition.

PORTLAND BRIDGE QUESTION.

A gentleman just from the metropolis informs us that there is considerable opposition to bridges across Portland's harbor, unless a wide draw is placed in them. A few nights since, during a fog, a steamboat was half an hour getting through the Morrison street bridge, as it could not hit it right till after several attempts, as the piers could not be seen until the boat was so close to them that it had to back up a number of times in order to get the right position to "shoot through."

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The last colored man has been eliminated from congress by the solid south in the recent ceremony called an election in South Carolina. The next congress will be the first unimixed Caucasian assembly that has convened in the house since the close of the rebellion. And so we are reconstructed once more, after all these years. It was a great effort of democratic genius, the counting out of Smalls in the Beaufort district, after he had received fifteen or twenty thousand majority, but it had to be done for an example to the rest of the country.

THE RETIRING OFFICERS.

This is the last day of the official terms of Gov. Z. F. Moody, Hon. R. P. Earhart, secretary of state, and Hon. Edw. Hirsch, state treasurer, Governor Moody has served the state ably and efficiently for our years and has been the governor in every sense of the word. His official acts have ever merited the approbation of the public, and as a public officer he has been courteous and affable with all with whom he has come in contact.

Hon. R. P. Earhart is a gentleman whom every one knows and whom every one likes. In his official capacity there are none more accommodating and prompt. His office during his administration has been conducted on purely business principles, and he turns it over to his successor a model of systematic neatness. Mr. and Mrs. Earhart and daughters have added materially to the social enjoyment of especially the young people of our city, while hospitality to all is characteristic of the family.

Hon. Edw. Hirsch is too well known in our midst to need any introduction at our hands. As an officer he is the peer of the most efficient and obliging, and as a private citizen is honored and respected by all. His family, too, have added life to social circles and are general favorites in our midst.

Collectively speaking, the administration just closed has been one of which the republican party of this state may well feel proud. Its record has been one worthy of the utmost commendation and the officers have in every instance shown their friendship and good will toward the business men of Salem. Thousands of dollars have been distributed in financial circles by their just discrimination in favor of Salem. They found the state eight years ago nearly a million dollars in debt, and in addition to the unusual expenditure of money in the public buildings they step down and out leaving the state literally free from debt and its credit A. 1, in business circles. The state buildings commenced, erected and completed under their united supervision are models of elegance, convenience and durability combined, and are monuments to the honor of the administration now closing.

Both houses of the legislature have shown excellent judgment in their selections of officers. Mr. Carson, the president of the senate, is a gentleman well known throughout the state, and is a man of ability and sterling integrity. The chief clerk of the senate, Hon. E. G. Hursh, and his assistant, Mr. C. W. Watts, are both excellent clerks, and the people may rest fully assured that there will be no willful "mistakes" at this session.

Mr. Gregg, who was elected speaker of the house, is a good parliamentarian and a man of ability and experience. The members of the house will have no occasion to find fault with their choice for speaker. Mr. Jennings and Mr. Cole are both able clerks, and will no doubt give excellent satisfaction.

The cheerful announcement is made that cholera, smallpox and typhoid have been hunted to their hiding-places and will be expelled by civilization. So far good. But when will civilization beat its war drum and hunt the elusive and pervading flea?

Governor Hoadly points out the fact that the state of Ohio is never heard complaining of railroad rates and discriminations, and says it is because the whole matter was judicially adjusted there long ago. The Buckeye example deserves imitation.

A rural democratic paper has devised a way to give the democrats perpetual control of the senate. It is to divide Texas into 201 states of the size of Rhode Island. This would provide for enough democratic senators to hold the fort for all time to come.

Our representatives should remember that the people want a free wagon road through the Minto pass, and they ask an appropriation for this purpose at the hands of the legislature.

GOLDEN WEDDING.—The fiftieth anniversary of the marriage of Hon. R. C. Geer and his estimable wife was celebrated on the 8th of January, at their residence, in the Waldo Hills, by the assemblage of over one hundred and fifty neighbors and friends. Mr. Geer was born in Windham county, Connecticut, March 13, 1816; his father moved to Ohio in 1818; lived in Ohio until 1840; in Illinois from 1840 till 1847, when the entire family removed to Oregon. Although 71 years of age, Mr. Geer is enjoying the best of health, and is in a remarkable state of physical preservation. His wife was Miss Mary Willard, and a member of one of the oldest and most respected families of Ohio. A purse of fifty dollars in gold was made up and presented to Mr. and Mrs. Geer by their neighbors, and other presents of value were added, with the wish of all that they may live to see many anniversaries of the 8th of January.

UNCLE WILLIAM MORRISON having threatened to shake the dust of his recalcitrant Illinois district off his sandals and migrate to Dakota, to grow up with the country, the Chicago Tribune expostulates with him and says that if he ever leaves Waterloo to seek a new residence, there is a town up in Nebraska that will just suit him. It is St. Helena. Good morning, Governor Pennoyer.

INTER-STATE IMPROVEMENTS.

There is a very heavy surplus in the state treasury, that is available for use in making various improvements throughout the state.

It is likely that the first appropriation to be made from this fund will be for the completion of the state capitol building, and for providing increased accommodations for our insane. Both of these improvements are quite necessary. But they will not exhaust or materially affect the fund.

The state of Oregon is divided into two distinct sections by the Cascade range of mountains—viz; the eastern and western. Each of these sections is of equal importance to the state at large. Yet we find but three wagon roads connecting these two great natural divisions of Oregon in all its length. One of these is the military road from Ashland to Fort Klamath, another is the Lebanon wagon road, two hundred miles north of the military road, and the other is the Barlow route, still a hundred miles north.

These things can only be spoken of with a shameful feeling, when we consider how vast the resources and how wealthy is the state of Oregon. With all the money now in the state treasury, the present legislature could do no better work than to order a portion of it expended in the construction of two good wagon thoroughfares from the western portion of the state into the "Inland Empire."

Surveys have demonstrated two very practical, short, and almost natural routes for such thoroughfares. These are from Riddle's station on the Oregon and California railroad via North Canyonville, Day's creek and Elk creek into the Klamath basin; and the other is through the well known Minto pass on the north fork of the Santiam river. The former route would lead directly into the Crater lake park, while the latter would connect the great Ochoco country with the Willamette valley. It is estimated that these roads could be constructed at a very small expense, comparatively, to the state, and their value to the commercial interests of the two great sections of the state would be included.

It is to be hoped that Marion county's delegation will not show lassitude nor weak knees when such an important question as this comes before them for consideration, but that they will show that they are men of public spirit, and men with the interests of the entire state at large at heart. These appropriations should be placed under the supervision of a careful commissioner, and competent engineers.

THE OFFICERS.

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OREGON LEGISLATURE.

Opening of the Fourteenth Biennial Session.

PERMANENTLY ORGANIZED.

J. C. Carson President of the Senate, J. T. Gregg Speaker of the House.

Things began to assume a very lively appearance about the capitol building as early as 9 o'clock, although the hour for organization would not be reached until 11 o'clock. The two hours before the opening of the session were principally devoted to a general handshaking by the members, and a social exchange of courteous thoughts. Those who were aspirants for the different positions, however, were to be seen in close communion with their friends in odd corners of the representatives' rooms, or the rotundas.

The number of candidates for the minor places was really heartrending to the average member. The worst bore to them appeared to be the small boy who wanted to be a page, or the many for committee clerkships. However, as the hour of 11 began to draw near, the members of the house began to gather, and at 11:30 o'clock the house of representatives was called to order by Hon. J. T. Gregg, of Marion county, and Hon. J. H. Roberts, of Coos, was, on motion of Mr. Goodsell, of Multnomah, elected temporary speaker, by acclamation.

For temporary clerk, there were but few applicants evidently, but finally A. C. Jennings, of Lane, and Mr. Cole, of Clackamas county, were placed in nomination.

A motion was made that the vote be taken by ballot. The ballot was taken by a rising vote, only a small portion of the members voting for Mr. Jennings and none for Mr. Cole. Mr. Jennings was declared elected, and he took his position as clerk.

Mr. Hicks, of Marion, moved to appoint a committee of five on credentials, and the chair appointed Hicks of Marion, Harrington of Multnomah, Lockett of Baker, Bilyeu of Lane, and McLean of Klamath and Lake.

HOUSE.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The house re-convened at 2:30 pursuant to adjournment and the committee on credentials submitted their report, which found the membership of the house as reported in this paper heretofore.

On motion of Daley, Messrs. Daley of Polk, Paulsen, of Washington, and Benjamin, of Douglas, on permanent organization, and the house took a recess 20 minutes to allow the committee to report.

On reconvening, the secretary of state was invited within the bar to administer the oath of office to the members. After which, the committee on permanent organization reported, recommending the election of officers in the following order: Speaker, chief clerk, assistant clerk, sergeant-at-arms, door keeper, three pages.

Blundell, of Douglas, the smallest member of the house, then placed in nomination Gregg, of Marion, for permanent speaker of the house. Daley, of Polk, nominated L. Bilyeu, of Lane county, on roll call the vote stood for Gregg 35, Bilyeu 25, and Mr. Gregg was declared the choice of the house for speaker.

Messrs. Benjamin, Palmer, McLean, were appointed a committee to escort the speaker-elect to the chair.

Mr. Gregg thanked the body for the honor done him and called for the election of chief clerk.

L. F. Williams and A. C. Jennings were nominated for chief clerk. The vote stood: Jennings 35, Williams 25. Jennings declared elected.

J. D. Cole was nominated for assistant clerk, and was elected, the democrats voting blank.

Henry Rogers, of Josephine county, was elected sergeant-at-arms, the democrats voting for Robert Thompson, of Marion.

Thos. G. Young, of Multnomah, S. D. Catterlin, and M. C. Herren, were nominated for door keeper. The vote was: Young 33, Herren 24, Catterlin 2. Young was declared elected.

Message from the Senate informing the house that that body was organized and ready for business.

For pages in the house, Loren Laughhead, Fred Baker, and Mac Smith, were elected.

On motion of Benjamin, the secretary of state was invited within the bar to administer the oath of office to the officers of the house.

On motion of Harrington, the rules of the 13th session were adopted as the rules of the present session.

The house adjourned till 10 o'clock this morning.

SENATE.

Senator Simon, of Multnomah, called the senate to order at 11:45 a. m., and the roll was called.

Simon nominated Mr. Lee, of Polk, for president pro tem, and he was elected by acclamation.

Shupe, of Douglas, nominated E. G. Hursh temporary chief clerk. He was elected by acclamation.

C. W. Watts, of Linn, was elected temporary assistant clerk by acclamation.

T. C. Stephens, of Yamhill, was elected by acclamation temporary sergeant-at-arms.

A. B. Brown, of Multnomah, for temporary doorkeeper, was elected by acclamation. Miller, of Josephine, moved a committee of five on credentials be appointed. Carried. The president appointed Miller of Jo-