

SALEM CORRESPONDENCE.

SALEM, Jan. 9th, 1889.

Editors Democrat:

The Legislature of Oregon will meet here Monday next. Seventy-two republicans and eighteen democrats, fifty-four republican majority on joint ballot. This comes from the republicans pulling the wool over the eyes of the democracy. There are some among many measures that will receive special attention. These are the school book business, revenue laws, those of descent, that creating the Railroad commission, the propriety of holding a term of the Supreme Court in Eastern Oregon—the first wedge towards a new state, and others. The railroad commission has its report before the Governor—much will depend on his views of the necessity of this law. It will no doubt stand. The official reports are now mostly in the printer's hands. Hotels and private boarding houses are receiving attention from outsiders. Salem will soon be in the hands of the law makers and those who follow them. The Governor's message is expected to be a plain, candid statement of the political and financial condition of the state. It will be looked for with interest.

Many improvements have been made about the Capital building, among them the new elevator which will be completed for the session at hand. This was much needed. In a week's time the scene will be animating; the air in either house will be filled with bills on every conceivable subject, and they will fly about like heavy snow flakes. Salem is improving, she has a street railway and wants the Legislature to enable her to create debts for public benefit to the amount of \$50,000. The limit now is \$5,000. She supports five banks and several curb-stone brokers, and withal she is improving. Had she factories or business to engage her population in various industries she would become a very large city. She is growing as it is, that is she is spreading out, and real estate is advancing. And a man who counts himself on the inside says that Judge Boise has some senatorial longings. So Salem has her candidate. The Judge leans well when he leans towards anything like that. He generally falls into the office desired by him, and if his views on farming are represented in the Legislature, he will have a support for Senator.

The Salem City Council under new officers met on the 8th inst., for the first time, and we looked for the maiden speech of the Mayor with great expectations. But to our disappointment it lacks the dignity of a message. It contains nothing. Nothing about the Astoria railroad, nothing about the Legislature removing the present restriction on the power of the city to contract an indebtedness to the amount of \$50,000 for public benefit, a subject agitated for a long time; nothing about the street railway, extending city limits to take in its growth, as speculations in land we learn are on the outer city lines; nothing about taxation; not a word about the health of the city, whether it is dead or alive. It does not state that there is such a city. It does not give a "whoop up" to encourage the boom claimed for Salem. It leaves the city dead. But as this message will do for every city perhaps it was not intended for Salem. It does not state the city's indebtedness, or how it stands. It does ask that the electric lights shall be changed about to give light where now there is none, and goes so far as to say that the tax payer don't care about the tax if he only knows that it is expended in the right way. This is not true in any sense. The tax payer wants to pay no more than his share. If Salem wants to be put on the cooling board, it should send this message abroad as an immigration effort. What a lost opportunity this was to boom Salem.

National banks here are doing well, one pays a semi-annual dividend of 6 per cent, the other 5.

SOJOURNER.

It will be remembered that during the late presidential campaign Higgins & Co. of New York, the great carpet manufacturers, very deeply deplored the disastrous effects that Cleveland's election would have upon the wages and employment of the laboring people of the country. Harrison was elected and what does Higgins & Co. do? They proceed at once to reduce the wages of their employes 10 per cent. This was done evidently for the purpose of getting back the money they had spent to secure Harrison's election. Now these poor labor people for whom this company had such great concern are on a strike to compel the company to pay the wages that were paid before the election. It does not require the power of prophetic vision to tell what the result will be. Through sheer poverty these labor people will be compelled to return to work at reduced wages. And thus the educational campaign proceeds.

Mr. Harrison wants to hear "a bugle call throughout the land demanding a pure ballot." And yet he thinks of awarding a seat in his Cabinet to John Wanamaker, who raised \$400,000 for the corruption of the ballot. Let us have a little consistency, Benjamin.

Mr. J. M. Spainhour has described, in the Elisha Mitchel Scientific Society, some relics that were discovered in the excavation of a mound in Caldwell county, N. C. Within the mound was found a skeleton lying upon its face, with the head resting in a large sea shell, the inner surface of which was carved with hieroglyphics. Around the neck were large beads made of sea shells. The arms were extended and bent at the elbows so as to bring the hands within about a foot of the head. Around each wrist was a bracelet composed of copper and shell beads alternating. The copper beads appeared to have been hammered into thin sheets and rolled around the string, a part of which was preserved. Near the right hand was an iron implement like a chisel or punch, not sharp pointed, but smaller at the end away from the handle. The left hand was resting on the convex surface of the sea shell, the concave surface of which contained about a hundred small beads. The shell was carved with hieroglyphics. Two other skeletons, on either side of this one, also had their heads resting in the concave surfaces of shells, which were marked with hieroglyphics. Several other skeletons were found around and above the principal one, which was thought to be the remains of a chief. In another part of the cemetery were found skeletons of persons who had long been buried alive, their limbs having been held down by large stones placed up on them.

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