

THE WEEKLY OREGON STATESMAN

Issued every Tuesday and Friday by the

STATESMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

R. J. HENDRICKS, Manager.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.—One year, in advance, \$1; Six months, in advance, 50 cents; Three months, in advance, 25 cents; *One year, on time, \$1.25.

*The Statesman has been established for nearly fifty-two years, and it has some subscribers who have received it nearly that long, and many who have read it for a generation. Some of these object to having the paper discontinued at the time of expiration of their subscription, with the understanding that they are to pay \$1.25 a year, in case their subscriptions. For the benefit of those who have not read this notice, we have concluded to discontinue subscriptions may be no misunderstanding, we will only when notified to do so. All persons keep this notice standing at this place sons paying when subscribing, or pay-in the paper.

Has the Sampson-Schley controversy been disposed of at last? If Roosevelt has really accomplished this, his fame is complete and the immeasurable gratitude of the nation is due him.

The proposition to make a 20 per cent reduction in tariff duties toward Cuba will not afford the relief desired. By making such a reduction we seem to fulfill our obligation to that island, but at the same time it will in no way shield Cuba from the threatened calamity of commercial and industrial ruin. We are too large a nation to deceive ourselves as well as the people of that country by pretending to do a thing, but at the same time fail utterly and wholly to accomplish it. Liberal concessions or none should be made.

The proper punishment for Tillman and McLaurin is expulsion, and it is too bad there is a single man in the Senate opposed to inflicting such a penalty. The Senate and the Nation have been grossly insulted by these ill-bred and vulgar individuals, and it ought to be possible to put them beyond the association of decent men. But there seems to be no way to accomplish this. Two-thirds of the members do not want to resort to such a serious measure, and nothing much can be done but restore the men to their privileges and permit them to outrage the dignity of the Senate and the American people.

The Chinese exclusion bill seems to be making satisfactory progress in Congress and will be before both branches in a few days for discussion and action. The changes made in it by the committee are not very numerous and are not in essential parts. The section prohibiting the employment of Chinese as crews on American vessels will probably be omitted. A change will be made in the phraseology of the section relating to Philippine Chinese. Other sections, however, were expected to be reported substantially as drawn in the original bill. While the Chinese Minister has arrayed a good deal of opposition to the measure, yet its friends feel quite hopeful for its early passage.

There can scarcely be a Simon-Geer combination with both parties keeping faith. We doubt very much if there is any agreement at all. Governor Geer's peculiar moves do not in the least demonstrate that he is looking after Simon's interests in Marion county. We believe the Governor does not propose to be burdened by Simon, and will be in a position to deal with the other side if Simon fails to carry Multnomah. A Simon-Geer agreement would mean that Geer's nomination would depend upon Simon securing the Multnomah delegation. Geer will cheerfully accept help from Simon, but the report that he is working altogether for Simon is assuredly erroneous. The play in districts outside of Salem proves this.—Woodburn Independent.

The St. Louis Republic, one of the leading Democratic papers of the country, has no sympathy for Tillman and McLaurin, and if its advice were taken the Senators of all parties would join to rid the Senate of these men. It says: "If the Senate could manage to expel both Tillman and McLaurin the regret would be confined to the two individuals. These men—Tillman being the worst of the pair—have been for more than a year acting and talking like a couple of barroom brawlers. In the last disgraceful scene they had not the excuse of sudden excitement. Previous explosions should have taught them to avoid the causes of disturbances. Neither of them being necessary, or even important, in national or party affairs, the time suits well for the utmost severity of which the laws of the land and the rules of the Senate are capable."

NOT FOR SALE.

It is rumored among Republicans that W. J. Furnish, ex-Democratic sheriff of Pendleton, offers to put up \$15,000 to the state committee campaign fund if he receives the Republican nomination for Governor. His experience as Democratic sheriff has doubtless convinced him that a public office is a private snap, and the bigger the office the bigger the snap. When

the state committee chairman called on Mark Hanna for campaign funds a few years ago, Mark told him that the national committee was not building any more \$10,000 residences for an Oregon state committeeman. Mr. Furnish appears to see the matter differently, however, but the state committee may not be able to control the convention. If Mr. Furnish should succeed in purchasing the nomination, it is probable that a few thousand Republicans would choose Hon. George Chamberlain as the best of the two Democrats, and elect him instead of Furnish.—Sumpter Morning Reporter.

TO PREVENT COLLISIONS.

The great number of accidents that have taken place on railways recently has put men to thinking upon devices to prevent such destruction to life and property as a result. One road has adopted a device to prevent the train from leaving the track, and if it proves satisfactory, no doubt other roads will adopt the plan. The most frequent cause of accidents, however, is collisions, and a device which railway officials predict will go far towards solving the problem of the prevention of railway wrecks has been tested recently on the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul road near Chicago. The device consists of a powerful electric headlight, which not only illuminates the track brightly for a mile ahead of the engine, but also throws a beam of light of almost equal brilliancy penetrating over 700 feet above, which can be clearly seen ten miles distant. It is possible for approaching trains to locate each other by this vertical shaft of light, though miles apart, and it is this feature which railroad officials assert will eliminate most of the danger of collision. This vertical beam will, in hilly country especially, where curves in the track are numerous, so positively fix the location of trains that nothing but carelessness on the part of engineers will permit a collision.

Recent events make it necessary for railroads to employ some means to eliminate the danger of collisions, and if the device referred to above does not accomplish the purpose for which it was designed it is quite certain some other scheme will be applied. The necessity is apparent, and as necessity is the mother of invention, the day may be looked for when the danger of collisions will be removed.

APPLYING FOR STATEHOOD.

There is a strong feeling in the House of Representatives in favor of the admission of Oklahoma, New Mexico and Arizona to statehood during the present session of Congress. This has been developed at the meetings before the House committee on territories, and it is evidenced by the expressions of leading members in both parties in the popular branch. Action is soon to be taken in the House on this question. There is a chance that all will be admitted together, and that the list of states will be before the close of 1902 be increased to forty-eight.

By the census of 1900 Oklahoma was shown to have 398,000 inhabitants, and her present population must be in the neighborhood of 450,000. She will be entitled to two members of the House of Representatives. New Mexico had 194,000 people in 1900, a number which is a little in excess of the unit of representation for states in Congress. Arizona's population was 123,000, which is considerably less than the representation unit, but Arizona led the states of Wyoming and Nevada in population, and is much larger than many other states were at the time of their admission.

MISS STONE'S RELEASE.

A more contemptible article seldom appears even in the columns of the Oregonian than the short editorial notice of Miss Stone's release in Monday's issue, says the Albany Democrat. In its endeavor to insult the genius of Christianity, the Oregonian has only heaped up a succession of falsehoods and misrepresentations. It states what it terms the "deeply philosophical truth" that Turkey and all other such heathen countries are good places to keep out of. The real truth of the matter is that the peaceful invasion of Turkey by

Christianity through the door of that noble institution in Constantinople, the Robert College, has done more toward the healing of the open sore of political and moral corruption than all the peace congresses and conventions of a century. In reply to the statement that the labors of the Christian missionary are apt to be unproductive of any thing but irritation unless carried forward on a powder cart, let the Oregonian examine into the history of the American missions in Egypt, India, China and the islands of the sea. It is time that the statement that the Christian missionary effort only engenders strife, to be given the lie. The Christian missionary enters his field of labor not flanked by armed battalions, but unarmed and with the gospel of peace. It is the trader filled with greed of gold or the emissary of empire flushed with the greed of conquest who follows hard upon the missionary whose presence stirs up strife and sometimes precipitates war. "In hoc signo vinces" may have been the motto of Constantine, and the sword may have been used by misguided enthusiasts in the attempted propagation of the gospel but such is not the spirit of Christianity as taught and lived by its Divine founder. The Oregonian should ponder over this "deeply philosophical truth."

SPAIN'S TROUBLES.

While the number of casualties first reported, as a result of the mob violence in Barcelona recently, were very much exaggerated, yet the condition is a most serious one for Spain. The indications point to a continuance of the trouble, and the hope for relief is quite remote. Sagasta and Weyler do not agree on a policy for dealing with the insurgents, and Sagasta only holds Weyler from taking charge of affairs in the district of Barcelona by threats of resignation. While the Queen is said to favor Weyler's plan, she dare not authorize him to put it into execution, as the alienation of the support of Sagasta would weaken the Government very much in the confidence of the people. Very stringent measures are being taken to put down the trouble, even though Weyler is not given a free hand. The old custom of filling up the jails with suspicious persons is in vogue, and a search from house to house for suspect is being made; the slightest evidence or rather suspicion is enough to land a man behind the bars.

The working classes seem to be in sympathy with the rioters and much pressure is brought to bear on the soldiers to prevent them from using their arms upon their own class in defense of plutocrats.

Spain is being shaken to its very foundation and much fear is expressed by people friendly to the Government for the safety of the present dynasty. The Republicans are giving active support to the rioters, and the Carlist uprising so often promised is being talked of as a possibility. The outlook for Spain is anything but favorable to peace and contentment.

The destruction of rats throughout the German Empire, so far as this is practicable, is under consideration by the imperial health department, of which Dr. Kochler is president and to which some of the most distinguished scientists of Germany are attached as counsellors. The object of the health department is to mitigate the danger of contagious diseases. Dr. Robert Koch, the eminent bacteriologist, has been asked to devise the tactics of the campaign to this end, which will be begun in the seaports. Rats and mosquitoes are suffering at the hands of scientists, and their lives in the future will be strenuous in the battle for existence.

The thousand or more inhabitants of Molokai, an island near Honolulu, to which all the lepers of the Sandwich group, are banished, no doubt feel a thrill of hope in the announcement of Dr. Camp of a cure for this dread disease. Dr. Camp, of Honolulu, has been experimenting with the extract of an herb called tua tua and claims that he has effected a complete cure of one case by its use. Whether it proves to be what he believes, a cure for leprosy, remains for future tests to determine, but it is pretty well demonstrated that the remedy will alleviate much of the suffering from leprosy.

Hon. M. A. Moody, according to reports, carried Wasco county yesterday over Williamson and will have behind him in the next convention a solid delegation to support him for re-nomination for Congressman. This will bolster up Mr. Moody's following very much, and it makes his chances of success very favorable. Williamson seems to have made a strong fight in Wasco, and his failure there will not be encouraging news to his friends over the district. Since Moody's friends and Geer's friends were working shoulder to shoulder in this fight, it is apparent that the Wasco delegation will support Geer for re-nomination.

William K. Redmond, M. P., and Joseph Devlin, M. P., the Irish league leaders, have arrived in this country to make a tour of the United States in behalf of the United Irish League, an organization with 700,000 members. This league aims to secure the independence of Ireland. Mr. Redmond, though a member of the British parliament,

thinks the Boers will win their independence, and he talks of a great army that will yet be formed to secure the independence of Ireland. "Lord Salisbury," he says, "knows what he is talking about when he declares that England is more afraid of the Irish than of the Boers."

Quite a revolution is going on in Oregon farming methods. The idea of wheat raising is rapidly giving way to the raising of fruits, vegetables, grasses, ensilage products and stock. The Willamette valley, however, will for all time continue to yield a vast amount of wealth.

Ponce, Porto Rico, had a strike on the trolley cars the other day because the management imported a number of expert track layers from Italy. The strikers were satisfied with their wages but the pressure from the unemployed is supposed to be the cause of the trouble.

WHAT MUD HAS DONE FOR THIS COUNTRY.

Mud, that at first glance seems so un-pleasant, is in truth the annual blessing of the lowlands to which it is being borne. We sometimes feel impatient at the way in which sediment closes the mouths of our rivers and impedes navigation. If we could see a map of our country, with a red line surrounding all the portions that have been built out of this silt, I think it would startle most of us to recognize how much of our best land is the gift of these muddy streams.—Professor S. C. Schmucker, in Ladies' Home Journal.

A PROPHECY ABOUT AMERICA.

From the Astrologer's Magazine and Philosophical Miscellany of October 17, 1793.

Empire has been traveling from east to west; probably her last and broadest seat will be in America; here the sciences and the arts of civilized life are to receive their highest improvement; here civil and religious liberty are to flourish unchecked by the cruel and blighting hand of civil and religious tyranny; here genius aided by all the improvements of former ages is to be exerted in humanizing mankind—in expanding and enriching their minds with religious and philosophical knowledge—and in planning and executing a form of government which shall involve all the excellencies of former governments, with as few of their defects as are consistent with the imperfections of human affairs, and which shall be calculated to protect and unite in a manner consistent with the natural rights of mankind, the largest empire that ever existed. Elevated with these prospects, which are not merely the visions of fancy, we can not but anticipate the period as not far distant when the American empire will comprehend millions of souls west of the Mississippi. Judging, upon probable grounds, the Mississippi was never designed as the western boundary of the American empire, for can it be probable that some of the best part of his earth should be inhabited by the subjects of a monarch residing 4000 miles from them? And may we not venture to predict that when the rights of man shall be more fully known (and the knowledge of them is fast increasing both in Europe and America) the power of European potentates will be confined to Europe, and their present American and other dependencies, their foreign dominions, free, sovereign and independent empires?

OLD FAMILIES IN AMERICA.

New York correspondence of the Pall Mall Gazette: Many English wonder what the people on this side of the water have to be "stuck up" about, and in view of the closer relations which the last decade suggests to be inevitable it may be interesting to understand more fully the thousands on this side of the Atlantic have better family records than their critics. Books showing the unbroken line of forebears accepted as gentlemen for 250 years, and sometimes 280 years are probably not more numerous in England than in North America. The legitimate writing of a name in local records of this kind has been a birthright which has not been rendered less valuable by European sneers. These are the records of the people who created the United States and Canada, and are not to be gauged by the presence or absence of titles, because it was especially to escape the workings of a feudal system that the people referred to removed to the new country. They were the sons of men who had the manhood to face trial for their convictions, and when their descendants confront Canada are now able to beat the Boers at their own game, it may be worth remembering that "Canadians are not among England's subject races, and do not like the expression "only colonists" which has done more to separate Canada from England than any political mistakes. Americans who are of better family than their sometimes plebeian critics do not like being regarded as nobodies, and it seems that the world would be a good deal more harmonious if other people's reasons for being "stuck up" were more fully understood. A due respect for the vanities which will have to be more fully understood politically than it has ever been before.

IT IS CORRECT TO SAY "GOOD" HEALTH.

If "health" means "bodily soundness" how is it possible to speak of "good health"? In its primary sense "health" means bodily soundness; but it also means, by extension, the general condition of the body as compared with some condition taken as a standard, and in this sense "health" is properly qualified as "bad," "good," "weak," "delicate," "robust," etc.—Elizabeth A. Withey, in Ladies' Home Journal.

Legal Blanks—Statesman Job Office. Legal Blanks—Statesman Job Office. Legal Blanks—Statesman Job Office.

EDITORIALS OF THE PEOPLE

Communications Sent in on Various Subjects

JOHN P. ROBERTSON DISCUSSES THE PRESENT LAWS ON ASSESSMENT AND TAXATION

And Shows Where Other Counties Are Compelled to Continue to Carry the Burden of Multnomah County for Another Five Years.

(The Statesman is pleased to print communications upon topics of general interest, at any time. There is scarcely any limit to the topics of general interest. It is asked only that correspondents refrain from personalities and use care that nothing be written of a libelous or unworthy or untruthful nature.)

The Tax Law.

Editor Statesman: I promised in my article in your daily of February 15th, to show how the Geer-Booth bill, discriminating against those counties making the fairest assessments, and in favor of those making the most unfair. Before proceeding to a study of the statistical facts which demonstrate this, let the reader fix in his mind three other facts:

First—That by this bill the state levy is not made, directly on the assessed property of the state, in a uniform number of mills on each dollar, but is levied in a lump sum against each county.

Second—That this sum is not apportioned to each county, according to the last assessment, but according to the assessments for the five years, from 1896 to 1900 inclusive.

Third—That the Constitution, article 9, Sect. 1, directs: "The Legislative Assembly shall provide by law for uniform and equal rate of assessment and taxation."

This surely means that the same number of mills shall be levied to the dollar in all the counties of the state. I believe all will agree that under this constitutional provision, the Legislature could not directly impose a tax of only 5 mills in Baker, 7 1/2 in Benton, 6 in Multnomah, and 8 in Umatilla. Then, if not directly, can a constitutional law be so framed that it will work out this result indirectly? I believe not.

The argument for this bill was, that, as by it, the state's demands against the several counties, not being apportioned, as formerly, on the last assessment, but being a fixed percent of the state's requirements, the assessors would no longer be tempted to undervaluation, and the consequent result would be assessments at actual cash value, as the law directs. Now read the actual result in cold statistical facts.

In round millions, our aggregated state assessment in 1893 was \$168,000,000; in 1900, the last year under the old law, but \$118,000,000, a loss of \$50,000,000 or nearly 30 per cent in seven years. In 1893 Multnomah's assessment was \$60,000,000; in 1900 but \$32,000,000, a loss of \$28,000,000, or 46 per cent during the same seven years.

Thus Multnomah lost \$28,000,000 of the \$50,000,000, being 56 per cent of the entire loss of the state during these seven years! In the terse language of the Governor had not Multnomah "outstripped in the race to reach the lowest possible level of assessment, in order to make the least possible contribution towards the support of the state government?"

Then taking the last five years of this seven years' period, it was found by mathematical calculation that Multnomah had 31.23 per cent of the assessed property of the state. Then this bill is enacted, decreeing that for the next five years Multnomah shall pay 31.23 per cent of the state taxes, and other counties in proportion to their several assessments for the same five years. This bill thus adopted these very low assessments in some counties, and the higher valuations in others, by making them the measure of their several obligations to the state for five years to come. The counties that were most successful in swindling the state for that five years, have the authority of this bill to continue the swindle for the next five years!

Now the assessment for 1901, the first under this bill, is complete, and the result is before us, as tabulated in the Oregonian of January 13th last.

The state valuation is \$141,000,000, an increase of \$23,940,000, or nearly 17 per cent. Multnomah returns \$48,195,000, an increase of \$15,550,000—48 per cent. Thus two-thirds (66 per cent) of the increased valuation in the entire state was in Multnomah county. Can there be stronger proof that Multnomah had been "systematically evading the law," in order to make the least possible contribution towards the support of the state government?

But neither the state treasury, nor honest taxpayers in other counties receive any benefit from this increased valuation in Multnomah, or in other counties of the state. The State Board decided that the state required, and so made an aggregate levy of \$20,000,000. The lump sum to be laid on each county was found by taking the percent of this aggregate levy, as fixed in this bill, to each county. The several amounts thus ascertained are certified to the several county courts. They, having their last assessment, ascertain the number of mills on the dollar necessary to be laid in their county, to raise the required sum and then make the levy accordingly. Could any man who could see a mountain before his nose strikes it, fail to see that this would inevitably cause a variation in the rate—an unequal number of mills on the dollar, to be levied for state purposes, in the different counties? Surely not.

A uniform levy of a fraction over 6 1/2 mills on last state assessment would raise the \$20,000,000 required by the state. Multnomah now has 24 1/2 per cent of the entire state assessment, and should pay that per cent of the state levy, or \$312,000. But by this bill she is to pay but 31.23 per cent, or only \$287,000; and at a rate of but 6 1/2

on the dollar of her assessment. The wealthy taxpayers of that county will pay one-half mill less than a uniform rate, save 50 cents on each \$1,000 of assessment, and the county shirks \$28,000, which the taxpayers of other counties must make good to the state treasury!

"Twenty-six thousand dollars!" A small sum, you say; yet, in the five years the rule is to apply, amounting to \$130,000, a sum perhaps sufficient to mark the difference between a deficit and a surplus, at Portland's 1905 Exposition.

While it is probably true that Multnomah led in this "systematic evasion of law," yet it is also true, that "a degree of astonishing success has attended" the efforts in some other counties "to make the least possible contribution towards the support of the state government." I will mention only one other, that has either had a wonderful prosperity the last year, or assessed astonishingly low for the five years previous.

Baker. The board levied on this county \$17,940, which requires a levy of 6 1/2 mills, 1 1/4 mills less than the average uniform rate. According to her last assessment she should pay \$23,900. Baker thus saves \$5,960, which other counties must pay. Some of the counties must make good the loss.

Benton—According to last assessment her share, at the average of 6 1/2 mills, would be \$15,500. But under this bill she is required to pay \$18,500—\$3,000 more than her rightful share. And to make a levy of 7 1/2 mills, 1 1/2 mills more than the uniform rate. This is \$1.20 on each \$1,000 of assessed property, taken by the state, from the taxpayers of this county, in defiance of the Constitution.

Douglas—At the uniform rate, 6 1/2 mills, should pay about \$27,340. The board levied \$31,740—\$4,400 more than state levy of 7 1/2 mills, just \$1 extra on each thousand of her assessment. Each citizen who pays taxes on \$1,000 pays \$1 on Multnomah's taxes.

Lane—The home of the author of the bill, is mulcted to the tune of \$5,350, or about 94 cents on each thousand. Serves her right. Let Lane hereafter send to the Legislature better representatives.

Linn—Sent to the Legislature three Populists, one Democrat and one Republican, yet so feebly did they defend her interests, that the county court had to make a levy of 7 1/4 mills for state purposes, to pay the extra \$4,500 demanded by the State Board—90 cents on each thousand of her assessment.

Polk—Is fined about \$33,700—98 cents on the thousand.

Marion—Pares a little better, with only \$2,200 extra to pay—about 27 cents on each thousand.

Umatilla—The home of the festive Jack rabbit, and other candidates for gubernatorial honors, is "mulcted" for over \$8,000 more than she should pay, requiring a levy of 8 mills for state purposes, 1 1/2 mills more than the uniform rates, 2 more than Multnomah, and nearly 3 more than Baker! Did our facetious Governor play a practical joke on his Republican brethren of Umatilla, by taxing all the coin out of that balliwick so completely, that nobody can "Furnish" the motive power to set the workers' tongues a-wagging, or to pay fare to the state convention? It looks suspicious. For ways that are dark and tricks that are vain—our T. G. is peculiar!

Yamhill—The home of great men—gets off by paying \$5,170 of Multnomah's state taxes—necessitating a levy of 7 1/2 mills for state purposes—\$1.10 on each thousand extra! Barring unavoidable errors, and small inaccuracies resulting from fractions, there is \$26,000 more than these eight counties more than equity requires they should pay, or they would be required to pay, if apportioned "uniform and equal," on last assessment.

Will they pay it? They should pool their issues, pay all that is justly due, and then let the state bring a test case. The result could hardly be doubtful. If the board can now levy on the several counties in proportion to assessments five years ago, why not levy "Twenty" Forty? When Portland is wilderness, and Eastern Oregon a voiceless solitude?

I submit that if the board may be authorized to disregard the last assessment, in apportioning the levy, there is no other definite year beyond which they may not go, even to the first year under the Constitution. Also if the Legislature may definitely fix the apportionment five years or ten years in the future, why can they not fix it twenty, forty, or fifty? Just what particular year in the future may they not pass?

With a levy that would be "uniform and equal" at 6 1/2 mills, can a levy of only 5 on Baker, 7 1/2 on Benton, 7 1/2 on Douglas, 6 on Multnomah, and 8 on Umatilla, be also "uniform and equal," and constitutional? If so, please tell me how far the variation must go to be unconstitutional?

Is it not strange, passing strange, that the Governor, who seemingly comprehended so clearly, and portrayed so vividly, the injustice of this "systematic evasion of law" should recommend and approve a bill, framed not on lines to correct the admitted abuses, and to compel the delinquent counties to assess fairly, and to hereafter contribute equitably to the support of the state government, but to reward them for their delinquency, by making their extremely low valuations the measure of their obligations to the state for five more years in the future? And to compel the counties whose officers refused to violate the law, and their official oaths, by returning unfair assessments to make up the deficit by an increased levy! This bill takes an acknowledged abuse at its worst stage, and under pretense of a remedy, attempts to legalize, and perpetuate it for five years! Great statesmen, these! But this is not its only failure, nor perhaps the worst, which must be treated in another article.

JOHN P. ROBERTSON.
Salem, Feb. 25, 1902.

THE BANNER MONTH.—February was the banner month for fees collected in the Marion county recorder's department. The money so received aggregated \$33,15, breaking any previous record of monthly receipts since J. H. Roland has been in the office four years. The receipts for November, 1901, which amounted to \$25.85, was the previous record. The fees received by the county clerk for the month of February, \$162.05, is exactly the reverse of the recorder's department, it being the least amount of fees received in his office for several years.

Legal Blanks—Statesman Job Office. Legal Blanks—Statesman Job Office.