

OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

IN THE LEGISLATURE.

Salem, Jan. 30.—Sixteen new bills were introduced in the senate today. One prohibits the sale of cigarettes to minors and makes the use of them by a person under 16 years a juvenile delinquency which may be dealt with under the juvenile law. Another is to appropriate \$50,000 annually for normal schools.

Nine bills were passed by the senate. One of these is the bill raising the salary of the assistant warden of the penitentiary from \$900 to \$1,200 a year. Another raises the salary of the clerk of the state land board from \$1,800 to \$2,400 a year.

In the house the bill creating a state tax commission looking to a revision of the tax code was passed. The bill creating Cascade county was passed. Hood River is given as the county seat. If the new county is created it will be in the judicial district with Multnomah and joint legislative district with Wasco. Strong opposition will develop in the senate, where the Wasco people have centered their forces.

Nine other measures were passed by the house. Jayne local option bill will be amended by eliminating the emergency clause and the reduction of the number of voters required on a petition for a prohibition election from 40 to 30 per cent of the electors of a precinct.

Comparatively few salary bills have been introduced in the senate thus far, but it is known that others will be introduced later. As a rule these bills being local, they pass without question upon the recommendation of the delegation from the counties affected.

Salem, Jan. 31.—A bill was introduced in the senate today to suppress poolrooms and poolrooms. Eleven other new measures were introduced.

Nine bills were passed, one of them appropriating \$15,000 for fish hatcheries. This bill has already passed the house.

The senate bill authorizing the Lewis and Clark fair corporation to condemn private property was passed by the house.

Ten new bills were introduced in the house, one of them being the anti-cigarette bill, identical with that introduced in the senate.

The house rejected the senate concurrent resolution for a joint assembly tomorrow to consider a constitutional convention. This stops any further possibilities of a constitutional convention.

Electric bells at railroad crossings is the subject of a bill introduced in the house today. They are to be of sufficient weight and sound to be heard 100 yards and are to be placed at every crossing where a public road crosses a railway track where the view is obstructed either way.

The house committee on mining favors the passage of the bill relieving such mining companies of the annual license tax as have an annual output of less than \$1,000.

A new bill in the house provides that all sheep driven into the state for pasturage shall be taxed 20 cents a head and 5 cents a head shall be paid for each county through which the sheep are driven.

The Cascade county bill will appear in the senate tomorrow or Thursday.

Salem, Feb. 1.—Twelve bills were passed by the senate today and 15 by the house. Five new bills were introduced in the senate and seven in the house.

Two bills were killed in the senate today. For a constitutional convention and to permit corporations to act as administrators.

The house this afternoon voted down the bill for the appointment of a board of internal commerce commissioners and appropriating \$25,000 for the opening of the Willamette river from Portland to Eugene.

A bill of Representative Steiner's fixing the terms of circuit court beginning on the second Monday in May and the third Monday in October, passed the house this morning.

To permit district attorneys and their deputies to bid in for counties, lands sold for delinquent taxes, a bill of Representative West's passed the house today. Under the present law the county judge is required to do that function, but sometimes is not present.

A bill to empower juries to fix punishment in criminal trials was indefinitely postponed by the house this morning.

Will Abandon Contests.

Alex—Few of the score-old contests instituted against Gilliam county settlers in the vicinity of the instance of William Twilley, of Devil's Butte, will probably be carried to trial, most of the contestants having realized that sentiment in this community and in the county generally is against them. In the past six weeks 22 homesteads in the Alex section have been contested. Three or four were heard at The Dalles and the rest were set for hearing before the Gilliam county clerk at Condon. Feeling is bitter against Twilley.

Extend Logging Business.

Astoria—The Gray Bay Logging company has purchased three carloads of steel rails and will begin work immediately on the extension of its logging railway, a distance of one mile. It has also purchased a new 4-ton locomotive, and will enlarge its log boom to double its present capacity. The company has recently acquired a large tract of timber land adjacent to its former holdings and now owns sufficient timber to keep its plant in operation for several years without purchasing any more land.

Not Much Snow in the Hills.

Pendleton—The melting snows and falling rains of the past few days have filled the streams of the county. Water is now plentiful enough to run all mills that have heretofore suffered by the dryness of the fall. Irrigators are fearing that there will not be a sufficient quantity of snow in the mountains to insure a flow of water through the summer. Usually there is from five to six feet at Kamela, but now there is but a few inches.

Washington, Jan. 31.—Never before in all the time he has been chairman of the committee on rivers and harbors has Representative Burton held out so strongly against unworthy projects for waterway improvements as he has done this session. Burton has, from the first, fought projects which had no merit, but he has heretofore been compelled to consent to the incorporation in river and harbor bills of many items which he did not personally approve.

This year, however, he has been firmer, and has carried his point. He has succeeded in keeping out of the river and harbor bill every item that was of a "log rolling" nature. He consented to no appropriations except for projects that have been endorsed by the war department.

There appears to be method in Mr. Burton's course. When the next congress organizes, Speaker Cannon will have to select a chairman for the committee on appropriations. This chairman ought to be a man of discrimination, a man of force and a man of highest integrity. He must be the "watch-dog of the treasury." He must be a man who can dominate his committee and hold out against all appropriations which are not necessary. He must be able to withstand the personal appeals of members.

There is not a single member of that committee today competent to become its chairman. And from the speaker's viewpoint, there is not a member in the house better equipped for that place than Mr. Burton. Perhaps the chairman of the river and harbor committee had the future in view when he took the radical course he did in dictating the terms of the present river and harbor bill.

ALASKA HAS A POOR SHOW.

Senators Pay Little Attention to Interests of Big Territory.

Washington, Jan. 31.—The determination of the senate to dispose of the Swayze impeachment case means, according to senate leaders, that most of the time between now and March 4 will be taken up in court duty, to the exclusion of legislative matters. Save only the necessary supply bills, all legislation which encounters objection will have to go over.

This means not only the defeat of the ship subsidy, interstate commerce and statehood bills, but the defeat of all legislation relating to Alaska. It had been hoped that several Alaskan measures might be passed before adjournment, but that hope has been dispelled.

Plans had already been laid for bringing forward the Alaska delegate bill, passed by the house last session. But Alaska will get no delegate by the grace of the 58th congress. Neither will Alaska get much else, save what is provided in the regular appropriation bills.

Alaska is weak in the senate for two reasons: All Alaskan legislation encounters opposition from a few men, but what is more significant, few senators have any real interest in the great district, and not more than half a dozen men make any effort whatever to push through legislation which Alaska seeks.

There is more opposition to the delegate bill than to any other Alaska bill now pending, and this opposition will be able to put a quietus on the Cushman bill, in the present session.

FOR BREMERTON NAVY YARD

Amounts Provided in Naval Appropriation Bill.

Washington, Jan. 31.—The naval appropriation bill as reported to the house carries \$253,500 for the Puget sound navy yard. Following are the items:

Extension of construction plant, \$20,000; sewer system, \$500; grading, \$20,000; fire protection system, \$10,000; electric light plant, \$10,000; telephone system, \$1,500; railroad and equipment, \$6,000; boat shop for construction and repair, \$20,000; water system, \$3,000; heating system, \$3,000; locomotive and crane track about dry dock, \$30,000; dredging, \$10,000; quay wall, \$25,000; roads and walks, \$5,000; joiner shop for construction and repair, \$5,000; machinery for yards and docks, \$2,000; additional yards, \$50,000.

Waved the Red Flag.

Kansas City, Jan. 31.—Two hundred men and women members of socialist societies rose to their feet and cheered a red flag at a mass meeting held here tonight. The meeting was called for the purpose of raising a fund for the aid of the working classes of Russia. The czar and aristocratic class of Russia were condemned in the strongest terms at command. One speaker compared the czar to ex-Governor Peabody, of Colorado. Resolutions were passed expressing sympathy with the oppressed and denouncing the czar.

Japanese Save Their Powder.

General Oku's headquarters, Jan. 31, via Fusan (D. I. T.).—The Russian bombardment beginning at dawn this morning on the extreme left rapidly spread along the whole front of Oku's army. It was kept up fiercely all day, and it was the strongest artillery fire since the battle of the Shikha river. Salvos are being fired continuously. There is also considerable musketry firing. The Japanese are replying seldom, and are saving their fire, awaiting an attack. There is a possibility that the entire line will be engaged soon.

Bombs in Barracks.

Vienna, Jan. 31.—A telegram from Csestehow, Poland, reports that a bomb was thrown in the cavalry barracks there today and that many soldiers were wounded. The act is supposed to have been in revenge for brutality in dispersing a workmen's meeting. Other dynamite outrages are reported to have occurred in the neighborhood of Lodz. A gendarme is reported to have been killed and a number wounded.

Arrests by the Hundred.

London, Jan. 31.—A dispatch to the Daily Graphic from Sevastopol says: "In consequence of the gravity of the situation here, the government has invested the naval and military commanders with full powers to suppress disorders. Over 900 arrests have been made."

BURTON TO GO UP.

Will Probably Be Head of New Appropriations Committee.

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Useful Lemon Squeezer.

Machines are built nowadays which dispense entirely with hand labor, but, of course, such machines are useful only where large quantities of a certain article are produced at a minimum of cost. It looks as if some of these principles were being inculcated by inventors into the smaller every day appliances, as for instance the lemon squeezer shown in the illustration. This lemon squeezer performs every operation necessary to obtain the juice from the lemon. All the user has to do is to place the lemon in position in the squeezer and by manipulating the handle the lemon is cut in half, the juice extracted and separated from the seeds, and when the squeezer is opened the seeds and skin are ejected and the juice of the lemon also dumped into a glass or cup placed in the bottom of the squeezer. The handle portion is separated from the lower portion and operates on hinges, so that, after placing the lemon in position and drawing the handle forward, the knife cuts the lemon in half, while the pressure squeezes the juice out of the lemon. The seeds drop down into trays, one on each side of the knife, these trays being actuated by springs, so that when the squeezer is opened the seeds and skin are ejected from the strainer and into a cup placed below. The novelty and advantage of this contrivance will be apparent to everybody.

The patentee is Alexander McLaren, of Fort Worth, Texas.

Portable Apparatus for Thawing Frozen Ground.

Oftentimes during the cold winter months it is necessary to suspend building operations entirely, especially underground operations, on account of the frozen ground. Contractors and builders find this an obstacle very hard to overcome and one which entails extra expense and labor. Building a wood fire and gradually thawing

the ground is a very crude and at the same time slow method, while blasting also has its disadvantages. A Seattle, Wash., man has patented a device especially for the purpose of thawing frozen ground, an illustration of

which is shown here. It consists of a fire chamber with a detachable cylindrical hood or cover, this hood being made of sheet metal and perforated, allowing the air to enter and create sufficient draft to keep up a good fire. The hood is divided into detachable sections with suitable fastenings to hold the sections together and also to connect them to the base of the fire chamber. A draft pipe extends above an opening in the cover, a book being attached to the latter, so that the whole apparatus can be lowered into an opening partly excavated. It will be seen that all the parts are so constituted and proportioned that the draft pipe, cover and hood can be arranged upon the fire chamber to form a compact package for transportation.

Charles W. Joynt of Seattle, Wash., is the patentee.

Shelf for Books.

The high standard of educational methods in colleges and universities in the United States has put a premium

on reading, not only for pleasure, but also for research. Libraries are well patronized, not only by the college student examining reference books, but also by his more unfortunate brother who cannot afford a college course. This does not keep the latter from reading all he can, and the demand for more libraries is constantly heard. A frequenter of libraries has patented the adjustable shelf-desk shown in the illustration, and its advantages will be readily apparent. Such a device is often wanted when examining books on the construction shelves. It is extremely simple in construction and can be instantly moved from one shelf to another and placed where most convenient. A shelf-desk, as the inventor calls it, for holding the book is fastened to and supported by brackets, these brackets being shaped to conform to the size of the shelf. The end of the bracket which fits into the book-shelf is divided into two arms, the upper arm being shorter than the lower arm—the upper arm bearing against the upper side of the shelf and the lower one below the shelf. A clamping screw can also be affixed, but this is not absolutely necessary, as the arms are sufficient to hold the shelf-desk in position, the user removing and placing it where most convenient.

Joseph A. Lawson of Menanda, N. Y., is the patentee.

Useful Adages Compiled by the Government for General Use.

Recently the United States weather bureau compiled a list of the more common weather adages. From this the following examples are taken:

"When bees remain in their hives or fly but a short distance, expect rain."

"Men work better, eat more and sleep sounder when the barometer is high."

"Do business with men when the wind is from the westerly, for then the barometer is high."

"In summer, when the sun burns more than usual, expect thunder storms."

"If the temperature increases before 9 p. m. and midnight when the sky is cloudy, expect rain at night if during a long and severe period of low temperature the temperature increases between midnight and morning, expect a thaw."

"A red sun has water in his eye."

"A piece of seaweed hung up will become damp previous to rain."

"A rising fog indicates fair weather; if the fog settles down, expect rain."

"Hoar frost indicates rain."

"The larger the halo about the moon the nearer the rain clouds and the sooner the rain may be expected."

"Snakes show themselves on the approach of rain."

"Human hair (red) curls and kinks at the approach of a storm and straightens after the storm."

"When a cat washes herself good weather may be expected, but if she licks her coat against the grain bad weather is indicated, or if she washes her face over her ears or sits with her tail to the fire."

"When the birds cease to sing rain and thunder will probably come."

"Pigeons return home unusually early before rain."

"When fish bite readily and swim near the surface rain may be expected."

"A bee was never caught in a shower."

"When flies bite greedily expect rain."

"Cottonwood and quaking aspen trees turn up their leaves before rain."

"When the leaves of trees curl with the wind from the south it indicates rain."

"When the sun draws water rain follows soon."

"Red skies in the evening precede fine to-morrow."—Chicago Chronicle.

Cactus for Forage.

Luther Burbank, who is called the botanical wizard because of his development of spineless plums and other fruit freaks, has just produced, after ten years' work, a spineless cactus, which is half as nutritious as alfalfa, and will yield more forage to the acre.

By a series of crossings and recombinations of different varieties from different parts of the world, Mr. Burbank is aiming to make the plant hardier and to produce more fruit and leaves. He has at his Santa Rosa experimental grounds specimens of a cactus which he has robbed of thorns, having brought the leaves to a state of perfection in which a man can rub a leaf over his face. The surface is found soft as silk.

The creation of a spineless cactus is of world-wide importance. The plant will grow luxuriantly on the driest desert. In this and other countries its leaves and fruit are food for man and beast, and it will mean to some regions more than the introduction of the potato means to Europe.—San Francisco Letter.

A young widow is never satisfied until she can call herself an ex-widow.

FORESTS IN THE ROCKIES.

Thickets of Spruce and Aspen at Great Elevations.

To know the midcontinental mountain country it is not enough to go hurriedly through the ranges by rail in midsummer, when flowers are abundant and the emerald hue characterizes every peak and park, says a writer in *Arboreticulture*. One must see the country when ice and snow abound and the contrasts are most decided.

With from one to many feet depth of snow upon the surface, spruce and aspen thickets of the higher elevations and the pine and cedar on the lower slopes attest the majesty of nature. These mountains have been stripped of all larger trees by the axman and fire and nature makes extraordinary efforts to cover the bare spots with verdure.

Among the fallen logs and leafless trunks still upright, remnants of former configurations, she has scattered the fine seeds of the aspen on the wings of the wind, as this is almost the only deciduous tree which will grow in the higher mountains, and here among the ruins of a past forest dense thickets of this rapid-growing populus tremuloides have established themselves and are fast preparing a soil in which the more valuable conifers will, if they have opportunity, again recover these mountain sides.

The steepest slopes and most precipitous mountains, above 8,000 or 9,000 feet elevation, are being planted by nature with these most important pioneers of afforestation.

Birds, animals and the wind are doing their part in distributing among these aspen thickets seeds of Douglas (red) spruce, silver spruce and other trees of greater value and permanence, which, hidden by the fallen leaves, take root and, protected by their deciduous friends, grow into timber. The aspens when dead and dry are very inflammable and fire spreads with rapidity, destroying the coniferous forests as well. The national government has not yet awakened to the necessity and importance of protecting the forests of these mountains from fire and spoliation.

The forest rangers are given 'er more territory to guard than their insignificant numbers can cover. There should be 100 times as many men employed as are allowed by the authorities. Here at the headwaters of the most important rivers of America no adequate efforts are being made to perpetuate the forests, without which irrigation will be forever impossible, navigation irregular and agriculture in the West a precarious occupation, while the mines upon which so much depends will be without timbers, except as they are brought from far-distant points.

SAWS ABOUT WEATHER.

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Gov. Samuel W. Pennypacker, who in his message to the Pennsylvania Legislature urged the enactment of a law empowering the State to suppress any newspaper that persists in the publication of libelous and untruthful statements, has figured before as an advocate of similar legislation. In giving his approval to the "Quey" libel law, which he signed in May, 1903, he expressed sentiments much like those in his last message, and raised a storm that spread beyond the bounds of the Keystone State. He is a descendant of Hendrick Pennepacker, who was a surveyor for the Penna. and other Dutch ancestors who came to this country in the early part of the seventeenth century. He was elected Governor in November, 1902. Previously he had been judge of the Court of Common Pleas in Philadelphia. He is 62 years old.

Mrs. Maria Weed, whose anti-Mormon lectures, under the auspices of the Interdenominational Council of Women of New York, have stirred the country on account of the Smoot senatorial hearing, is a Chicago woman who has made a deep and searching study of the Mormon question. It was she who first called attention to the Mormon oath, placing the church above citizenship, and it was she who exposed the Mormon doctrine of the marriage of living people to the dead. She also declares that the Mormons allege that Jesus Christ and George Washington were Mormons, and employ that piece of mendacity as an argument for the conversion of people to-day.

August Belmont, the new president of the National Civic Federation, is one of the foremost men of affairs in America. As head of the firm of August Belmont & Co., the American representatives of the Rothschilds, his interests are of great magnitude and widely diversified. He is president, trustee or director in no fewer than thirty-five corporations, employing many thousands of men. He was born in New York in 1835 and was graduated from Harvard in 1857.

Perhaps his greatest single achievement has been to give New York its new rapid transit underground railway system, being president of the company and advancing \$36,000,000 in its construction.

Mme. Stoessel, wife of the valiant defender of Port Arthur, is not less heroic in her temperament than her husband. When the investment of the fortress was impending M me. Stoessel was given the opportunity to return to Russia, but she declared that she would on no account leave her husband. To show that she could be of use to M. Stoessel, she took charge of the ambulance service, and under her direction it became markedly efficient. She exhibited so much unselfishness and devotion to the welfare of the troops that the men regarded her as a veritable good angel.

Luther Burbank, who has just evolved a new flower, everlastingly in petals and fragrance, is the most famous naturalist in the world. It is said of him that he is to horticulture what Edison is to electricity. On his farms at Santa Rosa, Cal., he has developed many new flowers, fruits and vegetables, besides adding new tints to old blossoms, and giving to LUTHER BURBANK,