

SUMMARY IS INTERESTING

LEGISLATURE DID WELL—VARI- E DAMOUNT OF WORK.

Statistician Compiles General Sum- mary of Work Accomplished.

A Portland statistician has compiled the following summary of the work done by the recent legislature:

In the first place, it has given to the state a Prohibition Act that ranks high in state laws. A close study by persons who are particularly interested in such legislation has caused them to express the opinion that it is the best law of the kind on the statutes of any state in the Union. True, this legislature cannot be credited with drafting the law, that credit going to the Committee of One Hundred but its joint committee on alcoholic traffic whipped the bill offered it into more nearly perfect shape and did not tamper with it in any way calculated to destroy its efficiency.

A majority of people will express the belief, in all likelihood, that the amendments to the workmen's compensation act will make it far more uniform in its operation, better suited to the general interests of the employe and less likely to cause the dwindling of the fund.

The new tax laws, while admittedly not perfect, will tend in a large measure to grant relief to the public, which has found the burdens under the laws of the last two years very heavy. Under the new acts, if the first half of any person's taxes is paid in the spring no penalty will attach until inability or neglect to pay the second installment is manifest. By fixing the tax-paying dates as April 5 and October 5, the legislature bridges the gap so that there will be no serious inconvenience as regards the conduct of governmental functions because of a hiatus in the date of the receipts of money by the treasurer and the date on which bills must be met.

The bills abolishing continuing appropriations and establishing a general fund will without doubt be classified under the head of constructive legislation. The continuing appropriations had been added to form year to year until the sum total had reached an enormous figure. The creation of a general fund will probably make it unnecessary for the state treasurer in future to borrow money at a high rate of interest. The transfer of the game fund to the general fund, but to be checked out only for the purposes for which collected, was another good piece of legislation, as it will save the state treasurer from borrowing in an emergency, and will do no harm to the interests of the sportsmen, as the money if borrowed must be replaced.

The legislature will be given credit for a number of school bills, among them that which makes it illegal to exercise discrimination in the payment of teachers' salaries on account of sex. The bill which would have thrown the bars to non-taxpayers to

FILM STAR LOVES HER HAPPY HOME; IT HELPS HER WIN STAGE SUCCESS!



Anita Stewart

"There's no reason why an actress shouldn't be a home woman, no reason why theatrical life should mean homeless life."

It's Anita Stewart who says so, and she should know, for she is famous in the filmworld as a successful star, and her friends know her as a charming home woman.

"The actress hasn't much time to spend at home," says Miss Stewart, "but the club women and the society women are often absent from the hearthstone, so yet they are considered successful homemakers. My home life has helped me to win success in the picture world."

vote at school elections was severely criticised and defeated. There has been a tendency to condemn the legislature because of its refusal to pass this bill, on the alleged ground that it was a blow at mothers. In point of fact, the defeat of the bill was nothing of the kind—women taxpayers have the same rights now as they had previously. The legislature proceeded on the theory that non-taxpayers will cheerfully vote large appropriations, as they do not have to pay the bills. To allow women who own no property the right to vote would have necessitated letting all persons vote.

One of the laws enacted at this session which is expected to give satisfaction in all quarters is that pro-

viding for a system of permanent registration. There have been more complaints over the inconveniences and annoyances of frequent registration than of any other duty devolving upon voters.

The high school tuition fund authorized in school districts, taking the sending of pupils to schools out of their own districts off a charity basis, will probably meet with general favor.

In one regard the legislature made a complete failure—it did not bring about desirable changes in the road laws. The Highway Commission Act is good and so is the bonding act, but the need of a county act to complete and perfect the system was apparent. So much suspicion was created by paving bills with teeth, however, that the legislature shied away from all road legislation.

The legislature did little in the way of amending irrigation and insurance laws, but it did provide for a committee to be appointed by the governor to consider insurance legislation, with the idea in view of submitting at the next session an insurance code which will cover the subject thoroughly, in the light of modern development in the industrial and investing fields.

The ratification of the lease to Summer and Abert Lakes may or may not prove to bring the state the results expected by the state land board. If the Eastern syndicate securing the lease is acting fairly and can make the profits intimated, as several asserted, the income to the state will not be commensurate with the value of the lakes, by any means. If it should develop into a stock-jobbing proposition, the state unquestionably may suffer in reputation. So far as unprejudiced observers of the legislative proceedings could see, there was no good reason for the legislature to refuse to place any safeguards about the deal.

Under the provisions of three joint resolutions adopted by the legislature, the people will be called on at the next election to vote on amendments to the election laws. The change from the words "legal" to "registered" voters has a good deal of significance. W. S. U'Ren is opposed to such a change, on the ground that the codes already give authority for such legislation. He came to Salem to register his objection, but was too late, as the house committee had already reported favorably on the resolutions, which had passed the Senate where they originate.

The Public service commission feels that the refusal of the Legislature, or rather of the House, to pass the law for the issue of certificates of public necessity or convenience in regard to new construction by utility companies is to be regretted. The Attorney General is said to take the same stand. Washington and California and many other states have such a law and its effect is said to be good. So long as the state regulates public service corporations, it is held, just so long is it obliged to protect them.

The much-talked-of consolidation to take place at this session proved largely a joke. The offices of the State Engineer and State Highway

Engineer were consolidated—that is all. The House refused to carry out its compact with the senate and consolidated the offices of the corporation and Insurance Commissioners. The senate showed a much stronger desire for consolidation of commissioners than did the House, even whose joint committee members were antagonistic in a measure.

The state banking law has been made to harmonize with the Federal reserve act. The laws governing Columbia River fishing has been put in harmony with the Washington laws. Amendments to the fish and game laws have been made which will find favor with sportsmen generally, especially the closing of the Willamette River to net men above the suspension bridge at Oregon City.

Few really vicious bills were introduced at this session. The highway paving bill and the boom company bills for the right of eminent domain were the two stiller examples, and neither got very far. The former was permitted to die along the pathway to the Governor's office and the others were sent tobogganing into the valley of the shadow.

Governor Withycombe was given considerable authority in the enforcement of the prohibition and other laws, the bill finally passed authorizing him to send the attorney-general or his deputies into counties where officials may be lax in their performance of their duties, to supersede them for the purpose of any given case. The authority given the appointive power in the matter of commissions and department to remove such appointees at will is commonly regarded as merely extending based on the assumption that if the appointive power is held responsible for results its hands should not be tied.

In really large items the Legislature showed a praiseworthy spirit of economy, but in smaller items it "loosened up" a great deal. At first the joint ways and means committee was inclined to deal harshly with state institutions, but it mellowed a great deal toward the close of the session, owing to the personal interposition of the Governor and the State Treasurer, and none of these institutions are left in any but good shape for the ensuing biennium.

Saving the Naval Militia to the state, it is said, will be approved by taxpayers generally if that body gets down to business and accomplishes anything in the next two years. It was said by many legislators who voted for the appropriation of \$15,000 for the ensuing years that if the Naval Militia does not justify its existence in that time, not for Governor nor any other power can save it.

The legislature also appropriated \$10,000 for bringing back to Portland and saving as a permanent exhibit the best of the state's exhibits now on display at the Panama-Pacific Exposition. They will be combined with the exhibit of the Chamber of Commerce.

There is a wide divergence of opinion as to the necessity of an appropriation of \$12,000 for the holding of a special election in next November at which any measure on which the referendum may be invoked shall be submitted. It was argued at the time of passing the bill that it is necessary in case the referendum shall be invoked on the prohibition act. However, a referendum election will cost the state approximately \$100,000 the difference between that amount and the amount appropriated to be borne by the counties, and if the referendum be invoked the Governor at an expense of not to exceed \$20,000 might call the legislature in extraordinary session and pass such an act, with slight amendments, and attach the emergency clause, putting it into immediate effect. As a matter of fact it is so generally believed that the Governor would do that very thing that the liquor interests are thought not to be likely to waste time and money in invoking the referendum, special election or not.

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