

Daily Democrat.

A HUMILIATING SPECTACLE.

The course of railroad legislation culminated Wednesday in one of the most humiliating scenes that has ever been witnessed in an Oregon legislature. In the early part of the session Senator Veatch, of Lane, introduced two bills, one to repeal the Railroad Commission law, and the other to establish maximum rates to be charged by railroads in transporting freight. The reason for the repeal of the Railroad Commission law is in the fact that the commission has never been of any benefit to the state, for power to regulate fares and freights can not be delegated to a commission. Hence Senator Veatch concluded, and truly so, that it was folly to continue a commission that cost the state ten thousand dollars a year without securing for the state any benefit in return. Mr. Miller, of Josephine, also introduced a bill enlarging the powers of the commission, which could they have been exercised, would have been a benefit to the state. Veatch's bill to repeal the commission had passed the senate. Miller's bill had passed the house but defeated in the senate. "The republican senators," says the *Oregonian*, "who did not stand in with the railroad companies were then forced to do the next best thing, and vote with the democrats to repeal the commission." "It was generally understood," continues that paper that they, (the anti-railroad republicans,) would continue to act with the democrats and pass a maximum rate bill." The *Oregonian* continues its account thus:

The house, angry at the refusal of the senate to pass Miller's bill, it was expected would also vote to repeal the commission and enact the desired rate law. The democrats felt sure they had the republicans in a hole, hence their jollification; but two events transpired to defeat their well-laid plans. Their exhibitions of joy aroused the republicans' suspicion, and in the meantime the railroad companies had become frightened at the close probability of having to work under a maximum rate law.

Railroad attorneys and officials were as thick about the capital this morning as applicants for commissionships. There were hurried consultations and it was soon discovered that the railroads were willing to concede a great deal rather than have a maximum rate law enacted. This, taken with the fact that the republicans had become aroused to the knowledge that the people would hold them responsible for the failure to give the railroad commission power to redress grievances, brought about a compromise. At 2 o'clock this afternoon, the hour for the consideration of Senator Veatch's maximum rate bill, Fulton asked that its consideration be postponed until 4 o'clock. Weatherford asked why this should be done. Fulton understood it was for the purpose of reconsidering the vote by which Mr. Miller's bill failed to pass. Veatch hoped there would be no postponement, and said he thought there was something very peculiar in all this. Fulton asked if the senator referred to the caucus held by the democrats last night. Veatch's bill was postponed and Miller's bill reconsidered. Several amendments were then made in the open senate to Miller's bill (house bill 9.) Section 2 was so amended as to substitute for the fine of \$500 for a violation of tariff rates a provision by which the commission may bring a suit in equity to determine whether the charges fixed by the board are just and reasonable, and section 6 makes it the duty of the commission to bring suit in behalf of complainants against the railways. Senator Weatherford and Veatch opposed the amendments to the bill, and a heated debate ensued between these two democrats and Senator Fulton and Tongue. Weatherford thought there had been a wonderful change in twenty-four hours.

That tells the whole story. The railroad companies were alarmed at the idea of having the maximum rate law passed which Mr. Weatherford and Mr. Veatch were battling so gallantly for, and they gathered thick in the lobbies and brought their powerful influence to bear not only with the republican senators who were "standing in" with them, but on every republican senator who had not been standing in with them, and secured the adoption of such amendments to Miller's bill as rendered it harmless to them, and then it passed the senate with every republican senator for it and every democratic senator voting against it. The amendments were then concurred in by the house doubtless after several of its members had been "influenced" by the swarm of railroad officials and attorneys who were then so actively present in the lobbies. It was openly charged by Mr. Weatherford that the railroads were having their own way in securing amendments to the bill, and by conscientious men who were present it was said to be a most humiliating spectacle to see republican senators who heretofore had been refusing to stand in with the railroads now with meekness and humility bending their necks and fitting them to the railroad collar. It was evident that the legislation most feared by the railroads was Veatch's bill fixing maximum rates of freight and fares, and the least feared by them was the continuance of the railroad commission. From this it is evident that the maximum rate bill was most in the interest of the people and the commission the least beneficial to them. Senators Weatherford and Veatch stood up manfully for the people and their best interests but the railroads had captured the republican senators in a body and the little handful of democrats could only enter their protests.

One of the latest novelties in astronomical phenomena, as brought to light by studying the spectra of certain stars, is the showing that two of these, heretofore classed as single, are in fact double, and belong to that class known as binary stars, or pairs which revolve around a common center. The binaries thus discovered are the stars known as Zeta, Ursa Majoris and Beta Aurigae, the former being that star which, in popular phrase, would be described as the middle star in the handle of the "Dipper."

Horace Johnson, the weather prophet of Connecticut says:

There will be general atmospheric disturbances between March 8 and 13. The storm, he says, will be furious, reaching from continent to continent, and there will be great disasters on the sea.

The Barbed Wire Trust has purchased the Washburn & Moen patents for \$400,000. The royalty for nonmembers will now be placed so high that none outside the Trust can manufacture barbed wire.

It has been found, says the *Evening Post*, by careful experiments on plants grown in a confined atmosphere that they absorbed nitrogen from the air around them to the extent of thirty cubic centimetres.

Salem is now killing all her dogs, having determined that the howls of the legislature were enough and to spare. —*Lickville Star*. This is a very good lie. —*Statesman*.

Of course it is a lie. Salem would not thus materially depopulate itself in any such way.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

TWO RENT.—A store room 22x20 feet suitable for business, centrally located. For particulars call at the DEMOCRAT office or on Jas V Pipe.

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS.—Contractors and builders desiring to bid on the construction of the new United Presbyterian church building, to be erected at the site of the old building, will find the plans and specifications for the same, at the store of Stewart & Sox. The date of opening bids will be announced hereafter.

MONEY TO LOAN.—In small and large amounts, from six months to five years, on good Albany and Linn county real estate. Call on or address W E McPherson, First St., Albany, Or.

STRAYED OR STOLEN. from Wm S Couch, a bay mare, weighing from 850 to 1100, roached mane, and white spot on forehead. Any information would be gratefully received. Wm Couch, Albany, Oregon.

HORSES FOR SALE.—One sorrel horse, 9 years old, weight 1400. One grey horse, 8 years old, weight 1100. Also wagon, hack, harness, etc. Will sell for cash or exchange for other property. Call at store opposite Russ house. R. A. FRY.

STOCKHOLDER'S MEETING.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE annual meeting of the stockholders 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 Opera 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.

ANNUAL SCHOOL MEETING.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO the legal voters of school district No 5, Linn county, Oregon, that the regular annual school meeting of said school district will be held on the first Monday, being the 2nd day of March, 1891, at the hour of 7 o'clock p. m. of said day, at the court house in the city of Albany, Linn county, Oregon, in said district, for the purpose of hearing the reports of the directors and clerk of said district, and to levy a tax for the support of the schools for the ensuing year. Also for the purpose of paying interest on the bonds of said school district and the second installment of its principal of said school bonds, due and payable June 15th, 1891, and for the transaction of any other business that may legally come before the meeting. Dated this 16th day of February, A D, 1891. C G URBAN, District Clerk.

J. K. WEATHERFORD, Chairman Board of Directors.

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During February he will continue to sell Winter Clothing at Greatly Reduced Prices: offering rare bargains.

Some of his Spring Stock, including some fine patterns in Men's Youths' and Boys' suits, have arrived, and are marked low.

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