

OREGON LAWMAKERS' WORK AS REVIEWED

Many Bills Vetted in Half Days Work of Governor

SOLONS ASKED TO RETURN

Appropriations Total \$5,000,000—Rogue River Bill Vetted—Panama-Pacific Bill Filed—Printing Feud Will End—Change Made in Tax Laws.

Salem—Notwithstanding it had been rumored that Governor West was using his influence among his friends in the legislature to prevent a quorum when the legislature reconvened Tuesday, Saturday evening he issued a signed statement, urging members of the legislature, regardless of their views as to the wisdom of holding over another week, to return to Salem.

Failure to return and adjourn in the ordinary way, it was believed by many, would cast grave doubt upon the validity of laws passed, especially those which did not carry an emergency clause. Most of the important legislation enacted did not have the emergency clause attached. Some of the leading lawyers of the state held that should a quorum fail to appear no final adjournment could be taken, hence the laws would fail, because they could not become effective at the end of the 90 days provided by law.

The governor's statement to the members says:

"It appearing that a grave question has arisen as to the validity of certain measures passed at the recent session of the legislature should that body fail to meet again on March 4 and adjourn sine die, I earnestly hope that each and every member will report at the appointed hour in order that all unfinished business may be given proper attention, and by adjourning sine die leave no doubt as to the validity of the measures already passed. To those good friends who have stood by me in the fight during the recent session I make this a personal appeal."

This statement on the face of it is taken as a denial that the executive has been calling on his lieutenants in the legislature to submit their resignations that a quorum might not be present.

When asked as to this particular feature the governor merely referred to the statement which he issued.

By this move in joining with President Malarkey and Speaker McArthur in urging a quorum to be present, a quorum was assured.

That the quorum would be present has been insisted by organization leaders ever since the legislature took its adjournment, but some of the minority members have been reported making frantic efforts to head off such a session.

Appropriations are \$5,151,225.25.

In the final semi-official check on appropriations made by James E. Allison, warrant clerk of the secretary of state's office, and Frank K. Lovell, clerk of the ways and means committee, which shows that the total appropriations of the present legislative assembly amount to \$5,151,225.25.

Taking into consideration the fact that this session asked practically for \$9,000,000, with an estimate exclusive of continuing and outside appropriations of \$8,437,819.07, the ways and means committees slashed to the fatal finish and allowed only appropriations for sheer necessities.

27th Really \$4,000,000 Assembly.

This means that the 27th legislative assembly may be branded as only a \$4,000,000 legislature. The assembly of two years ago made total appropriations amounting to \$4,993,995. This legislature can shave from the one of two years ago practically \$1,000,000 in actual money expended and still stand in the supreme attitude of having offered the best services for the money invested of any legislature extant in this state, according to those who have closely followed the situation.

For instance, this legislature appropriated \$450,000 for the rejuvenation of the Columbia Southern Irrigation project. This appropriation will be paid back dollar for dollar into the state treasury.

Entire Cost Totals \$6,220,225.75.

The entire cost to the state in figures, which do not take into account what will come back to the state, but to take into account the continuing annual appropriations of prior sessions for the next biennial period, will be \$6,220,225.75.

While the figures here given do not show conclusively or finally the official estimate of the appropriations of this session, they are so nearly correct as to vary but a few hundreds of dollars in one direction or another.

Governor Files Exposition Bill.

The governor vetoed the Rogue river fishing bill and the bill allowing voters to vote for all candidates or delegates to national conventions or presidential electors, but did the unexpected in filing the Panama-Pacific Exposition appropriation bill.

It was believed that the Panama-Pacific Exposition appropriation bill would be vetoed by the executive, but instead he issued a statement explaining his reasons for filing it and declaring that he will not participate in any manner in selecting the commission to expend the money and thus will not be visited with the responsibilities which will attach to naming such a commission.

Among other important bills vetoed were those providing for a morals court in Multnomah county, repealing state printer flat-salary act, regulating recall elections, Cello Falls investigation and survey, increasing number of circuit judges to 31 in state, repealing exclusive logging franchise on streams, reimbursing W. L. Campbell, relating to appeals in partition-suits, raising salaries of Marion county officers, raising the salary of school superintendent of Josephine county.

Printing Feud to End.

With the close of the legislative session the feud between the state printer and State Printing Expert Harris has subsided, and as a result Oregon is provided with an entirely new system for having the state printing done. Under the new law the state board, consisting of the governor, secretary of state and state treasurer, will have entire control of the printing and will prescribe the amount, quality, etc., to be done. The work will be turned over by this board to the state printer on a flat salary of \$1800, who will contract with any responsible firm for the work on each job.

Good Roads Bills Expected to Hold.

The good roads situation as it stands, unless the referendum is applied, which now seems improbable, gives to Oregon both a county bonding act and a state highway act. The county bonding act provides for the issuance of bonds up to the limit of credit as outlined in the constitutional amendment passed by the people at the last general election, with the county courts practically the arbiters in good roads matter.

The highway commission act provides for a levy of one-quarter of a mill, for the use of convicts on the roads and for a state road engineer, who will act in a consulting capacity for the county courts and will also prepare statistics and data which will be valuable in the carrying out of road work.

Vital Changes Made in Tax Laws.

Changes that are considered of much importance in the system of taxation and collection of taxes are included in bills which have passed the legislature and will become laws.

House bill 414 changes the date of the meeting of county boards of equalization to begin the second Monday in September, instead of the third Monday in October. It makes the treasurer tax collector, instead of the sheriff. This feature of the act, however, does not go into effect until January 1, 1914.

This bill does away with the 3 per cent rebate and also with the 10 per cent penalty and 12 per cent interest on taxes unpaid prior to the first Monday in April. In lieu of the rebate and penalty and interest it provides for a cumulative penalty of 1 per cent for each calendar month or part there-

of that taxes remain unpaid after the first day of April.

The privilege of paying one-half of the tax charged against any real property or the personal tax charged against any individual prior to April 1 is retained. All taxes unpaid on the first day of September become delinquent, and the same penalty and interest now provided by law for delinquent taxes become applicable. The sheriff is to be the collector of all delinquent taxes under the new law.

Electors to Pass on 7 Amendments.

There will be seven proposed constitutional amendments on the next general election ballot according to the joint resolutions so far filed in the office of the secretary of state.

These proposed amendments are as follows:

Amending section 2, article II, of the constitution, providing that only fully naturalized aliens may vote.

Amending section 7, article XI, of the constitution, allowing indebtedness to be incurred for reclamation of arid lands.

Amending section 8 of article V of the constitution, creating the office of lieutenant-governor.

Amending section 32 of article I of the constitution, relating to powers of assessment and taxation.

Amending section 1 of article IX of the constitution, providing for uniform rules of assessment and taxation.

Providing for method whereby cities and towns may be merged into adjoining cities or towns.

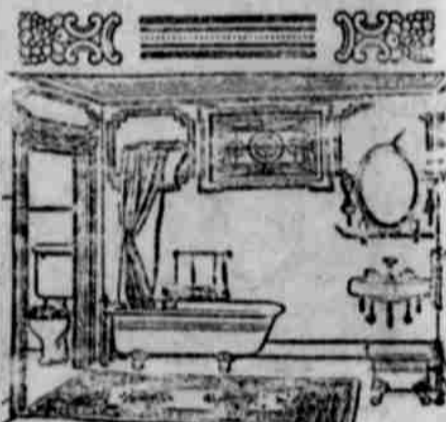
To allow the city of Portland and Multnomah county to be merged under one government.

Legislative Brevities.

Practically all efforts at amending or tampering with the initiative and referendum laws signally failed at this session of the legislature.

Cost for the mileage and per diem of senators and representatives and for clerks and stenographers of the legislature totaled \$45,415.80.

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