

OREGON LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS IN BREVITY

Saturday, February 16.

Salem, Feb. 16.—By a practically unanimous vote the bill requiring old life insurance companies to create a reserve fund from a certain percentage of the premiums received for policies passed the house this morning.

The house today passed a bill to enable the husband or wife to transfer property that was acquired subsequent to the time the other was committed to the insane asylum.

The house adopted the senate resolution proposing an amendment to the constitution by which the number of justices of the supreme court shall be increased from three to five. The people will vote on the proposed amendment at the 1908 general election.

The house postponed action on the bill regulating practice of osteopath physicians.

The house passed the bill creating Nesmith County from that part of Wasco County south of the Deschutes river and the north part of Crook county.

The per diem and mileage allowance of the members of the house for this session has been made up. The total is \$9,705.45. King, of Harney and Malheur, receives the greatest amount, \$120 per diem and \$149.10 mileage. Rogers and Reynolds, of Marion, receive the smallest amounts, each getting \$120 per diem and 30 cents mileage.

Friday, February 15.

Salem, Feb. 15.—The senate, by a vote of 18 to 11, passed the reapportionment bill of Senator Hart.

There will probably be no banking legislation this session. One bill was reported in the senate today, but it is certain to be killed and most of the others will die for lack of time.

The senate bill compelling the issuance of passes to state officers was passed by the house today and sent to the governor.

The irrigation and water code bill was slain in the house this afternoon.

The senate voted to buy the half block between the capitol building and the Southern Pacific to complete the capitol grounds. An appropriation of \$30,000 is made for the purchase.

The senate indefinitely postponed Hodson's bill making the Associated Press a common carrier.

The house joint resolution favoring five supreme court judges was adopted by the senate.

Both houses passed the juvenile court bill over the veto of the governor and the measure is now a law.

The bill creating the Port of Columbia for control of pilotage and towage at the mouth of the Columbia passed the house.

The house passed the Jones bill for the purchase and maintenance of the Oregon City locks in conjunction with the Federal government.

The senate today passed 32 bills and the house 11.

Thursday, February 14.

Salem, Feb. 14.—The house today adopted a resolution fixing 12:01 a. m., February 24, as the time for adjournment of the legislature. It was also voted that no more bills should be received except by the standing committees. There are 440 bills on the calendar and consideration of senate measures has not yet commenced. The senate is becoming anxious and is discussing means of forcing the house to act upon senate bills.

The house passed the bill appropriating \$150,000 to the Agricultural college.

The house bill creating the office of inspector of mines passed that body without opposition.

Smith's bill to abolish two of the four normal schools passed the house tonight by a vote of 38 to 16, six absent. Only one slight amendment was made from the way it passed the senate, changing the time of the meeting of the new board from the third Wednesday in June to the third Wednesday in May.

A house resolution provides for the printing of 5,000 copies of the railroad commission bill for distribution to those who desire copies.

The house passed seven bills and the senate nine. Eleven new bills were introduced in the house this morning before the resolution checking the flood appeared.

Wednesday, February 13.

Salem, Feb. 13.—With only one dissenting vote the senate today took the Chapin railroad commission bill from the table. It is now ready for the governor's signature and it is said he will sign it. It was also reported tonight that he and the secretary of state and state treasurer had already conferred on the appointment of the commission.

Representative Newell proposed a constitutional amendment providing the recall of public officials. The idea is that where an officer is not serving the people the way he should, a petition containing the names of 25 per cent of the voters in his district may be filed asking his resignation. Should this not be forthcoming, a special election is called to elect a successor. At the special election the officer whose resignation is asked is also a candidate, and should he not be re-elected he must vacate the office to the successful candidate.

Post Habituals' Names.

Grants Pass—Grants Pass has solved the habitual drunkard problem in a novel way that is satisfactory to all concerned. When a man begins to make a nuisance of himself by drinking, the city attorney drafts an ordinance enacting that John Jones is a habitual drunkard, the city council passes it, and John Jones' name is forth with posted in all the saloons, which are forbidden under penalty of losing their license to sell him liquor.

Secretary Loses Perquisites.

Salem—One of the perquisites which the secretary of state has enjoyed for years was cut off by the senate when that body passed S. B. 19, by Kay. This measure provides that all fees issued for notary public commissions shall go into the state treasury, instead of into the pocket of the secretary of state, as heretofore. The proposed law authorizes a charge of \$5 a year for a commission, or \$10 for two years. Formerly the fee was \$2.

MOST LIBERAL IN HISTORY.

River and Harbor Bill Gives Almost All Northwest Asked.

Washington, Feb. 15.—Never before in the history of rivers and harbors legislation has any congress dealt so liberally with the Pacific Northwest as the present congress will do in the pending river and harbor bill. Not only is the aggregate appropriation larger than ever before, but the appropriations more nearly approximate the estimates of the engineers. This is in a very large measure due to the remarkably efficient work of Representative Jones, of Washington, who is on the river and harbor committee as representative of his own and neighboring states. Mr. Jones was in a position to do things, and his accomplishments speak for themselves. Indeed the house has been so very liberal that the senate has nothing left to do, unless it be to raise a few appropriations that fall below the house figures, and it is doubtful if many such increases can be secured, for in every instance where the house cut the estimates on Oregon and Washington projects it was for some specific and very good reason.

In his work in committee Mr. Jones had the active support of Senator Fulton, and the Oregon senator did everything that a man not a member of the committee could do to aid in getting liberal recognition for Oregon and Columbia river projects. There was absolute harmony throughout, and the two men worked together to a common end.

The effectiveness of Mr. Jones' work is found in the figures themselves. The total amount recommended by the engineers for Oregon and Washington projects was \$5,110,244; the total appropriation carried by the house bill is \$4,670,244, a difference of \$440,000. The reductions were on the Celilo canal, \$150,000 being taken from the amount recommended and given to the upper river, for which a new project was recommended late in December; on the Willamette and Columbia rivers below Portland, where \$150,000 was deducted because Portland business men had assured the committee that a new taxation district was to be formed to raise money to aid in this improvement; and the Cascade locks on the Columbia river, where \$105,000 was recommended for grading and filling in behind the completed locks. The committee felt that this work was not urgent, as the canal lock is itself completed.

With these exceptions, the house bill provides the amounts recommended by the engineers, and in the case of Coquille river the committee appropriates \$60,000 when only \$40,000 was asked by the War department. The \$60,000 will complete this project, as shown by the figures of the local engineers, so the committee decided to clear up the whole matter at one time.

The following table gives the various projects and the amounts appropriated by the house bill:

Mouth of Columbia river, \$2,450,244; Dalles-Celilo canal, \$600,000; rivers, Portland to sea, \$300,000; Columbia between Celilo and mouth of Snake river, \$120,000; Upper Columbia, between Wenatchee and Bridgeport, \$42,000; Upper Columbia and Snake, \$10,000; Coquille river, \$60,000; Coots river, \$3,000; dredge, Oregon and Washington coast harbors, \$100,000; Tillamook bay, \$10,000; improvement of Upper Willamette, \$60,000; Clatskanie, \$500; Cowlitz and Lewis rivers, \$50,000; Willapa harbor, \$25,000; Gray's harbor, \$600,000; Gray's inner harbor, \$177,000; Gray's river, \$2,500; Puget sound and tributaries (dredging) \$75,000; Lake Washington canal, \$10,000; Swinomish strait, \$75,000; Okanogan and Pend d'Oreille, \$20,000.

Two Dead, 1,000 Homeless.

Pine Bluff, Arkansas, Feb. 15.—Notwithstanding the rumors in regard to the loss of life as a result of a fire which last night destroyed 90 cottages and residences, three hotels, the Carr memorial church and fully 200 barns and outhouses, entailing a loss of \$200,000, so far as can be learned only two persons lost their lives. They were John Springer, a foreman in the Cotton Belt railroad yard, and a man named Reed, who is said to have gone into a burning building while intoxicated. Nearly 1,000 people are homeless.

Finds Huge Spot on Sun.

Pittsburg, Feb. 15.—Professor John M. Brashear, of the Allegheny observatory, announces the discovery of one of the greatest sunspots ever brought to the attention of astronomers. He says as a result of electrical disturbances will be experienced throughout the country tomorrow night. The spot can be seen through smoked glass, but the scientist adds that it is one of the most active of solar spots. Its approximate length is said to be 150,000 miles and 30,000 miles wide, covering an area of about 3,500,000 square miles.

Great Flood in Nebraska.

South Omaha, Feb. 15.—The bodies of Dan McCrone, a veterinary surgeon, his wife and daughter, and Miss Bell, who were drowned in the flood at Columbus yesterday, have been recovered. Today all the livestock in the Union Pacific stock yards at Columbus was destroyed. All trains are held up, telephone and telegraph wires down. Dynamite is being used in the Loup river by the Union Pacific, which is doing its utmost to relieve the situation.

Treaty for Prohibition in Africa.

Washington, Feb. 15.—The senate committee on foreign relations today authorized a favorable report on a general treaty with the powers looking to the suppression of the liquor traffic in Africa by enforcing a prohibitive tariff.

MAKING NEW FREIGHT RATES

Railroads of Entire Country Are Rearranging Schedules.

Committees Working on New Tariffs Which Abolish Commodity Rates and Make Advance of 3 to 100 Per Cent—Shippers Must Pay for Improvements.

Chicago, Feb. 14.—Railroads of the entire country are preparing to make general increases in freight rates which will bring them several hundred millions added revenue annually.

In Chicago conferences are being held between the highest traffic men of both Eastern and Western roads with a view to eliminating hundreds of rates which are known as "commodity rates" and to compel shippers to submit everything to classification rates, which are substantially higher. The preliminary work is being done by committees representing both sections of the country and the real magnitude of the increases and of the general move for more revenue will not be known until these committees make their report, which may not come before June.

The plan for a general increase in rates is due to the alarm which is felt in Wall street and among the stockholders and directors of all railroads over the growing difficulty in securing money with which to make needed improvements, build extensions and provide equipment and facilities for carrying the traffic of the country.

It was stated today that more than \$1,800,000,000 had been appropriated by the railroads for these purposes, but that it is impossible to float the securities in any of the markets of the world. Accordingly the railway presidents and the men who control the transportation facilities of the country have come to the conclusion that the only way to raise the necessary money is to increase the price of what they have to sell, which is transportation.

In some way it is expected that many hundred articles which are now transported on "commodity rates" will be restored to the classification, which will operate to increase the rates from three to fifty, and in some cases even 100 per cent. In connection with the elimination of many commodity rates, it is stated that all of the lines have agreed that uniform classification would be a good thing, as the shippers, desire it. When this is finally obtained, it may be found that the classification rates on many articles have been increased.

At present fully 75 per cent of the tonnage of the country is carried on "commodity rates," which are very much under the corresponding classification rates. All of the heavy tonnage, such as flour, grain, iron, steel, coal, are moved on the lower rate.

ORDERS NEW VENIRE.

Jury Panel in Adams Case Exhausted Second Day.

Wallace, Idaho, Feb. 13.—At the close of the second day of the trial of Steve Adams for the murder of Fred Tyler, 34 talesmen had been examined, exhausting the panel and the court had ordered the summoning of a new venire. Eleven jurors remained in the jury box and the defense still retains the right to four peremptory challenges and the state one.

When the court ordered a new venire Attorney E. F. Richardson, counsel for the defense, made an affidavit that the sheriff is biased, and asked that a special commission be appointed to summon the venire. In his affidavit it is alleged that Angus Sutherland, whose term as sheriff expired last month, was made sheriff in 1899 during the labor troubles by the Mine Owners' association, and that as sheriff he cannot serve two consecutive terms. The present sheriff, William Bailey, was nominated with the understanding that Sutherland should still be in complete control under the direction of the corporation hostile to the Western Federation of Miners. A session was held last night to decide the point.

BOUND FAST BY RED TAPE.

Down Timber Goes to Waste Because Law Forbids Sale.

Washington, Feb. 13.—There's money going to waste in Klickitat county owing to departmental methods and red tape, as well as to the fact of there being no law under which action can be taken. Last spring a severe storm passed through this country, felling an immense number of trees, practically all the timber in two townships being razed. This timber is on the ground, is rapidly bluing and unless something is done by which it can be utilized it soon will be worthless for lumber purposes. There is a sale for this timber, but the lumber companies are afraid to touch it, as the home-owners upon whose land it is lying have not in all cases commuted their claims and if they should abandon them after selling the down timber, the buyer might be placed in a very embarrassing position.

Travelers Rebel at Food.

Leavenworth, Wash., Feb. 13.—Another trainload of passengers arrived here today, making about 600 stranded at this place. Conditions in the day coaches are terrible. The railroad is giving two meals a day, and the food is revolting. Passengers will not patronize the dining cars unless allowed to order their dinner in preference to the meal landed them. The large ice-house at the depot was wrecked today, the roof caving in from the weight of snow. A Japanese was buried in the debris and sustained a broken arm.

He Sold Watered Stock.

Minneapolis, Feb. 13.—President A. B. Stickney, of the Chicago Great Western railroad, admitted to the legislative railroad investigating committee that he sold watered stock; that he sold \$3,600,000 worth of stocks and bonds for \$1,800,000, and was going to put more on the market. "I think railroads and owners of railroads are entitled to all the interest and dividends they can get, provided reasonable rates are charged."

Demurrage Bill Passed.

Pierre, S. D., Feb. 13.—The house today passed the reciprocal demurrage bill. The bill to prohibit corporations to contribute to campaign funds was passed. Another bill approved by the house prohibits "treating" in saloons. All these measures have passed the senate and now go to the governor.

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COLLISION DURING BLIZZARD

Believed 175 Lives Were Lost—Many of Them Froze.

Block Island, R. I., Feb. 13.—A marine disaster with appalling loss of life and entailing suffering almost beyond the limit of human endurance came to light today, when a life boat of the Joy line steamer Larchmont, bound from Providence to New York, drifted into Block Island harbor.

In the boat were several bodies of men who had died from the effects of long hours of exposure to a death-dealing temperature. In the boat also were 11 men whose suffering was so intense that they seemed oblivious to the fact that death was in their midst and they had escaped only by virtue of their ability to withstand the rigor of zero weather in an open boat at sea.

The boat brought a tale of disaster that has rarely been equaled in New England waters, and it is believed that, when the final outcome is known, it will be found that not less than 150 lives were lost. Following closely in the wake of the solitary lifeboat came bodies, lifeboats and rafts, cast on the beach by the angry waves.

Owing to the condition of the survivors it was impossible to get from them an estimate of the loss of life. From 150 to 175 persons went to their death, and at a late hour tonight it was believed that the latter figures are nearer correct.

The cause of the accident has not been satisfactorily explained. It occurred just off Watch Hill about 11 o'clock last night, when the three masted schooner Harry Knowlton, bound from South Amboy for Boston with a cargo of coal, crashed into the steamer's port amidships. Captain McVey, of the Larchmont, declares that the Knowlton suddenly swerved from her course, luffed up into the wind and crashed into his vessel. Captain Haley of the Knowlton asserts that the steamer did not give his vessel sufficient sea room.

At the conclusion of the conference the president informed the delegation that he would present the entire matter under consideration to the cabinet at its meeting today and later call the delegation to the White House again.

LONG ARRAY OF LEGAL TALENT

Able Lawyers Gathered From Far and Near to Assist in the Case.

Spokane, Feb. 12.—The legal battle for the life of Steve Adams began yesterday in the mining town of Wallace, Idaho. On one side are the forces of the state, seeking Adams' conviction as the first step toward convicting the leaders of the Western Federation of Miners, who are charged with the assassination of ex-Governor Frank Steunenberg, of Idaho; on the other is the powerful Federation, with all the resources at its command, declaring the charges are false and an attempt by the mine owners to break up the union.

The crime against Steve Adams is the murder of Fred Tyler, a settler who disappeared from his timber claim on Marble creek about August 10, 1904, and whose body was found later. His murder remained a mystery till after the assassination of ex-Governor Steunenberg. Harry Orchard's graphic confession is said not only to have implicated Steve Adams in other Federation men in the governor's murder, but declared that Adams and Jack Simpkins also killed Tyler. Simpkins has never been found.

OREGON APPLES IN LONDON.

Rogue River Newtowns Net Growers \$2 38 F. O. B.

Medford, Or., Feb. 12.—The high character of the yellow Newtown apples produced in the Rogue river valley is illustrated by the returns which are coming in from the numerous cars consigned to the London dealers by the growers of this valley the present season. Fred H. Hopkins received a cable today from the first car of his product placed upon the market this year, the same having been consigned to Dennis & Sons, of Covent Garden, who report the sale of the carload, consisting of 450 boxes of four-tier and 150 boxes of four and one-half tier apples, at an average net figure f. o. b. shipping point, of \$2.38 per box.

The importance of the apple situation impresses one the more when it is known that the Rogue river valley has no less than 10,000 acres of the yellow Newtown variety of apples, either now in bearing or nearing the bearing age.

Trade Treaty With Germany.

Washington, Feb. 12.—S. D. N. North, the director of the census, who was a member of the tariff commission which went to Germany to confer with a similar commission appointed by the German government with a view to arriving at a basis upon which the tariff of the two countries might be satisfactorily arranged, had a conference today with Secretary Root. While no statement on the subject can be had, it is believed that the draft of a treaty in process looks toward a correction of complaints made by Germany.

Inquiries Into Omaha Grain Rate.

Omaha, Feb. 12.—The Interstate Commerce commission here today began an investigation of the recent rise in grain rates put into effect by the Union Pacific railroad. The complainant charges that the Union Pacific raised carload rates on grain across the Missouri river bridge at Omaha from \$2 per car to \$8 per car. The railroad in its answer admitted all the claims except that it is denied that the increased rates are exorbitant.

Mexico City is Shivering.

Mexico City, Feb. 12.—For the first time in many years, snow fell upon the streets of Mexico City today. The unusual conditions have caused suffering among the poor, who habitually go about clad in light garments and with bare feet. The government is providing food and shelter tonight to hundreds.

LEGISLATION IS DEMANDED

No Concession on Schools Without Exclusion.

San Francisco Delegation Refuses to Yield on School Question Unless Assured Japan Will Agree to Exclusion of Coolies—A Complete Deadlock is Result.

Washington, Feb. 12.—A complete deadlock has developed in the discussion between President Roosevelt and the educational authorities of the city of San Francisco relative to the exclusion from the public schools of that city of Japanese children. There is no present indication that this deadlock will be broken or a satisfactory solution of the perplexing problem will be reached.

The blame for present conditions rests largely on the president. He was forced to an admission yesterday that he could go no further than to promise the exercise of his utmost exertions in negotiating a treaty with Japan for the exclusion of coolies. This was not sufficient for the Coast delegation. The members desired an assurance that Japan is willing in good faith to enter upon negotiation of such a treaty, and that it will be followed by drastic legislation. The president could not give the assurance requested and bluntly said that the legislation feature is impracticable.

At the conclusion of the conference the president informed the delegation that he would present the entire matter under consideration to the cabinet at its meeting today and later call the delegation to the White House again.

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