

DRAYAGE DELAYS MAY BE DELETED

Unless Special Action Is Taken Matter Cannot Come Up Before October.

STATUTES ARE STUDIED

Complaints in 16 Cases Have Been Brought Against Bridgetenders.

Whether it will be possible, under the existing Federal statutes, for vessel owners to have been delayed...

Mr. McCourt is also studying the statutes to determine whether the Government may start action against local authorities to hasten the settlement of the present controversy...

Before he left for San Francisco Wednesday Major James P. McIndoe asked the District Attorney for an opinion in the matter and urged him to bring the cases in which protests have already been filed in his office to an early trial.

Mr. McCourt has been of the opinion from the first that the charges of the vesselmen should be considered along with the regular signals coming into his office and into the Federal courts and said that unless some other means could be found of bringing them to the attention of the court...

McIndoe Wants Quick Action. Major McIndoe desires earlier action. He is of the opinion that his office is concerned, he says, there is no controversy. The Government has absolutely the sole right to regulate the operation of the bridge draws and the Federal court, which has charge of all navigable streams, resents any action by local officials to usurp that authority.

The engineer of the action on the bridge tenders, in following the instructions of the County Court and delaying the opening of the draws upon receiving the regular signals from the vesselmen, as a criminal action and 16 separate complaints have been made by him to the District Attorney...

Delay Not Serious. Those who are supporting the country in the contention point out that it will never be necessary to delay a vessel more than half an hour, which length of time is not sufficient to cause damage through the possible decay of perishable material and not likely to result in a contract being violated.

The District Attorney's scrutiny of the statute books yesterday was particularly for the provisions of the act by what method the War Department might proceed in bringing the issue to an early focus.

That it is in pursuance of instructions from Washington and not on account of any personal discretion in the matter that he is determined to have the county relinquish its authority in handling the bridge draws...

That message meant just what it said, he explained. "When it said 'enforce the regulations' it meant that the Department, of which I am the local head, and not the officials of the Multnomah County Court, should enforce them."

That the regulations in question have been made by the War Department, and that the county authorities have ever issued orders. Their orders mean nothing to the War Department.

That the publication of the regulations sent from Washington does not result in the bridge being opened, the draws in response to signals of the vessel men without unreasonable delay, I shall have to seek other means of securing compliance with the regulations. For that reason I have asked Mr. McCourt to look into the law on the subject. I think some way will be found whereby the War Department will be established peaceably to exercise control over matters which have always come within the jurisdiction of that department and heretofore without question.

CHAMBERLAIN HEARD FROM In 1906 Letter Senator Advocates Assembly for Democrats.

Senator Chamberlain's attitude on the assembly question is among considerable interest and discussion in the newspapers of the state. The following letter, written by Mr. Chamberlain in 1906, in reply to a call for state and county assembly, sent out by the Umatilla Democrats, has been printed in several newspapers.

Hon. A. D. Sullivan, County Chairman, Pendleton, Or.—My Dear Sir: I am in receipt of your favor of the 8th inst., and hasten to answer it through you, the county central committee, for the very courteous invitation to be present on the 13th inst. at the meeting of the Democrats to be held in Pendleton.

I deem it proper for me to say that the movement which you have inaugurated meets with my full concurrence. I question the propriety of calling either a county or state convention for the purpose of enunciating a platform or nominating candidates, for the reason that the same would be deemed by many as an attempt to thwart the purpose of the primary nominating law. It is felt that this law is not to be a full, fair and impartial trial, and if it working it out in detail it grows cumbersome and costly. It is felt that such measures may be adopted in the future as will correct any evils which may arise from its operation, and that it would be better to call an assembly of Democrats, both in the several counties and in the state, to adopt a declaration of principles and to suggest to the voters capable and trustworthy nominees for the coming election, to be taken by the Democrats of Umatilla County. I think that such action would be salutary and would arouse enthusiasm among our friends everywhere.

It is well understood that it is always better to make a move now than to accept places on the ticket, because of the fact that the Republican majority is so large in the state, that it is not likely to be defeated on the Democratic ticket. I feel that the Republicans are leading a forlorn hope and his acceptance of the ticket is usually at a sacrifice of inclination and interests as well.

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