WEEKLY STATESMAL

CURRENTION BATES:

O NEW SUBSCRIPTIONS WILL BE TAK en unless paid for in advance.

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. Objections are always in order against public affairs by a certain class of people; but it is no evidence that public affairs should not exist. There can be but one objection against the State Board of Immigration which should have weight with the members of the legislature, and that is that it is not a benefit to the state as a whole. As the STATESMAN has said, supported by the printed report of the commissioners, this objection cannot be raised. The labor of the Board, backed by the expenditure of \$5,000 for each of the two years of its existence, has paid a thousand fold or more. Every intelligent man who examines the matter will be convinced that it is the truth. 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. Here we have a domain of almost 100,000 square miles in extent; an area of upwards of 60,000,000 acres, and as an agricultural region, unmatched any where in the common country, and but about 260,000 people as permanent inhabitants. We have vast resources as vet untouched, and it will be simply impossible for us to develop them, and add the wealth of that development to our money values, without the help of a populatiou half a dozen times as great as that now claimed for the state. Even in this dollar and cent view of the case we need this influx of thrifty, wide-awake, enterprising citizens. We can only get it by a steady dissemination of trustworthy information about this state; by a constant, persuasive exhibition of the inducements offered the farmer, the manufacturer and the capitalist, "by a cordial, hearty, disinterested greeting of these people when they come to our state." This can only be done by a thoroughly organized and well equipped immigration board, such as is now supported by the state at Portland. Such facts as these ough: to over-ride all such things as local jealousies and prejudices. Legislators ought to consider only the best interests of the state as a whole.

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 Pennover is to say the least, unique. The new governor is at least consistent, in what, on some points, might be termed inconsistency. But he makes some good suggestions; and as it not obligatory on the part of the legislature to adopt his suggestions, the ordinary course of legislation will probably not be seriously interfered with. The message contains some very pertinent points, and, if worked over, would make an excellent editorial in an anti-monopoly or anti-Chinese paper. The language is good, superb.

The governor is to be congratulated. among other things, upon his rhetoric and grammar.

FREIGHTS AND FARES.

There is a disposition on the part of 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. If the legislators do not attend diligently to this matter they will be disregarding the known wishes of a great majority of the people of Oregon, and especially of those whose interests are east of the Cascades. If the legislators think the rate of passenger fares, also, is too high, they can reduce it to three cents per mile. If this legislature does not take will. The only question is whether or not the times are ripe for this latter

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 in-

STATE BOARD OF THISIGRATION.

opriate money and continue and work of the State Bo naigration, or refuse to make an ap-lation, and discontinue that departnt. The STATESMAN is fully aware that ere is in many portions of the state, a tion to any further appr ation of money by the legislature for this partment, and we are as fully satisfied that much of this opposition is without tenable reasons for the attitude When you come come to discuss the mat ter with opponents of the Board, their objections to it narrow down to two or three points; opposition to and jealous of Portland for one; charge of a discrin native 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. These gentlemen have taken time and attention from business and for two years given it to this gratuitous work, and we have authority for saying that while they are deeply interested in having this good work for the state go on, they would decline to serve another term. So far as the secretary is concerned, it is a sufficient reply to all these unsupported statements, and insinuations, that the gentlemen forming the commission, have been wholly satisfied with his work and management of the detail work of the Board.

But 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. It is a question of advantage or disadvantage to the state. Does it: has it paid to insert \$10,000 during the last two years in an Immigration Board? That is the question to meet. That is all there is to it.

The STATESMAN has published a summary of the work of the Board for the wenty 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. We are of the opinion that the statistics of that report understate rather than exaggerate the labor performed. If that is true, then the investment of money in the Immigration Board has paid a good many hundred per cent. We are persuaded, that every intelligent man, whose identification with the best interests of this state. rises superior to his prejudices against locality or personality, will, upon a careful examination of this report, realize that a vast amount of thoroughly efficient, trustworthy, beneficial and paying labor for this state, has been crowded into the past twenty-one or two months, by the personnel of the Immigration Board. We must find the evidence of this in almost every portion of the report; which is utterly devoid of what we call "fine writing" but filled with facts and figures,

convincing and incontrovertible. Taking this view of the matter, and identified with the best interests of this state, we are heartily in favor of a continuance of the State Board of Immigration. The investment is made for the whole people of the state, and as benefitting the whole people of the state has paid, largely, as a paying investment, it ought to be continued. That is the principle upon which men do business for private gain. If it pays they re-invest. If it don't they drop it. In our opinion the best work of the Board will be realized during the coming year or two. We should have a State Board, as now, where the new-comer can obtain information, and needed aid in the matter of location.

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, Grevy enters upon a second seven-years' term at eighty-a record which already passes that of a Thiers or a Palmerston. As for this latter action, some succeeding one Germany, the nonogenarian 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 be the first unmixed Caucasian assembly 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 generthe benefit to the people on both ation. All of our presidents, since Buchsides of this range of mountains, that anan, went into office young, and not one now separates them and their various in- of them is living except Haves; not one sts. It would be worth more than its of our vice-presidents except Wheeler. but it had to be done for an example to cost to the state. Let the road be built. Not only those who gained the presi- the rest of the country.

lency, but those who were nominated and defeated have failed to reach old age. Olden lasted until seventy and Fremont 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 tired at the early age of sixty-three. In

ocal politics there are no old men. What is the explanation of it? The exeptional 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 har-

vest of the life's fruition. What a lesson to ambition!

PORTLAND BRIDGE QUESTION.

A gentleman just from the metropolis informs us that there is considerable opposition to bridges across Portland's harbor room, 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." The fate of the Bentley at Albany must demonstrate to "land lubbers" a fact which steamboat-men already knew, to-wit: that it is hazardous for steamboats to be "fooling around" bridge piers in a swift current.

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 hazards chance of getting its wheel or rudde 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 re-

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 encourage ing the improvement of railroad facilities

KEEP IT AT HOME.

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 A start should be made in asserting for advancement only as it helps to fill their | the people control of their own servants. purses. This is all wrong. The work can be done as well here as in San Francisco. There is no part of the work that cannot be done in Salem, and at a reduction on the price paid to the San Francisco parties for the same work. The work can be as well done here as in San Francisco. This would not only cheapen the work to the state, but it would also cheapen the supreme court reports to the egal fraternity, and it would keep the money at home and help to build up our own country, and benefit the people who are taxed to pay for this printing. It is also unconstitutional to send the work out of the state.

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' 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, suit him. It is St. Helena.

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 served the state ably and efficiently 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. His handsome residence on Piety Hill has frequently been the scene of brilliant and most pleasant social gatherings, while himself and his estimable wife have extended their hospitalities with a liberal and homelike cordiality.

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 our midst.

Collectively speaking, the adminstration just closed has been one of which well feel proud. Its record has been one 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 one million dollars expenditure of money in the public build- be included. ings 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 commodels of elegance, convenience and du-

ing. Individually and collectively they should be made, and their expenditure bear with them the gratitude and the should be placed under the supervision best wishes of our citizens generally, re- of a careful commissioner, and competent gardless of politics or party preferences, engineers. and we but re-echo the sentiments of the entire community and the state at large when we wish them one and all health. wealth, prosperity and happiness in whatever stations they may hereafter fill in either private or public life.

THE INTERSTATE COMMERCE BILL

fore congress in a condition for a direct longed season of delay before the muchneeded measure can become a law.

The long and short haul provision, one of the two points on which the main objection is made, is not a cast-iron regulation, but subject to modification through appeal to the commission. The other point, which relates to pooling, should not be permitted to stand in the way. As it is, the pools are being constantly broken by their own imperfections and the absence of any legal power to make them binding. If it is demonstrated that they provide something which is necessary to a wise management of the railroad system, the want can be met by future arrangement.

There must be a beginning, and the present opportunity to make one is the result of too much time and labor to be

The bill, coming from a conference committee, must be passed as it is or rejected. The proposition to improve it means delay that would prevent the adoption of any measure for another year.

FREIGHTS AND FARES,

The legislature, now in session, owes a regulate and reduce the rates of railroad time to come. freights and fares. If not the latter, then at least the former. But 4 cents per mile is too much for passenger fares. It is more than is charged for the same service in other states.

In the first place the people gave the railroad corporations nearly enough in subsidies and lands to build their respective roads, and they should now be content to carry passengers and haul freights at least within the bounds of reason. Let the freight rates be materially reduced, and let passenger fares be fixed at 3 cents per mile.

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

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 s shumeful 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

all. His family, too, have added life to practical, short, and almost natural routes social circles and are general favorites in 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 Klamthe republican party of this state may ath basin; and the other is through the well known Minto pass on the north fork worthy of the utmost commendation and of the Santiam river. The former route the officers have in every instance shown | 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 in debt, and in addition to the unusual the two great sections of the state would

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 pleted under their united supervision are consideration, but that they will show that they are men of public spirit, and rability combined, and are monuments to men with the interests of the entire state the honor of the administration now clos- at large at heart. These appropriations

THE OFFICERS.

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 It has taken a long time to bring a bill chief clerk of the senate, Hon, E. G. on the subject of interstate commerce be- Hursh, and his assistant, Mr. C. W. Watts, are both excellent clerks, and vote by both houses. If the present the people may rest fully assured that measure is defeated there must be a pro- 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 other officers are all well qualified for their positions.

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 per-

vading 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 elected. control of the senate. It is to divide Texas into 201 states of the size of Rhode Island. This would provide for enough duty to the people, and that duty is to democratic senators to hold the fort for all

> 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 anni-

versary 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 assembiage 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 the lamily 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 to see many anniversaries of the 8th of January.

OREGON LEGISLATURE.

Opening of the Fourteenth Biennial Session.

PERMANENTLY ORGANIZED.

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 Multnomak, 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

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.

On motion of Gregg, of Marion, the house adjourned until 2:30 p. m. 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 hereto-

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

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, ser-

geant-at-arms, door keeper, three pages.
Blundell, of Douglas, the smallest
member of the house, then placed in nomination Gregg, of Marion, for perma-nent speaker of the house. Daley, of Polk, nominated L. Bilyen, of Lane

On roll call the vote stood for Gregg 35, Bilyeu 25, and Mr. Gregg was de-clared the choice of the house for speak-

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

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 Laugh-ead, Fred Baker, and Mac Smith, were

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

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

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

A. R. Brown, of Multnomah, for temporary doorkeeper, was elected by accla-

Miller, of Josephine, moved a committee of five on credentials be appointed.

The president appointed Miller of Jo