

THIS WEEK

Washington Legislature to Conclude Its Session.

MANY BILLS ARE ON CALENDARS

Most Important Are General Appropriations, Increase of Supreme Court and Buffalo Fair—Last Two Have Passed House.

OLYMPIA, Wash., March 10.—Before another week goes by the seventh Washington Legislature will have passed into history, and it will remain for the people to pass dispassionate judgment upon its work. The most important measures remaining to be disposed of are: First, the general appropriation bill, which is in conference; second, the proposed increase of the Supreme Court, which has already been authorized by the House; third, the Pan-American Exposition bill, which has also passed the House. In addition to these measures of general interest the calendars of both houses are crowded with private bills, and the last night of the session the official clock will probably have to be turned back before either body will be ready to adjourn.

In looking over the session thus far it will be observed that it has not been an exceptional one. The fact that no United States Senator has had to be elected robbed it of the usual interest which attends a meeting of the Legislature. Nevertheless, some good measures have been passed, as well as some bad ones, while considerable vicious legislation has been throttled.

The two most important measures to pass have been the redistricting of the state for legislative purposes, and the bill to purchase the Thurston County Courthouse for capital purposes. The capital measure was a step in the direction of economy that will undoubtedly meet the approval of the taxpayers for more reasons than one, while the redistricting bill, as pointed out in detail in the Oregonian heretofore, was a stupid blotch, which the Republicans, in a moment of aberration and partisan zeal, made a party measure, and passed over the Governor's veto. Re-apportionment will yet come up to plague the members who passed it, for the people of the state, aside from all other considerations, will be slow to accept and forgive a measure which increases the membership in the Legislature 25 per cent.

If any unprejudiced man, who has been a close observer, were to be asked what member has wielded the most potent influence in the shaping of legislation, his reply would be Senator Harold Preston, of King County, and it would be withholding from him credit for his services to the state.

Senator Preston's attitude on railroad matters has not met the approval of a majority of the members of the Legislature; but it is of other matters that the Oregonian correspondent desires to speak now. Senator Preston is the only one of the leading lawyers of this state; in fact, is the recognized leader of the Seattle bar, the strongest in the state. Consequently, he has been able to move about the ordinary individuals who find his way into a Legislature. He has worked night and day in the judiciary committee, and on the floor of the Senate, trimming, remodeling and shaping his legislative measures. His views on legal matters and constitutional questions have been invariably accepted by his fellows, and to his untiring industry and faithfulness to details is due much of what good has been done by the Legislature. It is rarely that a lawyer of Mr. Preston's attainments, energy and industry, and yet, when he does the state is to be congratulated on account of it.

To descend from the sublime to the ridiculous, it might be remarked that Ulmer, Clallam County's Representative in the lower house, is easily the chief of the freak legislators which the session has developed. Ulmer, a man of low stature, pecked bulging with bills, many of them of the most ridiculous character. His intention was to reform the entire code of the state, remodel the state government, and make for himself a name everlasting. The end of the session finds that not a solitary bill bearing his name has been enacted into law. Following are the four "freaky" measures which this remarkable legislator has introduced, all of which have been indefinitely postponed without completion or economy:

To place Seattle and Tacoma in a Congressional district together.

In defiance of the plain mandate of the constitution, to take the state patronage away from the Governor, and reduce that official to a figure-head.

To repeal the bill purchasing the Courthouse, and to appropriate \$500,000 to build a statehouse on the old foundation.

To prohibit the advertising of patent medicines.

This last measure is most remarkable, because Ulmer himself used to run a country newspaper.

Ulmer has a habit of running to the newspaper correspondents in an excited manner, and exhorting them to watch out for his next session. Finally at a caucus of the newspaper correspondents the other night it was unanimously resolved that the Clallam County bill should be put in a cage and exhibited.

A bill is pending, having already passed the House, to abolish all sorts and degrees of nickel-in-the-slot machines, and to provide strict penalties for the violation thereof. There is a rather large lobby here to defeat the bill, or at least to modify to some extent the severity of its provisions.

The bill to repeal the libel law which has passed the House, has been reported back without recommendation by the Senate judiciary committee. It is on the calendar, and will probably be reached early in the week. The newspapers of the state are making a hard fight against repeal and the outlook for the passage of the bill is not promising.

\$15,000 CANNERY FIRE.

Brookfield (Wash.) Plant Partially Destroyed—Wholly Insured.

ASTORIA, March 10.—The cannery of State Senator J. G. Megier, at Brookfield, Wash., was partially destroyed by fire during last night, and the damage done is roughly estimated at, at least, \$15,000, fully covered by insurance. About midnight the Chinese bunkhouse was discovered to be on fire, and it was soon completely ruined. The flames then spread to the warehouse, which was stored with nets and boats, and which was also used as a box factory. This, with its entire contents, was burned up, and the fire then attacked the cannery building, which, before it had done much damage, was extinguished by a hastily formed bucket brigade. There was no other fire protection, as the regular system is only in operation when the cannery is running. Sufficient repairs can be made to operate the cannery by the opening of the fishing season, and the principal loss is in nets and boats, which cannot be replaced for several months.

CONTEST OVER OFFICE

FISH COMMISSIONER REED WILL TRY TO HOLD POSITION.

Grounds of Fight Will Be That New Law Contains No Repealing Clause.

ASTORIA, March 10.—Ex-Fish Commissioner Reed has not yet turned the effects of the office over to Mr. Van Dusen, and it is reported that there will be a contest over the position, on the grounds that, as the new law contains no repealing clause, the old one is still in force and the office of Fish Commissioner has not been abolished, or its incumbent removed. Attorney General Van Dusen, however, says the law is in his hands, and the question of commencing contest.

Washington Notes.

Hogman has raised the city license to \$100.

The Commissioners of Garfield County have issued \$30,000 in bonds, which will be used to build a courthouse.

The bootblacks of Tacoma have formed union for the purpose of protecting their business and maintaining prices.

March 4 a warranty deed from James Breen to the Northport Mining & Smelting Company was filed at Colville. The sum involved is \$500,000, and the document required \$300 worth of revenue stamps. It is the largest instrument of its kind ever recorded in that county.

Deputy Insurance Commissioner J. H. Schaefer has received reports of all fire insurance companies transacting business in the state show that the companies during the year 1900 assumed risks amounting to \$10,151,548. The net premiums collected amounted to \$1,267,611, and the losses paid policyholders to \$63,497. This is an increase over 1899 of \$15,041,012 in risks, \$29,442 in premiums collected, and \$8,457 in losses paid.

Joel Woods, a farmer living near Wainburg, came near being drowned Monday. He was fording the Touchet River with a wagon, in which were two plows. When near the middle of the stream he let the team stop to drink. Suddenly the wagon turned upside down, and Mr. Woods was thrown into the water and washed down stream some 15 rods before he was able to reach the bank and climb out. The horses swam ashore with the front part of the wagon.

Some months ago Seattle parties bought up the lands at Williams Harbor, which had no apparent value. The system of beginning to fear that the purpose is to hold the natural oyster beds which lie in front of the land, and which constitute the source of most of the seed oysters for transplanting on the private oyster beds. It is intended that these natural oyster beds should always remain the property of the state for the benefit of the public.

Thomas L. Gamble is having an artisan well sunk on his place, about one-half mile from the Cle Elum depot. At 34 feet a strata of gaseous shale was struck, and a lighted match having been applied the gas ignited, the flame shot up fully 30 feet and it was with difficulty that the opening of the well was closed and the flame subdued. A half-inch pipe was connected and run out about 30 feet from the well and the gas coming through this was ignited and has been burning constantly since.

The aged wife of General Spot, one of the oldest and best-known of the Puget Sound, met her death one night last week under peculiar circumstances. General Spot, his wife and son drove to Tacoma and remained until 2 o'clock in the afternoon, when Spot and his wife started home. They were driving down the reservation and drove down a lane to his home. When he arrived at his cabin his wife, who was sitting in the front seat, hitched the horses and went to bed. Next morning a man named Anderson found the body of Mrs. Spot lying in a mud hole in the middle of the lane leading to Spot's home. It is thought the wagon was jolted out of the wagon as it crossed the place, and, partially stunned by the fall, and before recovering consciousness, was drowned.

Idaho Notes.

A great deal of wheat was raised last year in the Clearwater region, but the low price compelled many of the farmers to let the grain, and by feeding it to cattle and hogs they have been enabled to market the grain at a much better price than they could otherwise have obtained. The farmer stated that at the ruling price for hours at the present time he can get 90 cents a bushel for his wheat by feeding it.

A fatal accident occurred at Spirit Lake last week by which Marcellus Herring, of State Line, met an untimely death. He was working in a tie camp in company with Otis Michael. Michael cut down a tree about 18 inches in diameter, which in falling struck a dead tree of smaller dimensions, and it fell on Herring, causing almost instant death.

F. W. Kettenbach, of Lewiston, states that the farmers on Nez Perce Prairie will put in a still larger acreage of flax this year. This will not be, it is thought, the average in wheat over that of last year, as there are many new farms in cultivation. Flaxgrowers are making contracts with the grain dealers to deliver flax at any of the Clearwater Short Line shipping points for a minimum price of 90 cents a bushel, the arrangement being that the farmer shall receive at least 30 cents a bushel, and if the price is higher than that the dealer will pay within 30 cents a bushel of the Chicago quotation.

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Superintendent Ormsby, of Cascade Reserve, Recommends Stringent Prohibitory Measures.

SALEM, Or., March 10.—Captain S. B. Ormsby, Superintendent of the Cascade Forest Reserve, has just completed a special report to the Commissioner of the General Land Office on the subject of trespass upon the reserve and violation of the state game laws by Indians. The report says in part:

"There are two Indian reservations lying between the mouth of the Willamette River and the mouth of the Klamath River. The Warm Springs Indian reservation adjoins the reserve on the northeast; the Klamath Indian reservation lies southeast of the forest reserve and is separated from it by a narrow strip of territory varying from two to six miles in width. The Indians on these reservations are supposed to be engaged in farming and stock raising, principally the latter. The United States gives them every facility for pursuing these industries and large sums are expended annually in teaching them the ways and methods of civilization. But a large part of their time is spent in hunting and fishing and pursuits of the chase. The forests on the reservations supply plenty of game and the streams plenty of fish and there is in reality no necessity for these Indians leaving the reservations for this purpose. But they are permitted to leave the reservations at will and roam where they please. The Cascade Forest Reserve lying contiguous to their own is annually invaded by bands of these Indians, numbering from 10 to 30 in a band, who have no regard for law even if they have knowledge of it, and who set at all laws, but especially the game laws, at naught. It is true that the agents in charge of the reservations assert that they intend to send a trusted Indian police with them to the Cascade Forest Reserve, but even if this is done, it does not seem to be likely that they will exercise the authority of the police is defied or there is no attempt to exercise it.

"In connection with this subject, attention is called to the following extract from the report of L. P. W. Quimby, Governor of Oregon: 'It is my duty to report that the assistance which should have been rendered by the Indian agents in my efforts to secure the obedience of the Indians to our laws has, with the exception of a single agent, Colonel Appleby, of the Klamath reservation, been denied me. When I had the right to expect the most assistance from the paid and trusted employees of the Government, I was disappointed. Not only have the Indians been permitted to leave the reservations for the purpose of hunting game during the close season, but I have been informed that they are even encouraged in their depredations by the Indian agents. The result has been that the Indians have hunted, shot and slaughtered elk and deer with impunity. Although the law is violated, they are made by my deputies, only one conviction has been had. . . . In consequence of this connivance on the part of the Government, the game laws, violations by the Indians, have been too impossible to secure convictions. Instead of being taught respect for the laws of the state and exhorted to obedience, the Indians are encouraged in open disregard of the law, and rebellion. Under such conditions the Game Warden is utterly powerless to compel obedience to the game laws from the Indians. . . .'

"Strong as this language of the Game Warden is, and forcible this arraignment, I believe it is fully justified by the facts presented and known to exist. He speaks of the slaughter of deer and elk by Indians without regard to time or season. The State of Oregon has a law prohibiting the hunting of elk for a period of 10 years, yet it is a known fact that when an Indian hunter is discovered, the chase is never relinquished until the animal is overtaken and killed. During the close season bands of Indians roam over the mountains and valleys, and the most distant and inaccessible localities, and slaughter deer, young and old, for their hides only. Now if these people are to be treated as aborigines or wild Indians, and to be allowed to roam through the forests to kill, burn and destroy, why should modern fire-arms be placed in their hands to enhance their power for destruction? If the reserve is to be allowed to practice the methods of savagery during these incursions, why supply them with the appliances of civilization to enhance their power for harm more effective and complete? If they are to be permitted to return to a life of barbarism for four or five months in the year, would it not be more consistent to give them the accessories of such a life, and return to them the bow and arrow, the tomahawk and the scalping-knife? The hunted game, at least, would be more numerous and the Indians more satisfied."

Responsibility for Forest Fires.

"During the past season Indians have been credited with 20 forest fires, a greater number than any other class is responsible for, except hunters and tourists who are classed together on the report blanks, but who should be reported separately. The guarding of forests from fires started by Indians is rendered extremely difficult by reason of the fact that they are scattered all over the reserve, they scatter in small bands, leaving the public roads and trails, and in their pursuit of game seek the most distant and inaccessible localities, away from the districts patrolled by the forest officials and where they are comparatively safe from discovery. Our present force of forest rangers is entirely inadequate to guard the immense territory traversed by these Indians and fires started by them in these remote and out-of-the-way localities are almost sure to gain headway before they can be discovered and reached by the forest rangers. These conditions render the presence of Indians on the forest reserves during the dry season a constant menace to its safety and no force at the disposal of the department will be adequate for its protection."

Indians Pasturing the Reserve.

"During the huckleberry season numerous bands of Indians from the reservations enter the forest reserve and seek berries. In many instances they bring bands of horses with them and these are driven on the reserve and herded there without permits and in infringement upon the rights of others. The privileges which the Indian thus assumes is one which is not allowed the white man, and it would seem that one should be restricted by the same rules and regulations that are imposed upon the other. Moreover, there is no necessity for Indians pasturing the forest reserves. There is plenty of pasture on their reservations and on the public lands, and the driving of the forest reserves with bands of horses without permits to graze is a violation of the rules and regulations governing the use of the forest reserves. In my order, I shall direct the forest officers to stop all Indians seeking to enter the reserve with bands of horses and to turn them back, and if found within its limits to expel them promptly therefrom."

The Proper Enforcement of the Rules.

"The proper enforcement of the rules of the forest reserve is the duty of the forest officials. It is their duty to see that the laws are obeyed, and to punish those who violate them. It is not their duty to be lenient to those who break the law, but to see that the law is enforced. It is the duty of the forest officials to see that the laws are obeyed, and to punish those who violate them. It is not their duty to be lenient to those who break the law, but to see that the law is enforced."

Washington Pioneer of 1847.

CHEHALIS, Wash., March 10.—Mrs. Matilda Jackson, who died at her home on Jackson Prairie, 12 miles southeast of Chehalis, February 14, was the widow of John R. Jackson, who crossed the plains in 1844, and in 1846 took a donation claim near Chehalis. Mrs. Jackson was a native of Missouri. In 1847 Mr. Kootz, with his wife and four boys, started across the plains, intending to go to the Willamette Valley. In Oregon, but Mr. Kootz was drowned in the Snake River, while trying to rescue an ox, and Mrs. Kootz, with her four young boys, was left alone. She proceeded to Walla Walla, where Dr. Whitman was located, and later to Oregon City. There she remained until May, 1848, when she married John R. Jackson, who took her across to Oregon, in 1853. Mr. Jackson prepared, at the direction of the territorial judges, a building in which to hold court. In a week he and the boys cut the logs, got the material together and erected the building, in which the first term of court in the new State of Washington was held. It is a structure 12x20 feet; holes were cut for windows and doors; but there were no floors. Some subsequent terms of court were held in the building, but after a few years it was abandoned. Some additions and alterations were made to it until its death, in 1873. He was prominent in early territorial affairs, and was Sheriff, Assessor, and member of the first territorial Legislature. During the later years of his life, Mrs. Jackson lived in a comfortable, modern home, but the remains of the first Courthouse in the territory still stand on the prairie, grown over with weeds, a curiosity to those who know its history. Mrs. Jackson was a woman of fair education, but the habits of staying at home became firmly fixed, and it is believed that she never rode on a railroad train, and never but once saw a train of cars, although a railway is only six miles distant from the prairie.

Proceedings is expected to be decided next Tuesday.

Master Fish Warden Van Dusen returned this morning from Salem, where he attended a meeting of the Fish Commission. He came down the river by boat, and says he ascertained that there was some illegal fishing in progress near Kelama. A launch has been chartered, and tomorrow morning Water Bailiff Wickman will begin patrolling the river to enforce the closed season. At present only one bailiff has been appointed for the Columbia, but at the next meeting of the Commission Mr. Van Dusen will ask that one be appointed for service in the Columbia, as the whole river is too large a district for a single officer to patrol successfully.

Oregon Notes.

The Baker City postoffice will have a stamp-cancelling machine.

Athena has elected T. F. Page school director and J. W. Smith clerk.

The Dalles Treasurer had an available cash balance March 1 of \$165.64.

Improvements to cost \$20,000 will be made in the Warshawer Hotel at Baker City.

It is reported from Eagle Point that early frosts have not injured growing wheat.

Water meters for the Pendleton water system have arrived and are being sold for \$6, \$12 and \$25 each.

The Second Missionary Baptist Church, of Baker City, has organized. A lot has been secured for a building.

Several tons of ore from the Dixie Queen mine, in the Foothills Creek District, are said to have yielded over \$100 a ton.

A petition has been presented to The Dalles Council by an owner of a house asking that he be paid \$200 for damages.

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Washington Pioneer of 1847.

CHEHALIS, Wash., March 10.—Mrs. Matilda Jackson, who died at her home on Jackson Prairie, 12 miles southeast of Chehalis, February 14, was the widow of John R. Jackson, who crossed the plains in 1844, and in 1846 took a donation claim near Chehalis. Mrs. Jackson was a native of Missouri. In 1847 Mr. Kootz, with his wife and four boys, started across the plains, intending to go to the Willamette Valley. In Oregon, but Mr. Kootz was drowned in the Snake River, while trying to rescue an ox, and Mrs. Kootz, with her four young boys, was left alone. She proceeded to Walla Walla, where Dr. Whitman was located, and later to Oregon City. There she remained until May, 1848, when she married John R. Jackson, who took her across to Oregon, in 1853. Mr. Jackson prepared, at the direction of the territorial judges, a building in which to hold court. In a week he and the boys cut the logs, got the material together and erected the building, in which the first term of court in the new State of Washington was held. It is a structure 12x20 feet; holes were cut for windows and doors; but there were no floors. Some subsequent terms of court were held in the building, but after a few years it was abandoned. Some additions and alterations were made to it until its death, in 1873. He was prominent in early territorial affairs, and was Sheriff, Assessor, and member of the first territorial Legislature. During the later years of his life, Mrs. Jackson lived in a comfortable, modern home, but the remains of the first Courthouse in the territory still stand on the prairie, grown over with weeds, a curiosity to those who know its history. Mrs. Jackson was a woman of fair education, but the habits of staying at home became firmly fixed, and it is believed that she never rode on a railroad train, and never but once saw a train of cars, although a railway is only six miles distant from the prairie.

Proceedings is expected to be decided next Tuesday.

Master Fish Warden Van Dusen returned this morning from Salem, where he attended a meeting of the Fish Commission. He came down the river by boat, and says he ascertained that there was some illegal fishing in progress near Kelama