

RETIRING GOVERNOR HAS PRAISE FOR SOME DEPARTMENTS AND REBUKE FOR OTHERS—ABOLISHMENT OF SEVERAL BOARDS IS RECOMMENDED—DRY FORCES ADVISED THEY ARE ABOUT TO FACE GREATEST FIGHT.

In the end by the public, should be frowned upon. Our Railroad Commission has been performing a splendid service and has given credit to the state for having bearing upon this great question. It would be well, therefore, if the said Commission should be reorganized, and the same and make recommendations upon all matters of this nature presented for your consideration.

Since its creation, the Railroad Commission of Oregon has been given many commendations, and I have no doubt that the scope of its work. I would, therefore, recommend that the name be changed to that of "Public Utilities Commission."

Although possessing a larger amount of standing timber than any other state, we have failed to provide the legislation needed for the development of our logging streams. Oregon should follow the states of the United States in the enactment of legislation of this character. The maintenance and reclamation of a public water supply, and their rates and services should be made subject to state regulation.

With a view of bringing about the reclamation of Western arid lands, Congress, in 1882, passed what is known as the Carey act. By this act 1,000,000 acres of such land were allotted to the State of Oregon and the State was to have the right of information and disposal in small tracts to the satisfaction of the Federal Government.

The Carey act was accepted by our Legislature in 1901. Our law provides that the State should acquire the right to enter into contracts with private parties or corporations for the reclamation of these lands. It is recommended that the State should be reimbursed for their outlay through a lien upon the lands.

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EXCERPTS FROM GOVERNOR WEST'S MESSAGE TO THE LEGISLATURE.

The fight for equal suffrage and a dry state has been successful. Additional safeguards have been thrown around the ballot through extending the non-voting period of the newly-arrived alien and the old barbarous system of capital punishment has been abolished.

If Doctor Economy would wipe out the epidemic of extravagance and lessen our tax burdens he must confine his visits and his doses to the state, but must look well to the counties and cities and road and school districts.

Our institutions are rapidly being placed in a splendid condition through the earnest co-operation of officials and employes, and as a result of their efforts Oregon has been placed in a class by itself.

The combined population of the two institutions, the Oregon Reformatory and the Oregon State Prison, shows an increase in the population. This increase is alarming and drives home to us the necessity of giving earnest thought and study to the causes which produce this great army of dependents.

By voting the state dry the people have taken a long step toward removing one of the causes. It is incumbent upon you, therefore, to take the next step and through appropriate legislation restrict, if not prevent, the sale of habit-forming drugs.

Oregon has been the dumping ground for the insane of all states and nations. Society should be more concerned in the reformation of the man than in the punishment.

Organized labor has done more toward the solution of this problem (prison labor) than any other agency.

The state is still entitled to several thousand acres of land under the swamp grant, but it seems next to impossible to secure patent on account of the red tape entanglements which surround the General Land Office.

Good men have been appointed from time to time upon this Board (Fish and Game Commission), none of whom, however, has been able to curtail the extravagance which, like barnacles to a ship, cling to the department.

Automatic workmen's compensation is a recognized principle in the industrial life of the nation and it is gratifying that Oregon has placed itself in the forefront through the enactment of legislation of this character.

For nearly half a century the people have waged a continuous fight to determine whether the country should have a Government controlled by the railroads or railroads controlled by the Government. The smoke of battle is now clearing away and victory seems to be within our grasp.

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water power to the extent of over 2,000,000 horsepower, or 20 times the developed power at Niagara Falls. We are, therefore, deeply interested in the question of who shall control development of the state of Oregon. The question is of particular interest to the people of Oregon because before Congress authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to lease for forest site purposes a right to use the water of the Columbia River, lands in National forests which control many of our great power possibilities were reserved to the Federal Government.

That the waters of a stream, as well as their appropriation and application to a beneficial use within the jurisdiction of the State, no one will seriously deny. In fact, state jurisdiction is recognized by the Federal Government and compliance with the laws governing the appropriation of water is required by the National Forest Reserve Act of 1906. Government lands to be used in connection with the development of water power must be subject to the laws of the Government.

President Taft Quoted.

"With respect to the public land which lies along the streams offering opportunity to convert water power into transmission lines, another important phase of the public land question is presented. There is a question as to whether the public lands should be made available at all except by using the land itself as the site for the transmission lines. The power is generated and converted and securing a right of way therefor for transmission lines is the responsibility of the Government, not the riparian owner. The Government should be empowered by imposing conditions on the disposition of the land necessary in the proper utilization of the water power."

Congress, through the Desert Land Act of 1906, declared that the water of all lakes, rivers and other sources of water supply upon the public lands, and not water power, should be made available for appropriation and use of the public for irrigation, mining and manufacturing purposes, subject to existing rights of private parties.

It is admitted by those who insist upon Government control that such control is not to be exercised through the imposition of limitations imposed upon the disposal of power sites upon the public lands, for the Government is not to be limited in its application to a beneficial use as subject to the same restrictions as private parties.

The advocates of state control contend that this is an arbitrary exercise of power upon the part of the Federal Government. It is the policy of the Federal Government that the state is sovereign in all matters pertaining to the control of the waters of the State within the public domain. The Federal Government is the proprietor of the lands for power-house and dam sites, rights of way for pipe and transmission lines, and other matters of this character, and compensation, and no more.

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greatly in need of revision, this office appointed, in 1912, a special committee to investigate our requirements in this respect. This committee was composed of the following members: The committee was organized on August 1, 1912, and has since that time been engaged in a study of the subject. It has held numerous public hearings and has received many suggestions from the public. It has also conducted extensive research into the various phases of the problem. Its report will be submitted to the Legislature in the near future.

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Water Needs Set Forth.

Perhaps the most important and difficult problem which municipalities are faced upon to solve is that of securing an adequate water supply. This is a problem which has become increasingly acute in recent years. The population of our cities and towns is increasing rapidly, and the demand for water is correspondingly increasing. At the same time, the available water supply is becoming more and more scarce. It is therefore imperative that we take prompt action to secure an adequate water supply for the future.

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