

# OREGON MAY SOON HOLD A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

## SENATE IS DIVIDED

Convention Is Favored by Nearly One-Half.

## SOME ARE NOT FULLY DECIDED

Magnitude of the Undertaking Is Acting as a Deterrent on Many Who Admit Old Clothes Have Been Outgrown.

### JOINT ASSEMBLY PROPOSED.

The following joint resolution was adopted by the Senate and referred to the Committee on Resolutions in the House:

"Whereas, Senate Bill No. 2, providing for a constitutional convention, is of great importance to the people of the state, and should receive the most careful consideration;

"Resolved, the House concurring, that the Senate and the House of Representatives meet in joint assembly in the House of Representatives, for the general purpose of considering said bill on Wednesday, February 1, 1905, at 2 o'clock."

SALEM, Or., Jan. 27.—(Special.)—One of the strong probabilities of this session of the Legislature is the calling of a constitutional convention. Sentiment in favor of a convention has been growing steadily that the judiciary committee of the Senate has reported favorably a bill for an act calling a convention and today the Senate adopted by unanimous vote a joint resolution providing for a joint session of the Senate and House Wednesday afternoon, February 1, for the purpose of discussing the subject. The House referred the resolution to the committee on resolutions, and it will be considered Monday. A careful canvass of the Senate today shows that the members of that body are quite evenly divided upon the question whether a constitutional convention should be held. Two members, Holman and Mays, of Multnomah, were absent, and could not be seen. Of the other 28 there were 12 who expressed themselves in favor of a convention, 12 against, and three declined to express an opinion.

A number of those expressing opinions on one side or the other were not very pronounced in their views and may change their minds after giving the matter more thought. Those most pronounced in favor of a convention are President Kuykendall, Brownell of Clackamas, Rand of Baker, Booth of Lane, Maloney, Hodson, and Sichel of Multnomah, and Farrar of Marion. Cook of Coos, McDonald of Union and Wheatland of Wasco were favorable, but not so emphatic as the others in their expressions.

Among those who had well-defined ideas in opposition to a convention were Crocker and Holman of Marion, Howe and Wright of Yamhill, Miller of Linn, Coshaw of Douglas and Carter of Jackson. Avery of Benton, Bergman of Wheeler, Laycock of Grant, Longmire of Polk, Nottingham of Multnomah and Smith of Umatilla were of the opinion that no constitutional convention is necessary, but their views were not very pronounced. Haines of Washington, Pierce of Umatilla and Tuttle of Clatsop had no opinion to express either way.

The canvass of the Senate showed quite clearly that it is doubtful how a vote on the question in the body would result, and that quite a number of Senators will not finally make up their minds one way or the other until the question has been debated. From the standpoint of public importance this question of calling a constitutional convention is one of the largest that has come before this session of the Legislature, and should the two Houses meet in joint assembly next Wednesday, it is safe to predict that there will be a discussion well worth going to hear.

It is chiefly because of the magnitude of the undertaking and of the consequences that may follow that many members oppose the calling of a convention. They admit that some of the provisions of the old fundamental law of the state have become outgrown and that it has some faults, but they believe it is better to continue under a constitution such as that now in force than to take the chances with one that might be adopted in its stead. On the other hand, those who favor a convention admit that it is possible a draft of a new constitution might be inacceptable, but they think such a probability is small.

Members of the House have not considered the question of a constitutional convention as fully as have those of the Senate. Speaker Mills, when asked last night whether he favored a convention, replied that he was not yet ready to announce his decision; likewise Representative Lintlum, chairman of the House judiciary committee.

The bill provides for holding a convention at Salem next January of 99 delegates, 25 to be appointed by the Supreme Court and 60 to be elected by the people next June. The constitution is to be voted on by the people in June, 1906.

## FRATERNAL INSURANCE BILL.

Provision Made for Regulation of Orders in the State.

SALEM, Or., Jan. 27.—(Special.)—Senator Kuykendall today introduced in the Senate a comprehensive bill to define and regulate fraternal insurance societies. The bill is the one drafted by the National Fraternal Congress, modified in a few minor particulars to meet conditions in this state.

The principal features of the bill are that it provides for the incorporation of organizations doing a fraternal insurance business and forbids them to issue any certificate of insurance until they have approved applications for insurance on lives of 500 persons, averaging \$500 each, and paying advance premiums amounting to \$250, which sum shall be a trust fund for the protection of members. Annual reports must be made to the insurance commissioner and pay an annual license fee of \$5.

The insurance commissioner has power to examine all fraternal societies and cancel their licenses if it is found that they are not complying with the law. The rates of insurance must be not less than those fixed by the National Fraternal Congress. Foreign insurance societies are admitted to transact business upon the same terms as societies organized in this state.

The joint committee appointed to investigate the subject of establishing an institution for the care and training of the feeble-minded has decided to report favorably and to recommend an appropriation of \$15,000 for buildings, also the purchase of 50 acres of land near the present state institutions at Salem.

HARRY MURPHY CARICATURES THREE STATE SENATORS



## ADONIS OF THE HOUSE

LETTER FOR HANDSOMEST MAN IN APPRECIATIVE HANDS.

Stenographers Feast on Caramels When Chamberlain of Umatilla Reads a Dainty Missive.

SALEM, Or., Jan. 27.—(Special.)—Representative Chamberlain, of Umatilla, is the handsomest man in the House. It is all settled. The stenographers have said so, and they ought to know, for more than one has attended several sessions and seen Legislators come and go. And the sweet things said so to Mr. Chamberlain, too.

Did Mr. Chamberlain object? Not at all; he liked it to the extent of \$5, and he blushed almost as prettily as they did.

Under the incentive of going to Portland this afternoon every one worked hard during the early part of the day. There were multitudinous reports to get out, and the typewriters were hammered unmercifully for hours at a stretch by rosy fingers.

As the afternoon session wore on the members looked at the clock and moved about uneasily. So did the girls. Between Speaker Mills and Reading Clerk "Pat" McArthur a lot of local bills, amendments to charters and so forth were going through in a steady stream. "A bill for an act to amend an act entitled an act to incorporate the City of Padunk," shouted "Pat" at the top of his lungs. The members, except the one or two vitally interested, didn't know one bill from the other. They yawned and stretched their legs and wished the clock would hurry.

It was dreary work to listen to it all. Usually, when the stenographers haven't anything else to do, they listen to the proceedings of the House and size up future work. But those charter bills were too much for them.

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## AGE OF CONSENT BILL.

Substitute for Coe Measure Will Probably Pass the Senate.

SALEM, Or., Jan. 27.—(Special.)—Senator Coe's bill to raise the age of consent of females from 16 to 18 years has been reported unfavorably and a substitute therefor reported favorably. Coe's bill provided that any person having intercourse with a female under the age of 18 years shall be deemed guilty of rape.

The fight on the bill was so strong that it could not pass and it was decided to leave the age limit at 16 as now and provide by another bill that if any person shall have intercourse with a female between the ages of 16 and 18 he shall be deemed guilty of fornication, punishable by a fine of \$100 to \$500 or imprisonment in jail one month to one year, or in the penitentiary not exceeding 20 years.

It is understood that the substitute bill is satisfactory to the Senate and will probably pass. Petitions for raising the consent age to 18 years were read today from several W. C. T. U. organizations and from the Ministerial Association of Salem.

SALEM, Or., Jan. 27.—(Special.)—Not one dissenting voice was heard against passage of Coe's male consent bill in the House this morning. When the bill came up for third reading, after recommendation by the House committee on

## INSTITUTES FOR FARMERS

HOUSE MEASURE CARRIES \$2500 APPROPRIATION.

Jagger Calls It a Graft, but More Than Enough Favorable Votes Are Cast.

SALEM, Or., Jan. 27.—(Special.)—The bill of Newell of Washington, providing for agricultural institutes throughout the state, to be conducted under the direction of the board of regents of the State Agricultural College at such times and places as they shall direct, passed the House this morning despite several sarcastic flings. An appropriation of \$2500 is made for the institutes.

Newell, in explanation of the bill, said that the institutes at present conducted by the Agricultural College faculty were of material benefit to farmers, who there-by learned the result of investigations made at the college. He cited an example in the fact that it had been proven that by the injection of chemicals into the soil of the "white lands" of the Willamette Valley alfalfa could be profitably grown. From a far corner arose Cornett of Linn.

"Though I know this bill is from the Grangers, and I am a Granger, I do not see its necessity. Mr. Newell has said that the institutes were at present paid for out of a fund provided by the Government. Why should the state pay any more?" Jagger of Clackamas said he considered it a graft. But the bill passed with votes to spare.

## TO PUNISH HUMAN PARASITES

House Passes Male Consent Bill With No Dissenting Voice.

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## HOUSE SENDS BILL BACK

COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY MEASURE IS FAVORED.

Acceptance of an Unfavorable Report From the Judiciary Committee Is Refused.

SALEM, Or., Jan. 27.—(Special.)—The fight for county prosecuting attorneys did not break out in the House this morning, as was expected, for when the bill came up for passage as a special order and the judiciary committee reported against passage, the House sent the bill back to the committee. The sentiment of the House at this time is clearly in favor of passage.

The action of the House is a virtual refusal to accept the report of the committee. One member of the committee, "Josephine" Smith, sent in a minority report recommending amendments to the bill to cure the alleged defects in the measure. This is the second time the House has refused to accept an adverse report on the bill—the first being when the committee on elections sent it back with recommendation that it be referred to the committee on judiciary.

Chairman Lintlum, of the judiciary committee, asked the House what it wanted his committee to do with the bill, but no clear explanation was forthcoming and the Multnomah gentleman sat down with a blank look on his face.

## OFFICER WITHOUT POWER.

State Veterinarian Would Be Abolished by Senator Smith.

SALEM, Or., Jan. 27.—(Special.)—The official head of Dr. William McLean, State Veterinarian, is to fall under the legislative ax, if Senator Smith's bill repealing the Domestic Animal Commission law should pass. The bill was introduced today as S. B. 190. It is an effort to repeal the law creating the State Health Office and was introduced for the same reason.

Senator Smith says that the United States Bureau of Domestic Animal Industry is thoroughly covering the work mapped out for the State Veterinarian and that the latter office is useless and ineffective. The state office is without power to enforce laws for the extermination of diseases of stock, while the Government officials can take effective measures.

Senator Smith says this office should be abolished the same as the Health Office at Astoria, Yaquina, Gardiner and Coos Bay. The appropriations under the act to be repealed are about \$6000 each two years.

Senator Booth's inheritance tax bill has for its purpose the removal of some doubt as to the question whether some kinds of bequests for benevolent and charitable purposes are exempt from the payment of the tax. The amendment he proposes is in accordance with present practice and is intended to settle definitely questions that have arisen.

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## TO CLEAR THE WILLAMETTE.

House Joint Memorial Is Introduced by Munkers.

SALEM, Or., Jan. 27.—(Special.)—A free and unobstructed Willamette from Eugene to Portland is the object of the House joint memorial introduced by Munkers, of Linn, this afternoon.

"We respectfully urge favorable action by Congress upon the Willamette River, as recommended by Major W. C. Langfitt, of the United States Engineers, in charge of this district; and title to the lands immediately adjacent to the river, be immediately action be taken by the Congress of the United States to provide funds for the improvement of said river," is one of the paragraphs.

An appropriation of not less than \$50,000 is asked with which to remove snags; is asked to be made at once, and a further appropriation of \$40,000 is asked for reclamation work on the banks of the river. Another recommendation is that Congress appropriate money to buy the Oregon City canal and locks. This resolution was referred to the House resolutions committee, of which Kay, of Marion, is chairman.

The special water power committee, of which Killingsworth, of Multnomah, is chairman, also sent in a joint memorial addressed to Congress. The water powers of a number of mountain streams now held by the Government are asked to be ceded to the state, together with the riparian rights and title to the lands immediately adjacent. The object of the memorial is stated to be partially the desire of the state to acquire possession of these water rights before they are obtained by private interests for speculative purposes. This also went to the House resolutions committee.

## DOCTORS PUT IT TO SLEEP.

Anti-Christian Science Bill Has Been Postponed Indefinitely.

SALEM, Or., Jan. 27.—(Special.)—An anti-Christian Science bill went to the graveyard in the Senate today, with the aid and assistance of the doctors. They gave it an overdose of knockout drops in the form of a "do not pass" recommendation, and it was indefinitely postponed.

The bill was Coshaw's (by request). It provided that parents and guardians must provide prompt medical attention for children who may be sick or injured. The measure was referred to the committee on medicine, composed of Senators Coe, Tuttle and Smith.

In reporting the bill adversely, Chairman Coe said that, although the doctors have some very pronounced views on the subject of legislation regarding Christian Scientists, they did not feel like taking advantage of their position on the committee on medicine to secure the passage of laws against them.

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## ESCORT OF INSANE

Asylum Attendants to Take the Place of Sheriffs.

## BILL PASSES THE HOUSE

Measure Not Only an Economical One, but It Is Argued Will Mark an Advance in Humanity and Decency.

SALEM, Or., Jan. 27.—(Special.)—That insane persons may be escorted to the state asylum by attendants of that institution, instead of by sheriffs and their deputies, the House passed the bill of Representative Newell, of Washington County, this morning by 48 yeas against two nays—the negative votes being those of Burns, of Coos, and Blakley, of Umatilla, both Democrats. Burns was the only member who spoke against the measure. Those who advocated the passage were Newell, Speaker Mills, Lintlum, Kay, McLean, Edwards, Ritchie and Hermann.

"Let us pass this bill," cried McLeod, in a speech wherein he inveighed against the "revolting and disgraceful" scenes that have been enacted under the present law in the transportation of female insane to Salem by sheriffs, and told of how the husband of an insane woman had been refused by the Sheriff of Union permission to accompany her to the asylum and minister to her needs. "Let us leave Mr. Burns in the minority," added McLeod. Newell, in urging the passage of the bill, said it would mark "an advance in humanity and decency," and quoted from the report of the Secretary of State to prove that the bill would effect a saving of perhaps \$20,000 a year in the cost of conveying insane to the asylum. He pointed out that other states had laws similar to the one proposed in his bill, and quoted in letters from the superintendent of the insane asylum of Idaho, who said that the cost in that state had been reduced more than one-half by employing asylum attendants instead of Sheriffs, and that the new system was more satisfactory in many other ways, especially in promoting the comfort of patients.

Lintlum called the bill "a very meritorious measure." Speaker Mills summoned Miles, of Yamhill, to the chair and took the floor to champion the bill vigorously. He sketched the present system as "a graft of the Sheriff's office," and declared the failure of the House to pass the bill would "stigmatize its members as men without humanity and without decency." The saving of \$20,000, said he, "is nothing compared with the saving of our reputations as men. Women are more or less at the mercy of men, especially women without minds, who are put into the hands of Sheriffs." The speaker rounded up his remarks by declaring the present system was one of "cruelty and barbarity."

Burns jumped to his feet to combat the bill. He said that the bill would delay conveyance of patients to the asylum and that Sheriffs could take them to Salem in the same time, or less, than would be required for attendants to reach the county from which the women were sent.

"If a Sheriff can go out 200 or 300 miles into a county for patients," said he, "and hold them two or three weeks until the arrival of attendants from Salem, why may he not just as well take them to the asylum? I look on this bill as presented in the interest of persons at Salem who are looking for patronage. It is unfair and unjust."

"The allegation that Sheriffs are incompetent to do this duty and that the method now in force is barbaric and cruel is a grave reflection on the humane spirit of our Sheriffs and people. If Sheriffs are grafting, the business of this body is to enact law for prevention of the abuse. Show me examples of cruelty and suffering under the present law," he said.

Kay, of Marion, called the bill one of the most meritorious before the Legislature. A similar measure passed the Senate two years ago, he said, and at one time Sheriff from all parts of the state bled to Salem to lobby against it. Kay remarked that he had seen enough instances of suffering and cruelty under the system now in force to convince him that the bill should pass. "The bill is for economy and humanity," he added.

After further remarks by McLeod, Edwards, Ritchie and Hermann in advocacy of the measure, the bill passed.

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