# SMOOT'S COAL BILL MEETS WITH FAVOR

## Government Leases Are Prescribed on Basis With Some New Features.

## 3200-ACRE LIMIT IS MADE

**Royalties Vary From Two to Ten Per Cent—Annual Rental on Sliding Scale Runs to $1 an Acre After Four Years.**

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, June 18.—The Administration is concentrating its efforts to bring about the passage of a bill introduced by Senator Smoot, of Utah, which prescribes a system of leasing coal lands in Alaska. The bill in many respects is different from anything yet proposed, and is understood to have been approved very largely by the Interior Department. An early report on this bill is expected from the committee on public lands of the Senate, but its ultimate passage will depend largely on the length of time Congress remains in session, and the opposition that may develop in the Senate and House.

The Smoot bill reserves from entry, location, occupation or use all coal lands in Alaska except on conditions named in the bill itself. These lands may be leased by the Secretary of the Interior in tracts not exceeding 3200 acres to any one person, company or corporation, with the stipulation that no person shall be interested in more than one lease.

Lessees under the bill are required to pay the United States royalties which shall not be less than 2 per cent nor more than 10 per cent of the value of coal mined, and in addition an annual rental at the beginning of each year at the rate of 25 cents per acre the first year, 50 cents per acre for the second, third, fourth and fifth years and $1 per acre for each year thereafter, but the rental for any year is to be credited against the royalties accruing for that year. Leases will be for not more than 30 years, subject to the right of renewal for 20 years longer.

The United States reserves the right to grant easements over any land leased for railroads, necessary to the working of any coal lands, with provision that compensation shall be paid for any injury done by such easements.

**Neighborhood Must Be Supplied.**

The bill stipulates that no lease shall be assigned except with the consent of the Secretary of the Interior, who also is given the right to prescribe rules and regulations governing leases, and also authorized to require those mining coal to prevent undue waste. The Secretary also is authorized to cancel a lease for failure to pay rental or royalties, for failure to supply the reasonable demand for coal in the neighborhood of any mine, or for failure to comply with any provisions of the lease.

In order to meet the demands of the Navy the President is authorized to reserve such tracts of coal lands in Alaska as he may deem proper to meet the requirements of the Government, and he may provide for the mining of coal on these reservations for the use of the Navy or other branches of the Government service.

An important provision of the bill appropriates $250,000, which may be utilized by the Secretary of the Interior under section 8. Section 8 reads as follows:

That any person, association or corporation qualified to become a lessee under this act and owning or having an interest in any pending claim under the public land laws to any coal lands in Alaska may, within one year from the passage of this act, enter into an arrangement with the Secretary of the Interior by which such claim shall be fully relinquished to the United States; and if no criminal proceedings with respect to such claim are then pending or shall have theretofore terminated adversely to the defendant or defendants' interests therein, and if, in the judgment of the Secretary of the Interior, the circumstances connected with such claim justify so doing, the money paid by the claimant or claimants to the United States on account of such claim may, by direction of the Secretary of the Interior, be returned and paid over to such person, association or corporation as a consideration for such relinquishment, or in lieu of such repayment the Secretary of the Interior may execute and deliver to said person, association or corporation, in preference of any other lessee, a lease under this act of the land so claimed or any part thereof within the limitations of area and location fixed by Section 2 hereof, and the said moneys may be credited upon the royalties to become due under such lease: Provided, that if the land so claimed be within a reservation made in pursuance of Section 7 of this act other coal lands in Alaska of substantially equal value may be substituted in said lease for the lands so relinquished.

**Local Limits Fixed.**

Any person who is qualified to make a lease under the Smoot bill may, if he so desires, locate and operate for local use upon any of the public coal lands of Alaska not otherwise appropriated, an area not exceeding ten acres, and may mine coal on this land up to the year 1920. Any person availing himself of this privilege will be liable to dispossession in case any other person desires to take up that particular land as a part of a leasehold.

One-half of the money derived from leases under this bill will go into the Alaska fund in the Treasury and be expended for local improvements such as railroads and schools.

No person, association or corporation owning or having an interest in any railroad or steamship transporting Alaska coal can acquire any interest in a coal land lease. The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to grant to any lessee a right of way over the public lands in Alaska from the land leased to any navigable waters or railroad for the construction or operation of a railway or tramway for the transportation of coal, but such carriers will be subject to the jurisdiction of the Interstate Commerce Commission.

## MONOCACY WORK STOPPED

**Rival Bidders Claim It Cannot Be Built for Tender Price.**

VALLEJO, Cal., June 18.—The Navy Department at Washington advised officials of the Mare Island Navy-yard today that the orders issued yesterday for the suspension of work on the river gunboat Monocacy were made on the representations of a firm of Seattle shipbuilders, unsuccessful bidders for the construction of the Monocacy, that the Navy-yard bid was so low as to be impossible.

The Mare Island Yard was awarded the construction of the Monocacy on its bid of $141,000. The bid of the Seattle firm was $70,000 higher. The Navy Department telegraphed today that construction would be suspended pending an investigation of the Mare Island bid.

THE MAN TO PUT IT IN THE JUG.

# ADA VOTES TODAY

## Local Option Question Issue to Be Decided.

## BOISE IS STORM CENTER

**Anti-Saloon League Makes Strenuous Campaign to Put County in "Dry" Column, but Result Is in Doubt.**

BOISE, Idaho, June 18.—(Special.)—Ada County is the center of a local option campaign, the election for which will take place tomorrow. Indications point to a strong "dry" vote in the country precincts and a heavy "wet" majority in Boise as well as the smaller towns.

Indirectly every county in the state is interested in the result for Ada County has, ever since the adoption of the local option law, managed to weather the assaults of the "drys."

The Anti-Saloon League of the state has centered its forces here and is conducting the campaign for the "drys" under the supervision of Superintendent Herwig. The "wets" are working under the banner of the Taxpayer's League.

Many of the "drys" in Ada County believe that a mistake was made by the local option leaders in calling an election at the present time, due to the unsettled business conditions, the fact that it is a Presidential year and because Boise has just passed through a commission form of government election that forced many of the "drys" to make enemies in their campaign to give this city a commission government.

They declare that they should not have been called upon at this time to again go on with another election and force the "dry" issue before commission government had a fair trial permitting the commissioners to adopt the strict saloon regulations they have planned.

During the commission government campaign the charge was made that the liquor interests had raised $5000 to be paid for keeping off of the local option election, if commission government won. The charge was denied by local option leaders.

## PUTER UNDER INDICTMENT

**Portland Man to Be Held for Alleged Fleecing in Minneapolis.**

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn., June 18.—(Special.)—The grand jury today indicted Stephen A. D. Puter on charges against him made by the police. Detective Howard probably will leave tomorrow for Portland to bring Puter back to Minneapolis to stand trial on charges of having swindled the law firm of Fifield, Fletcher & Fifield out of $2309.

The swindle is alleged to have taken place on May 2.

The bail of S. A. D. Puter has been fixed at $5000. He is still in the County Jail. He did not consider it necessary to furnish bail, as he expected the Minneapolis attorneys who caused his arrest would discover their mistake within a few hours, and would order his release.

## 3 OREGON VOTES FOR ROOT

(Continued From First Page.)

the temporary chairman of the convention. So interpreting his instructions, he announced his intention of voting for McGovern and said that some other members of the delegation would vote likewise. The refusal of McCusker to cast his vote was the result of conferences last night and this morning between La Follette supporters from various states.

**McCusker Changes Attitude.**

It was the concensus of opinion of most of those who attended the conference that the La Follette followers should not support either the Taft or Roosevelt candidate for temporary chairman, but should vote for some candidate of their own or else refrain altogether from voting. McCusker chose the latter course, although yesterday he announced his determination to vote for Root. His change of attitude was solely the result of his discussion with other La Follette men.

The Washington delegation cast its solid vote for Senator Root, the sitting 14 delegates from that state being staunch Taft men, prepared to go down the line with their leader, if they are not unseated.

**Washington Vote Decisive.**

Particular interest centered in the vote cast by the Washington delegates today, when it developed that Washington's 14 votes gave Root the necessary majority of 540. Root had received 530 votes prior to the time Washington was reached in alphabetical order, and it fell to the lot of Patrick Halloran, of Edison, delegate from the First District, to give Senator Root his 540th vote. When the complete Washington delegation had voted, Root had 544 votes to his credit, four more than enough to nominate.

Earlier in the afternoon Idaho gave its eight votes to McGovern, that delegation having decided to act as a unit and support the Roosevelt programme from first to last. Two Idaho delegates, who were somewhat in doubt when they arrived in Chicago, pledged themselves last night to stand with their six colleagues, and from this time forward they will support the Roosevelt programme.

## COMMITTEEMAN NOT NAMED

**Oregon Delegates Choose A. V. Smith as Head of Credentials Body.**

CHICAGO, June 18.—(Special.)—Oregon delegates to the Republican National convention, at a meeting this morning, decided to postpone selection of the National committeeman until after the convention has a nominated candidate for President. They, however, perfected their own organization, selecting Daniel Boyd, of Enterprise, as chairman, and Fred S. Bynon, of Salem, secretary. Delegates were then selected for membership on various committees of the convention as follows:

Credentials, A. V. Swift, of Baker; rules, J. N. Smith, of Salem; resolutions, D. D. Hall, of Mosier; permanent organization, Charles H. Carey, of Portland; committee to notify nominees, Henry Waldo Coe, of Portland; honorary vice-president, Charles W. Ackerson, of Portland.

Harmony marked today's meeting of the delegation. There was no rivalry among the delegates and all, with the exception of Dr. Coe, are satisfied with the slate as made up. Coe was anxious to be a member of the committee on credentials in order to vote in that committee to overturn the action of the National committee on the Washington, Texas and other contests, where Roosevelt men contend they were robbed. It was largely because of Coe's intense partisanship that he was not allowed to go on the credentials committee.

The delegation selected Swift for this position, as they regard him as fair minded. Delegate Hall did not attend the meeting today, and partially on that account, and because of some desire for delay, it was determined to put over the selection of the National committeeman until later. Chairman Boyd is authorized to call a special meeting for this purpose, but he probably will wait until after the candidate is nominated by the convention.

The turning down of Dr. Coe today forecasts his probable defeat for National committeeman. It is conceded that Ralph Williams will be re-elected if Taft is nominated, but there is no candidate reasonably sure of winning if Taft fails of renomination.

When the Oregon delegation was in session today, McCusker voiced his intention to vote for Root for temporary chairman and his subsequent refusal to vote was a surprise to his colleagues. The three delegates who voted for Root this afternoon declared their purpose at this morning's meeting of the delegation. They and McCusker, all contended that their instructions to vote for Roosevelt did not bind them to vote for Roosevelt's candidate for chairman, but left them free to exercise their discretion on all votes except that for Presidential and Vice-Presidential nominees.

The six delegates who this afternoon voted for McGovern, took the position that their instructions bound them not only to vote for Roosevelt, but for the entire Roosevelt programme.

After this exchange of views the delegation adjourned without any attempt to adopt the unit rule, rather allowing every delegate to act as his own judgment directed.

# PORT'S POWER GONE

## Supreme Court Reverses Decision in Tillamook Case.

## OFFICE UNLAWFULLY HELD

**Suit Is Result of Attempt to Issue Bonds Rendering Plaintiff and Appellant Liable for Payment. Other Cases Decided.**

SALEM, Or., June 18.—(Special.)—The Supreme Court today, in an opinion by Justice Bean, reversed the lower court of Tillamook County, and in so doing declared that the officers of the Port of Tillamook are unlawfully exercising their public office and franchise. The action was in the nature of quo warranto proceedings, brought by the state for S. V. and Lillian Anderson against H. T. Botts, A. G. Beals, D. Fitzpatrick, James Walton, Jr., M. F. Leach and the Port of Tillamook, to determine the right of the defendants to act as a municipal corporation.

The complaint is signed by the District Attorney of the proper district. It alleges that the defendants are unlawfully exercising a public office and franchise within the State of Oregon, as officers of the Port of Tillamook, without being duly incorporated; that the alleged port is a quasi municipal corporation, attempted to be formed under the act of 1909; that the relators are residents and taxpayers within the territory of the pretended port; and that the defendants, as officers of such corporation, are attempting to issue large amounts of bonds and render the relators liable for the payment of a part thereof.

Other cases were decided today as follows:

Steven Collins, respondent vs. Amelia Keller, appellant; appealed from Multnomah County; John S. Coke, judge; reversed and dismissed in an opinion by Justice Burnett.

Van Dusen Investment Company, respondents, vs. Western Fishing Company, appellants; affirmed by Justice Moore.

Lois C. MacMahon, appellant, vs. Robert S. Hull, motion to dismiss appeal denied.

## MAN'S MEMORY LAPSES

**Mt. Vernon Resident Found Wandering in Baker Schoolhouse.**

BAKER, Or., June 18.—(Special.)—L. H. Bentley, of Mt. Vernon, was found today wandering in the Central School building, believing it was a church. While every other faculty is unimpaired, the man has a lapse of memory and can tell nothing of what has happened except that he went to Portland to attend a trial, and had a certificate of deposit for $60, which he lost, leaving only money enough to pay his way to Deschutes.

He says that while stealing a ride from there a brakeman hit him on the head with a brick and he cannot remember anything since then. There is no scar. Physicians say he may be affected by the heat. He carries a subpoena to appear in the Portland court. His wife and children at Mt. Vernon have been notified.

## T. R. AND ADE "IMMORTALS"

**150 Americans Will Be Upon List of Men Selected.**

WASHINGTON, June 18.—About 150 American "immortals" would be created under the National Institute of Arts and Letters bill which passed the House today.

Theodore Roosevelt is named and Senator Henry Cabot Lodge is the only member of Congress so honored.

The House struck from the list the name of Francis D. Millet, the celebrated artist, who went down in the Titanic and inserted in his place the name of Albert Jaeger, of New York.

George Ade and the galaxy of Indiana authors are in the list named.

**Standard Oil Case Adjourned.**

NEW YORK, June 18.—Adjournment until probably next Fall was taken today in the case of the Standard Oil interests against the Waters-Pierce Oil Company. The control of the latter by the Standard interests was thwarted at the annual meeting, when proxies held by Standard Oil men were thrown out.

**Astoria Elects Larsen to Board.**

ASTORIA, Or., June 18.—(Special.)—At the annual school election of Astoria district held yesterday, L. A. Larsen was elected a member of the board of directors, to succeed Dr. T. L. Ball, whose term has expired.

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