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NO DANGER OF DIVISION BILL PASSING, REPORT

SALEM, Jan. 11.—Current rumors at the statehouse today give the proposed Clackamas county division bill little hope of ever becoming a law. A report of the committee in the event it is introduced. Marion county members who on the bill on the ground that its passage may precipitate a move to divide the state into counties and Multnomah seems to be against annexation. The senate committee on counties, to which such a bill would undoubtedly go, consists of senators Hume and Staples of Multnomah, and Ryan of Clackamas, while the house committee consists of representatives Sloan, of Umatilla; McDonald of Multnomah and Clackamas; Martin, of Marion; Stone, of Clackamas, and McFarland, of Multnomah. It also appeared evident at the statehouse today that the legislature will not be asked to vote upon a cash bonus bill for ex-service men, but instead will probably be asked to consider a land loan bill, extending the credit of the state to holders who wish to purchase land. This was reported to be the result of an informal conference of American Legion leaders here today.

NEW DEPOT FOR CITY IMPERATIVE, SAY LIVE WIRES

The Live Wires committee, appointed to secure a new Southern Pacific depot for Oregon City, has unlimbered its guns, and is ready for action. At a meeting held yesterday evening, Al Price was appointed chairman of a sub-committee to gather data for the Public Service Commission, which will meet in this city soon and hear representatives of the S. P. company and investigate data furnished by the local committee. The commission at this time will decide whether or not Oregon City should have an adequate depot and shipping facilities. Wallace Cauffman, chairman of the main committee, has already filed with the Commission complaints showing why Oregon City should have a new depot, and members of the commission at that time alleged that if matters were as bad as pictured here, the S. P. company should build the depot. It is the object of the committee from the "Wires" to have all persons who are interested in a new depot for Oregon City to file their complaints against the present facilities with Mr. Price, in order to have them presented to the Commission when they arrive in this city for the hearing. It is also alleged that the more data filed with the committee in favor of the depot, the better the chances will be to get the structure. At the present time, several draymen and transfer men have refused to deliver or receive freight from the present depot, for the reason that the facilities are inadequate for loading or unloading freight. Stockmen say that livestock shipped to and out of this city, has to be driven over the passenger platform to the cars, causing disagreeable and unnecessary conditions. The Commission will order the S. P. company to build the new depot and freight building if the present facilities are shown to be inadequate for this city, and it is up to those interested to see that this data is furnished Mr. Price, chairman of the complaint committee.

MORE BONDS FOR HIGHWAY TO BE ASKED

SALEM, Or., Jan. 7.—The legislature probably will be called upon at its coming session to authorize a special election next May or June to vote additional highway bonds in the sum of \$5,000,000, according to James S. Stewart, former member of the legislature, who was here today. Mr. Stewart now lives at Corvallis. He published a newspaper at Fossil for many years. Other reports reaching Salem during the past few days indicate that the program of the state highway commission will be approved by the legislature. The members of the commission have been working on a plan of operation for several months, but as yet their finds have not been made public.

Anderson Compiling Data for Court

Ex-Judge Anderson is now employed by the present county court to tabulate data concerning the amount of money spent by the court during the year 1920 on highways north of the Clackamas river, and east of the Willamette. The figures will be

OSWEGO GETS BIG SHARE OF ROAD MONEY

According to County Judge Cross, money expended for highways in the Oswego district has been enormous, and that this district has received more than its share of county and public highway funds. On the Oswego-Oregon City highway \$2,187.12 has already been spent; Sucker Creek bridge, \$65,851.14; Tyron Creek bridge, \$8,479.98. All of these sums have been spent in the Oswego district, besides it has received its regular quota of road district money. Not only this, but a 20-foot concrete pavement will be laid from the Multnomah county line near Oswego through Oswego without expense to that district. It is rumored that Oswego is dissatisfied with the present allotment of money by the court, and it was also reported that a meeting was to be held there for the purpose of discussing the subject. Judge Cross and another member of the court were in Oswego Tuesday evening with the intention of attending this meeting, but it is reported that no meeting took place. In spite of the fact that the above sums of money have been spent in the Oswego neighborhood, it is rumored that annexation to Multnomah county of that district has met with much approval there, and members of the court are at loss to understand Oswego's attitude in the matter.

ROAD BOND ISSUE CALLS FOR BRIEFS

STATE HOUSE, SALEM, Or., Jan. 11.—The rehearing in the case of W. P. Hawley vs. H. S. Anderson, county judge of Clackamas county, involving the legality of \$1,700,000 in county road bonds, will be based upon briefs and records already filed with the supreme court on which the court in its former opinion held the issue to be invalid as exceeding the 2 per cent limitation fixed by the act of 1913. A stipulation by the attorney's on both sides of the case to that effect, was allowed by the supreme court, Wednesday morning.

TAX-LEVYING BILL TO COME UP AT SESSION

STATE HOUSE, SALEM, Or., Jan. 11.—Herbert Gordon's bill to put teeth in the tax supervising and conservation commission law made its appearance today. The measure, which has the support of the Taxpayers' league and other bodies in Portland, has for its principal purpose to promote efficiency in administration of government, and economy in the expenditure of public funds.

CREDITORS HOLD ANNUAL MEETING HERE SATURDAY

At the annual meeting of the creditors of the John Loder estate, who have incorporated, officers of the organization for the coming year were elected. Those elected on the board of directors were H. E. Steavens, I. J. Hodgson, Miss Anna Smith, C. W. Swallow and A. J. Marrs. The matters of the estate have not been fully straightened out as yet, and it will be a year or more before the creditors will be able to determine just how much they will receive from their investments. To date 30c on the dollar has been paid in, and more is coming in to the association right along. Owing to the mixed state of the affairs, little pertaining to the value or income from the estate has been fully determined, but the creditors have organized to secure better results during the next year.

FEDERAL JURY CALLS MANY LOCAL MEN

Men from Clackamas county who will serve on the next federal jury, which convenes at Portland January 24, are as follows: C. T. Blackburn, route No. 3, Oregon City; Ben Dya, route No. 5, Sherwood; Ernest B. Evans, route No. 1, Engle Creek; C. D. Hartman, Scotts Mills; J. E. Jack, Oregon City; Fred Kamrath, route No. 3, Oregon City; E. T. Llewellyn, route No. 4, Oregon City; Ortlely Plimpton, route No. 3, Milwaukie.

SOUTH DAKOTA MAY PASS SIX MILLION BONUS

PIERRE, S. D., Jan. 10.—The state's attorney-general is drawing up a bill for presentation in the legislature which provide the \$6,000,000 fund necessary to pay ex-service men the bonus voted at the November elec-

YEGGS ATTEMPT TO LOOT FIRST NATIONAL BANK AT MOLALLA

Yeggs forced entrance into the First National bank at Molalla about 3:30 o'clock Saturday morning, blew both doors to the vault open with nitro-glycerine and escaped before they could be captured by residents, who were awakened by the explosion. The robbers got nothing and were scared away by the prompt action of Gordon Taylor, who discovered them and telephoned the night operator at the switchboard of the robbery. The men entered the bank building through a window in the wood-house adjoining the bank, and after entering the bank proper, hammered off the handle to the vault door and loosed the hole with "nitro." The first explosion did not have the desired effect, and a second charge was set off by the yeggs. Taylor, who lives near the bank, heard the first charge go off, and rushing to the window of his home, saw two of the robbers keeping watch in the street, while a third companion was opening the safe. Taylor telephoned the night operator, who in turn notified several residents in the immediate neighborhood. The yeggs, seeing the lights turned on in the different homes, knew they were discovered and beat a hasty retreat, without taking money or securities. Sheriff Wilson was notified of the attempt to look the bank about 4:00 o'clock, and in company with Deputy Hughes, made a flying trip to the scene. The sheriff immediately telephoned to Oregon City and other places in the county to keep a sharp watch for strange men, and the night police force here watched the suspension bridge closely and other roads leading out of the city.

No clue to their identity or whereabouts can be found, but last night a cordon of police officers were placed in the Molalla neighborhood to catch the men if they were hiding near there or attempted to leave the country. According to a detective from the Bankers' Protective Association, who arrived in Oregon City late Saturday afternoon, the work was done by old heads at the game, who knew their business. He pointed out the fact that the men broke into the W. V. S. Ry. tool shop and carried to the bank a crowbar, hammer and pickax. "While the average layman does not know the value of these tools to bank robbers," he said, "nevertheless, they are indispensable to yeggs for a successful job. The crowbar is used to pry off the locks, the pickax for the breaking open of safety deposit boxes and the hammer to 'tap' the different safes and other materials in." The detective also alleged that the famous John Stroff, known far and wide as the best little "safecracker" and all-around yegg in the business, is at large. He served a term recently at Salem, and has been free for several months. Also "John Bull," and "Spikes" two notorious bank robbers are at large at present. The detective also said that the attempted robbery at Molalla was identical with the ones at Kelso, Wash., and at North Plains, when the robbers "blew" bank vaults in those two towns. W. W. Everhart, cashier of the First National bank of Molalla, also saw the robbers leaving the town.

While he and Taylor were collecting a squad to charge the yeggs, the three men made their get-away. In "blowing" the vault, the yeggs placed old clothing and rags, which they found in the back of the building around the vault door to deaden the explosion. An opening in the vault doors was obtained by hammering off the handles over the combination, and nitro-glycerine was placed in the hole thus made. Outside of the damage done to the vault, the bank building is not injured. Sheriff Wilson discovered a transom over one of the doors with the glass missing, and it is believed that the yeggs broke the glass in order to keep watch up and down the street through the opening. It is claimed by the officials that the robbers are still in the Molalla neighborhood, and that they will not attempt to leave until night time. A large number of deputies and detectives, under Sheriff Wilson and Deputy Hughes, left Oregon City Saturday night for an all-night vigil, and it is expected that the yeggs will be rounded up before Monday morning. Police at Canby, this city and all surrounding towns have been notified of the attempted looting of the bank, and are keeping a sharp watch for the robbers. The detective who represents the Bankers' Protective Association, alleges that if the yeggs are the old heads that he thinks they are, then when cornered, they will put up a stiff battle. He says that ordinarily, the men would not take human life, but in a pinch, shoot to kill, is possible, especially one of the trio.

GOVERNOR OLCOTT GIVES MESSAGE TO LEGISLATURE

Touches on Japanese Question—Highway Program—Aid for Ex-Service Men—Traffic Regulations—Budget System—Protecting Bond Investors—Etc.

The people of the state by their ballots have increased the cost of state government largely in excess of that allowed under the six per cent limitation amendment. Measures adopted by the people at the special election last May carried heavy tax provisions and the expense of these must be met. Burdens of taxation, already heavy, have been augmented to a great degree but it removes none of our responsibilities in seeing that our institutions and necessary adjuncts of state government continue to operate efficiently and well. You, as legislators, by the practice of economy in your appropriations, by a careful scanning of items for those that are unnecessary and unwise, may very materially help the situation. Oregon, being essentially an agricultural state, I bespeak your consideration and help in ascertaining ways and means to bring the products of the farm closer to the consumer. Some well devised move of this sort would be of vast benefit both to the people on our farms and to the population of the cities. While the people rejected the state market commission bill, I do not consider that as a repudiation of the idea that there should be a more direct means of disposing of the products of the farm, and legislation tending to curb excessive profits in between, the producer and consumer will be a decided boon to mankind. I need not mention to you that it is a well defined legislative interpretation in this state that the six per cent limitation amendment from year to year by the tax levying body than an increase of six per cent over the preceding year, but it means as well that the legislature shall confine its appropriations within the available revenues. I shall deem it my constitutional duty as executive to disapprove any items that may be in excess of the six per cent limitation. OUR BUDGET SYSTEM Perhaps one of your gravest responsibilities is to lead with the financial system of our commonwealth. I have long believed that the basis of an economical administration of state affairs is the budget system. We have had such a system in operation in this state since 1915, with splendid results, but there are weaknesses in the system which I desire to call to your attention, and also, in turn, to present what I consider a remedy. Our budget is prepared on the following basis: The head of each department, institution or state activity estimates his needs for the coming year, and except in the case of state institutions coming under the board of control, submits these estimates directly to the secretary of state. He, in turn, compiles them in budget form for submission to the legislature. The secretary of state has nothing to do with these estimates save to act in a purely ministerial capacity and do the

I believe all estimates should be passed upon by some responsible body before they are presented to the legislature and its ways and means committee for their consideration. This body should have such an intimate knowledge of the needs of the state that it could prune estimates down to essentials, and thus enable the legislature at the outset to take stock of its finances and determine to what extent appropriations may be made to cover them, as the final responsibility, of course, for the appropriation of the people's money rests upon the legislature.

Under present conditions there is no central body responsible for the budget estimates, leaving each department and branch of the state government to make such estimates and claims upon the state's finances as they see fit. I recommend that the state board of control be made responsible for all budget estimates, and that each department and branch of the government be required to submit their estimates to this board a sufficient time in advance of the biennial session of the legislature to permit a full examination of all claims. The board of control should be given authority to consider and prune these estimates as it deems necessary for the best interests of the state. After the board has passed upon the estimates they should be filed with the secretary of state for compilation in budget form for presentation to your body. This change in the budget system would give to the legislature the benefit of the judgment of the members of the board of control. This would necessarily place a heavy additional burden upon the members of this board, and ample provision should be made for providing the board with necessary expert and clerical help to give this matter the close attention which its importance would warrant. Our budget would then be a budget in substance as well as in name and I am convinced that the results attained from this plan would more than justify any expense that may be connected with it.

STATE PENITENTIARY It is a pleasure to call your attention to the condition of the Oregon State Penitentiary which I believe to be equal to any time in its history, both as to the physical appearance of the plant and the morale of the men. This is a condition that exists regardless of the fact that but few appropriations have been made for betterments and repairs at the institution during the past several years, due to the fact that on two occasions the electorate were asked to pass upon the question of an appropriation for a new penitentiary and until such decisions were passed the current legislative assemblies doubted the wisdom of expending much money in betterments or repairs on the old plant, through the initiative of Dr. R. E. Steiner, temporarily acting as warden, and his successor, L. H. Compton, the present warden, vast improvements have been made at the place, largely through betterment funds derived from work at the institution itself. I will be pleased to have the members of the legislature investigate the institution and ascertain what has been done there.

PRISON FLAX PLANT We still have the flax plant at the prison in operation. As an industry it does not fit prison needs because it

tenance so that the unfortunates may be properly fed and clothed, given proper medical attention and all of the necessities required to make them as happy and comfortable under the conditions which circumstances have forced them.

There has been some talk of the erection of an additional Capitol building. I appreciate to the fullest extent the crowded and cramped quarters in which our departments are housed, and the handicaps under which they suffer because of such crowding, and every consistent effort should be made to alleviate such conditions. But while we are attempting to care for youthful offenders in a training school, the physical plant of which does not reflect credit to the state; while the institution for the feebleminded and the state hospitals for the insane are crowded to capacity, and while other institutions are suffering for want of room, I am of the opinion first consideration should be given these institutions.

BOYS' TRAINING SCHOOL The boys' training school I consider one of the most important of all of the institutions coming under state support. Here is laid the foundation for present reform of future criminals and present conditions show us the economic fallacy of leaving undone any step which may result in turning the youthful offender into a good citizen. The physical plant at the training school is hopelessly obsolete. The building is antiquated, the plan of the institution is medieval, and the name of "training school" attached to it without apology. With the exception of a few successful, but limited attempts to provide some vocational training for the boys, nothing is done to prepare them to battle with life by the use of their hands in an honest trade. Academic instruction is given. It is true, and to a measure in a satisfactory degree but the instruction received is but poor material upon which to remodel a life started under such unfortunous circumstances and such impractical environment.

Man Recalls When Coffee Was 8 Cents Flour, \$2.70 Barrel

SAUNDY, Jan. 11.—R. E. Jari sold his interest in the Kelso store recently to Albert Jonsrud, so the firm is now Jari & Jonsrud. Jari bought this store in 1905 from his brother, Joel Jari, who had just \$70 with which to buy his first stock of goods, but that was in 1893, when "normalcy" prices obtained. During the recent transfer of the first bill of goods Jari bought 28 years ago was found and prices ran as follows: Arbuckle and Lion coffee, 8 cents a pound; a dozen overalls, \$3.70; sack sugar, \$3.75; barrel flour, \$2.70; 30 pounds candy, \$1.70. Kelso postoffice was established by Jari, who carried the mail six months gratis, after which Mrs. D. D. Jack of Pleasant Home was the first mail contractor. His postoffice was discontinued in 1894 on account of rural delivery coming into this section.

RELOCATION OF ROAD IS CAUSE OF BIG MEETING

About one-hundred farmers from the Clarkes, Beaver Creek and Highland sections attended a meeting in the county court rooms in Oregon City Friday afternoon. The matter up for discussion before the court was the relocation of the Beaver Creek and Clarkes road. A petition, signed by a number of taxpayers in the Schuebel district remonstrating against the change, was presented to the court, and quite a number in favor of the change in the road were present to urge its completion. Many addresses were made on the subject, and sentiment seemed to be in favor of the new road, although the project met with considerable opposition. Many in favor of the proposed road came from the Highland and Clarkes districts. The court took the matter under advisement, and another meeting of both factions will be held in the court rooms on January 17, when the matter will be threshed out. O. D. Eby, attorney, represented the petitioners, and Chris Schuebel was the attorney for the opposition.

SUPERVISORS FAVOR OLD 1915 LAW

Brenton Vedder, county school superintendent, returned Friday afternoon from Salem, where he had gone to attend the Supervisors' convention held at that place. Mr. Vedder reports that the convention unanimously went on record to have Section 458, Oregon School Laws, repealed at the next session of the state legislature. The law as passed in 1919, is an eyesore to the heads of the schools, and they claim that the old law passed during 1915, is just, and that the new one is a "joker." It was also voted at the convention to have teachers in every district take up the reading circle work. There are now six vacancies in rural schools of Clackamas county, and teachers are hard to get. If the present vacancies are kept open, it will sadly undermine the educational institutions of the rural districts, and cause many a scholar undue hardship, it is reported.

BANK ROBBERS MAKE CLEAN GET-AWAY

No trace of the Molalla bank yeggs has been discovered so far, although the woods are full of detectives, more or less on the job. Rumors are flying thick and fast as to the possible whereabouts of the safe "blowers" but to date, no word has been received here as to their capture. The nearest that some of the sheriff's office, where thrilling tales are told to bystanders of stunts pulled off in bygone days. One "Sherlock" from Portland yesterday afternoon thought he had a "clue" but it was discovered that the overalls worn by the "cluester" were soiled, not from crawling through a window, but from hard labor at the Hawley mills.

LAND OPENED VERY SOON FOR HOMESTEADERS

Desert lands in Harney and Malheur counties will be opened to public homestead entry from February 25 to March 17, according to Harry E. Laughlin, chief of the Portland field division of the general land office. Approximately 3000 acres of land in the Vale and Burns districts are affected by the order. The 20-day period, from February 4 to February 24, is set aside for presentation of filing on the land at the Portland office. Further information may be obtained at the land office on

HOSS ELECTED MAN TRUNK OF LIVE WIRE CLUB

The regular weekly luncheon of the Live Wires of the Oregon City commercial club was lived up by the election of officers Tuesday with the following being chosen: for Man Trunk, Hal E. Hoss, advertising manager of the Morning Enterprise; Sub-trunk, W. B. Eddy, of Eddy's Department Store; Transmission Wire, W. B. Cook, county assessor; Guy Wire, D. F. Skene, of the Oregon City Abstract Company; Insulation Wire, Rev. H. G. Edgar, pastor of the Presbyterian church.

The new officers were given the reins by the retiring regime and will guide the destinies of the club for the ensuing quarter-year.

The Main Trunk will announce his appointments of program committee and Feed Wire at the next meeting. Considerable discussion on the county division matter, which is on the boards for action by the present legislature, was heard, with conflicting opinions. L. A. Henderson urged the club to immediate action toward organizing a delegation to attend the legislature, declaring that the Multnomah delegates were all solid for the annexation of the northern portion of the county, and the measure might carry through. Judges Grant E. Dimick, on the other hand, said that the Multnomah people did not want the plan to succeed, inasmuch as they were now badly in debt, with \$330,000 in unpaid warrants now, and in event they absorbed a portion of Clackamas county, estimated at about one-tenth of the area, it means according to Judge Dimick, that they will have to absorb that portion of the bonded indebtedness in proportion. Further, declared Dimick, the splitting up of the county now would impair the road bond issue, and would force Multnomah county over the 6 per cent limitation to take care of the added expense. L. A. Morris, president of the commercial club, told the Wires that the road committee of the club had conferred with the county court on the matter and had assured them their cooperation in combatting the agitation for division. He also reported that the Lake Grove people, near Oswego, had a substitute bill to present the legislature in event the bill for the whole annexation scheme was lost, wherein is provided for that particular district to cede to Multnomah. L. A. Henderson brought up the expense of making the division from another angle when he stated that it would cost Multnomah county \$50,000 to transcribe the records of the county.

A committee from the Hill Improvement club, consisting of F. J. Tooze and T. J. Smith, presented a plea for cooperation from the club in establishing a municipal band, and M. D. Latourette was appointed a committee to confer with the band leader and present a plan at the next meeting for consideration.

RYAN AND STONE TO HAVE SAY ON COUNTY DIVISION

With the 31st session of the Oregon State legislature opening Monday morning, Clackamas county fared well in committee appointments, and Senator Thos. F. Ryan was appointed head of the important banking committee by President Roy Ritner. Senator Ryan also occupies a place on the judiciary committee of the senate and is a member of the committee on counties which will act on county division measures. Wm. M. Stone was appointed a member of the counties, public lands and printing committee, which means that Stone will have a say on the county division matter which is expected to come up at the session. All division bills will come up before this committee, which is important to Clackamas county. Phillip Hammond heads the committee on legislation; F. D. Shank elected a member on the agriculture, livestock and election committees, and Speaker Louis E. Dean and W. R. McDonald, joint representatives of Multnomah and Clackamas counties, heads the corporation committee. With few exceptions, the session Monday morning went as per schedule, both in the house and the senate. Roy W. Ritner, Umatilla county, was chosen president of the senate, and Louis E. Dean, Lane county, was elected speaker of the house without objection. Senator Ryan introduced a bill in the senate—Senate Bill No. 3—exempting from royalty payments on sand and gravel used in the construction of highways, bridges and public buildings. Representative W. R. McDonald also been appointed a member of the counties, exhibitions, fairs and insurance committees. The governor will deliver his address to the senate and

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