

OREGON LAWMAKERS WORK AS REVIEWED

Second Week is Exciting and
and Numerous Bills Are
Introduced.

Salem, Ore.—The most exciting event during the second week of the legislative session was the political rumpus in the Senate over the Kellar resolution to have the Legislature endorse the Oregon system "as the best in the world." The debate, lasting five hours, embittered by personalities, was the stormiest heard in many sessions. Jonathan Bourne, more than the resolution was the target at which the verbal bullets flew. The resolution was defeated, but it undoubtedly would have been adopted but for the charges of the standpat repeaters that it was a scheme of United States Senator Bourne to advertise himself; his hand was suspected even by some progressives, so, with one accord, they resurrected Bourne's political past and called him everything they could think of in language fit for utterance in a public gathering.

Among those hurling verbal harpoons into Bourne were Abraham, Albee, Chase, Carson, Bowerman, Nottingham, Calkins, Norton and Malarkey. The defenders of the resolution and the Oregon System were Dimick, Sinnott, Miller, McColloch and Kellar. Most of the speeches were literally "hot stuff," but applause was scarce.

May Adopt Modified Resolution.

Senator Albee has revised the resolution to endorse the Oregon System by not declaring Oregon "has the best government in the world." This action is in line with the desire of friends of the Oregon System to take away the ill effect caused by the Senate's refusal to endorse the resolution last week. Standpat politicians already have been using the failure to endorse the system as a weapon, and it is to counteract this that Albee has brought up the matter again. As now drafted, the resolution is expected to pass, for several progressives who refused to vote for the original resolution will accept it in the new form.

Bowerman Repeals Asylum Heads.

Jay Bowerman also stirred up the Senate by his vigorous defense of his purchase of the branch asylum site at Pendleton. He openly charged Dr. R. E. Lee Steiner, of the State Asylum, with extravagance; charged the State Board with playing peanut politics, and insisted that he would not tolerate being placed before the people of the state as a fool or a knave. It was the explosion which has been gathering ever since Governor West sent in his special message, asking that a committee be selected to visit the Bowerman asylum site and see if it was satisfactory.

A joint committee consisting of Representatives L. L. Mann of Umatilla, J. C. Bryant of Benton, Senator L. E. Bean of Lane and Senator W. C. Chase of Coos and Curry counties, was appointed to view the site selected by Acting Governor Jay Bowerman at Pendleton for the branch asylum.

Both Houses Working Well.

Aside from the row in the House over patronage, the failure of the Senate to endorse the Oregon System of popular government, and the attack on the extravagance at the Asylum and Home for Feeble Minded, both House and Senate are working well, the organization being on business lines, the committees rushing. Many bills referred to committees have been reported back within half an hour favorably or unfavorably. The desire to be businesslike has extended to the defeat of resolutions for junketing committees to the institutions of the state. These investigations are considered nothing but pleasure trips, which are an expense to the state and bring no result. The Senate has turned down every proposed committee of the sort. Then, too, there is a tendency to hold down the number of clerks employed, and there is also a partiality for men clerks and stenographers rather than for women.

Committee Charges Extravagance.

The management of the state Institute Asylum and State School for Feeble Minded are criticised in the report made by the committee appointed to investigate the needs of the state institutions and the methods used.

Not only was the committee severe in reference to the manner in which the funds allowed the asylum have been squandered by Dr. Steiner, but they are inclined to place the blame upon him for the manner in which the Home for the Feeble Minded has been filled with inmates who should never

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been transferred from the asylum at all.

Undoubtedly the use of the probe on state institutions, and especially in the asylum, the penitentiary and the Home for the Feeble Minded, will be continued by this Legislature, by reason of the astonishing misuse of funds, extravagance and unbusinesslike methods shown to have prevailed. The temper of the members of the House was shown by the incidents marking the conclusion of the reading of the report.

Fraternal Regulation Provided.

Regulation of the fraternal benefit societies of the state and their supervision by the insurance commissioner is provided by a bill introduced by the insurance committee of the House. The bill was drafted by State Insurance Commissioner Koser and has been endorsed by the National Fraternal Congress and the Associated Fraternities of America. One of the provisions of the bill gives these societies a prescribed time in which to bring their rates up to a basis that will insure fulfillment of their membership certificates.

Constitutional Amendments Proposed.

Two proposed constitutional amendments appeared in the House in the form of resolutions. Clyde of Multnomah proposes an amendment which abolishes capital punishment and limits the pardoning power of the governor.

Provision for a lieutenant-governor is provided by another constitutional amendment proposed by Representative Powell. This amendment fixes the salary of such officer at \$1,200 per annum except at such times as he shall be filling the office of governor, when he shall receive the regular salary of that official.

Changes in Election Laws.

Changes in the election laws are proposed by a number of bills before the Legislature. Senator Barrett of Washington has introduced a resolution raising the percentage of voters necessary to inaugurate an initiative petition from 8 per cent to 20 per cent and for the referendum from 5 to 10 per cent.

Senator Carson has a bill requiring county assessors to register electors. This, he contends, is a way of reaching all voters and saves them the trouble of going to the court house, especially those living in the country.

Representative Gill has a bill in the House which provides for a certificate of registration on which an elector can vote when not at home. It also provides that electors need not register more than once when they have not moved from their precinct. This does away with repeated registrations. The certification of registration contains a complete description of the elector, down to the color of his eyes and any physical peculiarities. These markings are to prevent another voting on the certificate.

Would Pay Students' Railway Fares.

A bill which is intended to appease the friends of the Ashland and Weston normal school by paying the traveling expenses of students living more than 100 miles from the Monmouth school was introduced in the Senate. Students from the Ashland and Weston territory, who will now be compelled to go to Monmouth, will be materially aided if the bill goes through. In order to secure payment of their traveling expenses students living over 100 miles from Monmouth must graduate and teach for at least 16 months afterwards.

Anti-Trust Law Introduced.

An anti-trust law, which is intended to hit all combinations in restraint of trade, was introduced in the Senate by Joseph of Multnomah and may loom as one of the large measures of the session. It is modeled largely after the Sherman law, and hits at trusts or combinations formed in restraint of trade. The bill aims to eliminate all contracts to combinations between two or more persons, corporations or associations, to limit or reduce production or increase or reduce the price of any merchandise or commodity.

Total of Pupils Regulates Pay.

Representatives Belknap and Thompson have introduced a bill which proposes a uniform basis for computing the salary for county school superintendents of the state. The bill provides that the salary of the school superintendent of each county shall be \$1,000, and in addition thereto \$100 for every 1,200 children in his county as shown by the last annual school census. No superintendent, however, is to receive a salary in excess of \$2,500.

\$150,000 Asked for Capitol.

An appropriation of \$150,000 is recommended by the House committee on capitol buildings and grounds for the construction of the state house grounds, east of the building, of a building of sufficient size for the accommodation of the state library, the supreme court, the library commission, the railroad commission and the attorney-general.

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Notice is hereby given that all applications for permits to graze cattle, horses and sheep within the CASCADE NATIONAL FOREST during the season of 1911, must be filed in my office at Eugene, Oregon, on or before February 15, 1911. Full information in regard to the grazing fees to be charged and blank forms to be used in making applications will be furnished upon request. CLYDE R. SEITZ, Supervisor.

Needlework.

H. Fox is willing to undertake to make children's clothes. H. Fox, City. 12-29-14.

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