

HOUSE LETS FIRST ELECTION BILL BY

Majority at Olympia Starts Programme With Universal Registration Measure.

OTHERS TO FOLLOW SOON

Emergency Clause Stirs Debate Over Legal Features and Veto Is Expected—McArdle Bill Submitted to Governor.

OLYMPIA, Wash., Feb. 11.—(Special.)—The first bill of the Republican programme for revision of the election laws, that providing universal registration to cover a four-year period, was passed by the House today without a dissenting vote, after Representative Murphy, of King County, proposed a comparatively minor amendment. One of these makes the County Auditor, instead of the County Commissioner, responsible for the appointment of registration clerks in country precincts. Republican leaders objected that this was merely an attempt to create a patronage for the benefit of the King County Auditor, a Progressive, who survived the Republican landslide of last fall, but Mr. Murphy carried his amendment, which has been defeated yesterday, and when the bill was placed on final passage the Democrats and Progressives joined the Republicans in affirmative votes.

Change in Initiative Act Plan.

The universal registration bill is necessary to carry out the Republican plan of revision of the initiative and referendum act, provided in a companion bill, which will be up for passage next week. This bill will require all initiative and referendum petitions to be signed at registration offices. This bill carries an emergency clause, which, if adopted, would make its provisions apply to the inauguration of the referendum on any bills passed by the present Legislature.

Emergency Clause Debated.

Democratic lawyers in both houses contend that the affixing of the emergency clause to an act is not in fact necessary for the preservation of the public health, peace or safety. The language of the clause is "In violation of the constitutional provisions for direct legislation, friends of Governor Lister say he will take this view when bills carrying the objectionable clause are submitted to him for approval, and that such bills will be passed over his veto, it is considered likely that the executive will take the ground that the clause is unconstitutional, and that the emergency clause will not take effect until 90 days after adjournment of the Legislature, the time specified in the constitution.

Compromise Is Reached.

House leaders at first insisted that the governor be allowed no representative, but for the purpose of getting the bills to the Executive before the week-end adjournment, finally agreed upon an amendment to allow the Governor to designate a member of the Public Service Commission on the Equalization Board. The amendment was adopted by both houses. Governor Lister immediately transmitted both bills to Attorney-General W. V. Tanner for approval as to form. The Governor will have until next Wednesday to approve or veto the measure. It is considered practically certain that he will veto the Land Board bill because of the emergency clause which it carries, if for no other reason. Whether he will approve the Board of Equalization bill as amended, which does not carry the emergency clause, is questionable.

Lawyers of the Senate took almost the entire day arguing a bill amending the law requiring abstracts and testimony in cases appealed to the Supreme Court, until Senator Jones, of Pierce, threatened to have them barred from voting under the constitutional prohibition against a legislator's being personally interested in a measure on passage. The bill finally was passed against objections of some lawyers who wanted the entire abstract law repealed.

Since Lincoln day is a legal holiday no sessions of either House will be held until next Monday.

PRIMARY BILL IS INTRODUCED

Tri-Party Measure Brought In to Force Committee Action.

OLYMPIA, Wash., Feb. 11.—(Special.)—A preferential Presidential primary bill, introduced by Representatives Hastings of King, Republican; Hill of Walla Walla, Democrat, and Murphy of King, Progressive, was introduced in the House today in a final effort to secure enactment of some legislation of this kind before the 1916 campaign. The bill follows generally the lines of the measure introduced by Murphy in the last Legislature, and put over by the House organization at that time on the ground that the present session would afford an opportunity for its enactment. To date no effort has been made by the election committee of either house to bring out a committee measure providing a Presidential primary, and the tri-partisan bill is intended to force action of some kind.

NEW FIRST-AID BILL OFFERED

Third Washington Act Would Put All Costs on Employers.

OLYMPIA, Wash., Feb. 11.—(Special.)—Another "first-aid" bill, backed by organized labor, was introduced in the Senate today by Senator Campbell, making three measures dealing with this subject now before the Legislature. The new bill provides that employers shall bear the entire cost of medical and hospital attendance of injured workmen, that the workman be permitted to choose his physician and that the Industrial Insurance Commission take charge of a state fund to meet costs.

SENATORS DIVIDED OVER RAIL BODY BILL

Report Favorable to Act for Eastern Oregon Member Is Put on Calendar.

CLOSE VOTE IS INDICATED

Debate Shows Sharp Differences of Opinion Concerning Election to Change Manner of Electing Commissioners.

OREGON LEGISLATURE HONORS MARTYRED PRESIDENT TODAY. STATE CAPITOL, Salem, Or., Feb. 11.—(Special.)—Arrangement was completed tonight for the observance by members of the House and Senate tomorrow afternoon of Abraham Lincoln's birthday. The exercises will be held in the House chamber, beginning at 2 o'clock. Governor Withycombe and other state officials have been invited to attend. Speaker Selling today appointed Representatives Davey, Fenwick and Hare to take charge of the programme. The following five orators will speak five minutes each: Colonel Mercer, hereafter at arms of the Senate; Senator Butler, of The Dalles; Representative Olson, Representative Andrew C. Smith and Judge Harris, of the Supreme Court. Representative Van der Helten will read Lincoln's classic Gettysburg address. Patriotic music will complete the programme.

NEW FOREST ACT MADE

BILL IN SENATE MAY REPLACE ABOLITION MEASURE.

Proposed Law Puts Department Under Governor—State Forester Aimed at Is Report of His Friends.

STATE CAPITOL, Salem, Or., Feb. 11.—(Special.)—That a bill introduced today by the Senate committee on consolidations making important changes in the State forestry law will become a law for one introduced by Senator Bingham earlier in the session, abolishing the department, was the belief tonight. Senator Bingham said he believed the department would give an efficient service at a cost of \$25,000 a year as at present with a much larger annual expense.

Mr. Dry Favors Debate on Bill.

Mr. Day said he voted in the affirmative because he wanted the measure thoroughly debated. Mr. Garland explained that he did not intend to vote for the bill, but wanted to give the minority report a chance. Mr. Perkins said he would vote for the bill. Mr. Dimick said he would vote for the bill, although he might not vote for it on final passage.

Mr. Moser, explaining the minority report, said that many of his constituents of Portland had asked him to vote against the bill, but he thought it a good one and would support it. Mr. Kiddle said that he had the best interests of the state to have the eastern section represented on the commission. Mr. Von der Helten declared the commission had done good work in the manner of election. He thought the commission, as constituted, represented all sections of the state. "We are all agreed," declared I. S. Smith, "that the commission as constituted is composed of good men. There is no reason why any particular section should have representation."

Mr. Strayer said it was only just and right that the eastern part of the state should have a commissioner.

History of Measure Recalled.

Mr. Bingham recalled the history of the Railroad Commission. He had always favored the appointive system, he said. "To pass this bill would be traveling on dangerous ground," he said. Mr. Barrett read a letter from C. W. Humphreys, of the International Brotherhood of Engineers, urging the passage of the bill. Mr. Thompson said the issue was becoming confused.

Mr. Kelleher said it would be impossible to make a change of the worse.

Declaring that the commission was calling into existence for the protection of the people, its members, he believed, acted most wisely and bravely in fighting for the railroads. Mr. Butler said it was idle to say the election of a member from Eastern Oregon would destroy the efficiency of the commission.

ABSENT VOTER WINS IN BILL

Senate Fixes Formalities for Casting Ballot Away From Home.

STATE CAPITOL, Salem, Or., Feb. 11.—(Special.)—The Senate today passed Senator Perkins' bill providing that persons away from home election day may vote wherever they may be for Presidential electors, state officers and constitutional amendments by identifying themselves and producing a certificate by the judges of election in their home precincts that they are qualified voters. Senator Dimick opposed the bill on the ground that the provisions of the existing law were satisfactory.

The Perkins bill provides that an elector who expects to be away from home on election day may apply to the judges in the election district in which he lives for a certificate as to his qualifications. Upon the presentation of the certificate to the judge of election where he may be election day and identification by two qualified resident voters, he may exercise the right of suffrage.

EMBARGO MEMORIAL KILLED

Only Four Support Measure Introduced by Senator Langguth.

STATE CAPITOL, Salem, Or., Feb. 11.—(Special.)—Short shrift was given Senator Langguth's resolution to memorialize Congress to put an embargo upon foodstuffs being shipped to the United States from European countries now engaged in war by the Senate today. The committee on resolutions filed an unfavorable report, Senator Bingham, chairman, announcing that he had been informed the resolution was an effort to stop the war by putting an embargo upon foodstuffs being shipped to the United States. The resolution was supported only by Senators Langguth, Clark, Von der Helten and Leinenweber.

SENATE BILLS PILE HIGHER

Consolidation Acts and Various Others Are Introduced.

STATE CAPITOL, Salem, Or., Feb. 11.—(Special.)—The following bills were introduced in the Senate today: S. B. 250, by committee on consolidations—Consolidating Corporation and Insurance Commissions. S. B. 251, by committee on consolidations—Abolishing office of Dairy and Food Commissioner and conferring duties on Board of Health. S. B. 252, by committee on consolidations—Consolidating office of State Highway Engineer with office of State Engineer. S. B. 253, by committee on consolidations—Abolishing the office of Superintendent of Banks and transferring the duties to the State Treasurer. S. B. 254, by committee on consolidations—Providing that State Board of Education shall succeed State Textbook Commission. S. B. 255, by committee on consolidations—Creating a department of animal industry. S. B. 256, by committee on consolidations—Providing for the appointment of a state engineer. S. B. 257, by committee on consolidations—Creating a department of game, fish and fur.

Postmistress to Wed.

BAKER, Or., Feb. 11.—(Special.)—Mrs. C. Elizabeth Ewing, postmistress at New Bridge, will become the bride of George H. Ashby, an Eagle Valley rancher, February 12. Mrs. Ewing is one of the most widely known residents of the Eagle Valley district.

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Consolidating Desert Land Board with State Land Board.

S. B. 257, by committee on consolidations—Creating a department of game, fish and fur.

S. B. 258, by committee on printing—Repealing sections 4951 and 5021, of Lord's Oregon laws. Abolishes biennial reports of departments of game, fish and fur, and Jefferson counties a separate judicial district.

S. B. 259, by committee on banking—Regulates trust companies.

S. B. 260, by committee on consolidations—Repealing section 18, chapter 278, laws 1911, relating to state forestry, giving Governor power of appointment.

S. B. 261, by judiciary committee—Creating a new circuit judgeship in Multnomah County.

S. B. 262, by LaFollett—To amend section 252, Lord's laws, relating to the inspection of fruit drying and packing plants.

S. B. 263, by joint committee on fish industry—Appropriating \$25,000 for installing fish manufacturing plant at State Penitentiary, and providing that receipts shall constitute revolving fund.

S. B. 264, by Bingham—New fish code, relating to fishing in Columbia River and tributaries, based upon report of joint committee on fish and game.

S. B. 265, by Von der Helten—Appropriating \$10,000 annually for Oregon experiment station at Corvallis.

S. B. 266, by Von der Helten—Appropriating \$10,000 annually for the investigation by the Oregon Agricultural College of crop pests and plant diseases.

S. B. 267, by Stewart—Reducing the salary of Sheriff and increasing the salary of Treasurer of Grant County.

S. B. 268, by Washington County delegation—Creating Fifteenth Judicial District of Washington and Tillamook Counties, and providing for appointment of judge.

S. B. 269, by Barrett—Amending sections 1 and 7 of chapter 142, laws of 1913, relating to road construction, to provide open competition on all road improvement.

S. B. 270, by committee on irrigation (substitute bill for House bills 298, 299, 297 and 298)—Providing new irrigation on February 1 and 7 of chapter 142, laws of 1913, relating to road construction, to provide open competition on all road improvement.

S. B. 271, by Cusick—Laying the board of fish and game commissioners and prescribing their duties.

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