

STATE AID IS ONLY UNSETTLED POINT

Good Roads Committee Brings About Peace by Changing Proposed Measures.

ACTION BY GRANGE WAITS

Governor's Five Willing to Indorse County Bond Bill if Farmers' Body Rescinds Disapproval. Report Is Made.

Governor West's special good roads committee ended its labors yesterday and when final adjournment was taken several important concessions had been made by each side. The most important question at issue—the state-aid bill—was set aside for final action until after the May meeting of the State Grange, when effort will be made to induce the farmers' organization to rescind its former resolution against this proposed measure.

C. E. Spence, representing the State Grange, declared that he was not empowered to accept the compromise offered, which provided that if the State Grange would indorse the state-aid bill, the state-wide good roads committee would indorse the county bond issue bill submitted by the Grange interests.

Grange Bill Accepted.
The work of the committee led to the agreement that if the State Grange will support the state-aid bill, the county bond issue bill of the Grange will be indorsed by the state-wide committee. The bill submitted by the State Grange providing for the creation of a state highway commission was accepted.

Yesterday's session was devoted mainly to winning the state-aid act, representative over to the state-aid act. Mr. Spence admitted that it was the best bill of its kind he had ever seen, but that he did not believe that such a plan would be advisable at this time. He declared that the counties should be allowed to spend all the money raised and that the roads in immediate need of repair should be made permanent before any trunk lines are considered.

If the State Grange, in its May meeting, decides against the state-aid bill, there probably will be two sets of bills presented to the voters at the November general election. The members of the committee expressed confidence in the farmers rescinding their present stand.

After concluding their labors yesterday, the bills prepared by the State Grange and the state-wide committee were submitted to Attorney C. E. S. Wood, who will pass on their constitutionality.

Chairman Ayer dictated a report of the committee's work to Governor West. It was signed by W. B. Ayer, chairman; Bernard Daly, C. T. Prall, W. K. Newell and C. E. Spence. The report follows:

The committee met Monday morning at the Multnomah Hotel, and after being called to order, decided that the meetings should be open and public. The following is a list of the members present, and representatives of the press.

In taking up the bills as prepared by the Oregon Association for Highway Improvement, the two sets referring to counties were not altered, except that section 4 of the act relating to the transference of prisoners of one county to another was referred to our attorney as to his views of its constitutionality. The act to amend the constitution of the state was amended by limiting the amount of the bond issue to 1 per cent of the assessed valuation of the state. The act permitting the counties to bond, and the act which has been declared constitutional by the Supreme Court, is proposed to be amended by limiting the amount of the bond issue to 1 per cent of the assessed valuation of the county.

Bond Issue Is Cut.
The act creating the issue of state bonds was amended by reducing the amount from \$10,000,000 to \$5,000,000, and by reducing the rate of interest from 5 per cent to not to exceed 4 1/2 per cent, and creating sinking fund by which, after ten years, one-twentieth of the amount of the bonds issued is levied and go into a sinking fund, so that at the maturity of the bonds the money would be on hand to pay for the same.

The act creating the state highway fund was modified as follows:
That two-thirds of the money received from the sale of bonds should be divided between the counties in the following manner:
One-third on the basis of equal distribution among the counties; one-third on the basis of equal distribution on the basis of assessed valuation, the remaining one-third of the bonds issued to remain in the hands of the state to be expended at the discretion of the Governor, Secretary of State, State Treasurer and State Highway Commissioner, one-half in the First Congressional District, and the other half in the Second Congressional District.

The distribution of the money, which consists of state roads built in the First and Second Districts would be of such immense assistance and benefit to the whole state that Multnomah County would indirectly reap benefits which would more than equal any expense that it would be subjected to. It is possible that this distribution may be modified by the attorney to make it constitutional.

The money that is proposed to be turned over to the counties, as above outlined, is to be expended by them in the same manner as the State Highway Commissioner, which gives the counties complete control over all funds received from them in the same manner and for the same purposes as the State Highway Commissioner. It is proposed to amend the act authorizing the expenditure of same. On account of the very small assessed valuation of a few of the counties, we have modified the bill so that counties of the assessed valuation of \$10,000,000 or under would be admitted to raise one-half of the amount furnished by the state. Counties having assessed valuation of over \$10,000,000, an amount equal to that furnished by the state.

We have adopted the act proposed by the committee from the Grange creating and establishing a state highway department and commissioner. We have been unable to reach an agreement with the committee from the Grange in regard to the act authorizing the counties to bond. It is proposed to amend the measure prepared by them, if they would accept the other bills that we have acted upon.

The Grange committee declines its authority to consent to representation to this procedure, but it has been agreed that if at the meeting of the Grange to be held on the second Tuesday of May at Roseburg, if it will indorse all the measures passed upon by this committee, we will accept their bill for county bond, but will approve theirs.

We also beg to advise you that C. E. S. Wood kindly tested the services of his office in preparing these bills, and we have requested him to make them as simple and clear as they will be perfectly intelligible to every citizen of the state. As soon as he has completed his work, copies will be forwarded to you.

has granted problem at this time," says Charles W. Melgion, editor of the Pendleton Live Wire, who is here for a few days. "There is rejoicing, therefore," he said, "over the success of the recent irrigation congress in Portland, and especially over the encouraging resolutions adopted with reference to Echo, once famous as the Sturgis ditch enterprise, and abandoned when completion was in sight owing to financial panic followed by the death of Sam Sturgis, its chief promoter."

"An immense area of land which has increased tremendously in productive-ness, even with single flood irrigation, is susceptible to benefits under the new plan. The entire area is now owned by 27 ranchers. With water it would make homes for many more."

"The amicable adjustment of the West Umatilla extension controversy has brought a great deal of satisfaction to the county, and the consideration of the problem has been of inestimable benefit, since frequent discussions have awakened the man of the county to a realization of the value and power of water and given them a water sense which they did not possess. Out of this has grown determination to undertake reclamation so long neglected, and concerted effort is being stimulated with the aid of such powerful influences as President Jack Robinson and Secretary J. M. Keefe, Jr., of the Commercial Club. While the great John Day project is still in the dim future, it is recognized by all engineers as the greatest reclamation scheme which could be undertaken and every effort will be made by all of Eastern Oregon to bring it about at the earliest possible date."

MASONS GATHER FRIDAY

MASTER DEGREE TO BE CONFERRED ON CANDIDATE. Fortieth Anniversary Celebration of Portland Lodge No. 55 Will Be Impressive Ceremony.

Next Friday night, March 1, when Portland Lodge No. 55, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, assemble at the Masonic Temple at West Park and Yamhill streets, for its 40th anniversary celebration the feature of the evening will be the conferring of the master mason degree upon a candidate. The ceremony is an impressive one, and the work will be put on by past masters of the lodge. The object of asking the past masters to put on the work is to give the younger members, recently made master masons, an opportunity of observing the difference between the work as put on 40 years ago and as it is put on today.

Visitors and members of the Portland lodge will assemble in the grand lodge room, where the ceremony of initiation will be conducted. The invitations are not restricted to members of the city lodges, but are extended to all members of the Officers of the Grand Lodge of Oregon and of all lodges in this jurisdiction will be present. H. C. Weber, present master of the Portland lodge, will be toastmaster at the banquet which will follow the initiation ceremony.

The speakers will probably be: Past Masters J. C. Morrison, Dr. O. P. Plummer, P. S. Malcolm, Samuel P. Gill, F. W. Baltes, Brydon H. Nicoll, Louis G. Clarke, James P. McElduff, Edward Scott, William Hoy, R. L. Sampson, Frank H. Lewis, Felix Friedlander, E. C. Wasserman, J. Francis Drake, J. E. Weir and L. P. Sampson.

The reception committee consists of H. C. Weber, master; Walter J. Holman, senior warden, and Herbert Houghton, junior warden. The committee on arrangements is composed of Howard McGowan, Edgar Stevens, H. E. Cogill, Jr., and H. C. Chickering.

ELKS AND ADMEN GREETED

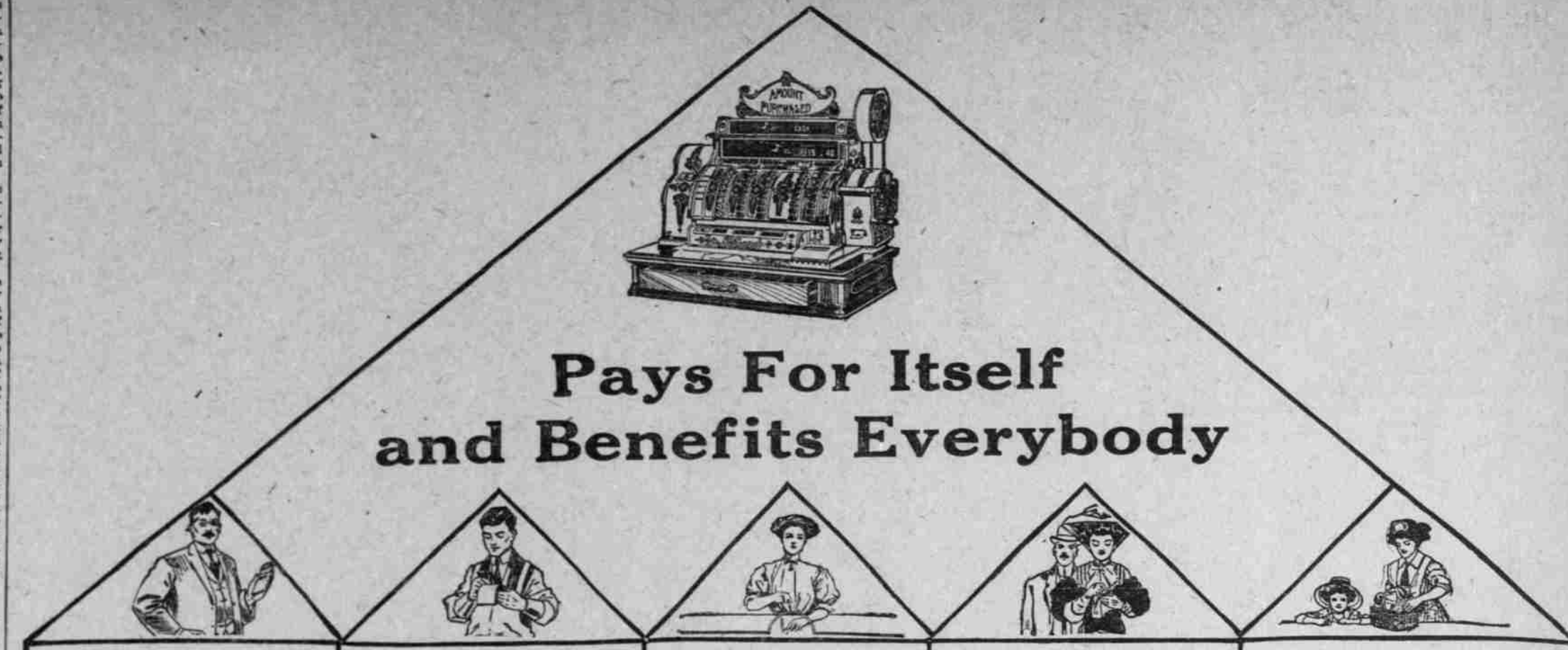
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attle Lodge of Elks and the Seattle Ad Club. Portland's advantage as a convention city were well illustrated in the stories of personal experience by Gus C. Moser, of Portland, who has attended every National gathering of Elks for the past decade. He recalled that in every city in which the Elks have met, it has been necessary for the delegates to do their work under torrid heat, and that it has been this repeated pleasure while the convention visitors suffered under a temperature of 99 in the shade to point to the Government weather reports, showing that at the same time it registered 65 degrees in Portland.

Sun Shines Always.
Humor, rhetoric and philosophy were contained in the address of George M. Hyland, of Portland, who spoke for both the Elks and the Ad men. He called attention to the matchless climate of the Northwest, but created a ripple of laughter as he said: "I have been in Seattle at all seasons of the year for the last 23 years and never have failed to find sunshine here." He was tremendously cheered when he added, "If I did not find the sunshine in the skies, I found it in your faces and in your hearts." With the development of the new Northwest spirit, he predicted increased hospitality for Portland visitors in Seattle and promised it to Seattle visitors in Portland.

Harvey O'Bryan, chairman of the joint Ad Club-Elks committee of Portland, and E. A. Burns, of Seattle, were their places on the programme so that the visitors might sooner enjoy the automobile trip.

Equal in every way to the oratorical features, was the musical department which had been cleverly prepared by members of the Seattle Ad Club. The "Ad Club" quartet, consisting of the Ad men's "choir," was greeted by loud appreciation from Portland, as was the song: "The Potlatch and the Rose," sung to the tune of the Elks chorus, "Portland Wane Us."

Hennessey Gets New Title.
"The Ganoak with the white suit" is the language used by President Biethen of the Ad Club in introducing Frank Hennessey of Portland, who, seated in his familiar white silk with purple trimmings, sang successively "Brother Bill, the Town Belongs to You" and "Portland Wane Us in 1912." Hennessey's new title promises to stay with him, as he was thus referred to throughout the remainder of the day. The entertainment at the Golf Club was given the visiting Elks and Ad men by Mr. Biethen personally, he being made the subject of many happy toasts. He promised to attend both the Rose Festival and the Elks convention and to visit Portland as often as he can in the interim. C. B. Merrick, postmaster of Portland, expressed the appreciation of the Portland crowd for Mr. Biethen's generous contribution to the day's pleasures. Harry C. McCallister, secretary of the Elks convention, who managed the excursion, also was happily toasted.



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managed to keep in the background for more than 12 hours, was brought to the front early in the evening and introduced as the builder of the new Multnomah Hotel. The reception at the Elks Club, in the Alaska building, tonight was a happy and joyous affair. An excellent programme was uncoiled, one of the principal features being a song by Miss Alice Lloyd, a popular Portland favorite, who is appearing at one of the local theaters.

NEW LEAGUE TO ORGANIZE

Central Washington Development Body to Form at a Willa Walla.

planned at a recent meeting held in Pasco and will include in its membership commercial organizations of Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla counties. Development work will be taken up much after the manner of the Southwestern Washington, the Idaho, Central Oregon and Oregon development leagues. Those in charge of the meeting at Walla Walla next month will be W. H. Kelly, of Touchet; J. A. Pines, of Burbank; A. C. Moore, of Walla Walla; S. Z. Henderson, of Kenton; W. L. Campbell, of Connell, and C. M. O'Brien and W. P. Gray, of Pasco.

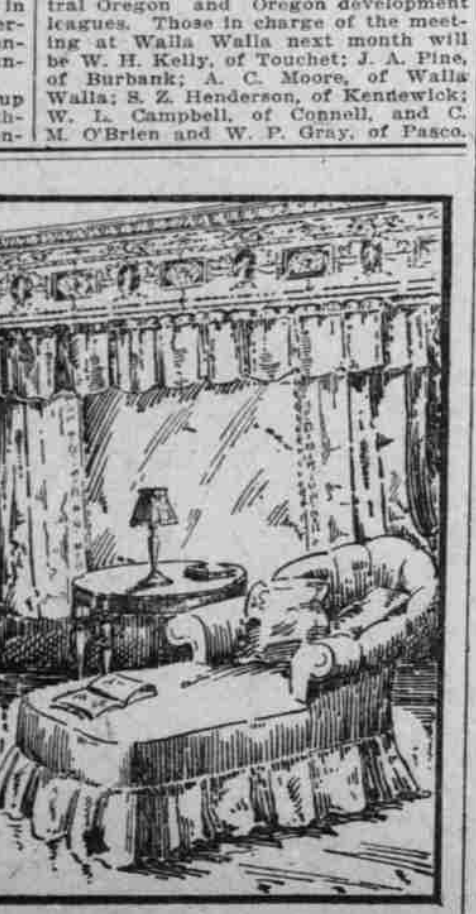
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