

MUCH TO DO IN THE HOUSE

REGULAR FLOOD OF BILLS AWAITS DISPOSITION.

Senator, State Librarian Astoria Boatman Must Be Elected in Joint Assembly.

SALEM, Feb. 17.—The last week of the present legislative session promises to be an extremely busy one in the House. At the opening of the Monday morning session, there will be close to 100 House bills on the reading and half that number of Senate bills that have been reported. The members will importune for unanimous consent to advance half a hundred other bills, still held for second reading, or simply to refer them to various committees.

"No bill which shall have passed one house shall be sent for concurrence to the other on either of the last two days of the session."

The customary 90 days of the present session will terminate at midnight, Friday, February 22, the constitution providing they shall not exceed 90 days as the limit, though it provides that the session may be extended but without pay to the members.

The present outlook is that a good portion of the bills will be passed by the joint assembly in endeavoring to settle the Senatorial muddle. In addition, the joint assembly will also convene to elect a State Librarian and a boatman at Astoria, James P. Johnson, who has filed the place of Librarian so acceptably for a number of years, will be re-elected. As to the selection of boatman, any man the Clatsop delegation recommends will be elected.

The Senatorial question overshadowing all else in importance, and during this week will inject itself more ways than one in the best and most comprehensive measure ever presented to a Legislature for enactment. It meets the approval of those engaged in the salmon industry and contains the harshest restrictions imperiling the business of persons engaged in the salmon business.

Another measure to come up under special order Monday will be the bill regarding roads and highways. Mattson Douglas, chairman of the committee having bills of this nature in charge, has given a great deal of attention to the subject, and is fortified with a personal knowledge of the facts.

Monday evening will be devoted to consideration of the senate bill providing for the assessment and taxation of property. Nearly every member has an individual opinion regarding this important subject, but, out of the multiplicity of ideas, it is claimed that the bill which has passed the Senate, and is now before the House, has been constructed on a basis that will give general satisfaction.

The only measure on which the Democrats of the House desire to secure favorable action, from a party standpoint, is House bill 24, introduced by Whitney, and providing for a definition of the term "land" and "real property" for the purpose of taxation, providing where it shall be assessed and taxed, and declaring what instruments whereby land or real property is made security for the payment of a debt, shall be deemed to be the old mortgage tax law redivivus. Mr. Whitney is a firm believer in the principle of special mortgage taxation. He thinks that any instrument, either in the form of a mortgage, deed, contract or other obligation, whereby land or real property situated in no more than one county in this state, is made security for the payment of a debt, together with such other facts as the purpose of assessment and taxation, be deemed and treated as land or real property. Mr. Whitney is not over-zealous in his consideration, but he has a fair show of passing the House, but the fate of any hedge-podge of matter inexplicable in its provisions is very uncertain.

It would appear that the majority of the House members are simply waiting for the Senate bill, calling for a constitutional convention, to be taken up, in order to pass it. Had the bill been considered early in the session, it would have had no chance of success, but the delay in bringing it forward has worked to its advantage. In the general discussion of bills in the House one or more members, in opposing or advocating objects sought to be attained in bills under consideration, take refuge in the remark that there would be no cause for seeking to pass the bill if it were not for a constitution to be called. The House had a fair show of passing the House, but the fate of any hedge-podge of matter inexplicable in its provisions is very uncertain.

The Senate bill providing for the care of orphans in institutions of the state founded for that purpose still hangs fire in the House. It came up last Friday for consideration, but objection being made to the scope of the bill, it was on motion of Edde, recommended to the judiciary committee, with the understanding that it should be properly amended and promptly reported back to the House without delay. The report was anticipated Friday evening, but was not forthcoming. Saturday passed without any sign from the judiciary committee that the expected report would be presented. Now it is understood the report has been agreed upon, and will be read on Monday. The amendment to the Senate bill fixes the limit of the appropriation at \$2,000 per annum, and provides that a certificate be filed in the County Court in which the institution is located shall first be procured, showing that the orphans or abandoned children for whom aid is provided are actual inmates of such institution, and are entitled to the benefits provided under the bill.

If any one really knows what the proposed changes in the Portland charter are, he is more in the confidence of Senators Mays and Hunt than any of the other members of the Legislature. Not even a majority of the Multnomah delegation has much of an inkling as to the political changes about to be made. The one thing certain is that, when the charter is fully exposed to public view, it will be found that its builders have had a very singular idea of the police and fire departments of Portland. John Lamont, Democrat, a partner of Napoleon Davis, in the telephone business, expects to be one of the Commissioners having in charge the fire department. Joseph Buchtel hopes to get back to the head of the fire department if the charter goes through. Some persons think it is doubtful if it even gets to the printing committee. So far the proposed charter has not been printed in its entirety, and, until it is, the measure will have poor show of success. There are enough members in the House to support a strong contingent of Republicans from office, in order to make room for Democrats and their allies, to demand that the charter, when it comes up for consideration, shall pass through every constitutional requirement before it can be finally passed upon. Every line, word and syllable of the proposed charter will have to be read, section by section, so that the various changes can be intelligently discussed. The radical changes proposed to be made by the Mitchell Republican element, inside and outside the Legislature, so that Jack Madsen and his gang can run the City of Portland as they see fit.

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S. B. 155. by Wehrung—Relative to jury lists in Justices' Courts. Feb. 12.
S. B. 162. by Brownell—To amend code relative to Governor's salary. Feb. 15.
S. B. 163. by Mulkey—For a penitentiary. Feb. 12.
S. B. 168. by Adams—To amend certain sections act. Feb. 13.
S. B. 171. by Smith of Multnomah—The Port of Portland drydock bill. February 13.
S. B. 172. by Swick—To regulate insurance companies. Feb. 13.
S. B. 176. by Stetler—Wheeler County School Superintendent's salary. Feb. 7.
S. B. 201. by committee—A new assessment and taxation code. Feb. 15.
S. B. 202. by Johnston—For reclamation of arid lands. Feb. 14.
S. B. 213. by Hunt—Making state fair a free one. Feb. 5.
S. B. 216. by Williamson—To fix salary Prosecuting Attorney Seventh district. Feb. 13.
S. B. 220. by Smith of Baker—Fix salaries certain officers in Baker, Malheur, Clatsop. Feb. 14.
S. J. R. No. — by Brownell—For equal suffrage. Feb. 7.
Incorporation bills: Yoncalla, Corvallis, Hood River, Grass Valley, Milton City, North Yamhill, Myrtle Creek, Sherwood, Seaside, Astoria, Independence.

Accompanying their selections of ores will be history of each locality—number of mines, mineral conditions, etc., and investors can, at these stations, obtain preliminary information. Investors could not, if they would, call on the state geologist to examine the property, assay, or submit a plat or estimate. The state will not interfere with assayers or experts in their business, but will gather information and place it at the disposal of investors and the public. Through such departments the Geologist of the Government can be attracted here, the need of a Government assay office in the state made manifest.

Of course, much will depend in this, as in all cases, upon the efficiency and seal of the officials called upon to carry out the provisions of the law. Veto by the Governor is not to be feared, but he is in cooperation to promote the interests of the state can be counted on. And the mining men of the state will co-operate with an administration, as they have done in the past. There may be no place for the idly curious, and may justly fear such an "examiner" as Mr. Smith refers to. But under the amended bill no interruption of the working of the mines will occur. All that the commissioner has a right to learn of a mine under the bill can be gained without interrupting the men in drifts or stopes.

The criticism that the compensation is absurdly inadequate is pretty well founded, but while the state is protecting almost every animal, fish, bird and man in the nature of an investment, which work which time will soon show to be something more than an appropriation for the benefit of a locality or a single calling. The appropriation, though small, will be made in the nature of an investment, which will bring substantial and permanent returns to the treasury of the state and its counties, as well as to the various industries connected with the mines.

The mines will help in collections of ores and information; the railroad officials have declared that they will transport ores and samples to the various mineral stations. Doubtless the City of Portland will grant rooms free of charge. So by co-operation and a small fund it can be made known, even to professors of colleges in the Eastern States, that there is something more than iron and nickel mines in Oregon; the industry will have the benefit of legislative recognition and governmental control.

FRANK V. DRAKE. Permit to Sink Oil Wells. BEAUMONT, Tex., Feb. 17.—Colonel W. H. Pope, of this city, Judge O. M. Carter, of Fort Worth, and others, have received permits to sink oil wells in the vicinity of what is known as the "oil pool" near Sabine Pass.

The surveyors of the Ellenburg-Lind cut-off have reached Ellensburg.

Law Without Governor's Signature. H. B. 91. by Heitkemper—To prohibit bartering on Sunday. S. B. 8. by Wehrung—Relative to license on state fair grounds.

Downing, Hopkins & Co. WHEAT AND STOCK BROKERS Room 4, Ground Floor Chamber of Commerce BOTH TELEPHONES

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S. B. 162. by Brownell—To amend code relative to Governor's salary. Feb. 15.
S. B. 163. by Mulkey—For a penitentiary. Feb. 12.
S. B. 168. by Adams—To amend certain sections act. Feb. 13.
S. B. 171. by Smith of Multnomah—The Port of Portland drydock bill. February 13.
S. B. 172. by Swick—To regulate insurance companies. Feb. 13.
S. B. 176. by Stetler—Wheeler County School Superintendent's salary. Feb. 7.
S. B. 201. by committee—A new assessment and taxation code. Feb. 15.
S. B. 202. by Johnston—For reclamation of arid lands. Feb. 14.
S. B. 213. by Hunt—Making state fair a free one. Feb. 5.
S. B. 216. by Williamson—To fix salary Prosecuting Attorney Seventh district. Feb. 13.
S. B. 220. by Smith of Baker—Fix salaries certain officers in Baker, Malheur, Clatsop. Feb. 14.
S. J. R. No. — by Brownell—For equal suffrage. Feb. 7.
Incorporation bills: Yoncalla, Corvallis, Hood River, Grass Valley, Milton City, North Yamhill, Myrtle Creek, Sherwood, Seaside, Astoria, Independence.

Accompanying their selections of ores will be history of each locality—number of mines, mineral conditions, etc., and investors can, at these stations, obtain preliminary information. Investors could not, if they would, call on the state geologist to examine the property, assay, or submit a plat or estimate. The state will not interfere with assayers or experts in their business, but will gather information and place it at the disposal of investors and the public. Through such departments the Geologist of the Government can be attracted here, the need of a Government assay office in the state made manifest.

Of course, much will depend in this, as in all cases, upon the efficiency and seal of the officials called upon to carry out the provisions of the law. Veto by the Governor is not to be feared, but he is in cooperation to promote the interests of the state can be counted on. And the mining men of the state will co-operate with an administration, as they have done in the past. There may be no place for the idly curious, and may justly fear such an "examiner" as Mr. Smith refers to. But under the amended bill no interruption of the working of the mines will occur. All that the commissioner has a right to learn of a mine under the bill can be gained without interrupting the men in drifts or stopes.

FRANK V. DRAKE. Permit to Sink Oil Wells. BEAUMONT, Tex., Feb. 17.—Colonel W. H. Pope, of this city, Judge O. M. Carter, of Fort Worth, and others, have received permits to sink oil wells in the vicinity of what is known as the "oil pool" near Sabine Pass.

RECORD OF THE OREGON LEGISLATURE.

Passed the House.

- H. B. 1. by Barrett—Amending mining law. Feb. 8.
H. B. 11. by Mattson—Regulating sale of property for taxes. Jan. 31.
H. B. 16. by Colvig—Fixing sessions County Courts. Feb. 8.
H. B. 18. by Colvig—Fixing of court fees. Judicial District. Jan. 24.
H. B. 20. by Kirk—Validating certain marriages. Feb. 4.
H. B. 21. by McCracken—Punishment for injuring certain records. Feb. 13.
H. B. 22. by Stewart—Establishing libraries in school districts. Jan. 31.
H. B. 24. by Story—Amending act for relief of indigent soldiers. Jan. 31.
H. B. 26. by Poorman—New military code. Feb. 9.
H. B. 27. by Grayson—Uniform system of state signals. Feb. 11.
H. B. 28. by Roberts—To protect horse husbandry. Feb. 4.
H. B. 29. by Montague—\$1000 for improvement of Sodalville Springs. Jan. 31.
H. B. 30. by Pearce—Taxation personal property. Feb. 8.
H. B. 45. by Grace—Relative to law of descent. Feb. 8.
H. B. 52. by Dresser—Amending act relative to appeals. Jan. 20.
H. B. 59. by Grace—Punishment for poisoning domestic animals. Feb. 4.
H. B. 60. by Grace—Fixing hazardous work and day's labor. Jan. 31.
H. B. 61. by Schumann—Relative to cemeteries and monuments. Jan. 20.
H. B. 62. by Nottingham—Consolidating certain Multnomah Co. offices. Feb. 13.
H. B. 65. by Pearce—Clerical aid for State Treasurer. Feb. 1.
H. B. 68. by Story—Abolishing fees and mileage Multnomah Sheriff. Feb. 15.
H. B. 69. by Orton—To prevent blacklisting. Feb. 8.
H. B. 75. by Schumann—Regulating purchase public supplies. Feb. 15.
H. B. 80. by Watson—Relative to counter claims. Feb. 6.
H. B. 100. by Heitkemper—To protect union labels and trade marks. Jan. 31.
H. B. 102. by Orton—To prevent coercion and intimidation of voters. Feb. 2.
H. B. 110. by Poorman—New game code. Feb. 14.
H. B. 111. by Poorman—Reimbursing soldiers for clothing. Jan. 31.
H. B. 112. by Shipley—To amend code. Feb. 8.
H. B. 121—Relative to normal school diploma. Feb. 7.
H. B. 122. by McGreer—Amending act as to trespass by cattle. Feb. 14.
H. B. 126. by Thomas (Unstitt)—To prevent kidnapping. Feb. 7.
H. B. 128. by Bernard—Free state documents for chartered schools. Feb. 15.
H. B. 144. by McCracken—Protection copyright plays. Feb. 7.
H. B. 145. by Harris—Relative to mining location marks. Feb. 12.
H. B. 146. by Nottingham—To prevent desecration of American flag. Feb. 14.
H. B. 151. by Geer—For a high school at Burns. Feb. 15.
H. B. 171. by Smith (Marion)—Appropriations for state. Feb. 7.
H. B. 172. by Reavis—Appropriation of water from lakes and streams. Feb. 13.
H. B. 177. by Edde—Relative to oyster beds in Neah-Bay. Feb. 10.
H. B. 178. by Colvig—Relative to disbarment. Feb. 7.
H. B. 179. by Stinson—Time course in Alsea Bay. Feb. 15.
H. B. 183. by Heitkemper—Regulating recording of chattel mortgages. Feb. 15.
H. B. 197. by Montague—For relief Oregon Indian War Veterans (\$20,000). Feb. 13.
H. B. 200. by Geer—Increasing salaries certain Deputy County Clerks. Feb. 13.
H. B. 202. by Nottingham—To prevent sale of adulterated lard. Feb. 14.
H. B. 217. by Adams—Preventing vaccination. Feb. 15.
H. B. 218. by McAlister—Relative to State Veterinary Medical Board. Feb. 14.
H. B. 240. by Merrill—Fixing salary Treasurer Columbia county. Feb. 12.
H. B. 311. by Geer—Increasing salary Judge Malheur County. Feb. 12.
H. B. 312. by Geer—Increasing salary Sheriff and Recorder Baker Co. Feb. 12.
H. B. 333. by McAlister—Experimental station in Union County. Feb. 14.
Incorporation bill: Toledo.

Passed the Senate.

- S. B. No. 1. by Mays—Popular expression of choice as to Senatorship. Jan. 25.
S. B. 4. by Brownell—Providing for election of District Assessors. Feb. 13.
S. B. 6. by Kelly—Service of summons in foreclosure suits. Jan. 25.
S. B. 7. by Adams—To regulate vaccination. Feb. 15.
S. B. 10. by