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PORTLAND, MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 1913.

THE LEGISLATURE.

Conditions attending the opening of the Legislative Session at Salem today are favorable for return to the efficiency contemplated by the framers of the representative system of government. The presiding officers in both House and Senate lack only the formalities of election. There need be no delay in perfecting organization. The Speaker of the House and President of the Senate have had opportunity to settle in large part the committee assignments. A United States Senator is to be elected but he has been chosen by the people. Politics of this kind threatens no delay in transacting the real business which has brought the Legislature together.

Some of the most important of that business has also been outlined by the people as a result of the election. There can be no doubt that economy in appropriations is demanded. The people have spoken in this regard a number of times, both on matters originating in the Legislature and on proposals emanating from the initiative. Creation of new high-salaried offices is not desired. Moderate, not extravagant appropriations, are expected. Organization and appropriation procedures are thus well defined that much of the interference with general lawmaking that has attended past sessions need not now be repeated.

Among the most important matters of legislation to be considered are bills pertaining to the general welfare. These include workmen's compensation, widows' pensions, minimum wage, judicial reform, irrigation relief, good roads, farm demonstration, and Oregon development. Their scope is so great and their details so complex that they are sufficient to require much of the forty days' time, to which the session is confined.

Doubtless a variety of measures will be presented which will aim at improvement of the direct legislation machinery, to direct primary and corrupt practices act. It can be said without dispute that there is no noticeable sentiment in Oregon favorable to the surrender of either of the principles mentioned in the foregoing subjects. But it may be averred with equal positiveness that there is a widespread desire that the weaknesses disclosed by the practical application should be cured.

It has been suggested with some force that the Legislature should not attempt to cure defects in the "people's laws" until it has remedied its own deficiencies. And it is true that effort to prevent submission by initiative of freak, visionary or experimental bills will come with poor grace from a Legislature whose calendar is crowded with bills of similar character.

One or more general plans have been devised for diminishing the usual high volume of introduced bills, but it need not be overlooked that there is also room for individual improvement. Members in the past have been too ready to heed the importunities of the dreamer and to present his outpourings without expectation of more than casual consideration. The bad bills must be printed with the good. They help compare the time of the members and employes. There are scores of these that ought not to be imposed upon the attention of the Legislature and no one knows it at heart better than the men whose names these bills bear as authors.

A businesslike, conscientious, industrious devotion by the Legislature to its own duties will give untold weight to any honestly conceived changes it may propose in the governmental activities of the voters.

In respect to the initiative The Oregonian believes the unrestrained abuses that have grown up under it are a reproach to orderly government. These abuses have led to forgery, bribery, deception, over-crowding of the ballot and denial of the real will of the people. To a great part, perhaps the most, of these abuses the paid petition hawk is an aid or incentive and of some of them he is the origin itself. A law that prohibits the soliciting of petition signatures for pay will materially aid in restricting the direct legislative machinery to moral and proper uses.

Simplification of titles may well be attempted. Prohibition of use of money collected outside of Oregon for the enforcement or defeat of any measure would give better assurance of the true rule in lawmaking. Limitations on the re-submission of defeated measures would relieve the voters of needless harassment. The needs of the system are plain, but there will be those who will oppose honest endeavor to provide them.

Such legislation will not appeal to the comparatively few men who hope the initiative will wreck itself nor will it please the members of that busy minority which would not be able to inflict its half-baked ideas on the people if initiation of laws were removed from a cash basis. It will, however, gain the approval of the large mass of honest friends of direct legislation and gain it in greater proportion if the Legislature's record in other respects is as clean, wholesome and strictly businesslike.

at twice its value and give each litigant the amount in dispute.

ABUSING THE LAWMAKERS.

The last election ballot in Oregon carried a total of 100,000 initiatives and referendums. They were forty-one per cent of the electorate of Oregon against the recommendations of past Legislatures in this state.

What can be said of the sincerity of advice that is followed by such a statement as the foregoing. Yet it is part of a "program of progress," proposed by a Portland newspaper that registers itself among the standpatters on the question of safeguarding the initiative and referendum. The facts are these:

Four of the forty-one measures on the ballot were county bills which the Legislature had not the power to enact.

Six were measures referred to the people by the Legislature itself.

Eight were constitutional amendments submitted by petition, not one of which could the Legislature enact.

Six others dealt with subjects which had been referred to the people from the scope of legislative enactment.

The list of forty-one measures thus discloses twenty-four that by no honest argument can be classed as protests against legislative shortcomings. And what of the other seventeen?

There ought to be at least a measure by eight per cent of the voters can be classed as protest by the people we presume the people protested seventeen times. But it cannot so be classed. The only true measure of the people's protest is the people's vote at the polls.

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alternative of seeing their Adriatic possessions rapidly overrun by Russian armies, or of weakening the army which defend their capital against the Bulgarians and Servians. Should the Russians invade Asia Minor, they might soon advance to the Asiatic shore of the Bosphorus and place Constantinople between two fires.

But Germany would not stand idle while Russia was thus pursuing a course of conquest. Germany has valuable concessions in Asia Minor and the Kaiser has marked that country as his heritage whenever the Turkish Empire breaks up. The German Chancellor has announced the purpose of Germany to stand by her ally, Austria, in case of war. She would more readily do so if she saw Russia gobbling Asia Minor. Were Russia thus involved with both Austria and Germany, France and England would feel compelled to aid her, not only by their duty as allies, but by the opportunity which would be offered by the German military supremacy and to cripple the German navy. Italy would inevitably become involved by her obligations to Germany and Austria.

The crisis in the peace negotiations between the United States and Turkey, which would afford the Turkish envoys an excuse for recognizing an accomplished fact. Should the besieged city hold out, the peace of Europe will hang on a thread.

FRAMING A COMPENSATION LAW.

A vast amount of information on the subject of workmen's compensation is contained in the compilation prepared by L. N. Day, State Senator for Multnomah County. In the printed pamphlet which will contain this compilation, the investigator will find material for almost any angle of study and it will prove a valuable reference work for the members of the Legislature in considering the bill to be presented by the Governor's Commission, or any other measure on the same subject.

One argument for enacting a compensation law is given striking force by the statistics Mr. Day has prepared. These figures give the number of personal injury cases filed in the Circuit Court of Multnomah County in two years. In that period 223 cases were instituted by employes for damages for personal injuries. The total sum sued for was \$3,575,923.70; the amount of damages allowed was \$96,170.00, but the judgment rendered in only 223 cases filed. One of the virtues of the compensation law is the relief it affords the courts, the employer and the employe from litigation. In further behalf of the initiative it provides a certainty of compensation and a speeding up of such relief in time of dire distress.

Nineteen states have recently enacted laws for better and more adequate compensation of injured workmen. The list of nineteen states, however, includes four that have laws which come under the head of "employer's liability" and one of these, in the aggregate, a liability act is one which abrogates or restricts the common law defenses. It merely makes recovery by recourse to the courts more general by imposing on the employer responsibility for injuries occurring under circumstances which would not impose a liability on him under the common law.

In Oregon the three common law defenses—fellow servant, assumption of risk and contributory negligence doctrines—are practically abrogated. Coupled with a system which permits recovery in the jury, the Oregon liability law has worked to the distinct advantage of a large class of employes. It has the fault, however, of furnishing no relief for the workman whose employer happens to be insolvent or of negligible financial resources. Moreover, legal actions are rendered by long delays and the burden of court dockets and expense to taxpayers, a change in the Oregon law from the liability to the compensation form would obviously be of advantage.

Of the fifteen states which have compensation laws only two have the state insurance form. One of these is proposed in Oregon. For purposes of distinction it may be said that in the compensation law the entire cost of compensation generally falls on the employer as an individual. The state fixes a schedule of compensation for injuries, usually a percentage of the wages of the injured employe. Most of the straight compensation laws in the United States are elective. That is, the employe, sometimes both employer and employe, must give affirmative or presumed consent to its provisions. Those who do not elect to accept it must settle the matter of damages for injuries in court, or by private negotiations. If the employer and employe have accepted the law, the injuries are compensated by the individual employer in accordance with the legal schedule. Usually some form of state supervision is devised which permits the employe to be financially able to carry his own risks, but compels the less responsible employer to insure his risks that there may be no question of the employe receiving compensation in the event he is injured.

The state insurance plan provides a fund, administered by the state, from which compensation is paid to the injured workman in accordance with a fixed schedule graduated with view to the severity of the injury, or the workman's earning capacity. In Washington the whole cost falls on the employers; in Ohio ninety per cent is paid by the employers and ten per cent by the employe. It is proposed that the state should contribute three-fourths of the fund; the employe one-eighth, and the state one-eighth. The Washington law is compulsory upon those conducting hazardous employments; the Ohio act is elective and applies to all employes of five or more workmen. The proposed Oregon law is elective.

Discussion in Oregon so far has centered largely on the question of distributing the cost of the insurance. It has been suggested by some that the employers should bear all the cost; by others that the employe should be the only one assessed, and by a third party that the cost should be divided among the three sources—employer, employe and state. Distribution of cost is an issue that will have an important bearing upon the successful operation of the act, particularly if the elective form is retained. If the act is unsatisfactory, justifiably or not, either the employe or employer, large numbers will decline to accept its provisions and the act will fall to accomplish its complete purpose.

But equally important issues involve the general form of the law. Is state insurance preferable to straight compensation? Is the elective form better than the compulsory? Ohio's elective insurance law, it is said, is practically a failure. A very small proportion of employers and employes have accepted its provisions. The statement has been made that in that state the number of workmen engaged in the industries, has been accepted by a large percentage of men engaged in the industries. It is merely a matter of time before the act will be repealed. It is merely a matter of time before the act will be repealed. It is merely a matter of time before the act will be repealed.

Two Governors are compared. Politician revealed in Sulzer Message; Business Man in That of Haines.

PORTLAND, Jan. 11.—(To the Editor.)—At this time I have before me the messages of two Governors, John M. Haines of Idaho, and the other William Sulzer of New York.

Governor Haines is practically unknown outside the state whose executive duties he has been elected to discharge. Governor Sulzer commenced 25 years ago to exploit his ambition and advertise to the country his progressive age, and month began life as poor boy. Sulzer, under the auspices of Tammany Hall and New York politicians, got into active, practical politics at the same time that Governor Haines began a business career at Boise, Idaho. Governor Haines is known from one end of the country to the other as a politician, pure and simple; Governor Haines is known from one end of the country to the other as a politician, pure and simple.

Turning from a careful reading of the message of the Governor of the biggest state of the Union to that of the smallest, we find the range of subjects discussed of equal importance, demanding the same respect and careful judgment, and both messages cover the same amount of ground. In addressing a Legislature of exceptional ability, Governor Haines has given the country a valuable and refreshing lesson in the art of oratory. The message which he has given to the country is a valuable and refreshing lesson in the art of oratory.

The ways and means committee of the House is wasting much valuable time in hearing the repetition of the same old tariff arguments which have been heard by the committee for generations. The Tariff Board plan of collecting facts shines the more by contrast with this discredited method.

Traffic between Puget Sound and the East is not entirely cut off by the snow blockade of railroads in the Cascade Mountains. The water-level route down the Columbia and the other routes are learning one more that it is easier to go around a wall than to climb over it.

It would be most unkind of the San Francisco to deprive Carnegie of the opportunity to rid himself of some of his money. His own ambition with advancing years is to die with so much money that he can squeeze through the needle's eye.

Admiral Doyle's objection to the pet goat on the battleship New Hampshire may not be due to the goat's having butted him, but perhaps he rode the goat. A sailor on horseback is proverbial for awkwardness, but a sailor on goat-back!

Congress is now investigating the money trust, the tariff, the banking and currency system, the shipping trust, and other subjects too numerous to mention. All this cry should produce some wool in the shape of legislation.

Peary could congratulate Amundsen on having no Cook to stir up a nasty row over his polar discovery, and each could congratulate the other that there can be only two of their kind, there being no more poles to discover.

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NOTE ON SUBJECT, NOT DETAILS

Mr. Hammond Has Plan for Improving Direct Legislative System.
 NORTH BEND, Or., Jan. 9.—(To the Editor.)—The plan of Senator Lowell for correction of abuses in the use of the initiative is only a makeshift, it seems to me. I will admit that five bills on the ballot are better than 50 and that one would be still better, but this paring-down process only mitigates and does not cure the evil. It cuts out entirely in its present form and substitutes a law which will provide for a vote by the people on subjects for legislation.

Let the vote of the people be a command to make a law, not the last resort. For instance, instead of submitting to the vote of the people a number of voluminous and conflicting laws on the subject of good roads, let the subject be submitted in its present form and let the people vote on it.

No. 1. Shall the state aid in the construction of highways?
 No. 2. Shall the counties be authorized to issue bonds for the construction of highways?
 If both these propositions were adopted by the people, then the next step would be to put into effect by proper legislation and the details would be worked out after open discussion and consideration. Such legislation would be similar to the referendum and to subsequent amendment in the usual way.

The great trouble with the present initiative is that it requires the voter to consider a thousand details which he knows nothing about and which he does not consider, as a matter of fact he could not after he reads it. It would be quite as reasonable for a community to turn out en masse and try to build a town hall. The majority might be in favor of the town hall, but very few would know how to build it.

What the community should do is to determine the general principle to be done. Let the people order the kind of laws they want and require the Legislature to order the present system of production. This promotes litigation and unsettles business.

Furthermore, all petitions to get anything on the ballot should be signed before a public officer and soliciting signatures to a petition should be made an offense, the same as soliciting votes upon election day. A. S. HAMMOND.

VEHICLE LAW IS TOO SWEEPING

Auto Owner Thinks It Unnecessarily Takes in Quiet Streets.
 PORTLAND, Jan. 11.—(To the Editor.)—The firm of which I am a member has an office on Stark street, between Second and Third streets, on the ground floor. As an adjunct to our business day and night, we have a second floor, and one on the third floor, so that we may have our automobile convenient and ready for instant use.

Under an ordinance which goes into effect on January 12, we understand that we will not be permitted to keep our machine in front of the office over 30 minutes at one time.

We are very willing to comply with all rules and regulations prescribed by ordinance or state laws, and the ordinance which is now being considered is necessary in the congested district, but surely there was not sufficient reason to make it include the less busy streets.

I think there are only three machines which are more or less regularly kept on Stark street during a portion of the business day, and they could not be considered as an obstruction to traffic, at least not as much as the three-car car of the United Railways, which stands in this place for a large part of 30 to 35 minutes at a time and occupy the whole space between Second and Third streets.

Ray of the Lobbyist

By Denn Collins.
 A boon, a boon they importune,
 While soft to the Senators they croon,
 Or seize, while pleas from their hot lips
 The Representatives' buttonhole.

In that "baysayer" oh legislator,
 Where you are of many laws creator,
 Lay low!
 To the lobbyist
 Who sings to the lawmakers of the state;
 "Appropriate, oh, appropriate!"

He can't be missed, the lobbyist;
 He clings to the coat-tail, grasps the roll,
 And pleads the needs, without formalities,
 Or money for this or that locality;
 In casual chat he raises the snail,
 "Appropriations shovel them out!"

Hark, hark,
 The lobbyist's bark:
 "Lo, wait a moment, your brave constituents,
 'Till I have had a word to say."
 "Appropriate, oh, appropriate!"

From the flowing Snake to the Klammath Lake,
 Or out where the ocean billows break,
 They crowd and loudly their voices raise,
 And clamor for a special concession and a prayer.
 And wonder why that man must be
 Who dodges wholly the legion's plan.
 All hail!
 The lobbyist's call:
 "Haste, ere we dub thee base ingrate—
 Appropriate, oh, appropriate!"

By myriad pleas they would with ease
 Turn the ponderous treasury keys;
 And each doth preach of the special
 Conditions in his locality breed,
 And they fancy not, or so I wot,
 That the public purse hath a bottom
 "Well, well."
 The lobbyist's yell:
 "Do you intend to make us wait?
 Appropriate, oh, appropriate!"

Senators pale and they fiercely nall,
 And Representatives forth they hale,
 Never to be over a mortal run
 Through such a gauntlet as this one.
 Ah, pity the gink who, the session
 Through,
 This sibilant chorus must listen to:
 "All hail!
 I'm a lobbyist
 Who seeks your influence, which is
 great—
 Appropriate, oh, appropriate!"
 Portland, January 12.

Half a Century Ago

From The Oregonian January 13, 1863.
 The "Victoria Column" contains the following from the mines: Peter C. Danley received a letter from Beaver Lake, written by his partner, Mr. Sellers. Mr. S. writes that the smallpox is making fearful ravages among both whites and Indians. He says the country is like a vast hospital. The Black Jack tunnel on Williams Creek is stated to have cost \$20 to \$30 pounds a day.

The widow of General F. W. Lander, formerly Miss Jane Davenport, announced she is to marry Mr. Secretary Chace.

Jim Mace was whipped by Tom King in the Victoria Column. The fight was in Mace's favor until King put in an "Armstrong gun" hit, which knocked Mace out of time.

FAMOUS BEARDS AMAZE A BARBER

"Sam" Korden Overcome by Appearance of J. Ham Lewis.
 Trenton, N. J., Cor. New York Herald.
 There was great excitement for a few moments when Colonel James Hamilton Lewis, of Chicago, came in to the Governor's office. "Sam" Korden, the veteran messenger and barber to the Governors, hurried out and gazed in bewilderment at Mr. Lewis' famous beard. Mr. Lewis' beard is known from coast to coast and in some parts of Europe.

Oregon Architect for Oregon Building

PORTLAND, Jan. 11.—(To the Editor.)—Replying to a letter recently published in The Oregonian regarding the design of a building to be erected at San Francisco to represent Oregon at the Panama-Pacific Exposition, I can state that I heartily agree with the writer in the matter of selecting the plan for the building on a competitive basis. I would add, however, that the competition be limited and open only to those residing and having offices in the State of Oregon.

Which the State of Oregon there are any number of men capable of designing such a building. To find the best is a simple problem, and will resolve itself to logical conclusion. Let the authorities in charge will follow the rules governing competition as published by the architectural societies.

If this method of selection is followed, Oregon will be assured of a successful design and will be well able to hold her own with the other buildings that will be erected by the other states and foreign countries.

It is imperative that the people of this state have a building that is the finest possible for the money and that they be represented by none other than the best of the building groups of the exhibits will be made after comparison; the best of each sort will represent its kind; New York applies will not be represented in the Oregon building, neither will Wisconsin or Michigan timber and their products be there. Why should we allow outside architects and engineers even to be considered in the design of our building? Competition brings out the best. Limit the competition to those of Oregon.

The advice will have plenty to choose from and their choice will be a plan of a building that, when constructed, will stand pre-eminently the best within the bounds of the fair grounds.

Let the engineers and architects of Oregon compete, then we will have Oregon products and resources exhibited in a building, the plan of which, at least, was "made in Oregon."

AN ENGINEER.