

STEAM ROLLER IS USED AT OLYMPIA

Effort by Democrats to Have Mr. Reeves on Contest Committee of No Avail.

WET AND DRY FIGHT IS ON

Proposed Utilities Bill Raises Storm of Protest and Hearing of Opponents Set—Tax for Roads Under Discussion.

OLYMPIA, Wash., Jan. 18.—(Special)—House Democrats today attempting to have their floor leader, Frank Reeves, named on the Swale-Hogan revenue committee, bumped into the Republican organization and were completely flattened by the House steam-roller.

The contest instituted by Hogan, Republican, against Swale, Progressive, who was returned winner by two votes by the Spokane County delegates, has developed into a fight of the House "dries" to retain Swale, who is aligned with the Prohibition element, while the wets are bending their efforts to have Hogan seated.

The Democratic caucus with two dissenting votes decided upon a "dry" fight throughout the session and the caucus today decided to ask Speaker Conner to appoint Reeves as Democratic member of the committee that will have charge of the revenue. Farnsworth, of Lincoln, was detailed to make the request but failed to obtain the attention of the chairman until after the Speaker had announced his committee which included as Democratic Representatives Adams, of Kittitas, one of the two "wet" Democrats, and T. J. Kelly, of Pend Oreille.

Keeps Kept Off Committees.

Farnsworth at this point asked the Speaker to add the name of Reeves. Republican House Leaders insisted that the committee could not be increased above the present size of seven by Conner, since the report of the elections committee for a special committee of seven had been adopted. Farnsworth moved a re-consideration but there were insufficient members joining with him to insure a roll-call and with a chorus of rays the House shouted down the re-consideration proposal.

Later Swale announced he had retained Reeves who thus lost a place on the committee as his counsel in the recent proceedings.

The members of the re-count committee appointed by Conner were: Winslow Guy Kelly, Glenn and Zemnick, Republicans; T. J. Kelly and Adams, Democrats; Murphine, Progressive. Five of the seven are "wet" on the basis of last week's test vote on the Reeves resolution to consider no liquor legislation at this session. The liquor question was considered by the caucus and today when the joint judiciary committee of Senate and House met and completed arrangements for a public hearing to be held Thursday night at which "wets" and "dries" will be given an hour and a half each to debate legal points and issues in connection with the proposed re-submission of the question to the people.

Question to Be Argued.

The judiciary committee formulated a list of five questions to which the debaters will be asked to devote their attention. These are:

Can initiative measure No. 18, the hotelmen's anti-prohibition bill, be acted upon in its present form, which appears to be a bill of two bills, or a bill and petition to the Legislature for a special election?

Can the Legislature legally call a special election on No. 18? If so, what could be submitted at such election?

Can the Legislature propose a different bill dealing with the same subject as No. 18 and have both submitted?

Is it necessary to have a bill to make an appropriation for expenses of a special election, should one be called?

Has the Governor authority to veto a supplemental bill calling a special election?

Utilities Bill Brings Lobby.

Officials representing the Stone & Webster interests and independent public corporations in the state, the state being here in numbers today to urge the enactment of the Taylor bill, providing that a new public utility must obtain a "certificate of public necessity" from the Public Service Commission before entering a territory already occupied and favoring pre-existing franchises. The Public Service Commission recommended these provisions.

Among the more prominent officials of the Stone & Webster Corporation were H. S. Pratt of Boston, Mass., vice-president of the company; James B. Howe, chief counsel for the Pacific Northwest; the Washington Water Power Company, of Spokane, and several independent corporations were also represented.

The Taylor bill also provides that cities entering the public utility field must first conduct a referendum at full going on the property of existing public utility companies in the same field. This provision and others have drawn hot protests and the Public Utilities Commission, after listening to the corporation men today, called a meeting for next Monday of persons opposed to the measure.

Educational Matters Pending.

Joint educational committee, which today considered a bill the Governor has signed for a survey of institutions of higher education to eliminate conflicting courses and the Zednick bill, for our Board of Regents for all institutions, issued a call for the presidents of the University of Washington, Washington State College and the three normal schools to appear before the committee on a succeeding night to outline their views. The committees are considering seriously the Governor's survey plan.

Serious differences between the House and Senate roads and bridges committee became known today after the committee had met together for a general survey of the roads. The Senate committee is standing strongly for retention of the present road levies—1 mill for the public highway fund, expended by the state, and a mill and a half for permanent highways, expended by the counties. The House committee, on the other hand, inclined to follow the lead of its chairman, McAllister of Jefferson, in favoring a reduction of the permanent highway levy to 1 mill.

Senator French, of Clarke County, today introduced a bill in the interests of practical economy to provide that no county or municipality may expend in any year more than 80 per cent of the taxes on real property more than 90 per cent of the taxes actually have been collected. This rule now applies to road districts.

ATTORNEYS CONSPIRE, CHARGE.

Senator Bethel, of Washington, has trouble getting bill drawn.

OLYMPIA, Wash., Jan. 18.—(Special)—Senator Bethel, Lincoln County agriculturist, sees a conspiracy of attorneys

KNIFE FOR BOARDS IS DRAWN IN IDAHO

House Bills Would Abolish Tax and Public Utilities Commissions of State.

NEW DRY AMENDMENT UP

Minority Leader Favors Absolute Prohibition in 1916—Governor Authorized to Investigate Proposed Railroad Plan.

BOISE, Idaho, Jan. 18.—(Special)—Antagonism to present state commissions and boards broke out in the Legislature here today. The first step to give state support to the building of a north and south railroad was taken in the House when the McCowan resolution authorizing the Governor to appoint an investigating commission was adopted. The Teton County division bill passed, as did also the infected fruit measure.

Representative Husninger attacked the Public Utilities Commission, introducing a bill to abolish it, and was quickly followed by Representative Anderson of Canyon with a bill to abolish the State Tax Commission.

Representative King, of Lewis, fathered a bill to abolish the office of State Educational Commissioner. In the Senate, Rockwell of Blaine introduced a constitutional amendment to abolish the State Board of Equalization and to create in its place a constitutional tax commission.

Minority Leader Anderson introduced a stringent constitutional prohibition amendment which would absolutely prohibit the sale or manufacture of liquor in Idaho, carrying a clause to make it effective in 1916.

The first bridge legislation bill of the session was introduced by Representative King, of Lewis, in the House. He asks for \$2250 to purchase the toll bridge over the Clearwater River between Lewiston and Idaho Springs.

The committee on educational institutions recorded the budget bill for the state schools. It divides the appropriation among the University of Idaho, \$1,660; Lewiston Normal, \$162,381; Academy of Idaho, \$127,500; St. Anthony Training School, \$140,000, and the Gooding Deaf and Blind School, \$14,200. The Board of Education's plan is followed to abandon the Albion Normal and it is given but \$20,000.

SALT CONTRACT DUBIOUS

LEGISLATURE MAY REFUSE TO CONFIRM LEASE BY LAND BOARD.

Bid for Deposits in Summer and Abert Lakes to Be Made Subject of Strict Investigation.

STATE CAPITOL, Salem, Or., Jan. 18.—(Special)—It is apparent that the number of signatures required on initial petition to 6 per cent of the registered voters to 6 per cent, and the number of signatures on measures referred to the people from 5 per cent to 3 per cent.

DUCK-BAITING HERE FOUGHT

Senator Dimick Files Bill to End Alleged Portland Hunting Trust.

STATE CAPITOL, Salem, Or., Jan. 18.—(Special)—Declaring that the sportsmen of Portland virtually have a monopoly of duck-shooting, Senator Dimick, of Clackamas County, today introduced a bill to prevent the baiting of ducks and other wild fowl in lakes and ponds.

That the bill and others to prevent the use of certain kinds of guns in hunting ducks will cause one of the big fights of the session is assured.

Efforts have been made at numerous sessions to put an end to the duck-baiting ponds and lakes, but never has sentiment among the country members been so strong in favor of the proposal as at this session.

FUND INQUIRY APPROVED

Senate Adopts Resolution to Investigate Officers' Expenses.

STATE CAPITOL, Salem, Or., Jan. 18.—(Special)—The Senate today adopted Senate joint resolution No. 3, which has as its object the investigation of money expended by heads and other persons employed in various departments in traveling, obtaining opinions from special counsel and experts on various subjects.

The resolution was introduced by the committee on ways and means of the Senate.

Senator Garland's resolution providing for the appointment of a committee of seven to investigate the State insane Asylum was re-referred and probably will be adopted.

STONECUTTERS FILE PROTEST

Bureau of Mines and Geology Declared Useful.

STATE CAPITOL, Salem, Or., Jan. 18.—(Special)—The International Stone Cutters' Association of Portland, in a letter signed by its president, Fred Hacking, and other officers, received by the Senate today, protests against the bill introduced by Senator Dimick to abolish the Bureau of Mines and Geology. It is declared that "through the official activities of this bureau, we are made more useful." McAllister, and probably at The Dalles and others are to be built of native stone, while heretofore some Eastern states have furnished stone for these Government buildings, and means the accession for these two buildings alone some \$35,000 to our payroll."

FEWER BILLS REACH SENATE

Sack Standard Is Sought.

STATE CAPITOL, Salem, Or., Jan. 18.—(Special)—Standardization of the weight of sacks of shorts and bran is the object of two bills introduced by Senator Dimick, of Clackamas County, today. The weight fixed for shorts is 50 pounds to the sack. Senator Dimick said farmers had complained to him that they were receiving short weight and several placed their loss at three sacks to the ton.

TAB ON WORKMEN FAILS.

STATE CAPITOL, Salem, Or., Jan. 18.—(Special)—Resolution 23, introduced by Senator Smith, representing Coos and Curry counties, was indefinitely postponed today. It provided that heads of departments and directors file reports of the number of employees employed and the salaries paid. Senator Smith said a statement had been made that clerks were not kept employed during working hours, and the object of his resolution was to make an investigation of the report.

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So-Feo-Choo, a town in China, is known as the Venice of the East because of its canals.

Great Britain and Ireland consume annually 30,000,000 rabbits as food.

OLYMPIA, Wash., Jan. 18.—(Special)—Senator Bethel, Lincoln County agriculturist, sees a conspiracy of attorneys

to prevent him from procuring enactment of his pet bill to have copies of all session laws furnished every school district in Washington, to be kept at schoolhouses for reference of citizens.

"More than a month ago Attorney-General Tanner wrote me and offered to draft any bill I might want on the subject," Senator Bethel said today.

"Now, when I get over here, he says he can't understand just what it is I want to do, and he hasn't my bill ready for me."

Last session the lawyers voted my bill down because they said some of the session laws were not in order.

The real reason is, though, that if the people had a chance to consult the laws for themselves, the lawyers would be out of a job.

Unless the Attorney-General gives me my bill next week I am going to get one of the Senate clerks to draft it for me."

Senator Bethel said another measure that he has asked the Attorney-General's office to draft. This would prohibit the purchase or possession of an air rifle by anyone under the age of 18 years.

"The boys where I live are buying air rifles and pepperin' everybody and breaking all the windows in town," said Senator Bethel. "The law now prohibits them from having rifles, pistols or toy pistols, but a lot of 'smart' commercial travelers found there wasn't anything about air guns, and they are stocking up the stores all over the state with them."

CORPORATION BILL ACCEPTED

Fight Expected on Act Providing for Minority Representation.

STATE CAPITOL, Salem, Or., Jan. 18.—(Special)—One of the most exciting fights of the session is expected tomorrow when the bill of Senator Langford providing for minority representation in the directorates of corporations comes before the Senate for its action.

By a unanimous vote the adjoint committee decided tonight to report the measure favorably. Its phraseology was much more "smart" than the original.

Its application would affect corporations in existence now as well as those to be organized.

The bill provides for a cumulative system of voting shares of stock so that minority shareholders may unite in electing a director and in influencing the board.

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