

The Daily Astorian. ASTORIA, OREGON: SATURDAY, JANUARY 22, 1887

The legislature can best serve the financial interests of the state by not monkeying with the interest question.

So far there has appeared in the legislature no expected bill permitting or authorizing the O. R. & N. Co. to lease its state lines to the Union Pacific railroad Co.

"It is true of the negro," says the Macon Telegraph, "but not of any other race, that he flourishes best in the sight of his old home, and if permitted he will always return."

NEW YORK papers say that Union square is filled with starving actors, and that stranded dramatic companies strew the line of travel from Maine to Oregon. They incidentally remark that the street car strikes open up a fine avenue of labor.

It would certainly be a great misfortune for our state, says the World, if the present legislature changes the law governing foreign corporations or the rate of interest. The farmers of this state are largely borrowers, they want and need cheap money. The only way by which it ever will become cheaper is to induce money from abroad to come here; the more that comes here, the larger will be the supply, and when the supply equals or exceeds the demand, then the rates will become low without any legislative enactments, and we venture to assert that if the usury law of Oregon would be repealed that money would be very much cheaper than it is now. California is an example; they have no usury law, yet money is cheaper there than here. So, instead of passing additional prohibitory laws against money, the result of which would be to drive what little money there is here away, and enhance the rental of what will remain, better to repeal all laws which are prohibitory.

Among the items of interest with which the new almanac of the American board is packed are the statistics of the principal foreign mission societies of the United States. Taking the four largest we find, as to receipts, that the Presbyterian board, north, leads off with \$745,164. The American board stands next with \$658,754. Then follow the Baptist missionary union with \$436,896, and the Methodist Episcopal church, north, with \$440,536. The total of all the societies is \$3,213,743. In the number of converts added the past year the American board stands at the front with 3,406. The Baptists follow close up, having 3,450. The next are the Presbyterians, north, with 2,533, and the Methodists, north, with 1,787. The whole number reaches 17,701. When the whole number of communicants enrolled is considered, the Baptists take the lead, having 56,440. The American board counts 26,130; the Presbyterians, north, 20,294, and the Methodists, north, 12,133. The entire footing is 148,979.

In its report upon the senate bill to provide for the admission of Washington territory as a state of the Union, the house committee on territories says: The vote cast at the last election in that portion of Idaho which the bill proposes to add to the new state was 5,459, which, at the ratio of four inhabitants to each voter, represents a population of 21,836. Adding this to the population of Washington, the new state will come into the Union with 197,095 people, or representation. The committee is of the opinion that Washington territory possesses all the elements of wealth, intelligence and local development, in every particular, to enable her people to successfully establish and maintain a state government. The committee takes up the claim of Montana for admission to the Un-

ion, and after showing that the population at the last election was 151,472, says it would seem that Montana contains a larger population than the ratio of representation in congress. Copious quotations are made from the governor's recent message, exhibiting the financial condition of the territory and its vast natural resources and heavy exports of mineral and the annual product thereof. The committee then recommends that the original senate bill, which provides for the admission of Washington territory with a portion of Idaho added, be so amended as to include the territory of Montana, and that the constitutions of the proposed states of Washington and Montana be submitted to congress instead of to the president, as provided in the senate bill. Another amendment proposed to the bill is a requirement that the constitution of the states shall include a provision, forbidding polygamous association or cohabitation within their jurisdiction. The chairman excepts to this last amendment in a minority report, in which he says he dissents from the majority of the committee in requiring any religious test whatever in the formation of a constitution for a state of the Union, or imposing any conditions whatever except that the state constitutions shall be Republican in form and conform to the provisions of the constitution of the United States.

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