

RAILROAD COMMISSION BILL IN HANDS OF THE POLISHER

RATE POWER DENIED

Remodeling of the Ponderous Bill a Serious Task.

OPPOSITION IS NOT MARKED

Washington Railroad Men Seem Fairly Well Satisfied With Changes Made by House Committee—Division of Opinion.

OLYMPIA, Wash., Feb. 7.—(Staff Correspondence.)—The subcommittee of the House, in whose hands the Railroad Commission bill has been undergoing a transformation for the past week, have practically completed their labors, and the measure is now in the hands of the Attorney-General, who is polishing off the rough edges and putting the legal veneering on the measure.

The subcommittee, unless something happens in the meantime, will report it back to the joint railroad committee Thursday. The action of that committee on the report of the subcommittee will determine whether the trouble will be settled this week or not. It is regarded as a certainty that there will come from the subcommittee both a minority and a majority report, and the discussion of these reports will probably reveal a difference of opinion among other members of the committee.

The bill will then be brought before the House, where it will be taken up probably in committee of the whole. The duration of the fight will depend entirely upon the size of the majority that can be mustered for the amended bill, which is due Thursday from the subcommittee. It is known that this bill will not suit some of the members who were strongly in favor of the Kennedy bill, as originally drawn, but it is not yet certain that the number of these ultra-commission men will be sufficient to cause any delay in either house.

Many Changes Are Necessary.

The bill is a ponderous affair of more than 7000 words, and the work of remodelling it has been a task that has occupied all of the spare time of the committee for the past week. The third section of the bill, which conferred on the Commission power to make rates, has entirely lost its identity since it reached the hands of the subcommittee, and in order to make the rest of the bill conform to the changes made in this section, scores of changes were necessary throughout, while the radical change in the third section practically eliminates all of the provisions which would confer great political power on the Commissioners.

Harry Fairchild, who framed the bill, is still regarded as certain of the appointment as chairman of the commission. There is considerable speculation as to who his associates will be, but it is rumored that one of them will be T. D. Rockwell, a Spokane politician with rather pronounced commission tendencies, and the other may be F. B. Heustis, of Olympia. Instead of one or the other of the two latter named, an Eastern Washington farmer may be named, but the Governor has not yet made public his intentions regarding any of the appointments.

By virtue of a greater population, the west side of the mountains will probably secure two of the commissioners, although it has always been and still is a matter of indifference to any but the politicians on the west side, whether or not there is a Railroad Commission bill passed. The railroads have a smaller lobby here than ever before, and are making no serious protest against the passage of such a bill as it is reported will come from the subcommittee Thursday.

Burden of Proof on Railroads.

The bill will place the burden of proof on them when the question of discrimination arises, and while the commission will have no power to take the initiative in making rates, in case of a dispute they will have power to make and enforce the new rate. Beyond this it is hardly probable that the proposed bill can go.

Perhaps the most noticeable feature in connection with the efforts of the commission men this session is the utter lack of organization compared with the strong line-up and solid front displayed two years ago. This is due to the difference of opinion among themselves regarding the degree of stringency necessary in the bill.

When it was learned that it would be impossible to pass a bill that would cure all of the ills to which flesh is heir, the members from east of the mountains began receiving letters from their constituents urging them to hold out for a bill conferring rate-making powers on the commission. Pressure of this kind was so strong from some districts that the members went home after the bill was introduced and quieted the clamor with a personal explanation of the situation.

It is pretty definitely settled that the bill will not suit all classes or degrees of railroad commission men, and instead of putting up a united front for some special degree of legislation on these lines, they are split up into a number of different groups. The southeast combine, which were pledged to vote as a unit on the commission matter, is the largest branch of the commission forces, but even in that camp there is a wide difference of opinion as to how drastic the measure should be.

This lack of union has made it easier for the opposition to secure recognition, and any measure that gets past both houses will not be very harmful to the railroads.

The capital-removal bill was received in the House from the Senate today and referred to the Judiciary committee, and as soon as it is reported will be hustled through the House as rapidly as possible. There were no new developments in the contest today, but the Olympians are still fighting with all of the force they can command.

E. W. W.

BANKING BILL MAY BE PASSED

Committee Replaces Section Cut Out by the House.

OLYMPIA, Wash., Feb. 7.—(Special.)—The foreign banking bill, which the

THREE PROMINENT STATE SENATORS OF THE WASHINGTON LEGISLATURE, SKETCHED BY HARRY MURPHY



LIABILITY BILL IS SLAIN

HOUSE PUTS QUIETUS ON MEASURE PASSED BY SENATE.

Amount Recoverable in Action on Death by Wrongful Act of Another Was Put at \$5000.

OLYMPIA, Wash., Feb. 7.—(Special.)—The Senate general liability bill, which passed the upper branch of the Legislature last week, met swift death in the House this morning. The bill came in from the Judiciary committee with a recommendation that it be indefinitely postponed. A motion was made to adopt the report, and the motion received a full chorus of ayes and no opposing votes. The bill limits to \$5000 the amount recoverable in actions for the death of a person due to the wrongful act of another. It was introduced by Welsh in the Senate and found no serious opposition in that body. There are numerous other bills

fixing the excess liability at \$5000, but the other measures affect only employees.

The State Federation of Labor is vigorously opposing the enactment of any limit on employers' liability in the event of death to an employee, and has asked that if any bill is passed on the subject it be a general act, covering all cases.

The Firemen's Relief Association and pensioning bill created a warm debate in the House just before the noon recess. The bill was up on second reading, and Roth attempted to secure the adoption of amendments which would levy an additional excise tax of 1 per cent on insurance premiums for the purpose of keeping up the firemen's relief fund. The bill as it stands takes half of the amount realized in each incorporated city from the present excise tax of 2 per cent. All the tax now goes to the general fund.

It was contended by Roth and L. A. Johnson that the bill provided in effect for an appropriation from the general fund. During the discussion Roth interposed a motion indefinitely to postpone. It was lost, 35 to 1, and recess was taken.

In the afternoon the House convened with Roth not in his seat, and his amendment was taken up and defeated. Later Roth declared on the floor of the House that he had been detained by a fisheries committee meeting, and in an indignant voice intimated that the House had treated

him discourteously. He then proposed the Senate amendments to the Senate bill, and demanded a rollcall. The Speaker ruled that the request must come from 15 members, but only 11 responded, and rollcall was refused. The amendments were defeated by viva voce vote. The bill went over to third reading without further action.

In consideration of the Falconer state depository bill, Vilas of King tried to secure an amendment relieving the bill of some of its more radical features. He proposed to allow the State Depository Board to keep a sum of money in each bank equal to the capital stock and one-half the surplus. The bill permits only an amount equal to the capital. Falconer contended that the amendment would kill the object of the bill by enabling the few big banks to secure a monopoly of the funds. The amendment was defeated.

The House indefinitely postponed the House substitute bill regulating plumbing in cities of the first class. The bill was sent to the House with a divided committee report, the majority favoring indefinite postponement. The minority report, that the bill was voted down, 30 to 20. The House also indefinitely postponed the House bills providing for building ordinances in first-class cities; prohibiting the remarriage of persons divorced on account of insanity; making

employment of others than certified expert accountants unlawful in expediting public accounts.

The Senate bill which removes the 50-year limit on life insurance companies organized in this state was taken up under suspension of the rules and passed, 41 to 1, with 1 absent. The bill carries an emergency clause.

The House also passed the Senate bill fixing the bonds of guardians at double the probable income of the estate and the House bill requiring the consent of the Board of Regents to the sale by the Land Commissioner of agricultural college lands.

The Senate passed the Stansell bill which creates a judicial district in Stevens and Ferry Counties. The effect of the bill if finally enacted will be to put Judge R. S. Steiner in Okanogan, Chelan and Douglas Counties; relieve Judge Polinder of his Stevens County work, and allow Ferry and Stevens to elect a new judge.

The divided committee report over the Senate bill locating a school for defective youth at Steilacoom had just started a debate in the Senate when Baker secured a recess. The committee report was read, and the bill was referred to the Appropriations committee. The bill carries an appropriation of \$20,000 and there is little opposition to a division of the school, so the bill is expected to pass. The bill is a right over the location of the new school, Medical Lake presenting strong claims for it, as well as Steilacoom.

The Senate passed Clapp's bill regulating the incorporation of associations, societies and clubs; Lindsey's House bill relating to witness fees in civil actions, and several small relief bills.

Senators Veness and Rasher have been appointed on the committee to visit the Reform School to investigate the necessity for the purchase of additional lands.

IDAHO IS GROWING VERY FAST

Present Laws and Capacity of State Capitol Insufficient.

BOISE, Idaho, Feb. 7.—(Special.)—Two predicaments in which the state finds itself placed by reason of its rapid growth came to the front today in the proceedings of the Legislature. One was raised in a special message from Governor Gooding to the Legislature asking for a constitutional amendment to enable the state to raise more money for state purposes when the assessed valuation shall have reached \$100,000,000.

Under the constitution a levy of 5 mills can be made until the valuation reaches the figure named, but thereafter it must be limited to 3 mills. The valuation is now about \$70,000,000, and it is estimated by the Auditor that the expenses of the state during the next two years will be \$140,000. The expenses cannot decrease but must increase, while in a few years, when the valuation passes beyond \$100,000,000, the state can collect no more than \$200,000 in two years by general taxation.

The Governor in his message called attention to this condition and asked that an amendment to the constitution be submitted by the Legislature.

The other trouble is the capacity of the Capitol building. It has been insufficient for some years and provision for more room has become imperative. Today the problem appeared in the House in the form of a bill by the state affairs committee authorizing the construction of a new building to cost \$500,000. It is proposed to acquire an adjoining block and erect the new building in the middle of the two facing Seventh street. The plan is to build in sections, using the old structure and the sections of the new as they are finished.

There is \$65,000 in the Capitol building fund, and the board is authorized to issue \$100,000 in bonds for immediate work if they do not think it wise to dispose of capital lands at this time.

House Bills Postponed by Senate.

SALEM, Or., Feb. 7.—(Special.)—The following House bills were indefinitely postponed in the Senate:

H. B. 61, by Meers—To authorize certain corporations to act as administrators.

H. C. R. 26, by Linthicum—For joint committee to investigate bridge across Willamette River near Milwaukie.

H. C. R. 27, by Smith of Josephine—That name of Mount McLoughlin be restored to Mount Pitt, referred.

The following resolution was adopted by the Senate:

S. J. R. 9, by Rands—Fixing adjournment on February 17, and expressing confidence in Senator Mitchell; adopted on suspension of rules.

Pumping Water Out of Mine.

MARSHFIELD, Or., Feb. 7.—The work of removing the water from the Beaver Hill coal mine is about completed and the mine is daily turning out more coal than ever before. The water was pumped into the mine during the recent fire.

DIRECT PRIMARIES BILL

INTRODUCED IN BOTH HOUSES OF WASHINGTON LEGISLATURE.

Cities of Third and Fourth Classes and Other Exemptions Are Provided For.

OLYMPIA, Wash., Feb. 7.—(Special.)—A direct primary law was introduced by Russell in the Senate and Todd in the House today. It exempts from its operations cities of the third and fourth classes and school, dike and irrigation districts; fixes the second Tuesday in September as the date for state primaries. It provides that candidates at primaries must be brought out by petition, as follows:

For state offices and United States Senate, 1 per cent of the total party vote in the state located in at least six counties; Congress, 2 per cent of the vote in the district, the signers to reside in at least one-tenth of the precincts in one-half the counties in the district; lesser offices, by at least 5 per cent of the party vote in the district in at least one-third of the precincts thereof. It requires that the polls be open from 12 to 8 P. M.

The compulsory pilotage bill, opposition to which brought a number of the leading shipping men of the Sound to the Legislature, was taken up by the House committee on commerce this afternoon, and on motion of Representative Huston it was decided to report the bill back to the House with a recommendation for indefinite postponement.

Dyke, author of the bill, and Booth, opposed the motion. The shipping men present were not called upon to discuss the bill, as the sentiment of the committee was so plainly against the measure.

The principal speech against the bill was made by William Bishop, of Jefferson. He recited the fact that a strong effort was being made to induce Congress to give aid to American shipping and that in this connection the argument is being made that Puget Sound is an open port, free from navigation dangers. He declared the passage of the pilotage bill would nullify the effect of the state's contention before Congress.

A delegation of cannery and fishtrapmen from Puget Sound appeared before the fisheries committee of the House this afternoon to urge favorable action upon a bill designating a close season. The close season as desired by the representatives of the fishing industry present affects the taking only of sockeyes. The sentiment of the committee was so plainly against the measure, that the fisheries men here are:

Carl A. Sutter, of the Eldeig Island Cannery Company; R. E. Davis, Eastern Fish Company; B. Deming, Pacific American Fisheries and Northern Fisheries Company; D. Campbell, Puget Sound & Astoria Packing Company; A. E. W. Kerr, Pacific Packing & Navigation Company.

Commission Bill in Montana.

HELENA, Mont., Feb. 7.—The Senate this afternoon passed the Brenner railroad commission bill, which is patterned after the Minnesota railroad commission law. The Governor, Secretary of State and E. W. King are named as commissioners.

The bill provides for an elective commission of three members to be chosen at the next general election. In the meantime the first commission is to be appointed. The commission has power to fix traffic rates, but the railroad companies affected may go into the courts to protest against any acts of the commission that may be regarded as oppressive. The commission has power to fix rates, but the railroad companies affected may go into the courts to protest against any acts of the commission that may be regarded as oppressive. The commission has power to fix rates, but the railroad companies affected may go into the courts to protest against any acts of the commission that may be regarded as oppressive.

Crushed Under Load of Lumber.

EUGENE, Or., Feb. 7.—(Special.)—Lester Wilcox, an employee of the Booth-Kelly Lumber Company, was instantly killed yesterday at the Coburg mill by being crushed under a car of lumber. He and other men were taking the car from the dry kiln when Wilcox fell and was crushed beneath the car. He was 25 years of age and leaves a wife and one child.

AFTER GRIPPE

Or Any Severe Sickness Our Druggists, Woodward, Clarke & Co., Advise Portland People to Take Vinol.

Every Person Recovering From a Severe Illness May Be Quickly Restored to Health and Strength by Vinol.

Mrs. G. I. Partridge, of Franklin, Mass., who recently celebrated her 60th wedding anniversary, writes:

"The gripe left me in a very weakened condition—no appetite, thin, nervous and no vitality. Nothing seemed to help me until a friend brought me a bottle of your Vinol. I commenced to take it, and it gave me a hearty appetite, my health



MRS. G. I. PARTRIDGE.

and strength returned until I feel like a new creature. I consider Vinol a wonderful medicine for any one who has had a severe sickness; it makes strength and vitality so fast."

We have never sold in our store such a valuable strength creator and health restorer for the convalescent as Vinol. This is because Vinol contains in a concentrated form all of the vital principles of cod liver oil, but without a drop of oil to upset the stomach and retard its work. Vinol purifies and enriches the blood, tones up the digestive organs, and strengthens every organ of the body to do its work as nature intended. We ask every person in Portland who has been ill to try Vinol on our guarantee to build them up and make them well and strong. We return money if it fails. Woodward, Clarke & Co. Druggists.

SENATOR RUTH DEFENDING OLYMPIA'S FIRESIDES AGAINST CAPITAL MOVERS

