

Feb. 12th, 1889.

Editors Democrat:

The Portland water bill in the House created a good deal of interest. Many ladies and gentlemen were there from Salem and other places to hear the debate and receive the vote. Judge Deady was within the bar and manifested close attention to the proceedings. He could not, however, influence the members either way if desired. The bill opened by Mr. Geer, of Marion, who voted for the bill but now sustained the veto. He wanted to know if he held a promissory note for \$1000 and a water bond for \$1000 if they should not be taxed alike. No one answered him. Messrs. Gilbert and Northrup championed the bill, while Miller of Jackson sustained the veto in a creditable speech. Several others had something to say pro and con. The vote finally came, 37 for the bill and 22 against it. Belknap absent. The excitement was great and the Governor received many congratulations. Taxed or not, the bonds would be all right. They would go to a four and a half per cent market and never be assessed in Oregon. Though if not taxed our banks would buy them on a speculation, and sell them at a premium.

Condon's bill placing the State University on a free scholarship basis passed the House. It provides that a tax shall be levied annually of one-seventh of one mill on the dollar for University purposes to support the University. From and after the first of January, 1890, no charge or fee whatever shall be made or collected from any person or persons residents of this state who passes the necessary qualifications to enter the University for tuition of the literary departments thereof, provided a sum not to exceed ten dollars per year may be collected from each student for incidental purposes. This is as it is in other states and it is a good bill. It gives all meritorious boys a chance—those who cannot pay tuition.

The dome of the Capital building should be built, but there are none to see it. Liberal wagon road and other appropriations can be made, but nothing can be done to aid to the appearance of the State Capital. Marion county delegation has never been known to be very leading in matters beneficial to Salem or state. It is said that it did not support the appropriation that was given to the Agricultural Society a few years ago. It is not expected to favor the purchase of land for state house grounds. It is credited with refusing to present a bill for a small appropriation to extend a county wagon road to the east line of the county, taking in a large number of new settlers, stock ranges and the mining region, a road that was to be a county road and one absolutely demanded by the industries in that region. It is predicted that if the Asylum gets an appropriation to build a new wing, or the Capital a dome or Salem anything else, that Multnomah county will secure them for Marion county. Why Marion county cannot take the lead in legislative matters and secure these things that will benefit the valley or Salem is a wonder.

Dawson's Railroad Commission bill passed the Senate. Elkins' bill to allow Eugene City to extend its credit and issue bonds in the sum of \$60,000 to build a Court House passed the Senate. Three road bills, Crook's for \$14,000, road in Curry county; Fell's bill for \$10,000, road from Heppner, and Maxwell's bill for \$10,000, road in Tillamook, have passed both houses and will go to the Governor for "further instructions." Napton's bill preventing marriage of second cousins, etc., failed to pass. Marriages of first cousins should not be permitted.

SOJOURNER.

OUR PREDICTIONS.

(Written for the DEMOCRAT.)

In our first article written for the DEMOCRAT over our present *non-de-plume*, we remarked that if Mr. Harrison wanted a peaceful, beneficial reign as President of the United States for the four years after the 4th proximo, that Grandson Ben would let the wily schemer from Maine severely alone. Recent authentic dispatches seem to verify our prediction that James G. Blaine will rise to the surface as Bayard's successor, as State Secretary. For the country's good, we regret it; for in truth that great American tail twister will involve us in useless strife with foreign powers and probably well nigh wreck the Nation. Blaine's conduct in the past, his attitude toward Roscoe Conkling, the meteor of the republican party, his feeling toward that portion of the United States lying south of the Mason and Dixon line, all combined is sufficient to lower that gentleman in even a respectable republican estimation. But yet to democracy, Blaine's very probable return to power should not be heralded as an ill omen. It will serve to verify the truth of our past assertion that the republican party is a war party; that it sprung from the dying embers of a sectional strife of which it was the lucky

accident; and that it may wreck the country, but surely wreck itself. Four years of schooling in the deep ruts of adversity will not diminish a simon pure democrat's ardor one iota, for had we not a quarter of a century of almost monarchical rule? The South is not greedy, only the rights of states and individuals as guaranteed by the constitution is all they demand. Their solidity cannot be broken and most surely will have a tendency to be strengthened under the Harrison-Blaine-Mahone dynasty. It is a poor rule that cannot work to an advantage more ways than one, and our memory recalls the fact that many voted against Cleveland because he called Lamar and Garland into his Cabinet. Now Southern republicans are clamoring for a place for Mahone. Who is Mahone? During the war, no braver or more true an officer unsheathed his sword in the service of the confederacy. Since he jumped straddle of the political fence, posing as a Re-adjuster and was elected to office from Virginia. Compare Lamar and Garland with Longstreet and Mahone. Can it be done? Impossible—for the former remained true to party teachings and commands the respect and admiration of all thinking men every where; whilst the latter are held up as political martyrs by the party to which they now give their allegiance, and we believe not even respected by a majority of the republicans.

February 10th, 1889.

YOUNG DEMOCRACY.

When Dawson's Railroad Commission bill came up in the senate, Senator Irvine offered the following amendment: "The said Board shall have the power to fix maximum rates of freight to be charged by the various railroads of the state between all points within this state." The senate voted it down at once which clearly shows what the feelings of the senate are towards railroads.

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Samuel E. Young.
Albany, Oregon