

THE LEGISLATURE.

A Few Words as to Legislation and Bills Passed.

A Summary of the Bills Passed—Some Desirable and Some Objectionable—The Burden of Taxation.

A great deal of useless groaning is made over the appropriations by the late legislature because of the amount. Now the amount will not be a tax of over 2½ mills on the dollar on the property as exhibited by the assessment rolls of 1896-7. It is not the amount so much as some items that may be complained of. And indeed we would have no fault, or little, at most, to find as to them but for the fact of the sparseness of our population which requires that we shall exercise the strictest economy. The strange point is that those who were most reckless about appropriations are men who opposed every measure calculated to invite population into the state. It would cost little, if any more, to carry on the ordinary government of Oregon, if her population were three times more than it is now. The people of this state have borne very heavy burdens and may now be justly proud of their public institutions and buildings. They now have a right to expect a large influx of industrious settlers who will divide with them the duty of supporting the institutions of their state. There is much said about money voted for opening or completing roads. The action is denounced by many as unconstitutional and no discrimination is made. Yet there can be no question as to the legality of some, if not of all those appropriations. As to expediency there is no one thing that does more to enhance the value of property and extend settlement of the country than good roads. This money, judiciously expended, is more quickly returned to the general treasury than any other. One might as well call sowing seed wheat a waste of revenues as to denounce this. There should be an exercise of reason in all matters. We are for stern economy and strict construction of constitutions. But the worst economists are those who waste at bung holes while saving at spigots, and the greatest enemies of constitutional law are those who groundlessly accuse others of its violation.

Our forefathers fought for our rights and liberties. They secured them. But we are doing everything to destroy them by statute making. A man's right to his home and to his liberty and pursuit of happiness is guarded as most sacred. In this pursuit of happiness his business is supposed to be included. To deprive him of it should require an open trial and a verdict of a jury and a judgment of a court of record—supposing him to have done some offence. If his business be a nuisance the law provides how it may be abated. If his business be lawful he may contract for pay and charge whatever is reasonable, one would suppose. All this is of right. In steps the legislator and begins to discriminate. In some cases it is made a high crime to charge even a reasonable sum. In other cases it is such a crime to advertise that it is called "unprofessional" and the accused may be deprived of his right to pursue his business by some commissioners, without judge or jury. Could the czar of all the Russians exercise a more autocratic power?

Of the 170 laws enacted at the session of our legislature just closed 137 were of general or special nature and 33 were to incorporate towns. Local legislation is generally odious and that to incorporate towns and to do much like work is entirely unnecessary and pernicious. Nearly every bit of such business should be done by the people of the counties and communities interested through their respective county courts, under provisions of the general statutes. This is done in most of the states now and the sooner we adopt it the better. Had we such provisions they would have saved half the time of the past session which ought to have been carefully devoted to a thorough sifting and scrutiny of every act before passing it. When one reflects on the importance of a law, its power and solemn dignity it is frightful to see the unseemly haste with which some bills are read a first and second time by title, then read once and passed—yes, given the awful dignity of laws within a few minutes after being for the first time even heard of. It is utter mockery. If a few bad laws, a few inconvenient laws

are repealed, modified or revised, and half a dozen necessary ones are made during a term of the legislature the cost is well laid out by the state. There should be more discussion of proposed legislation, for discussion elicits the wisest counsels. Everything of a local and special nature that can properly be relegated to the counties should be done then.

It is generally conceded by physicians that about one-half of the population of the United States are suffering from indigestion and dyspepsia. Hurried eating and improper mastication and insalivation of food are the principal causes. Dr. Henley's Blandon Tonic strengthens and invigorates the digestive organs and enables one to enjoy a hearty meal without any unpleasant after effects.

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ing removed his shop from the old stand,
516 Commercial street, on account of the
erection of the new brick. Mr. Larsen
will be pleased to see his old customers and
as many new ones as will share their pa-
tronage with him, at his new location.
All work guaranteed. Next to Scriber &
Foble's shop. 1-27-47

REMOVAL NOTICE.

JOHN KNIGHT, THE BLACKSMITH
and wagon maker, has moved his shop to
No. 219 Liberty street, where he will be
ready for business after Monday, Jan. 28th.
I wish to state to my friends and patrons
that I will be better prepared than now on
to execute all work in my line than any
time before. Thanking all for the liberal
support I have received at your hands, I
am yours respectfully,
Liberty Street, JOHN KNIGHT,
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BLACKSMITHING and HORSESHOEING.

SCRIBER & POHLE

Have moved to 47 and 49 State street,
where they are now ready for work. All
our old patrons and friends are invited to
call and see us in our new location. We
are better prepared for work now than
ever having secured more room. 10-1-47.

BLACKSMITHING and WAGONMAKING.

JOHN HOLM, THE OLD RELIABLE
Blacksmith, has removed his shop to
corner of Commercial and Chemekete Sts.,
where he is ready to serve the public. Hav-
ing associated with him Mr. R. Hannon, an
experienced wagon-maker recently from
Portland, he is now prepared better than
ever to do all kinds of wagon and carriage
making and repairing; all kinds of black-
smithing and repairing, and a general
horseshoeing business. He has all kinds
of shoes, steel, trotting, hand made, etc., and
fits them in a scientific manner. Special
attention given to the construction of wa-
gons and carriages. Remember the place,
opposite State Insurance building.

MISCELLANEOUS.

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prepared to receive orders for portraits
and landscape work in oil and water
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Special attention given to designing and
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