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Under the Big Dome

Members like to keep in touch with their constituents, but the most irritating thing in the life of the legislator is the letter from someone at home insisting that the member do this, or do that, when the person writing hasn't the least idea what he is writing about, couldn't tell the number of the bill he is asking the legislator to vote for or oppose, couldn't tell the member what the bill proposes to do, or anything else about it. Such letters as these, written by the folks at home at the request of the officer of some organization, or at the request of some friend of a friend of the constituent, and myriads of them arrive here, get the legislator into such a frame of mind that he doesn't give a god darn what happens. It often happens that someone arrives from home to urge a delegation to such and such action but, on having the situation explained by one on the job here, urges that exactly the opposite action be taken. Legislators often wish it was as easy for them to decide what should be done as it is for the fellow at home. Of course, there is this difference, that the legislator has to consider the effect on the state as a whole, while the fellow at home has no one to think of but himself, at least seems to think of no one else.

Senator Ed Miller of Grants Pass, formerly of Cottage Grove, is being mentioned as a congressional possibility. When interviewed on the subject he said he has no intention of being a candidate against Congressman Hawley. When asked whether he might be a candidate in case Hawley should retire, he said that there was some truth to the report that he aspires to be president of the senate. And there you have it.

Principal Otto Burcham brought a dozen members of his high school class here from Springfield today and they spent several hours watching the odd methods used to make the wheels go round. They found that it is done somewhat differently from what they had expected from reading their school books, for school books are based on the way it is supposed to be done, if done according to rule, but a legislative session does not allow rules to interfere when there is a better and quicker way.

Representative Howard's pneumatic tire bill is meeting with the

favor of road builders, county courts and operators of trucks. Many trucks are going to pneumatic tires because of the greater speed permitted with them, and speed means a great saving; because of the saving to equipment, and because of the saving to the highways and consequent lower license fees. Howard's proposal to limit loads to three and a half tons seems to be meeting no opposition, probably for the good and sufficient reason that truck operators are learning that this is an economical maximum weight for motor vehicles.

During a learned debate this afternoon on fish, representatives from Columbia river points made the statement that the royal chinook does not take the hook above tidewater. Representatives from other sections said that the chinook in their streams does. Which called for Representative Potter the remark that it might make a difference what kind of moonshine mash is dumped into the streams.

W. S. U'Ren, father and wet nurse of the Oregon system, paid his first visit to the session today. He probably came to attend the hearing on the so-called pre-primary convention bill. He is always on hand when anything is up which he believes is going to endanger the health of his child, the direct primary.

Things have been so dull here that no one has developed sufficient energy to organize a third house.

J. A. McLean, Eugene boniface, was a visitor here today. He was interested in a joint resolution or something which would repeal the law requiring hotels to furnish nine-foot bed sheets. In place of the sheets would be substituted nine-foot night gowns for guests. McLean, if requested to do so, will explain the advantages of the change. Frank Armitage and Frank Chambers were other visitors here today from Eugene.

Millard F. Hardesty, former grand chancellor of the Knights of Pythias and now reading clerk of the senate, was informed today that he has become a grandfather. There is no telling what close contact with the legislature will do to a person.

STATE CAPITOL, Salem, Ore., Feb. 11.—It seems that there will be a plethora of candidates for the position of budget director should the piece of legislation providing for such an official become law. E. J. Adams of Eugene is said to be now vying with Sam Koser for high honors, although Adams has not been seen here making any attempt to promote his interests.

There was an echo of the east side highway and west side highway fight for tourist traffic during the consideration today of Representative Giesy's bill to limit highway signs to those authorized by the state highway commission. Representative Graham of Forest Grove contended that the bill was no more and no less than a move to permit the commission to order down signs which west side high-

ways communities have erected to guide traffic over their roads. The big board at Junction City which directs traffic by way of Corvallis is one of the signs in question. So long as there was the disagreeable ferry at Harrisburg, this sign was not needed, but when the Harrisburg bridge was completed and traffic by way of Corvallis began to fall off, the O. A. C. city began to take action tending towards retention of its place in the sun.

The law requires that the presiding officers of the two houses and the governor shall carefully read all bills before attaching their signatures. In practice this often has been found almost impossible, but during this session all such officers are endeavoring to obey this requirement. That is what the presiding officers are doing much of the time when they seem to have left the legislature to run itself.

Members generally are planning on spending a week overtime here. They will draw no salaries for the overtime, but they could draw their expense money just as well for the overtime as for the days of the regular session. There are some predictions that the session will run over ten days, but this hardly seems likely. When committees have completed their work, longer sessions and night sessions can be held and a mass of legislation handled within a few days.

The situation does not seem to have changed in the senate in respect to the governor's tithing bill. With both sides willing to let the bill take a comfortable snooze in committee, it seems probable that both sides fear for the result should the legislative child toddle out onto the floor at an unpropitious moment. My own guess, and one is about as good as another, is that the bill finally will become law. There are several in the senate, however, who have bags of legislative tricks in reserve and it is not safe to make positive predictions as to what that body will do with any piece of legislation.

Both houses were in the best of old-time form today and no bill was so small, or so unimportant that it escaped without criticism from the oratorical combatants.

Creation of super-highway districts, one of them the Umpqua district in northern Douglas county, is contemplated in bills by Senator Eddy which have passed the upper body. Cottage Grove is interested in the creation of the Umpqua district and has taken a prominent part in encouraging its organization.

The house held the first night session of the session tonight and cleaned its calendar-slick and clean after having been unable to get to senate bills for three days. The senate is also up to the minute, although no night session was held.

The bill which would require all O. & C. land grant refund money when received to be applied towards paying indebtedness of the taxing units receiving it, introduced by the Lane delegation and others interested in the refund, has been sleeping in committee ever since its introduction and it is probable that no effort will be made to enact it into law. There is a disposition not to precipitate a contest on the disposition of these funds. Members from the land grant counties do not care to make a fight to keep the state from dipping in and taking a big chunk for the purpose of helping thereby to disperse the state treasury deficit.

Nothing else has caused as much bitter feeling during the session as the jam on U. of O. and O. A. C. appropriations, and a feeling has been engendered that is likely to be remembered by supporters of the O. A. C. side of the controversy in future sessions. So far as I have been able to discern the unfortunate situation came about through no fault of Lane county members.

It is expected that the fish business will go round and round when the Roberts bill to put the fish wheels back in business for two years comes on Monday afternoon as a special order.

In all the sessions I have attended, I do not recollect a night session during the fifth week, or a Saturday in the fifth week on which sessions were held. That this should be done this session seems odd in view of the fact that the amount of outstanding legislation to be handled is small in comparison to similar legislation of past sessions.

Considerable time was consumed in the house today discussing what was meant in the so-called Hoover code of rules of the road by the expression, "Two vehicles approaching the intersection simultaneously." I could have informed them that it sometimes means a lawsuit.

That there are many lovers of

the terpsichorean art in the session was indicated in the discussion of Representative Pierce's bill to allow dance halls to run until 3 o'clock, in place of 12 o'clock as at present. The bill came within six votes of passing.

SOCIETY

Mrs. S. L. Mackin, Mrs. S. V. Allison and Mrs. R. L. Cooper will be hostesses for the Constellation club Thursday afternoon at Masonic hall.

The Eagle lodge was sponsor for a box supper Tuesday night at the I. O. O. F. hall. About sixty were present. The men furnished the boxes and the women were the purchasers. The evening was spent with music and dancing.

La Comus club will meet Tuesday afternoon with Mrs. Charles VanDenburg.

Mrs. Armand Wynne will entertain M. P. G. club Tuesday afternoon for their regular meeting.

Mrs. Ivan Barker will be hostess Tuesday afternoon for the Elmarcs club.

The Social Twelve met Thursday afternoon with Mrs. Clara Burkholder, who invited as additional guests Mrs. C. F. Hoskins, Mrs. F. E. Mendenhall and Mrs. Harold Johnson. At the close of an enjoyable social afternoon, a dainty two-course luncheon was served. A bowl of red carnations made an artistic centerpiece for the table and valentine favors completed the decorations.

The Ad Libitum club met Thursday afternoon at the home of Mrs. E. E. Cone for a covered dish luncheon. The valentine decorations were used about the rooms and red candelabra centered the table. The afternoon was spent with needle work.

The Tautapochem club entertained with a valentine party Friday night at the Presbyterian church. The evening was spent playing games and later dainty refreshments were served. Mrs. Claude Sheets chaperoned the party.

The Delphian society will meet Tuesday evening at the home of Mrs. C. C. Cruson.

The Hikers club entertained with a valentine party Friday evening at the home of Miss Adeline Adams. Games and contests proved an enjoyable pastime of the evening after which light refreshments were served. Hostesses for the party were Madelle Beidler, Louise Wynne, Dorothy Umphrey, Evelyn Smith, Frances Mackin and Adeline Adams. Their guests were Dorothy Stewart, Frances Randall, Kathleen Taylor, Carolyn Grannis, Isabelle Safley and Evelyn Hays.

Mrs. Fred Bennett, Mrs. C. C. Cruson and Mrs. Victor Kem are the hostess committee for a valentine benefit party to be given this evening by the American Legion auxiliary in the Veterans' club rooms. Tables of bridge and five hundred will be arranged and a musical program will be given.

The young people of the Baptist church held a valentine party and pie social Friday night at the church. More than thirty attended and \$25 was raised to apply on the young peoples' pledge to the new church.

The Eastern Star met Friday night and made plans for the visit of the worthy matron's representative who will be at the next regular meeting. After the chapter was closed a social hour was enjoyed.

The W. R. C. met Saturday afternoon in the Legion hall with eighteen present. At the business session it was decided to meet in the I. O. O. F. hall in the future.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Chestnut entertained the Merri Makers club Saturday night. Following a short business session games of a valentine nature were played. At a late hour dainty refreshments were served. Guests for the evening were Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Hull, Mr. and Mrs. Francis Wicks, Mr. and Mrs. Claude Plaster, Mr. and Mrs. Claude Sherman and Miss Fannie Young.

An old Irishwoman sent a parcel to her son, in which she enclosed the following note: "Pat, I am sending your waistcoat; to save weight I have cut off all the buttons. Your loving mother." "P. S.—You will find them in the top pocket."

Weston's Record Stands
There is an old Greek legend that Esclides, before the Christian era, was sent to bring the sacred fire from Jeolophos to Athens, and made the journey there and back, 125 miles, in one day. Edward Payson Weston in 1875 walked 115 miles in a single day.

Yosemite Park Bears

Immune to Tear Gas

Depredations of bears in Yosemite National park upon the cabins of workers and rangers have become so serious that the national park service is seeking a means of curbing them without injury. In an effort to discourage the bears, or put them to flight, experiments with tear gas were recently conducted in co-operation with the chemical warfare service. A small black bear was chosen as the victim for the experiment, and a heavy concentration of the gas was given him. It apparently caused the bear no discomfort whatever. He did not even blink. It previously has been demonstrated that horses and mules are indifferent to the gas, probably because they have no tear glands. Visitors to Yosemite find the bears among the most interesting of the park's wild life, and during the travel season they are well fed at the hotels and camps, as well as by visitors. By the time the hotels close the bears have become fat and lazy, and begin stealing slabs of bacon and other food, even though this may involve breaking a window or tearing a hole through a wall. With the apparent failure of tear gas, the park authorities are seeking other means of holding the bears in check without driving them out of the park.—Popular Mechanics Magazine.

Where Husbands Need to Watch Their Steps

Another reason for not yielding to the temptation of living in a Serbian town called Velik Kikinda has been produced in the Italian press.

It seems that, instead of forming a sewing circle, the wives of this light-hearted community banded together in a secret association under the name of Santa Lucia, founded in honor of the redoubtable Lucia Borgia, with the worthy purpose of poisoning their husbands, fiancés and suitors.

From across the frontier—though which frontier the Italian paper does not say—they procure strong poisons, which are unobtrusively slipped into their husbands' food or drink.

As soon as the existence of the secret society became public, many husbands and prospective husbands left town. The Italian paper advises them not to let civic pride in next year's census prevent them from forming a Santo Bluebeard or Santa Landin lodge and going to it.—The Living Age.

Hancock a Real Patriot

During the siege of Boston, General Washington consulted congress upon the advisability of bombarding Boston. John Hancock, a distinguished merchant, was the president of congress. When Washington's letter was read, a silence ensued, and all waited John Hancock's opinion. Naturally, he was personally interested to a great degree, for his large and valuable estate was located in the heart of Boston. John Hancock, after a moment's silence, addressed the committee in the following words: "It is true, sir; nearly all the property I have in the world is in houses and other real estate in the town of Boston; but if the expulsion of the British army from it, and the liberties of the country require their being burnt to ashes—issue the order immediately for that purpose.—The Market for Exchange."

Philippine Islands

There are 7,083 islands in the Philippine group, of which only 2,441 are named. Total area of the archipelago is 115,026 square miles. The Philippines are mountain ranges rising out of the sea, and the islands are connected with each other and with the East Indies by submerged mountains. Part of the land is volcanic in origin and there are a dozen active volcanoes. The general trend of the mountain range is from north to south, but there are innumerable rugged spurs which cut the larger islands into many isolated sections. Coral reefs fringe the shores, of which there are altogether more than twice as many miles as on all the coasts of the United States. In the largest islands there are a few rivers, but they have rapid descents and, except near the sea, are navigable only by rafts.

Proud Woman

Once upon a time there was in Salem a storekeeper who did not like proud people, not even if they were among his customers. He had one patron who was extra proud. She sent her servants to do her shopping. That was when a "hired girl" got \$3 a week pay, and a wealthy family kept two or three maids.

So proud was this woman that she would not even let her servant carry bundles. She insisted that the storekeeper send them. One morning she ordered a spool of cotton. The storekeeper called his errand boy, told him to get a wheelbarrow. He put the cotton on the wheelbarrow and ordered the boy to deliver it. Did it have an effect? It did not.—Salem News.

Strange Race of People

There is an ancient race in India, the Todas, nearly extinct now, that resembles the gypsies. Its members speak a strange tongue, make hovers out of mud topped with a kind of pyramid. In the hills they are sullen, savage, clary of approach. They worship dark, occult gods, who preside over death and life. They do not wander like the gypsies. In their isolation one supposes that the wolves and the vultures and the jackals are their familiars—fear being on neither side. They worship stones and stars, the grass, the dawn and the moon.—Grit.

"What's the matter with Grumble and his wife? I hear there is talk of separation." "He's a fundamentalist and she's a modernist, and they always are scrapping over who is right." "I didn't know they were so interested in church doctrines." "Oh, it has nothing to do with the church. He thinks it takes skillet, pots and pans, flour and such things to get a meal, while she is just as sure that it doesn't take anything but a can opener."

The tourist from the East had stopped to change tires in a desolate region of the far south.

"I suppose," he remarked to a native onlooker, "that even in these isolated parts the bare necessities of life have risen tremendously in price?"

"Y'er right, stranger," replied the native, "and it ain't worth drinkin' when ye git it."

"Parson," exclaimed Ephraim, "I've got 'ligion, I tell you."

"That's fine, brother! You are going to lay aside all sin?"

"Yes, suh."

"You're going to church?"

"Yes, sur-re."

"You're going to care for the widows?"

"Sho' am!"

"Are you going to pay your debts?"

"Shut Dat ain't 'ligion. Dat's business."

"Mose," said the boss of the night shift, "you haven't been late to work since you moved. Where do you live now?"

"Fo blocks on de other side of de graveyard."

Nothing is more moving than the spectacle of a bearded lady living and leaving a wife and five children.—Rutgers "Chanticleer."

"I hear, Si, that while ye were in the city ye took up this here golf. How'd ye like it?"

"Wal, to'able. It's a little harder than hoein' corn an' a little easier than diggin' potatoes."

Doctor: "Put out your tongue—more than that—all of it."

Child: "But, doctor, I can't. It's fastened at the other end!"

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"Wat did the doctor say to do fer yer cold, mate?"

"Drink water," esez. But hi tried a whole arf glass o' the blinkin' stuff three weeks ago come Friday, and I ain't cured yet."

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