OLYMPIA OPERATIONS.

A Long Fight Yesterday Over the Rights of Municipal Corporations.

Other Organizations Also Come in for a Share of Learned Attention.

Walla Walla's Plea for Non-Interference--The Schools Interested.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE REVIEW.]

OLYMPIA, Wash., Aug. 1.—The convention met at 9 A. M., the president in the chair. Prayer by Chaplain Thompson. Roll called, all present except those on leave. The records were read, corrected and approved.

The president submitted a communication from George A. Tewksbury of Seattle, suggesting the sending of a telegram of congratulation to be read at the dedication of the national monument to the Pilgrims at Plymouth, Mass., which occurs to-day.

On motion of Mr. Dyer, the president was authorized to send such a message.

Mires presented a report of the committee on water and water rights and a minority report attached. Ordered printed and to lie over one day.

SECTION 1. That the water of every natural stream not heretofore appropriated within the state of Washington is hereby declared to be the property of the public, and the same is dedicated to the use of the people of the state, subject to appropriation as hereinafter provided.

SEC. 2. The right to direct the unappropriated waters of any natural stream to beneficial uses shall never be denied. Priority of appropriation shall give the better right as between those using the water for the same purpose, but when the waters of any natural stream are not sufficient for the service of all those desiring the use of the same, those using the water for domestic purposes shall have the preference over those claiming for any other purpose, and those using the water for agricultural purposes shall have preference over those using the same for manufacturing purposes.

SEC. 3. All persons and corporations shall have the right of way across public, private and corporate lands for the construction of ditches, canals and flumes for the purpose of conveying water for domestic purposes, for irrigation of agricultural lands and for mining and manufacturing purposes, and for drainage, upon payment of just compensation.

[Signed] D. A. MIRES, Chairman.
S. H. MANLY,
J. P. L. MCCLOSKEY,
R. S. MOORE.

I concur in the above report, except section 3. E. H. SULLIVAN.

STATE SCHOOLS.

A Minority of the Committee Present a Report.

Mr. Dunbar presented a report of the committee on state, school and granted lands, as printed in Wednesday's REVIEW, signed by Dunbar, Bowen, Kellogg, Dickey, Shoudy and Eshelman; minority, Stiles, Henry, Joy, Eldredge. The minority report recommended the addition of the following section:

SEC. 7. All persons occupying shore land and having thereon valuable improvements in actual use and necessity for commerce, trade or business, such lands being other than the extension of any street, alley or public highway), shall have the prior right to purchase so much of said shore lands as may be necessary for the purposes for which such improvements were made, at the valuation fixed by the board of appraisers, which board shall fix such valuation irrespective of the improvements thereon.

Messrs. Cosgrove and Browne said they had not signed the report, not supposing it was to be presented this morning.

The chair said the members of the commitee had a right to file their views at any time later. Both reports were ordered to lay over one day and printed.

Mr. Dyer submitted an amendment to the rules and gave notice that he shall call it up to-morrow. It provides a ten-minute limit to all speeches, unless the convention by a two-thirds vote extends the time, except that the mover of an amendment or proposition may have five minutes to close the debate.

On motion of Mr. Weir, the convention went into committee of the whole on the article on state, county and municipal indebtedness, with Dyer in the chair.

SEC. 7, as proposed by the majority report and the substitute therefore as recommended by the minority report, were taken up as follows, the question being on Mr. Dunbar's motion to adopt the majority report.

Mr. Buchanan opposed the motion as violating the great principles of government, and believed the remedy lay in the regulation of railroad rates and fares. He cited the tulip craze in England and Holland, the George Law excitement in France, the Scotch railway mania of 1846, and the Wisconsin railroad excitement of 1850 to 1860, as leading examples of what people were liable to do and how they were liable to vote if allowed.

Mr. Sturdevant favored the motion. He said there was nothing in the argument as to what Missouri did in the matter of railroad subsidies, because there were no limitations on the amount which they could vote, and nothing required but a bare majority of the votes to pass a subsidy. But this section provides against the

DANGER FROM EXCITEMENT

of the people by requiring two-thirds of the property voters to consent, and even then they can never create a liability greater than 4 per cent of the assessed valuation. With similar restrictions in Missouri no one pretends to believe that their present troubles would have existed. He likened the position of the few objectors to this Hunt road subsidy (only 100 in a vote of 1800 at the last election) to the position of an old bachelor who always voted no at a meeting for school appropriation because he has no children to go to school. The greatest good of the greatest number was the principle of the whole country, and even these objectors, who said they had no interest, were really interested in anything which increased business, manufacturing and property values; and if county carriage road is an entirely proper thing for a county to go in debt to build, why not help in building a railroad, the benefits of which to the whole country are incalculably greater than those of any carriage road. Walla Walla county was fruitful beyond nearly every section of territory on earth, and had everything necessary for the enjoyment of life, except that the inhabitants were the absolute serfs of the O. R. & N. Company and the N. P. R. R. Company, who took

EVERY DROP OF FINANCIAL BLOOD

out of every farmer in the county, leaving merely enough to get through the year with and raise another crop. All this county asks is a chance to get out of this bondage.

Mr. Prosser fully and heartily endorsed all that had been said by Dunbar, Crowley and Sturdevant on this question, and said Walla Walla county was not the only county interested in having this proposition placed in the constitution. Every county west of the mountains would yet see the benefit, and feel the need of such a provision. He believed that the people of every county had a right to tax themselves for any purpose of public benefit. From the beginning it had been considered that the province of government was to provide for the general good of the people, and this right of voting a subsidy under such restrictions as are herein provided was right, which this constitution could not or ought to deprive any county of.

Mr. Comegys maintained that as individuals the American citizens were never to be compelled to

GIVE UP ANYTHING,

that was not absolutely necessary for the common defense and welfare. He thought Sturdevant's picture of the troubles in Walla Walla was over drawn. He had recently passed through that city and saw nothing to indicate special distress, but rather the contrary. If 1700 out of 1800 wanted this subsidy, why not let them pay their proportion of the needed tax and that proportion which failed to come from the 100 would probably not exceed the cost of an election on the subject. At any rate, the majority had no right to oppress or rob the minority. He might be willing to trust the people, but not the railroad boomer, with his subsidized newspapers and other methods or working up such a public sentiment, that a man would be absolutely driven out of the community who dared to refuse to join in with the public clamor. This principle was all wrong, he declared, and he would not favor it even if nineteen-twentieths of the electors were to endorse it.

Mr. Moore could not support the motion either. He was fully persuaded that this principle, here sought to be engrafted on this constitution, was vicious and inadefensible. It has brought ruin and disaster in Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Wisconsin and other states, and would, he believed, do the same here. He eloquently presented his view of the case for a trifle over half an hour.

Mr. Power offered an amendment to section 7, providing that any railroad so subsidized shall never consolidate or form an alliance with any competing line. He favored the majority report with this amendment, believing that a two-thirds vote and a 4 per cent restriction were safeguards enough.

On this amendment the vote was immediately taken, and it failed by ayes 16, noes not counted.

Mr. Stiles said it seemed from Moore's argument to be merely a question of how the subsidy was made up, whether by collection or by tax, whether by collecting the subsidy from business men and making it up by taxing the widow and orphan who pay high rents and high prices afterward, or by a fair, equitable tax on the whole county in the first place. To him it was not a question of Walla Walla county or any other county, but a question of whether any portion of the people should have power to use their means for the general good in any public way or be absolutely prohibited from doing so. If this method of subsidy be robbery, as repeatedly termed by gentlemen in this discussion, then why, when this use of public money has been so almost universal for five years, have not the courts found it out? Why have the courts universally held all

THESE CONTRACTS TO BE VALID,

and even gone so far as to imprison judges and public officers who neglected or refused to execute the mandates of the United States courts for the collection of taxes for the payment of these very contracts? Are widows and orphans whose property is on the outskirts of cities relieved from their share of taxes for sewers, water or gas, when no one of them reaches their residence or does them a penny's worth of good by it? The general good requires these things, and if a city elects to build them all tax payers have to contribute. So in counties people have the same right to protect their property and their interests in some way. Even the United States government after many subsidies to railroads and canals, does now every day tax every man in this convention by its protective tariff, for the benefit of the manufacturers of the country, because that is believed to be for the general good of all.

Mr. Dunbar replied to the implication of Griffiitts yesterday in the matter of a newspaper article read by him. There was no secret about that railroad matter, particularly since it was a matter of newspaper notoriety. The citizens of that locality had made an organization and secured the right of way and depot grounds; that is all they can do, for there are no capitalists there, and gladly would every stockholder in that organization make over his stock to capitalists who would put this enterprise through for the

BENEFIT OF THE PEOPLE.

He was sorry that the gentleman (Griffiths) should impugn his motives or the motives of the people of Klickitat county. He had no doubt that the gentleman had come across that newspaper slip by accident and used it here, not in the least in the interests of any railroad company and certainly not from any suggestion of theirs, but from his great sympathy with the sufferings of the people of Klickitat county. He preferred to entertain no doubt whatever of that fact, and so he should not impugn the gentleman's motives. For himself, he had always supposed himself a patriotic citizen, yet he is charged by the gentleman from Spokane (Moore) with introducing wicked and pernicious doctrines. These very doctrines are incorporated in the constitutions or laws of twenty-five states of this Union and are prohibited only in thirteen states.

It was nearly noon when he finished, but there were still one or two who desired to say a word before the convention went out for luncheon. In spite of the torrent of eloquence flowing all through the morning's session, the newspapers were not to be overcome. A count about 11:30 o'clock showed forty-one delegates, both clerks, pages, messenger, sergeant-at-arms and all but three of the reporters busily engaged reading.

Following Dunbar's earnest and eloquent speech, Moore said Dunbar had spoken of being approached by a gentleman whose pockets were plethoric with O. R. & N. stock, and he thought it due to the convention to ascertain if such reference was intended to include any member of the convention.

Mr. Dunbar said most assuredly not; that he did not recall having said he was approached in any way by members of the convention. He certainly had not been, except in a most friendly way in conversation.

Mr. Buchanan said that the citation of the states which allow subsidies was incorrect, but he had no statistics at hand to enable him to go into details of a contradiction.

Mr. Griffitts read a decision of Justice Miller of the United States supreme court, in the case of the Loan Association vs. the City of Toprka, in which it was held that railways, etc., were in a measure

PUBLIC WORKS,

but that there was no doubt of the disastrous nature of attempts to subsidize them by such votes, which the opinion characterized as robbery under a form of taxation. Proceeding, Griffitts claimed that section 7, under debate, was an invasion of the principle that private property should not be taken for private use. As to sewers, water and gas works, no tax could be raised for such purpose except the works were the property of a municipality, and, therefore, there was no argument to be drawn from that source in favor of granting a railroad subsidy to private parties. As to the reading from the REVIEW, he declared there was no impugning of any body's motives. In fact he got it from Stevenson, who passed it over to him about five minutes before he read it. He and others stood before this convention arguing for a principle when their hearts went out to individuals who were suffering, but still pleading against the insertion in the constitution of a vicious principle.

Sullivan of Whitman opposed this section 7 because it allowed the taking of private property for private use. He didn't understand the wording of the section. It was capable of being construed so as to allow the taxpayers of any county to impose a 4 per cent. tax as many times as it could get two-thirds of the taxpayers to vote for it, and for as many different enterprises, railroads, factories or anything else.

Mr. Sturdevant did not think the language of the section could be so construed.

Mr. Browne moved that the committee rise and report progress. So voted.

The president resumed the chair and Dyer reported progress, and leave to sit again was granted. Recess until 2 o'clock on motion of Bowen.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Consideration of Municipal Indebtedness Resumed.

The convention met at 2 o'clock, the president in the chair.

Mr. Dyer moved to go into committee of the whole on municipal indebtedness. So voted.

Mr. Dyer resumed the chair and the consideration of section 7 was resumed.

Mr. Browne said that several gentlemen to his certain knowledge wished to speak on this subject, who would doubtless be in shortly, and his only purpose was to occupy a moment until they came. He proposed to close the debate later.

Mr. Manly briefly expressed his opposition to the majority report.

Mr. Turner had listened with great interest to the pleas which the gentlemen from WallaWalla had made, and believed there was much in their condition which called for sympathy. Yet he could not get his own consent to vote for such a measure as this which was

VICIOUS IN PRINCIPLE,

in order to relieve local trouble. The straining of law to meet a hard case always made bad precidents. Home rule was not involved in this question.

Mr. Jones said his feelings were with the Walla Walla people, but he must vote against the principle of allowing property to be taken for private uses.

Mr. Reed was astonished at the ground taken on the question of the principle involved here. This was not a matter of taking private property for private uses, but distinctly the reverse, just as much as the builing of sewers or water works, and he favored allowing these municipalities to create such debts, under the restrictions provided by this section.

Mr. Power offered an amendmeut to insert the words "for the construction and operation of a competing railroad."

Mr. Comegys raised a point of order that at this point such an amendment was not in order, and briefly argued the point with the chair, but he did not convince the chair, and Mr. Power proceeded.

Mr. Weir thought the effect of this amendment would be to require a two-thirds vote on the railroad proposition, but not on anything else.

Mr. Crowley said it was simply a question which system was to be adopted—to

ALLOW OR NOT TO ALLOW

these counties this privilege.

Mr. Warner opposed the taking of any man's property without his consent, except in cases of right of eminent domain and of taxation for the support of the government, of which he is a part, in neither of whibh classes of cases could the proposition under discussion be placed. This was a proposition to give something to a railroad company for its own private use and gain. At Mr. Browne's request Mr. Power withdrew his amendment so as to leave the convention to a square vote on the original proposition. Mr. Blalock wondered why, if this was such a vicious proposition, it should have come to have a place in so many of the constitutions of other states. There were sixteen of these states that had had this proposition in their constitution for years. Some of them without any restrictions whatever. This committee had not gone so far as this, but had limited the power granted to counties. We ought not to say that all wisdom is in this convention, or to tie up these counties so that they never can act.

Mr. stiles moved to amend by inserting these words: "Unless the purpose to be subserved by such donations or loan be public in its nature," and hoped that the opponents of this measure would not vote against this amendment. Then the courts would say whether the purpose of the donation was private or public.

Mr. Browne claimed that this was not in order, because the convention ought now only to decide whether or not it favored subsidies.

Mr. Dunbar said it was clearly in order, beause the question before the house was on the adoption of a certain section, and so it was open to amendment.

The chair thought so, also, The question on Stiles' amendment was put and it failed by a vote of ayes 27, noes 34.

Mr. Lillis favored the majority report.

Mr. Browne closed the debate in opposition to the majority report and in opposition to all railroad subsidies. Private gain and public necessity were two

VERY DISTINCT MATTERS,

and a public school and a railroad were not to be compared together when talking about appropriating the money of the people. He could not consider that he could be willing to endorse any proposition that allowed a majority to take the property of a minority to enrich private interest, and this proposition he argued and supported in a speech of three-quarters of an hour's duration. The majority report was then rejected by ayes 27, noes 42.

The minority report was then taken up, which strictly prohibits the giving or loaning of its credit to or the owning of stock in any corporation or association by any county, city or municipal corporation.

Mr. Stiles moved to insert the words "except for the necessary support of the poor." Lost. The minority report was adopted.

On motion of Mr. Moore the committee rose to report. The president resumed the chair.

Mr. Dyer reported the article on municipal indebtedness, recommending that the convention concur in the amendments made by the committee of the whole and adopt the article.

The question was put on all the amendments togetaer, after they were read by the clerk.

Mr. Dunbar asked for the ayes and noes on each amendment separately, but withdrew that request except as to section 7. All the amendments preceding section 6 were adopted by a viva voce vote.

In section 6, when the committee of the whole amended it by raising the limit of city, county or other principal indebtedness from 1 to 1½ per cent of the assessed valuation, J. M. Reed called for the ayes and noes on concurring in that amendment. Granted, and the convention concurred by a vote of ayes 51, noes 2, and later on all the other amendments in that section by viva voce vote.

Mr. Dunbar's call for the ayes and noes on the adoption of section 7 as recommended by the minority report was granted and the amendment was concurred in by the following vote: Ayes—Allen, Berry, Browne, Buchanan, Clothier, Coey, Comegys, Cosgrove, Dallam, Dickey, Dyer, Eldredge, Fairweather, Glascock, Godman, Gray, Griffitts, Hicks, Hungate, Jeffs, Jones, Kellogg, Kinnear, Lindsley, Manly, McCroskey, McDonald, McElroy, McReavy, Miner, Miles, Moore R. S., Moore J. Z. Morgans, Newton, Reed J. M., Schavley, Stevenson, Sudksdorf, Van Name, Warner, Weir, Weisenburger, Willison, Winsor—49.

Noes—Blalock, Bowen, Burke, Crowley, Dunbar, Durie, Eshelman, Fay, Hayton, Henny, Jamison, Joy, Lillis, Neace, Power, Prosser, Reed, T. M., Sharpstein, Shoudy, Sohns, Sturdevant, Stiles, Sullivan, P. C., West, Mr. President—25.

Absent—Mr. Gowey.

Mr. Griffitts asked if section 7 as it now stands would prohibit school districts from loaning at interest their surplus funds.

Mr. Browne said he never knew any school district to have funds to loan.

Mr. Griffitts said he had

ANOTHER AMENDMENT.

Mr. Sohns moved to amend by adding the following to Section 7: "But this section shall not be so construed as to prevent incorporated cities from granting necessary terminal and shipping facilities on public levees and rights of way through streets to railroads and transportation companies."

Mr. Dunbar hoped not. This section should stand as a gem of liberality by itself. The amendment failed on a viva voce vote.

Mr. Sohns asked for the ayes and noes. Granted, and on roll call it failed again—ayes 31, noes 43.

Mr. Turner moved to amend by changing "three-fifths" to "a majority" in the provision regarding the vote required to authorize a city to incur indebtedness for public works. Turner and Cosgrove favored and Buchanan opposed the amendment.

Mr. Cosgrove called for the ayes and noes. Granted, and the result was, ayes 30, noes 41, and the amendment failed.

Mr. Stiles moved again his amendment adding the provision, "except for the necessary support of the poor," and said he did this not in a captious spirit, but from a doubt as to whether the section, as it stood, provided for this.

Mr. Cosgrove hoped that it would pass, and that the gentlemen would not vote down everything because they couldn't have what they wanted.

Mr. Browne said this had no place in the section, and he hoped it would not be put in there.

The vote was ayes 30, noes 27, and the amendment prevailed.

Mr. Weir moved to reduce $500,000 in the first section, limiting the state indebtedness to $400,000.

Sullivan moved to insert in place of these figures the words "one-half of one per cent. of the assessed valuation."

A roll call was asked and granted, and resulted in the rejection of the amendment by a vote of ayes 23, noes 51.

Mr. Sohns offered an amendment allowing subsidies to counties for canals and ditches for irrigation only and for the support of the poor.

The question was divided at the request of Mr. Durie, and the ditches and canals taken up first. It failed by a decided vote. That portion relative to the poor was decided to have been already passed upon on Stiles' motion.

Mr. Griffitts moved that the article be now considered engrossed and passed to

A THIRD READING

and put upon its passage under a suspension of the rules. A two-thirds vote being required it was had—37 ayes to 18 noes.

Before putting that motion the president gave notice that he should file his protest, to go on record to-morrow, against this action, he being opposed to section 1. The article was then adopted and sent to the committee on revision by a vote of ayes 48, noes 24.

CORPORATIONS COMMITTEE.

Their Report and the Usual Debates Thereon.

Mr. Durie asked and received leave of absence for to-morrow.

Mr. Comegys asked unanimous consent to take up the report of the committee on federal relations. Several objections were made and then the question was put on suspending the rules for that purpose and consent was given—ayes 22, noes 11.

Mr. Stiles made a point of order that no quorum voted. The point was sustained and the motion declared lost.

The report of the committee on corporations other than municipal was taken up, and on motion of Mr. Dyer the convention went into committee of the whole thereon, with Dyer in the chair. The article on corporations was read in full and section 1 was taken up.

SECTION 1. Corporations may be formed under general laws, but shall not be created by special acts. All laws relating to corporations may be altered, amended or repealed by the legislature at any time, and all corporations doing business in this state may, as to such business, be regulated, limited or restrained by law. Adopted.

SEC. 2. All existing charters, franchises, or special or exclusive privileges, under which an actual and bona fide organization shall not have taken place and business been commenced in good faith at the time of the adoption of this constitution shall thereafter have no validity.

Mr. Stiles moved to strike out the section because he saw no possible necessity for it or why all corporations in process and stock partially subscribed, but not quite able to proceed, should stop and lose their expenses and have to begin over again.

Mr. Cosgrove thought it void by the enabling act and unfair any way.

Mr. Kinnear understood there were more charters granted by special acts of the legislature, and if incorporators had not actually entered upon business they should not be allowed to claim special privileges and had not, within reasonable time, exercised those privileges, hence they should come in under the general law. If there are none such then it is immaterial whether this section goes in. This is a clause in a considerable number of state constitutions especially recent ones.

Mr Cosgrove withdrew what he had said about the enabling act.

Mr. Turner did not believe the enabling act would propose to continue laws of a territory after becoming a state. This provision was to bring all corporations not actually doing business in under the general law.

Mr. Stiles said he would not object to this course as to charters actually lapsed, but he objected to the term "all existing charters and franchises, etc.," if limited to such organizations, that would do no harm, but many corporations are actually organized and about ready for business and operation. This clause would be to make void every subscription to their stock, and only because of the possible existence of some corporations of which the gentlemen are not even sure. Lost. Ayes 21, noes 24.

Mr. Godman asked and was excused for the balance of the day.

Mr. Hoyt said the committee can do nothing but what it was raised for.

Mr. Godman—Well, Mr. Chairman, I guess I can retire anyhow, and he retired.

Mr. Minor offered an amendment striking out the word "franchise" and substituting "grants." Lost. The section was adopted. Ayes 23, noes not counted.

SEC. 3. The legislature shall not extend any franchise or charter nor remit the forfeiture of any franchise or charter of any corporation now existing or which shall hereafter exist under the laws of this state. Adopted.

SEC. 4. All stockholders in all incorporated companies (except corporations organized for banking or insurance purposes) shall be liable for debts of the corporation to the amount of their unpaid stock and no more.

Mr. Griffitts moved to strike out this section.

Mr. Sharpstein moved to strike out "except corporations organized for banking or insurance purposes," leaving all corporations to stand alike.

Mr. Griffitts said this section 4 was now law anyhow, and was distinctively legislative in its character. Mr. Sharpstein seid this was to protect editors.

Mr. Hoyt said banks and insurance companies ought to be under heavier liabilities than other corporations, because they took the people's money largely in excess of the amount of their capital stock.

Mr. Hoyt agreed as to banking companies, but did not as to insurance companies.

Mr. Crowley believed in retaining the section as it stood. Insurance companies took the money of the people and agreed to pay them so much money if their property burned. Then, sometimes, when property burns the company evaporates and the stockholders should pay.

Mr. Dyer agreed with the last speaker as to preventing wildcat companies.

Mr. Hoyt said a double or treble liability on insurance stockholders would result in having stock all in the hands of persons who could not respond and thus encourage instead of discouraging wildcat insurance.

Messrs. Sharpstein, Turner, Stiles, Moore, Kinnear, E. H. Sullivan, Buchanan and P. C. Sullivan discussed this point, largely in its legal aspect, and then Mr. Sharpstein's amendment died. On Mr. Griffitts' motion to strike out the whole section there were remarks by Messrs. Weisenberger and Griffitts.

ADJOURNED.

Mr. Schooley moved that the committee rise and report progress. So voted.

The president resumed the chair. Mr. Stiles moved to adjourn.

Mr. Turner called for the ayes and noes; granted.

The convention then adjourned to 9 o'clock Friday morning.

IDAHO.

Proceedings of the Convention at Boise City.

BOISE CITY, Aug. 1.—Most of the morning session of the Idaho convention was occupied by the discussion of a section in the bill of rights relating to the right way for irrigation purposes.

No change was made and the bill was placed on its final passage and adopted—noes 2.

At the afternoon session the chapter on revenue and finance was considered. The fiscal year commences on the second Monday in January. Property, per capita and licensed taxes are permitted. The sections relating to the taxation of mines and exemptions were laid aside until to-morrow to allow the printing of a substitute. State taxation is limited to 10 mills on the dollar until the assessed valuation of $50,000,000 is reached; then it shall not exceed over 5 mills. When the assessment reaches $100,000,000 the rate shall not exceed 3 mills on the dollar.

Public officers are forbidden to use public money for private profit. The legislature is forbidden to appropriate money in excess of the tax levy. The governor secretary of state attorney-general, state auditor and state treasurer are made a state board of equalization and the county commissioners made a county board of equalization. No moneys are to be drawn except upon appropriations made or bills allowed. County finances are to be constructed on a cash basis.

The Montana Convention.

HELENA, Aug. 1.—The time of the convention to-day was occupied in wrangling over various sections of the report of the committee on miscellaneous subjects. The proposition for the taxation of irrigating canals and ditches of companies or individuals and mining and farming interests caused a long debate. Burleigh wanted to exempt irrigating property but to empower the legislature to fix water rates. The section was finally defeated. The legislature was authorized by a two-thirds vote to alter or amend the constitution, subject to a vote of the people.

South Dakota Convention.

SIOUX FALLS, Dak., Aug. 1.—A short session of the convention was held today, but no business of importance was done. South Dakota members of the committee returned from Bismarck to-day and a consideration of their report will be begun to-morrow.

PLYMOUTH DEDICATION.

Dedication of a Monument to the Pilgrim Fathers.

PLYMOUTH, MASS., Aug. 1.—The national monument in honor of the pilgrims was dedicated to-day. The sons and daughters of Plymouth were here in great numbers, also visitors from far and near. The weather of the early morning was unpropitious, but it was necessary to view the parade from beneath umbrellas. The celebration began at sunrise with a salute and ringing of bells. The morning trains brought vast numbers of strangers and a great throng surrounded the new monument at 9:30 A. M., when the dedicatory exercises were carried out by the Masonic grand lodge according to the ritual of their order.

The band rendered a choral by John K. Paine, following with a song of praise written by Mrs. S. W. Thomas. Following the song came the address of the president of the Pilgrim society, ex-Governor Long; response of Grand Master Henry Endicott; proclamation by Grand Marshal George H. Rhodes; reading of Bradford's selections by Grand Chaplain Report. On examination of the monument there were libations of corn and wine by the junior and senior grand grand wardens, followed by an invocation by the grand chaplain. Grand Master Rhodes delivered the address, and the assemblage sang the closing hymn by R. W. Thomas Power, to the tune of "America." The exercises were then concluded with a proclamation by the grand marshal; the benediction by the grand chaplain and the Pilgrim chorus by the band. In the meantime the procession had been forming and moved at 11 o'clock over the extensive route in seven directions. At the completion of the parade the officers and members of the pilgrim society listened to an oration, after which the poet and invited guests took places in the great dining tent and over a feast provided for the occasion discussed for an hour interesting subjects.

Congressman Breckenridge of Kentucky delivered an eloquent address. John Boyle O'Reilly, poet of the occasion, read a poem entitled "The Pilgrim Fathers."

Public Debt Statement.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 1.—The following is the debt statement issued to-day:

Interest bearing debt, principal	$ 889,363,302
Interest	523,585
Total	$ 895,391,887
Debt on which interest has ceased since maturity, principal and interest	2,057,740
Debt bearing no interest	749,327,683
Total debt, principal	1,641,190,225
Interest	5,677,070
Total	$1,646,777,310
Less cash items available for reduction of the debt	$ 403,256,287
Less reserve held for redemption of United States notes	100,000,000
Total	$ 503,256,287
Total debt less available cash items	$1,143,521,023
Net cash in treasury	65,857,090
Debt less cash in transit August 1, 1889	1,076,663,933
Debt less cash in treasury July 1, 1889	1,076,646,621
Increase of debt during the month	1,017,312
Increase of debt since June 30, 1889	1,017,312
Total cash in the treasury as shown by the treasurer's general account	$ 634,723,023

Pennsylvania Floods.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Aug. 1.—The water in the Schuylkill yesterday attained the highest point reached in this city for twenty years, involving destruction to property estimated from $10,000 to $20,000. The park drives were submerged, boathouses flooded and some of the streets near the river banks were under water to a depth of between four and five feet. The cellars of two paper mills and about a dozen houses were flooded. All work at the Manayunk and Pencoyd iron works opposite was stopped this evening on account of the encroachment of waters. Throughout the eastern section of the state the rain fall was very heavy. Many houses and mills along Brandywine creek and the vicinity about Chester and Downington were flooded and business stopped.

Accounting For Defeat.

LONDON, Aug. 1.—Boulanger has issued a manifesto, in which he attributes his defeat in the elections for councils general, Saturday last, to the ambitions of local candidates. He declares he is confident of the result of the elections in France for members of the chamber of deputies.

PARIS, August 1. — Political circles here regard the manifesto of Boulanger as weak and not likely to improve his position.

A Catholic Call.

CHICAGO, Aug. 1.—The committee yesterday issued a call for a general congress of the Catholic laity of the United States, to be held at Baltimore, November 11 and 12, to celebrate the centennial anniversary of the establishment of the Catholic hierarchy. A general discussion of matters of interest will be invited. Concurrently with the celebration will occur the formal opening of the Catholic University of America at Washington.

Wanted an Adjournament.

LONDON, Aug. 1.—In the commons this evening Mr. Sexton moved an adjournment in order to consider the sentence imposed upon Dr. Tanner under the crimes act. After a lengthy debate Sexton's motion was rejected.

WESTERN WHISPERS.

The Switch Breakers at Albany, Oregon, Under Arrest for the Crime.

A Chinese Murderer to be Hanged in Portland--Murder and Suicide.

The Murphy Fight Indefinitely Postponed--Syndicate Buying up Paper Mills.

ALBANY, Aug. 1.—William A. Hill, Fred and Herbert Rolfe were arrested on a charge of murder for breaking open a switch on the Southern Pacific railway near this city, Sunday night, which caused an accident resulting in the death of Engineer Jack Miller. They were held in Justice Humphrey's court this evening without bail. Fred Rolfe and Hill are aged about 23 and Herbert Rolfe 19. Hill and young Rolfe have both made a confession of the crime. They are ignorant young men and do not seem to realize the enormity of their crime.

INDEFINITELY POSTPONED.

The Murphy Stake Divided—Paper Mills Being Sold.

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Aug. 1.—At a meeting of the directors of the California Athletic Club to-night the Murphy-Murphy fight, which was partly finished Tuesday night, was indefinitely postponed and the purse of $1245 divided between the men, Frank Murphy receiving $670 and Billy Murphy $575. A fight between Frank Murphy and Tommy Warren, featherweights, purse $1800, was also arranged. It will probably take place in September.

It is semi-officially stated that representatives of an English syndicate are here for the purpose of buying up all the paper mills on the Pacific coast. Last Saturday a half interest in the South Coast Paper Mills at Soquel, Monterey county was purchased by a man supposed to be the representative of a syndicate. Six hundred thousand dollars has been offered for the Taylorville mills, owned by S. P. Taylor & Co., and it is rumored that the Lick Paper and California Mill companies have also received offers.

Mrs. Kate Perry, reputed grandmother of Florence Blythe, concluded her testimony to-day, having been on the witness stand one week. She stood the last three days cross-examination without flinching and apparently without having her evidence weakened in the least. Her testimony was for the purpose of establishing Florence's claim to the Blythe estate.

RAILROAD CONSOLIDATION.

The Union Pacific Absorbs Nearly All the Coast Lines.

PORTLAND, Aug. 1.—Articles of consolidation and agreement between the Oregon Short Line, Utah & Northern, Utah Central, Salt Lake & Western, Utah & Nevada, Ogden & Syracuse, Idaho Central, and Nevada Pacific railroads, were filed with the secretary of state's office to-day. These companies are to unite under the name of the Oregon Short Line & Utah Northern with Charles Francis Adams president, William H. Holcomb of Omaha, vice-president; Gardiner M. Lane of Boston, second vice-president; James G. Blaine of Boston, treasurer; Oliver W. Mink of Boston, comptroller; A. Miller of Boston, secretary; Luther Sanderson of Boston, assistant treasurer. The principal places of business will be Cheyenne, Wyo.; Salt Lake City, Utah; Pocatello, Idaho; Butte, Mont.; Huntington, Or., and Reno, Nevada. This consolidation includes all lines and branches owned by the above several companies and assessments and dividends to be made according to the amount of shares owned by each company.

SUNSET IN PORTLAND.

Hon. S. S. Cox on His Way to Spokane Falls.

PORTLAND, Aug. 1.—Hon. S. S. Cox of New York arrived to-day. A committee of prominent democrats called upon him this afternoon and asked him to address a meeting of them, but he had to decline, as he will have to leave for Spokane Falls to-morrow. He was asked to-night who he thought would be the democratic nominee for president next time:

"I have no idea," he said, "and I think no one else has. If they keep up the fight between Cleveland and Hill in New York I think some Western man will be the nominee."

Blew Out His Brains.

PORT TOWNSEND, W. T., Aug. 1.—Jerry Lewis, a hostler, suicided this afternoon near town by blowing out his brains. Lewis was a quiet fellow, very freely lately, and when settling up with his employer, Henry Hill, at Tibball's race track, threatened Hill's life and attempted to shoot him. A young boy caught Lewis' arm, which gave Hill time to get out of danger. He came to town for a warrant and officers. Lewis followed, and when within half a mile of Port Townsend put a pistol to his head with the foregoing result. Lewis was a native of Florida, and has resided here for several years. He has had considerable family troubles.

Indians Still Hold Back.

BISMARCK, Aug. 1.—The commissioners have had their councils with the Indians. John Grass has been the only speaker, but he has evidently voiced the minds of all. He has said repeatedly that he saw no inducements in this year's bill to change from his opposition of last year. There has not as yet been a single public expression favorable to the bill by any of the Indians. This combination cannot last much longer. John Grass and Gall, it is thought, will eventually sign and this would insure success.

Chee Gong Will Hang.

PORTLAND, Aug. 1.—Governor Pennoyer said to-night that he would not interfere with the course of the law in the case of Chee Gong, the Chinese murderer, who is to be executed on the 9th for the murder of Lee Yick, in the Chinese theater, on the night of November 6, 1887. The governor has been petitioned for clemency, but says he cannot see his way clear to do anything for the condemned man.

They Went Down in Ships.

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 1.—Chilian papers say a telegram has been received from Castro, confirming the report of the loss of the steamer Rapel. The Rapel was wrecked on Humblin island on the 20th of April. The second officer, McLaughlin, Chief Engineer Schneider, Purser Elliott and eight of the crew were lost. Captain Carnay and two officers with three of the crew succeeded in reaching Castro. The remainder of the crew remained on the island awaiting succor.

Destructive Fire at The Dalles.

THE DALLES, Or., Aug 1.—The beautiful little city of The Dalles was visited again by fire at 11:05 this morning. The fire lasted one hour and did destructive work. This is the third time the buildings on this street have been burned to the ground. They will be rebuilt with brick. The losses aggregate about $13,000.

Fighting For Fun.

PORT TOWNSEND, Aug. 1.—Tom Ward and Thomas Cleary, two well-known pugilists, fought four rounds near town to-day. Cleary was given the fight. The fight was about a prostitute the men had quarreled about.

Eastern Floods.

PLAINFIELD, N. J., Aug. 1.—The present estimate of the damage done by the flood from the broken dam at Feltville to Gadmus' dam, a distance of five miles, is $250,000. The streets in Plainfield are damaged to the extent of $20,000. The large upper dam at Feltville is reported leaking badly, and it may break at any time. More rain will prove disastrous. The dam is twenty feet high and it holds back a lake a mile and a quarter long and from 300 to 500 feet wide and thirty feet deep in some places. If it gives way the Scotch plains and Fanwood will probably be swept out of existence and Plainfield will be inundated.

Bumpity-Bump, Co-Chuck and Co-Splash.

[From the Orondo News.]

Douglas county history cannot be written unless the palmy days of Okanogan has a place therein. We struck Okanogan in March 1881—the first passenger on the stage ever run through from Spokane Falls to Okanogan. Mr. Adams the Okanogan townsite boomer was the route guide and "Pard Cumins" (now keeping store on the Okanogan river) was driver of the route and driver to Wilson creek. The incidents of that pioneer trip are indelibly stamped on the tablets of memory but we will only relate one at a time, viz: Mr. Adams and "pard" occupied the driver's seat and the writer the back seat which was directly over a keg of powder for use in the Okanogan well. "Pard" drove at a wonderful rate of speed betimes through the slush of melting snow and softening mud and as darkness overtook us ten miles beyond Cottonwood (now Duvenport) he increased the speed, dashing through a deep ravine filled with ice cold snow water bumpty-bump till the center of the deep put was reached by the front wheels, when the motion changed to co-chuck, the back seat turning a summersault backwards, your humble servant going with it into the foaming brooklet, co-splash with his feet skywards and the bedding, etc., all on top. An instant changed position and rescued the floating traps, but fancy our dismay to behold "Pard" dashing up the hill with increased speed unconscious of our accident. A good pair of lungs served us well to telephone the accident. We hurriedly loaded up again, our bodies full of ice cold water, "Pard" promising to stop in a few minutes for the night. We cannot quite forgive "Pard" for driving ten miles with our clothing drenching wet in a frosty night. Fifty immigrants landed the same day at Okanogan—the boom was booming and town lots sold for $200 and $250 each. The house afterwards used as a county building was erected at once for an immigrants' home. Coyle's hotel, 40x60 feet, was built. Ben Martin's store was opened and other improvements were instituted, such as setting out shade trees on the streets, planting a large orchard intended then for a city park.

Okanogan was the first county seat of Douglas county, and would still be our county metropolis if that dry well 225 feet deep had not let the bottom out of the boom. Here the population used to gather for elections, picnics and dancing.

Alas, the change! Coyle's hotel has been moved away; but naught remains except the root house and Mr. Coyle's well bored great to mark that era of the county's history. Mr. Coyle, county treasurer, has departed to other lands to live life over again.