The Daily Astorian.

ASTORIA, OREGON:

..... JANUARY 14, 1887

GOV. PENNOYER'S MESSAGE.

THE certainty that Gov. Pennover would say something remarkable tends to mitigate the surprise occasioned by some of his first official remarks to the legislature last Wednesday. It was a great occasion, and he made the most of it. His message resembles President Cleveland's in length; but is more special and deals in a more practical manner with the questions discussed than property would be largely indid that of the chief executive of the Nation. Gov. Pennoyer evidently spells "Nation" with a little n.

Taking out all that part of the message suggested by party bias or personal prejudice, the document is an able one and worthy of made for the taxation of foreign commendation. The governor corporations doing large business in this state without much of either talks of business matters in a busreal or personal property within iness way; he makes practical the state, and provision should also suggestions and lays down some good rules for state and legislative be made for the taxing of the stock observance. certain portions of the year within

On the important question of swamp lands, he says it would be state limits, which have heretofore proper that the title to all the escaped taxation. lands claimed prior to the passage of the law approved October 17, 1878, in regard to which a strict complicance with the act of October 26, 1870, had not been made, and upon which the twenty per centum had not been paid prior to to his opinions, they are none the the time that the law of 1878 took less ridiculous when he attempts effect, and all lands subsequent to to assert that the state courts have the passage of said law that are no right to pass upon the constituclaimed contrary to the provisions of that law limiting the amount to legislature. be purchased by one individual who has filed theron without any authority of law, and that all certificates of such filings subsequent premacy of state rights being temto the time at which the law of porarily resuscitated on these 1878 took effect, should be cancelled and declared to be of no of recent history the resuscitation force or effect whatever. The state then should provide a proper officer empowered to act with the that question was settled long ago. agent of the general government in determining what lands are displays a better and sounder apswamp and overflowed lands, in order that the vexed matter may stances in the following admirable be speedily settled, the state se. close: "In conclusion, gentlemen cured of its rightful gift, and its of the legislative assembly, allow lands secured, as now is provided me to express the confident hope by law, to actual settlers in quan. that your deliberation during the tities not exceeding 320 acres. coming session will be conducive This is a heroic but necessary only to the public good. Fortu-

measure. Regarding river improvements party character to distract your he thinks that while the state is attention. Let then party feelings, putting forth every effort to stimu- interests and ambitions be all forlate the federal government to do gotten and let men of both parties its bounden duty towards the un- vie with each other as to which dertaking and speedy completion will render best service to the of proper facilities for overcoming state. When you enter these halls the obstruction of the upper port- you no longer represent parties, Flour Feed & Potatoes age of the Columbia, it would at you are the representatives of the the same time be a most judicious people. Here, in your official acstep, in view of the uncertainty tion, let your only motive be, to of procuring favorable federal advance the welfare of the state at legislation where the people in- large; to guard with watchful care stead of corporations are con- the interest of all classes; to make cerned, for it to prepare itself to no expenditure but what is genbuild a portage railroad between eral is its benefactions; to adjust MURRAY & CO., The Dalles and Celilo in case con- the burdens of state taxation so gress should turn a deaf ear to our that wealth and dishonesty cannot petition or adopt a policy which shirk their just share: to be libershould postpone its completion al in expenditures of a public for an indefinite period. A 1 mill character, while withholding any tax for the next two years would aid whatever from schemes of a raise a sufficient sum, which could purely local or private nature, to be on hand at the next session of secure as far as possible the unthe legislature, with which to com- settled portions of the state domain mence the building of such rail- to actual settlers in small quantiroad by the state if then deemed ties: to uncover and punish frauds, necessary. If then it was not im- if any, upon the state; to avoid all perative on the state to proceed class legislation, and, in short, to with this work the fund could be set, in your official position, an exconveyed into the treasury to the ample worthy of all emulation, of common school fund or to be managing the entire affairs of the used for the completion of the cap- state with honesty, economy and itol. It is of more importance to fidelity. Then you will win the have the Columbia river opened approval both of your own conto free navigation than it is to science and of the people of this have a dome upon the capitol. commonwealth."

This proposition admits of negative discussion, though the legisla- Every human being who is not ture seems to have jumped at the born to a fortune has a labor proides and will go to The Dalles blem of his own to solve, and the this afternoon to have a look at time will probably never come the place. This is somewhat when a very large number of men hasty, to say the least and does will not keep trying to make not appear specially needful till somebody else solve it for them. further along in the session. The greatest need of our age seems

Concerning assessment and taxa- to be the buckling down of each tion the governor thinks that that man to his own labor problem.

feature of the Vermont tax law Every man should try to help his should be added which requires neighbor to bear his burdens, but that each person shall give, under every neighbor should refrain from oath, a full statement of his prop- trying to unload on him. erty, under the penalty of having

it can be, by the assessor, and then

doubled. Our present law re-

quires the property owner to make

a statement under oath, but as

there is no penalty for non-com-

pliance, such provision is a dead

ing his just proportion of taxation,

and as the volume of the taxable

creased under such a law, the rate

would be correspondingly de

burden by this plan would be very

materially diminished, as the dis-

honest one could no longer evade

the law. Provision should also be

of alien owners pastured during

The governor appears to be

badly mixed in his extensive dis-

cussion of the several branches of

the state government, and their

functions and relations, and while

it is but just to concede sincerity

tiouality of laws enacted by the

A part of the message sounds

as though it had been written in 1862, the dead ghost of the su-

moist Pacific shores. In the light

can elicit no other feeling than one

of amusement, and satisfaction that

In his conclusion Gov. Pennoyer

preciation of existing circum-

his assessment made, as nearly as A MERCHANT of Allegan, Mich. keeps what he calls his "thief account." In it he records everything missed, and the first person discovered stealing goods is required to pay the entire bill to escape prosecution. Recently a letter. There could then be no woman was caught stealing a 50evasion under such compulsion, cent pair of leggins, and she was on the part of any one, from bear. called on to square the account, which amounted to \$5.

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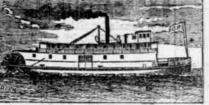
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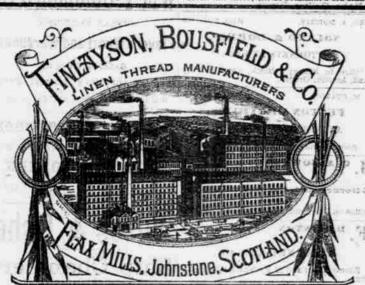
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