

## LEGISLATIVE BILLS

A bill has been introduced in the Legislature to direct and require the sheriff of each county, before selling land for taxes covered by any mortgage held by the State Land Board or in which the State Land Board may have any interest, to give the State Land Board notice in writing fifteen days prior to the advertisement of such sale, of all taxes due and unpaid on said land, or levied thereon, but not yet due.

Representative Roberts has introduced a bill to prevent the mutilation or destruction of the brands, earmarks, dewlaps or other marks of identification upon cattle hides. The bill also prohibits the sale of hides that have been so mutilated or cut up as to make identification of the ownership brand impossible. The penalty provided is a fine of \$200 or imprisonment for a period of 90 days or both.

Williamson's scalp bounty bill, passed by the Senate February 6th, encountered vigorous opposition from Senator Smith of Baker county. Senator Smith called attention to the reckless manner in which bills carrying appropriations were being passed, and declared it was time to call a halt. He presented data on all appropriation bills already made—a somewhat startling array of figures—and called attention to the danger of a reputation for extravagance rather than economy. The bill passed, however, by a vote of 19, only 4 voting against it and 7 being absent.

The bill introduced by Briggs of Jackson, providing for the appointment of two Supreme Court Commissioners, was defeated by a vote of 29 to 27. This bill was strongly urged as a relief to the overworked Supreme Court.

The bill introduced by Pearce to repeal the section of the school law allowing each district \$50 before per capita apportionment is made, was killed by an overwhelming vote. This bill would injure small school districts.

Senator Brownell's bill for a Constitutional Convention will probably become a law.

Williamson's Scalp Bounty Bill passed the Senate on the 6th, by a vote of 19 to 5.

### The Assessor Bill.

The bill introduced by Representative Geer, creating the office of Assessors and State Board of Equalization, provides for a four years' term for Assessors instead of two. The date of assessment is also changed to begin the first day of January each year. The State Board of Equalization shall be composed of the County Assessors, all of whom shall meet at the State Capital the second Thursday of September each year. After organizing, electing a president and secretary, six are elected from their number, who, in connection with the president and secretary, shall constitute the Board of Equalization for one year. The compensation shall be \$3 per day and mileage fee sufficient to cover actual traveling expenses to and from the capital, the County Court of each county to pay all claims for their respective Assessors.

House Bill No. 13, introduced by Colvig, provides for the election of Assessors for four-year terms and disqualifies an officer to serve a second term next succeeding.

The only objectionable feature in this bill, to our mind, is the disqualification clause. There is less politics in the office of Assessor than most any other office, and when a good man is elected to the office he should be privileged to hold the office a second term if the people want him. The Examiner does not believe in life tenure in public office, but when a competent man is elected to the office of Assessor—one who has thoroughly acquainted himself with the holdings and values of property—he can save money to the county where a new and inexperienced man would lose.

### Distressing Tale of Woe.

A committee clerk in the present legislature, in a private letter to a friend in Ashland, thus describes the general condition of the craft at this session.

The clerks at this session both male and female are decidedly select and exceptionally virtuous. We are overworked and unprepared. The oppressed and overburdened taxpayers are rubbing it into us this time. The boarding houses leave you a small rakeoff to spend for peanuts and popcorn. Champagne is seldom indulged in, and the trip to Salem will, undoubtedly, be very beneficial, everything taken into consideration, the rich ozone and the salubrious water, are incomparable. This is the finest stationery the secretary of the state will give us and we have to be very economical with it.

The Boers are in Portuguese Lorenzo Marquez and have cut railways in that territory.

## CUPID IN A GAME OF CHANCE

(Continued from sixth page.)

"I meant the picture," she stammered, now thoroughly confused—"Cupid and the girl. It was lovely."

Kennedy rubbed the top of his wig, as was his habit in moments of deep perplexity.

"Cupid and the girl!" he repeated.

"He was teaching her to read," she said. "You have forgotten. Perhaps you meant to send it to somebody else."

"My child," said he, "will you kindly tell me what you are talking about?"

And she had to tell him. He didn't say a word. When she had finished, he struck a bell, and immediately a boy entered the room.



"JAMES, YOU'RE FIRED!"

"Jim," said Kennedy, "you remember my letter of Feb. 13 to Miss Sandison?"

The boy scratched his ear.

"Yes, sir," he said at last.

"Was it sealed when I gave it to you with the others?"

The boy blushed till his face seemed to be on fire.

"No, sir," he stammered, "but I didn't read it—honest, I didn't! I sealed it up and put a stamp on it."

"James," said Kennedy, "you are too funny. This isn't your first merry jest around this office nor your ninety-first, but it's your last. You're fired. Miss Sandison, didn't I hear you say you had a brother?"

"Yes, sir," she said, glaring at the wretched Jim with a wrath that fairly frightened.

"There's a vacancy here," said Kennedy, "and I think he could fill it. Now, if you'll sit down and take a little dictation—"

"I didn't do nothing to that letter," protested Jim. "As true as I live!"

Kennedy waved his hand, and Jim vanished, weeping with wrath and a sense of injustice. Turning to Jane, Kennedy was surprised to find that she, too, was affected to tears.

"Why, what the deuce"—he began and took a few steps away from her toward the window. Then he came back and stood looking at her nervously and in all respects different from his ordinary manner. They were alone in the room, and the silence was painful.

"I wish I had sent you something pretty," he said, "but I didn't know you'd care, and, to be honest, I didn't think of it. But—I'll tell you what's a fact. I've made my fight in this shop for your sake. That's been dawning in my mind for the past day or two. For you, by heaven, I did it, and all the picture cards and Cupids in the world wouldn't square the debt! Will you let me try—a long while—all my life—to pay it?"

"There is a charm by sages often told. Converting all it touches into gold; Content can soothe where'er by fortune placed, Can rear a garden in the desert waste!"

The contented people about town are those who enjoy their drinks and smokes at Post & King's.

The Chinese plenipotentiaries have given assurances of the execution of Chuang and Yu Hsien, but urge leniency in the case of Prince Taun, Prince Lan and General Tung Fu Siang.

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