

SALEM.

SALEM, Feb. 14, 1891.

## Editors Democrat:

This may be regarded as the legislature of fearful complications. If the Portland consolidation bill passes, there will be complications in the Dossism, and water franchises of the three cities. Should the consummation fall, then the East Portland new charter will complicate the new and old water company, thereby shelving the latter. In either event troubles will arise ad-infinitum.

This is the last chance for the state to redeem the locks opposite Oregon City. The locks were to be completed before the first of January 1873 and were so completed. The condition on which the state paid two hundred thousand dollars to the Willamette falls and Lock Company to build these locks was, that at the expiration of twenty years from that time said canal and locks were completed the state of Oregon should have the right and privilege to take and appropriate to its own use forever the said canal and locks upon the payment to the corporation the actual value thereof, at the time of taking and appropriating the same. The next regular session will be too late for the state to assume control of this property. The bill to purchase these locks was introduced in the House and it was expected that this question would present a prominent feature in this legislature. Every body said the state must own the locks. Future complications in the traffic or freights or unfriendly commercial possibilities in this valley, that are sure to arise, make it necessary for the state to own these locks. The argument in favor of state ownership of them has gone forth. But the bill sleepeth in the House. It is now nearly to late to revive it. Who administered the fatal opiate? Why should this promising offspring of the House be allowed to sleep so soundly? Should it not be called up? If the governor should by special message notify the two Houses that they must act on that bill or he will call an extra session for that purpose in ten days after the adjournment of the regular session, there should be no dodging this question. The people should have a voice in this attempt to kill the proposition of the state to purchase these locks. Should the governor do this, the legislature would sit over the forty days, to meet this demand of them though with out compensation. The complications at work to defeat this measure should be destroyed. The representatives of the people should be heard on this subject.

The naked proposition to have the state publish its school books as soon as it is shown to be cheaper to do so to parents, is a good one. But House bill 283—to enable the state to print these books is not satisfactory. This bill provides that the board of education shall hire editors to make books, but the state printer shall be the purchaser of paper, leather, binding plates and set up a state printing office, bindery, etc. He asks for \$150,000 for the purchase of machinery etc.; \$85,000 for erecting store houses, bindery etc., and \$15,000 for equipping a state bindery, paying salaries etc., amounting to \$250,000 with this injunction, that these sums "shall be subject to their use." Printer. There is a provision in the bill that the printer may "incur reasonable expenses." He sells the books and turns the money over to the treasurer. The state printer, as such, is simply a contractor with the state, with a fixed compensation. He has his own plant and his work is subject to the inspection, supervision and approval of the secretary of state. State printer cannot be a purchaser or an auditing agent. The constitution and laws provide for a fiscal officer for this purpose and he is the secretary of state. But this bill makes the state printer the state wholly and merely allows the secretary of state to draw warrants for the state printer, without allowing the secretary to audit the accounts. The state printer fixes the price of books so published. The board of education can draw \$30,000 with a margin of \$10,000 more, making the appropriation to run up to \$200,000. It is very hard to understand why the state printer is substituted for secretary of state in this bill, and why there is not something to show that this bill will give cheaper school books. No bonds required and no state officers, of whom there are but three proper, are to be consulted in the outcome.

I notice that an indignity was attempted at Seio to the senators from Linn. Those who perpetrated it, "gentlemen", would have done the same as the senators, had they been in their places. No conscientious man would receive an election from votes of a county, and then divide that county when the question did not enter into the canvass. Dividing counties is not the privilege of a representative, otherwise counties could be divided at every session. No representative, senator or otherwise has the right to aid in the division of his own county unless he was elected upon that issue, or it was recommended by the county at large. It would have been an unpardonable act of those senators

had they encouraged this division. They are not only esteemed as gentlemen of ability—Weatherford and Myers, but they are secure from all reflections of any harmful nature in consequence of doing what, in good conscience, they were obliged to do on this division question.

I have a few more choice receipts from my boarding house table, but they are too much for this long letter. One more week and Othello's occupation will be gone.

The Collins-Minto effort to remove Downing, Superintendent of Penitentiary will fail.

The flag on the state house has been half mast on six different occasions during the session out of respect to the memory of the historian, Geo. Bancroft, Senator Eastham, King Kalakua, Secretary Windom, Admiral Porter and General Sherman.

PROGRESS.

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## STOCKHOLDER'S MEETING.

NOTICE IS HEREBY THAT THE annual meeting of the stockholder of the Albany Building and Loan Association will be held on Friday, February 20, 1891, at the hour of 7:30, p. m., of said day, in the Oregon bank office, in Albany, Linn county, Oregon, for the purpose of electing nine directors and three auditors, to serve for the term of one year next ensuing from said meeting, and until their successors are elected and qualified, and to transact such other business as may then come before the association. Done by order of directors this 17th day of Jan. 1891. W. C. CASSELL, President. JAY W. BLAIN, Secretary.

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