

OREGON LAWMAKERS' WORK AS REVIEWED

Date of Final Adjournment is Still Undecided

Governor Refuses to Accept Bills—McArthur Orders Members Arrested—House to Retain on Senate—Panama Fair Appropriation Passed—Women Not Compelled to Serve on Juris.

Salmon.—At the close of what is usually the final week of the legislative session complications came up which make it difficult to tell just when final adjournment will be taken. The understanding that virtually all bills had been reached for the legislature to adjourn for five days after it had cleaned up its work and to come back for the sole purpose of considering the vetoed bills is presumed to be responsible for the action of the governor and his private secretary in absconding themselves from the executive offices.

Governor West dropped out of sight Saturday and received no bills from the legislative assembly, and it was said will receive none and will not appear at the state capitol until after the legislature has finally cleaned up every bill that is on the desks of the respective houses. This much became known from an authoritative source.

Governor is Criticized.—West was severely criticized Saturday by members of the senate and house, as well as by attaches and employees, whose salaries have been held up by his failure to sign the general appropriation bill.

The governor declared during the week that Saturday being a holiday, the senate and house had no right to remain in session, but lawyers in both branches of the legislature declare that it is a legislative day and that the legislature could work and be well within the law.

It was believed to be the plan of the governor, in order to circumvent the legislature in its determination to remain here until all vetoed bills are signed upon, to force receipt of all bills this week. This will make possible the holding of all bills in his office until Friday or Saturday of this week, as he has five days on each bill to veto or sign or send to the secretary of state without signature one way or the other.

Houses May be Swamped.—In event that the governor should hold in his office all of the bills yet to be passed by the legislature, together with those already passed, he would turn in such a bunch of bills in the week that both houses would be literally swamped and in as bad a condition then as they have been at any time during the session.

Should the governor do this, it is believed that the legislature will remain here and act upon all bills, no matter how long it takes. That is the sentiment of many members, who began to vent a scheme by the executive to "get even" for their action in delaying to remain here another week.

Viewed from another standpoint, it is believed that a big fight is coming between the governor and the legislature.

Speaker Orders Arrest of Members.—Speaker McArthur Saturday threw the house into a fever of excitement by refusing permission to any member to leave for home, ordering the doors locked and instructing the sergeant-at-arms to go out and arrest every member who had left the session without permission.

The trouble started when it was discovered just before the 4 o'clock train rolled out for Portland that there was no quorum present. Some of the members, who live too far away to be able to get home over Sunday, raised objections to remaining over the house. The house adopted a resolution to the effect that any member who leaves the house without the permission of the speaker is to be fined \$5.

House Irritated by Senate.—Bills which have passed the senate and in which senate members are particularly interested will be retained by the house, taken into the chamber and laid upon the table until the senate agrees to stop slaughtering bills, according to an agreement which is being formulated among a number of the house members.

Some of their pet bills have been left to sleep in the senate and they are increased. In a spirit of retaliation the wholesale slaughter of house bills in the senate, the house Saturday vetoed on the senate and began slaughtering bills from the upper house.

Novel Procedure in Bill Selection.—The senate indulged in a novel procedure when it agreed to allow each one of the 20 senators to select from the vast list of house bills, which is more than that body, one bill each, to be given preference and receive immediate action.

The procedure itself appeared to be more novel than some of the selections made. Some of the bills, which are said to be of first import to the

senators included such as those governing the running of stock at large or providing for expediting the payment of witness or juror fees.

1915 Fund is \$175,000. Agreeing to the report of the conference committee and concurring in amendments made in the house, the senate passed the Panama-Pacific appropriation bill, and Oregon will appropriate for its share in the exposition \$175,000. The senate intended to stand pat on \$300,000 and the house on \$150,000, but from the very nature of the stubborn opposition from both sides it was apparent there could be no solution but a compromise.

Jury Duty Still Optional.—Women in Oregon do not have to do jury duty unless they wish to. The house refused to pass a bill amending the law so that women would be compelled to serve on a jury when summoned, the same as men.

A number of the members of the house expressed the belief that regular jury duty is not for a woman to perform and the measure therefore went down to defeat.

House Votes Home for Girls.—The bill for a state industrial home for girls and women went through the house and was passed by a vote of 39 to 2. The bill appropriates \$50,000 for the two-year term, which is to be used in establishing and maintaining the proposed home. Women and girls are to be sent there as a corrective. The bill was introduced in the senate and passed that branch without a dissenting vote.

Report Upholds Prison Policy.—Governor West was upheld as to his prison policy and the management of the state penitentiary was praised in a majority report filed with the house by Senators Hollis and Ragsdale and Representative Laughlin. No censure whatever was given, the nearest thing being that some prisoners were found who complained of having no underwear sufficient to their needs, and this condition, it was pointed out, was easily remedied.

Representatives Lewelling and Smith submitted a minority report, in which several severe charges were made as to the management of the prison, and Governor West was censured for his official actions in a number of instances. The house filed both reports.

General Appropriation Bill Passed.—Without making a single amendment, the senate passed the general appropriation bill for state offices and boards just as it went through the house.

Further expediting business, so far as appropriation bills are concerned, the senate passed all the University of Oregon and agricultural college bills, 11 in number, aggregating \$317,833 for the university and \$305,500 for the agricultural school, these sums being in addition to the annual continuing appropriations.

Scarcely had the bills been passed before it was announced that referendum petitions will be circulated to keep the schools from receiving the money the legislature has voted, except one bill for each institution carrying an additional maintenance fund of \$50,000 for each institution.

Eight Hour Bill Now Dead.—The minimum wage bill, which has now been signed by the governor, played an important part in the defeat of Lawrence's bill providing for an eight-hour working day for women, with a limit of 48 hours a week.

The committee returned three reports on this bill, one the majority report, being that it do not pass, signed by Kiddle, Fay and Wood. They reported back adversely on the ground that a minimum wage bill had already been signed by the governor and that this bill was unnecessary and uncalled for under the conditions.

Revised Assembly is Plan.—Under the provisions of a constitutional amendment which the legislature is asked to put on the ballot for the next general election in a resolution introduced in the house, the Oregon legislature, after 1916, would consist of 24 senators, one from each county, and 60 representatives.

The amendment proposes to change the whole system of legislative representation. It would place it on a proportional basis, with each county entitled to one senator and no more, and to at least one representative.

Irrigation Bill is Passed.—With only slight opposition, the senate passed the big \$450,000 appropriation bill for the Columbia Southern irrigation project in Crook county. This bill will enable the state to take hold of the work of reclaiming the lands under the original Carey project, where private capital has failed.

All of those who have tried the project and failed have made quit claims to the state. Under the bill the state will take over the entire burden of reclamation, and will get its money back from the settlers in 10 years by the installment plan after it has been made ready for productive farming.

Trust Companies to be Examined.—A senate bill by Kiddle was passed by the house regulating trust companies and giving the state bank examiner the authority to inspect them and to have the same jurisdiction over them as he does over state banks. There was scarcely any opposition.

May Work Until March.—A resolution pledging the members of the legislature to remain in session for 40 "actual working days," and setting 5 o'clock of March 1 for adjournment instead of February 21 was introduced in the house.

The house resolution provides that legislators, clerks and all legislative employees shall receive pay for 40 "working days."

West Throws Bombshell.—Declaring that no oppositor bills will receive the sanction of the governor unless it be one absolutely necessary to carry on the affairs of the government, mutual disposition is made of appropriations to care for the wards of the state, the governor threw a bombshell into the legislature.

He sent a message in which he charged the failure to get the big appropriation bills into the legislature to the chairman of the ways and means committee.

Leaders state that there will be a sufficient number who will remain over if the executive is inclined to be intractable to deal with the situation.

The ways and means committee of the house made a report, replying to the message of the governor, in which the members denied delaying appropriation bills for political effect. They declared they have already saved the state \$1,000,000 by the pruning process and expect to save a total of \$4,000,000.

8-Hour Bill is a Law.—Without amendment and but few dissenting votes, the so-called eight-hour day bill was passed by the house on reconsideration. The bill also passed the senate and was signed by Governor West.

The bill carries an appropriation of \$7000 for the two years between sessions of the legislature to take care of the work of the commission which is authorized to have charge. None of the commissioners are to receive salaries, however.

Minimum Wage Bill Passed.—The house minimum wage bill passed the senate and now becomes a law unless vetoed by the governor.

Stated briefly, the minimum wage bill provides for a commission of three to be appointed by the governor, consisting of one employer, one employee and a third unbiased person. On the commission is conferred power to fix a reasonable minimum wage for women and child workers, hours of employment and conditions of labor. The law carries an appropriation of \$3500 a year.

The law applies only to women and children. A feature of the law is that it requires a conference between employer and employe when complaints are made.

Senate Donates \$200,000 for Fair.—The bill for an Oregon exhibit at the Panama-Pacific Exposition passed the senate carrying an appropriation of \$200,000. It also provides for the appointment of a commission of three to be named by a committee consisting of the governor, secretary of state, state treasurer, president of the senate and speaker of the house.

Sterilization Bill Passed.—With just 16 votes, the number needed for passage, the Lewelling bill for sterilization of habitual criminals, moral degenerates and perverts went to victory in the senate.

Dr. Owens Adair of Astoria, who originated the bill and has lobbied for it at succeeding sessions of the legislature, was a witness to its final success, and she was invited by Governor West to be present in his office when he signed it last Saturday.

50 Days' Session Urged.—The house adopted a resolution directing the submission to the vote of the people, at the next general election, a constitutional amendment lengthening the session of the legislature from 40 to 50 actual working days, and raising the pay of the legislators from \$3 to \$5 a day.

The house also adopted a companion resolution directing that an amendment be submitted to the vote of the people providing that two sessions shall be held—a first session of 30 days, then a temporary adjournment, and then an after-session, and permanent adjournment. The reason for the two is that it would give legislators more time to consider bills and secure the sentiment of the people with relation to measures submitted.

Referendum Date is Set.—Day's bill, providing for a special referendum election, to be held September 2, passed the senate. It invoked considerable debate, being advocated warmly by Day, Moser, Thompson, Bean and others and opposed by McColloch, Miller and Neuner. The bill carries an emergency clause to prevent the possibility of being itself referred.

The object of calling the special election is to prevent large projects like the Panama-Pacific appropriation, the workmen's compensation bill and good roads and other important proposals, from being held up for two years.

Bull Moose Are Recognized.—The Bull Moose party will be able to participate in the primaries before the city election in Portland under the provisions of a bill that passed the senate. This bill provides that any political party casting 20 per cent

of the vote at the preceding election may participate in the primaries.

The bill also carries an emergency clause which will allow the participation in the Portland primaries.

The bill was introduced by Senator Carson at the request of the Progressive party committee.

Industrial Girl's Home Favored.—In the face of an adverse majority report, the Moser bill providing for the establishment of an Industrial Home for girls passed the senate with 14 votes in its favor. It is amended so as to provide \$25,000 a year for the next two years. The institution is to be located on ground now owned by the state at Salem, if the bill becomes a law. The institution is to be constructed on the cottage plan.

Firearms Bill is Passed.—Perkins' firearms bill passed the senate. This amended bill provides that anyone purchasing a revolver must have the certificate of two freeholders as to his good moral character and a permit from the circuit, county or municipal judge.

It prevents the display of revolvers in windows, requires a registration of numbers and also requires dealers to make reports to sheriffs twice a month as to sales.

Interest on Funds in Treasuries.—Should H. B. 147 by Parsons, which has just passed the house, be enacted into law, thousands of dollars will pour into the coffers of county treasurers in interest on county money, for it provides that all funds shall be deposited with a bank which will give sound security for its safe keeping, and that it shall draw 1 per cent interest. At the present time banks enjoy the use of this money without paying interest.

Fairs Left to Counties.—A bill by the committee on expositions and fairs, providing for an annual tax levy of 20 mills for county fairs, was passed by the house. It is said it will do away with any appropriations by the legislature. These have been very bothersome and many members wished to leave the fairs in each county to the counties.

West Bill Approved by House.—Hagood's bill for a state-wide tripartite law, similar to that now in force in Portland, was passed by the house. It requires the owners of all hotels, lodging houses, etc., to post a sign at their doors to tell who owns the property. This is one of the bills urged by Governor West. Another bill favored by the governor is one by Howard of Douglas, known as the injunction bill, aimed to curb disorderly houses by compelling them to post a

bond with the city authorities, not exceeding the value of the property involved.

Bridge Bill Favored.—The house passed the Nolte interstate bridge bill and enabling act introduced by the Multnomah delegation.

The bill provides that certain counties may issue bonds for interstate bridges and may deduct yearly from the county taxes due the state the interest on the bridge bonds as the state's portion of the expense of the bridge. The interest will total \$70,000 a year.

Substitution of a teachers' training school for annual county institutes is contemplated in a bill passed by the house.

The house passed a bill requiring state banks to capitalize to 95 per cent of the amount of deposits and surplus carried by them.

NEXT FAIR WILL HAVE EDUCATIONAL EXHIBIT

It is the intention of the Fair association of this county to have an educational display on exhibit at the next annual county fair. Believing you and your community to be friends to education, we ask you to consider this your privilege to assist in making the work from your school and neighborhood the best or among the best in the county.

We expect at a later date to make out a full list of premiums for work done by both the grades and the high schools of the county. The rural schools shall have our special consideration in premiums offered, thus enabling them to compete for prizes along with the larger schools.

We ask your cooperation in this effort and any suggestions you may offer, will be highly appreciated and used in making this a beginning of one of the best features of our already successful county fair.

If there is some feature in the school work that you would especially like to see emphasized, lend it your aid by offering the boys and girls a premium as an incentive to bring out their best work along that line.

Yours Truly,
E. G. Halley,
A. B. Macpherson,
Edna Griffin.

50 shares Owyhee ditch stock for sale on long time. A. F. Boyer, Ontario, Oregon.

For the best bread and pastry in town go to the Ontario Bakery.

For Sale—One span mare, one span gelding, 2 saddle horses gentle, for women or children. Call at the Multnomah rooms.

Local Market Report.

Corrected Feb. 27, for the benefit of Argus readers by the Malheur Mercantile Company.
Eggs, per dozen, 25c.
Butter, per pound, 30c.
Oats, per hundred, \$1.50.
Wheat, per hundred, \$1.60.
Hay, per ton, \$5.
Potatoes, per hundred, 60.
Onions, per hundred, \$2.00.
Apples, per box, \$1.00. to \$1.50.
Chickens, dressed, per pound, 8c.
Fork, dressed, 9 to 10c.
Pork, live, 5 1/2 to 6 1/4 c.
Veal, 9 to 10c.
Beef 11c to 12c.



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