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DENNIS BILL IS PASSED BY SENATE

COMMISSION MAY PAY FOR CONSTRUCTION OF WORK PRIOR TO ITS COMPLETION.

INABILITY TO COLLECT PAYMENT SAID UNJUST

Bill Provides That the Highway Commission Cannot Pay More than 95 Per Cent of the Contract Price of Construction, While State Is Protected by Surety Bond.

SALEM, Feb. 17.—The senate has passed the Dennis bill providing that at the discretion of the highway commission, it may pay as high as 95 per cent of the contract price of construction, prior to the completion of the work.

Three highway bills by Senator Dennis have attracted considerable attention, as they have a direct bearing on contracting on road work. The measures are explained by their author as follows: Senate Bill No. 264.

This bill is intended to amend section 4432 of the code so that on state highway contracts the state highway commission shall not be compelled to retain 15 per cent of the amount of the work performed, but allow the state highway commission to adopt uniform rule governing retained percentages which must be embodied in all contracts.

It requires that the highway commission shall not permit more than 95 per cent payment before completion. Where the state is protected by a surety bond, there is no benefit to the state in requiring a large retained percentage. It compels the contractor to borrow money and pay interest on it for long periods of time, thereby increasing the cost of the work and necessarily increasing the cost of the bid. United States government contracts are so drawn that the retained percentage is 10 per cent, and decreases as fast as the work progresses until on the last month's work only 10 per cent of that month is retained.

Senate Bill No. 265.
This is intended to amend section 4432 of the code. The first amendment would permit the state highway commission to employ its counsel instead of being obliged to do so under the direction of the attorney-general. Senator Dennis explained that his purpose in including this amendment in the bill was by reason of statements made to him frequently by Chairman Benson to the effect that by reason of excess of work load on the attorney-general's office, he had frequently found it necessary to employ extra legal advice which he paid for from his own funds; that he felt the state highway work was important enough to have its own legal representative who would not be called upon to do any other work.

The bill further amends the present law so that the state may be sued on contracts made by the state highway commission to the same extent as suits may now be brought on contracts between individuals. It also provides that in cases where the commission is in doubt as to the law applicable, the highway commission shall have authority to certify the facts to the supreme court and it requires the supreme court to decide the questions involved and to file a written opinion embodying the decision. It further provides that such a decision shall have the same binding effect as any other decision of the court. In matters of dispute between the highway commission and an individual, it authorizes the filing of written briefs the same as in a contested case. It frequently happens that a dispute arises before the commission which involves the proper construction of the contracts as well as other questions of law. At present there are no means provided for obtaining a court interpretation of these disputed matters. The legal advisor of the commission interprets the contracts and if he makes a mistake the other parties of the controversy have to suffer. As far as I am concerned, I have no client who would not be willing to abide by the decision of the commission on questions of fact if there were some way provided for the supreme court to interpret the law applicable to the case.

Senate Bill No. 266.
This is intended to amend section 2710 of the code. At present this section requires that all claims against the state be presented within two

LOST AVIATOR RIDES TO TOWN ON SMALL BURRO

LT. PEARSON LANDED IN MEXICO, WANDERS TWO DAYS.

Made Raft and Floated Down Rio Grande—Three Days Without Anything to Eat.

SANDERSON, Tex., Feb. 7.—After being lost since Thursday, when he made a forced landing in the Big Bend district, Lieutenant Alexander Pearson arrived here last night on a burro. He was without food for two days.

Pearson landed in Mexico and wandered for two days. He then made a raft and drifted down the Rio Grande until he came to a shack where he found food. Pearson is a Portland lad. He became lost last Thursday when he attempted a flight from El Paso to San Antonio.

DISABLED WAR VETERANS TO BE CARED FOR

CONGRESS WILL BE ASKED FOR \$15,000,000 EXPENDITURE.

Thirty Thousand Veterans Treated Daily at Twenty Hospitals, Says Secretary Laporte.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—A \$15,000,000 hospitalization expansion program to care for the 30,000 disabled war veterans daily at twenty hospitals is planned as soon as Congress provides the money, said Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, Laporte.

EXONERATED OF CHARGES

ACCUSED MAN IS PROVEN TO HAVE BEEN ISOLATED.

Physician's Failure to Report Isolation of Patient Makes Trouble For H. A. Green.

Charges against H. A. Green for violating the quarantine laws were dismissed this morning by Police Judge R. J. Kitchen. Mr. Green showed to the satisfaction of the court that the case of scarlet fever in his house had been isolated and that he had in no manner exposed himself to infection from the patient.

According to the law, physicians have the authority to allow persons in houses under quarantine to go and come provided the patient is so isolated that the persons allowed this liberty cannot be exposed to infection. This was done in Mr. Green's case by the family physician, but he failed to notify the health officer and, as a result, the police had no knowledge of this isolation. Consequently when complaints were received, Mr. Green was technically taken into custody.

CARUSO IS NO BETTER.

NEW YORK, Feb. 17.—Enrico Caruso's condition continues to be critical, physicians announced today. Twelve tanks of oxygen were sent to his apartments during the night.

END OF SEASON NEAR AT HAND

GAME MARCH 4 MARKS END OF BASKETBALL SEASON.

Two Games Tomorrow Night and One March 4 End High School Basketball Year Here.

Two more games for the boys and one for the girls will probably be all that the high school teams will play this year. Tomorrow evening the girls' team will go to Pendleton to finish its season. The games to be played by the boys will both be played here, Enterprise coming here tomorrow night and Wallawa on the night of March 4.

An effort was made to secure two additional games to take the place of the two cancelled because of the disqualification of several players on the Pendleton team, but the lateness of the season makes it practically certain that these efforts will not be successful, all available teams apparently having a full schedule. The line-up of both teams will probably be the same as in the past.

PATERSON- RITNER BILL IS APPROVED

BILL INTRODUCED WAS INTRODUCED ACCORDING TO GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

SENATE FAVORS NEW BOYS TRAINING SCHOOL

Bill Also Calls for Dormitory for the Feeble-Minded, and a Building at Industrial School, As Well As \$60,000 Wing for Eastern Oregon State Hospital.

SALEM, Feb. 17.—The senate today passed the Paterson-Ritner bill introduced according to the Governor's special message, to authorize a diversion of the money under one-fourth mill road tax for two years for a new training school for boys, costing \$280,000. The bill also provides a dormitory for the feeble-minded school and \$160,000 for an additional wing on the Eastern Oregon state hospital.

The senate today killed by indefinite postponement Senator Joseph's hydro-electric power program calling for a constitutional amendment authorizing a bond issue for power development.

Governor Will Collect.

The house passed the bill placing the control of the Interstate bridge in the Governor's hands, to collect \$150,000, which the state claims from the net proceeds of the bridge. The house yesterday defeated Beal's bill aimed to secure from timber owners in the coast counties, payment of all port bonded indebtedness assessed against the land before any timber could be removed. The senate late yesterday passed the co-operative marketing bill.

Both houses have passed the following bills: Licensing and regulating of realtors, prohibiting of fraudulent bidding at livestock sales, and the bill making it unlawful to cut down, or injure or destroy trees along the public highways.

WEATHER FORECAST.

Tonight, fair; Friday, rain in the west, fair in the eastern portion of the state.

CHAMBERLAIN IS FAVORED

PORTLAND, Feb. 7.—President-elect Harding has indicated at St. Augustine, Fla., that he would appoint Senator Chamberlain to the shipping board, according to a special message received by the Portland Telegram.

HOUSE PASSES BILL RAISING SALARIES OF THE OFFICIALS

SALEM, Feb. 17.—The house passed H. B. 32, by Representative Albert Hunter and Senator Col. R. Eberhard, relating to salaries of Union county officials.

The senate passed S. B. 319, providing for an additional judge for the tenth judicial district, comprising Union and Wallawa counties.

The bill as originally planned, would give the county judge a salary of \$2400 a year instead of \$1200; the county school superintendent, \$1800 instead of \$1650; the county clerk \$2000 instead of \$1800; the county treasurer \$1500, instead of \$1200, and the county assessor \$1800, instead of \$1500. The county judge would be required to devote all his time to county business and all deputies and all traveling expenses and other incidental expenses would be solely in the hands of the county court.

TWO SCHOOL TEACHERS MURDERED

FOUND BEATEN TO DEATH IN ROAD ON PARMA HEIGHTS

Bloody Stick Nearby and Tracks in Snow Testify to Struggle and Brutal Murder.

CLEVELAND, Feb. 17.—Louise Wolfe and Mabel Foote, young school teachers at Parma high school, were found beaten to death in the road in Parma heights early today. A bloody stick was found near the bodies, and there were evidences of a struggle in the snow. Part of their clothing was torn from the bodies.

BANDITS FORCE MEN TO LIE DOWN

TOLEDO, Feb. 17.—Five bandits held up four employees of the main postoffice here early today, compelling them to lie down. The robbers escaped with nine sacks, estimated to contain as much as half a million dollars.

AIRPLANE SERVICE IS ORDERED CONTINUED

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—The senate has authorized the continuance of the transcontinental metal airplane service.

NORTH POWDER MUST PAY \$250 DAMAGES

A verdict granting the plaintiff, J. P. Coon, \$250 was brought in by the jury in the case of Coon vs. City of North Powder this morning. Coon had asked \$500 and interest, alleged due him for work in connection with work on a water system for the city of North Powder. The work was done over six years ago.

HARDING'S APPROVAL IS SOUGHT

CHAIRMAN FORDNEY LEAVES FOR ST. AUGUSTINE.

Senate Last Night Passed the Fordney Emergency Tariff Bill Designed for Relief Measures.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—Chairman Fordney of the house ways and means committee left for St. Augustine, Fla., to seek Harding's approval of the plan for a second emergency tariff to protect all of the products of American industry to be put through at the extra session this spring.

The senate last night passed the Fordney emergency tariff bill designed for relief measures. The bill now goes to conference.

DATES ARE SET FOR PORTLAND ROSE SHOW

PORTLAND, Feb. 17.—Portland's 1921 Rose Festival will be held on June 8, 9 and 10, according to decision of the board of directors of the Rose Festival auxiliary.

These dates fall on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, and are just two weeks earlier in the season than the 1920 festival. The early dates were fixed on advice of rose fanciers, who announced that the warm weather of the present winter would tend to cause the roses to burst into bloom earlier than usual.

IMMIGRATION IS SUSPENDED

TRIESTE, Feb. 17.—Immigration from central Europe to the United States has been suspended and the eastern frontier of Italy closed, pending the clearing up of the sanitary situation, due to typhus.

TEMPERATURE HIT LOW MARK OF YEAR TODAY

Early this morning, the lowest temperature of the season was recorded here. At 2:30 the mercury hit the zero mark and the low mark of the night was reached at 4 o'clock when it stood at 2 below. With the coming of daylight the sun began warming things up again and before 8 o'clock the mercury had passed the zero mark keeping up its climbing all morning.

MORE TAXES TO BE PAID THIS YEAR

TAX RATE SHEET SHOWS 20 PER CENT INCREASE OVER LAST YEAR.

PROPERTY VALUATION HIGHER THAN FORMERLY

State Taxes Lead Increase by Jumping From Less Than Hundred Thousand to Over Two Hundred Thousand—La Grande Schools to Benefit From Larger Assessment.

According to the tax rate sheet just issued by D. H. Proctor, county assessor, the total taxes levied in Union county for the year 1920 for all purposes are \$107,938.07 greater than for the previous year, an increase from \$580,711.23 to \$688,649.30. The increase in taxes levied is nearly 20 per cent over the previous year but the percentage increase in the total valuation of taxable property of the county has been less than 10 per cent. The 1920 assessment roll places the total valuation of taxable property at \$28,020,757, an increase of \$2,081,725 over the valuation of the previous year, which was \$25,939,032.

In the city of La Grande the taxpayers will pay a special city tax of only 11.8 mills while property valuation has been increased as well as the amount of taxes received over the valuation, made in 1919, used in computing taxes paid last year when the rate on special city taxes was 12.4 mills. The valuation on the 1920 roll is \$5,003,322, with a total tax of \$59,039.20, compared with a valuation of \$4,483,298 and a total tax of only \$55,592.89 for the previous year.

State Taxes Doubled.
The state taxes to be paid have been more than doubled while the rate has been increased from 13.5 mills to 16.1 mills. The state received a total of only \$93,392.20 in taxes from Union county last year while the tax to be collected this year will give the state \$204,551.54 from Union county.

The county receives slightly more than last year and a slight increase in the amount to be spent on roads is also noticeable. The county's share increased from \$116,912.49 to \$117,687.18. The money apportioned for roads increased from \$25,938.93 to \$28,020.76. The high school allotment will be \$16,812.45, last year's share having been only \$10,198.00, while the outside of the special district levies money for general school purposes, will be decreased from \$53,900 to \$51,628.72.

More Money For Schools.
The special tax in school districts will bring in a total of \$4,629.80 in the entire county this year while La Grande's share of the total has been increased by \$14,493.50. This special tax is based on the valuation of the property in the individual districts and the requirements of the individual districts. The levies in all cases are determined separately for each district, in many cases no levies being made under the special tax provisions of the law. In Union and North Powder the special school tax money will be less this year than last year, while in Elgin, Cove and Island City and La Grande it will be increased.

The tax rate in the various districts varies from 14.1 mills in La Grande district to one-tenth of one mill in district No. 9. In a large number of districts no special tax levy for school purposes was made. The second highest rate is in District No. 11, where a levy of 13.8 mills was made.

Union Rate Highest.
The special taxes levied by cities and towns outside of the city of La Grande shows a slight increase, the valuation of property having slightly increased in all places. The rates have decreased however, with the exception of Union and Elgin, the former being increased from 15.4 to 16.4 and the latter from 5.8 to 6.9 mills. Union had the highest special levy for both years.

LABOR BOARD WILL RECESS

CHICAGO, Feb. 17.—A one month recess in the hearing on the application of the railroads for the abrogation of the national agreement, has been asked of the railroad labor board by D. M. J. Wells, of the American Federation of Labor.



(Continued on page 2)