

The War Department has a new cipher, but it still has the same old head and scent of embalmed beef.

The rank and file of the democratic party, not a little clique, will name the democratic candidate for next year.

Objection to the Nicaragua Canal, by New York millionaires and the Panama company, is worth cold cash to the unscrupulous congressmen.

If the Philippine trouble would take public attention away from embalmed beef, there are men of prominence who would not care how acute it became.

The republican leaders in congress are pushing the country towards the greatest annual deficit in its history, and another bond issue.

Senator Jones figures that if a silver president and vice president be elected next year the silver men will control the senate by one vote—that of the vice president.

Gen. Shafter's story of the Santiago campaign gives evidence of his dislike for newspaper correspondents, but neglects to give his version of the personal scraps he had with one of them.

While accusations are being bandied around, it should not be forgotten that the administration needed votes to ratify the treaty, and that the scrap at Manila produced them.

When Aguinaldo attacked Gen. Otis he found out at once the difference between fighting Spaniards and fighting Americans, and he paid a bloody price for the knowledge.

Secretary Gage says he will, if the money is needed issue the certificates of indebtedness that congress authorized to be used for war emergencies. We doubt his authority to do so, after peace is formally declared.

Congressman Lentz figures, from insurance mortality tables, that the people will have to pay Gen. Egan, whose sentence of dismissal from the army was commuted by Mr. McKinley to six years suspension with full pay, \$78,000 in salary.

The new city charter for Burns passed both branches of the legislature and our citizens will have to take it whether they like it or not. The bonding of the town is now a possibility and lies with the taxpayers. There is some dissatisfaction among the business men, and more than likely there will be a fight at the city election for councilmen opposed to issuing bonds. We think, however, the matter will not be rushed either way until the sentiment of the property owners is known.

That alleged investigating commission wasn't satisfied with trying to cover Alger and all who belong to his gang with white-wash, but it actually had the nerve to recommend that the commander of the army should simply act as chief of staff under the Secretary of War, and to indirectly recommend the removal of Gen. Miles because he has dared to object to being Alger's chief of staff.

The anti-expansionists in the senate indignantly resented the attempt to place the responsibility for the fighting at Manila upon them. Senator Gorman said: "What has occurred is what has

been predicted by the opponents of the treaty all the time—that trouble would come if we handled those people without gloves, and undertook to force ourselves upon them without their consent." Senator Bacon said: "I have predicted from day to day just what has happened; hence I am not surprised." Senator Pettigrew said: "We could have had no possible difficulty with the Filipinos if we had given to them the honest assurance that we did not propose to overthrow their newly established liberties."

Stockmen in general are of the opinion that this will be an exceedingly dry season, on account of the snow going off so slowly. Reports from up the river are to the effect that most of the snow has disappeared and the river has not risen any. We are of the opinion that there is plenty of snow in the mountains between Silvies and Bear valley, and we will yet have enough water to flood the hay lands on the island, at least we hope that will be the case. Most of the hay put up last season has been fed out and if we should have low water it will be very hard on our stockmen, causing them to sell more cattle than would be sold if there is a good crop of hay. However, we think their fears premature, as it is early in the season for the water to come up.

"Hands up!" That was the sudden order given at Burns Monday to a man who had been buying some tobacco and a few other things at a store in Burns. Sheriff McKinnon was the man who gave the order, and the man who obeyed it was a stranger, but his description answered that of one of two were wanted for robbing a train at Humbolt, Nev., last summer, and for whose capture there was a standing reward of \$1000.

The captured man had no gun on his person, but had a good stock of cartridges in his pockets. He was locked up and the sheriff adopted a novel way of finding his partner in crime.

Sheriff McKinnon unhitched the saddle horse which had been ridden into Burns by the arrested man, and with a deputy in a sleigh followed the loose horse for a distance of eight miles. There they came in sight of a secluded house, and soon sighted a man running toward the house. The sheriff whipped his team into a run and headed him off and captured him before he reached the house. He had surmised the errand of the party in the sleigh and was trying to reach his rifle, left in the house, but the sheriff was too lucky for him. It was a fortunate affair to end without bloodshed—fortunate that the horse should have led the way to where he had last been fed, and fortunate that the second man was temporarily away from his gun—Oregonian.

If the Oregonian ever told the truth about anything that happened in Burns, we have failed to see it. That paper evidently thinks this is the toughest place on earth and that no story is too tough to believe. The men referred to in the above did not even attempt to resist the officers. In fact no part of the article is true. No wonder people from the outside consider the citizens of this county a lawless set when such articles are published and sent out as true. We would suggest that the Oregonian get a correspondent that can be relied upon, instead of publishing anything that is sent or heard of without questioning the authenticity of it.

Closing Day of Legislature.

Salem, Or. Feb. 18.—The legislature adjourned sine die at 7 o'clock this evening, according to the record, really it was nearly half an hour later when final adjournment came. Both houses had been dawdling through the afternoon, being in recess most of the time waiting for the enrollment and signing of bills. It was deemed safer to be in recess than to preserve the form of a continuous session and give opportunity for further liberality in making donations to various persons and things that

might be thought of by the generous legislators.

Aside from the formalities of finishing up necessary matters in hand the passage of the special appropriation bill was the feature of the day. The house early this morning, before adjourning yesterday's session, refused to concur in the senate's reductions in the bill, except in the case of the appropriation for the state school land department, which had been put in the general appropriation bill previously passed and concerning which there was supposed to be no question. This morning, however, it grew obstreperous and refused to concur in even those emendations, and the bill was sent back to the senate, which refused to recede from its amendments, and asked for a conference. The house acceded to the request and Senators Mackay and Reed and Representatives Beach and Flagg were named as the conferees. It was noon before they got at work, and 3 before they were able to report to the two houses.

The second special appropriation bill, containing the claim of John Hall and a few others not deemed of sufficient merit to entitle them to have a place in either the regular or special appropriation bills, died of neglect in the senate, after Hall's \$6600 claim had been cut down to \$500.

Letter from J. S. Kenyon.

We had the pleasure yesterday of reading a letter from J. S. Kenyon, written to his brother Chas., under date of Dec 22, '98. Mr. Kenyon spoke of having sold one of his five claims for \$40,000 and contemplated coming out this summer on a visit. He also spoke of a number from this place who are at Dawson. John Mahon had been out to see him, a distance of 35 miles from Dawson, bringing him a copy of THE TIMES-HERALD in which his letter of some time ago was published also a box of cigars, a present from J. F. Mahon of this county. John had asked a claim, but lost it in some way. Chas. Fraser was working for him (Kenyon) but had a bench claim of his own that is worth about \$25,000 or \$30,000.

He spoke of C. Roper and a man from the lakes being there. (The man referred to is Herman Lann) John Jacquemin was in Dawson, but had hardly been out of town since his arrival. Ed Hanley was also mentioned. Mr. Kenyon had not seen him, but understood it was the intention of the former to bring in a cargo of whiskey in the spring. Wm. Lessing, a former resident of this county, was one of the leading citizens, financially.

The days were very short and at that time the sun would just come and go down not being in sight for more than 2 hours at most. The whole of daylight, including twilight, was about 4 hours.

The weather was what he considered pleasant, the coldest being 51 degrees below zero, but did not seem colder than zero here as the atmosphere was very dry and the fires in the mines tempered things a great deal. The snow fell up to that time being 1 foot, last season there were 4 feet of snow there.

After speaking of the loneliness and isolation of the country, the deficient mail facilities at best, Mr. K. closes by sending his best wishes to all old friends wishing them all a Merry Christmas and happy and prosperous New Year. Asked Chas. to remember him when he sat down to his Christmas turkey and giving his bill of fare for Christmas dinner which would consist of bacon and beans, the only luxury being a little beef, having paid \$518.25 for an ox last fall and having some of it left.

Oregon News.

Messrs. Durkee and Brown, young men who have been connected with the various papers in Pentton, have established themselves in the newspaper business at Helix and named their publication the Inland Homestead.

Nine thousand head of sheep recently passed through Union on the way to Burnt river. The transfer was made on account of lack of feed in Eagle valley. The sheep are the property of Joseph Barbour, of Eagle valley.

The other day, as the Timon mine at Beaverton started up, it was noticed that quantities of smoke and bad air had accumulated in various parts of the mine. A

passage had been left open that caused a return draught. J. H. Timon being present, at once started to close the passage, and had it nearly closed when he was overcome by the foul air. He was taken out nearly dead. The mine was shut down the rest of the day and necessary repairs were made.

Superintendent of Public Instruction Ackerman is preparing for general distribution a pamphlet which will contain all the school laws passed at the special and regular sessions of the legislature. He is constantly in receipt of inquiries as to the provisions of the laws, and thinks the issuance of the pamphlet will result in a saving to the state. It will be ready for distribution in about a week.

The ice blockades on the Snake river have played great havoc. The water has been forced out of the channel in several places, and across wide areas, inundating the railroad track and doing a great deal of other damage. The Ontario ferry-boat and the ferry-boat that has been operating a short distance below Payette have been torn from their moorings by the flood, and swept away down the river. Three dredges have also been floated away from Parma.

Terse Notes.

The court of inquiry on the deceased beef question should have assumed the attitude of a coroner's jury.

If that South Dakota boy who has two tongues and no brains enjoys good health he may some day make a valuable junta for some insurrectionists.

A club has organized in Boston to abolish marriage. That is a sort of infringement on the rights of the divorce courts.

The price of whiskey is advancing, but it is somewhat gratifying that this addition to the white man's burden is due to the manipulations of the whiskey trust and not to an increased demand for the stuff.

Chicago can't bear to be second in any thing. Its latest offering is the case of John Roper, a man with a mania for tombstones. He stole eighteen of them from Raecland cemetery and used them for bric a brace at his home.

A little boy had been told by his mother that people who tell lies cannot go to heaven. After thinking the matter over a while, he began asking home folks, and then other other friends if they ever told lies. Most people would be honest with the little child, and each answered in accordance with the case. A few days after, after some deliberate thought on the subject, he startled his mother by announcing that he did not want to go to heaven. "Why," asked his mother. "O, it would be so lonesome for me there—nobody there but Jesus Christ and George Washington."

Lieut. Smith, late of the Fourth Ky. Volunteers, who shot Col. Colson, of the same regiment, while both were seated at the dinner table, seems to have lacked the spirit of fair play that usually prevails among Kentuckians.

If that portion of the report of the Alger relief commission which deals with the meats issued to the army read less like a brief prepared in defence of the contractors it would carry more weight with thinking people.

Of course everybody is glad that our troops have whipped and scattered the army of Aguinaldo which were around Manila, but there are many who agree with Senator Mason, that the life of any one of the numerous Americans who have been killed in the series of fights, was worth more than the whole Filipino outfit.

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