

THE LEGISLATURE

Bill Introduced to Repeal Statement Number One—Governor Will Veto It.

MAY REMOVE STATE FAIR

Several Measures Introduced to Reapportion State into Senatorial and Representative Districts—Few Pleasure Excursions Proposed—To Look Out for Travelers' Welfare. Will Observe Admission Day.

Salem, Jan. 25.—The senatorial question being disposed of, both houses have settled down to a grind of routine work, a number of bills have been passed and the various committees are actively engaged on many others. The third week bids fair to be as busy as the second and much work will no doubt be accomplished.

There is a possibility that an amendment annulling the Statement No. 1 feature of the direct primary law will be considered favorably by both houses of the legislature at the present session. Such a bill was introduced in the house by Representatives Bean, of Lane, and Brooks, of Malheur, jointly.

This bill in its provisions is decidedly anti-statement. It makes it a misdemeanor for any candidate for any office to make any pledge which is contrary to the constitution of the United States, or of the state of Oregon, or in violation of the oath of office to support the constitution, or any agreement not to perform a duty imposed by the constitution.

There is a strong sentiment among the members of the house for the passage of such an amendment to the direct primary law.

If this bill passes the house, its chances in the senate are considered equally good. The only stumbling block in sight is the practical certainty of its veto by Governor Chamberlain, who owes his election as United States senator to the enforcement of Statement One pledges. Naturally it is to be expected that he will look with disfavor on any attempt to annul the very system that brought about his own election.

May Remove State Fair and Capitol.

Every two years there is enough talk of removing the capitol to send chills up and down the spine of the Marion county delegation. Usually the project never gets beyond the conversation stage, but this year the movement is more in earnest, although it is very improbable anything will come of the proposal to remove the state capitol.

There is a possibility, though, that a determined effort will be made to transfer the state fair to Portland. Those who would take the fair to Portland, in addition to presenting the argument that Portland properly is the place for that institution, point to the fact that the grounds of the Country Fair Association are admirably suited as a permanent home for the state fair. Of recent years it is a matter of knowledge that the accommodations of the grounds now used in Salem for the state fair are inadequate.

If the institution is to be kept in Salem more buildings and an increased appropriation for maintenance will be required. It is for this reason that those advocating the removal of the fair to Portland insist that this is the time to take the initiative to bring that about.

While the bill has not been introduced, a measure will be presented at this session for a branch insane asylum to be located in Eastern Oregon. Both Baker and Umatilla counties are rivals for this institution and conferences between the delegations from the two counties have failed to effect a satisfactory settlement of the controversy as to which county will give in. This bill is certain to furnish the subject for one of the hardest fights in the present session.

Would Re-Appoint State.

There are several measures already introduced and contemplated which have the purpose of reapportioning the state into senatorial and representative districts. It is very difficult to work out a system of proportional representation, which will cover all subjects and carry out the intention of the voters who adopted the constitutional amendment last June. Any measure presented touching this in its entirety and the politicians oppose the adoption of a proportionate representation law, for it will weaken their hold on the offices.

The politicians are deeply interested in Senator Selling's bill for proportional representation. It is a measure which affects every Republican, Democrat, Socialist and Prohibitionist, for under its provisions every party will have some representation in the legislature.

Selling contends that it is desirable that a law for proportional representation should be made at this session, because the constitutional amendment adopted last June is now effective and hereafter an elector can vote for more than one candidate for representative or senator in the legislature.

Few Junket Committees Named.

There is nothing doing thus far this session of the house in the way of investigating committees and junketing trips. During the opening days of the session there were introduced the usual number of resolutions calling for investigation of the various state institutions and commissions. They took their regular order and went to the committee on resolutions, where, with only two

exceptions, they are still slumbering. The two exceptions were those providing for a joint committee to investigate the records of the Oregon commission to the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition and that providing for a committee to confer with a similar representation from the Washington legislature regarding uniform fishing laws.

The two houses have provided for a joint committee with instructions to devise and report at this session a practical plan for a permanent system for auditing the books and accounts of the state institutions and commissions.

To Protect Travelers.

The nine-foot bed sheet bill, introduced by Kellaher, of Multnomah, passed the senate. The bill was treated as a joke by some, but most of those who discussed it treated it seriously, arguing that long sheets were necessary for the protection of the health of the traveling public. It was explained that hotels and lodging-houses seldom washed their blankets and comforters, so that if the patron was to be protected from infectious diseases the sheets must be long enough to fold down over the covers at the top.

Senator Kellaher's fire-escape bill, applying to all hotels and lodging-houses, passed the senate. It requires that all hotels of more than one story in height be provided with rope securely anchored near a window and that the rope be knotted every 12 inches. This will provide means by which lodgers may escape in case of fire. Buildings of more than one story must have iron fire escapes.

Provide for State Publicity.

Secretary of State F. W. Benson has asked the legislature to arrange for the publication of a small pamphlet on the resources of Oregon, giving authentic information regarding all portions of the state, which pamphlet may be mailed to people in the East who write for information. At present there is no public document which the state officers can send in answer to such inquiries. The secretary's idea is that the pamphlet should contain information furnished by the several counties edited to see that it is correct, and that each county be assigned the same amount of space in the pamphlet.

No Liquor for Dry Counties.

Importation of liquor into dry counties is prohibited by the terms of a bill introduced in the house by Representative Davis, of Multnomah. This is the first measure treating with the local option question that has made its appearance at this session.

This bill proposes to prohibit the transportation or shipment of intoxicating liquors into any county or precinct of the state while the sale of such intoxicating liquor is prohibited in any such county or precinct.

Life Term for Highway Robbery.

Representative Dimmick's highway robbery bill, which passed the house, provides a penalty of from 10 years to life imprisonment for persons convicted of highway robbery being armed with a deadly weapon. The present penalty is from five to 20 years imprisonment. The amended bill leaves the question of whether or not the sentence shall be for life at the discretion of the trial judge. Unarmed persons convicted of highway robbery may be sentenced from three to 15 years in the state penitentiary.

Changes in Railroad Laws.

Only minor changes of the railroad law are asked by the railroad commission. Three of its bills have appeared in the house. It will ask for two additional bills—one for compulsory fencing of railroad right-of-way; another to authorize the commission to employ experts for determining value of operating systems and admitting such findings as prima-facie evidence.

Celebrate State's Anniversary.

Committees from the house and the senate have been named to cooperate with the Oregon Historical Society for a celebration of the 50th anniversary of Oregon's admission to the Union. These exercises will be held in the house of representatives at Salem, at 4 p. m., Monday, February 15. The details of the proposed programme of exercises have been left to a joint committee.

Fisheries Committees to Meet.

Oregon's joint fisheries committee has decided to meet with a like committee from the Washington legislature at Seattle, Saturday, January 30, and at that time decide on uniform fish legislation that will be proposed for enactment by the two legislatures for the regulation of the Columbia river fishing industry.

Have Standard Berry Boxes.

Senator Nottingham has introduced a bill for the purpose of requiring that hereafter all berry boxes for use in this state shall contain 52.46 cubic inches, inside. This is the size of the box now used by the Hood River berry-growers and the size most generally used throughout the state.

Expanding the Journal. "I, sir," said Mr. Nottingham, "like the large box. I have found it will expand the mind of the legislator."

Privileged. "Oh, but wasn't Thomson a great poet?"

Novel Industry. Gyer—Scrubbles is engaged in a novel industry.

Myer—So? What's he doing? Gyer—Writing a novel—Wanna's Home Companion.

The Answer. "What makes your nose so red?" "I don't know. But I didn't get it that way by sticking it into other people's business."—Town Topics.

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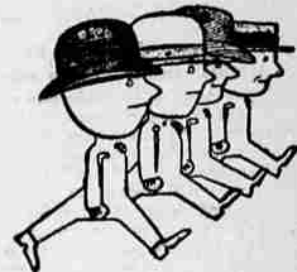
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269 W. M. KENNEDY.
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