

BALANCE IS LEFT BY STATE LEGISLATURE

Apparent Amount Is \$974.65, Although There Is Seeming Deficit of \$9578.93.

TREASURY HAS \$133,000

With 6 Per Cent Increased Levy Next Assembly Is to Have Much More Than \$6,319,084 Total Recently Appropriated.

SALEM, Or., Feb. 20.—(Special).—Following in the wake of the work done by the famous "6 per cent limitation ways and means committee," the Legislature left the state with an apparent balance of \$974.65 over and above the amount allowed for it to expend under the intent of the limitation amendment.

The grand total of appropriations made was \$6,319,084.75, and the grand total of revenue available under the estimates prepared in the budget was \$6,309,505.52. This would indicate a seeming deficiency on the part of the Legislature of \$9,578.93, not taking into consideration unexpended balances and the greatly enhanced estimated revenues of the next biennium.

But in reality such a deficiency does not exist. One appropriation made by the Legislature was for \$10,553.56, to be used in repaying money which was borrowed from a local bank to take care of the flax industry. This appropriation, however, was made with the string tied to it, that as soon as the flax on hand is sold, the money accruing from the sale of such flax is to be returned to the general fund.

Hence a seeming deficiency of \$9,578.93 is turned into an apparent balance of \$974.65.

Unexpended Balances Untouched. But there is much additional money in the treasury which has been laid aside against a rainy day. The ways and means committee agreed to leave untouched all unexpended balances going into the general fund from appropriations made for the past biennium. As near as can be figured now the total of such unexpended balances is approximately \$133,000.

Through the parsimony of the committee this tidy sum will remain lying idle in the State Treasury until two years from now, unless a special session of the Legislature, or a vote of the people on some measure, should call it into action.

The emergency board cannot appropriate the money, it can only issue "certificates of indebtedness" for the next Legislature to pass on, and it lies within the province of the next Legislature to say whether such certificates of indebtedness shall be paid or not.

Another untouchable source of revenue will be found in two revenue-raising bills, suggested by Governor Withycombe in his message.

Increased Fees Provided. These bills provide for increased fees in the insurance and inheritance tax departments. It is estimated that the fees of the insurance department will be increased by \$104,000 during the next biennium and of the inheritance tax department approximately \$50,000 for the coming two years.

Unless these figures fall the next Legislature should be able to get off with a flying start, as far as money is concerned. The enhanced receipts, added to the unexpended balances and the apparent balance left over by the Legislature, will amount to \$7,374,655.

But in addition the 6 per cent limitation amendment, in itself, will give an estimated increase for 1917-20 in the tax levies of \$671,923.83, for that biennium, over the next two years. This Legislature used up practically all that was allowed by the amendment and 6 per cent more. The levy for 1917 is \$2,538,750. The levy for 1918 will be \$2,794,955, allowing the 6 per cent increase.

Million May Be Available. Using the same basis, the levy for 1919 would be \$2,962,952.30, and the levy for 1920, \$3,140,414.44.

The total to be derived by the levies of 1917 and 1918, not figuring receipts in any way, will be \$5,777,161.44. The levies for the two succeeding years of 1919 and 1920 will total \$6,133,791.13, using the arbitrary 6 per cent increase as a basis, and computing on the principle of compound interest, as is contemplated under the amendment.

RANSOM CHECK DECLINED

Mexican Bandit Demands Gold From American Firm.

EL PASO, Tex., Feb. 20.—Jose Ynez Salazar refused to accept the check drawn on E. K. Warren & Sons for \$5000 and Ed ("Bunk") Spencer, the negro ranch overseer, and his Mexican wife, were still being held as hostages at the Ojitos ranch in Mexico, a representative of the Warren interests here said today. Spencer and his wife were

APPROPRIATIONS ARE MADE BY OREGON LEGISLATURE

Table with columns: Name, Total Amt. Allowed. Lists various departments and their budget allocations.

MISCELLANEOUS SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS. Bills acted upon favorably by the joint committee not included in budget. Lists specific items and amounts.

RECAPITULATION OF LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATIONS. Grand total allowed and appropriated from budget estimate. Grand total allowed for special miscellaneous appropriation bills and appropriations made for same.

and to "accept promptly and loyally every National mandate to establish the rights of the people and the position of the Nation."

John E. Povey Funeral Held. The funeral of the late John E. Povey was held at the chapel of J. P. Finley & Son yesterday afternoon, Rev. W. E. Brinkman officiating.

State Sues for Compensation Tax. OREGON CITY, Feb. 20.—(Special).—William Chilcote, a sawmill operator of Clackamas County, was sued by the State Industrial Accident Commission in the Circuit Court here today on the grounds that he had declared his intention of operating under the provisions of the workmen's compensation law, and had later failed to pay his share of the tax. The amount asked for is \$161.62. Chilcote's mill is at Molalla.

Michigan Republicans Loyal. DETROIT, Feb. 20.—Michigan Republicans in state convention here today pledged themselves to stand behind President Wilson and Congress.

OREGON'S FAMOUS 6 PER CENT LIMITATION JOINT WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE.



From Left to Right—Front Row, Senator Barrett, Representative Kuhl (Chairman of the House Committee), Senator Wood (Chairman of the Senate Committee), Senator Clark, Second Vice, Representative Howe, Representative Stephens, Senator La Follette, Senator Farrell and Senator Strayer. Back Row, Senator Gill, Representative W. A. Jones and Representative Ashley.

EMMITT FORGOTTEN AT SESSION'S END

Lone Woman Legislator Kisses Opponent and All Colleagues Cheer.

MERRY MOOD PREVAILS

Attitude of Solons Toward Legislation Changes During Session, as Bills Deemed Vital at First Later Are Quickly Killed.

By RONALD G. CALLVERT. SALEM, Or., Feb. 20.—(Special).—It was the last day of the legislative session. It was also the sentimental hour of 3 A. M. The House was in a rush, waiting for something to come over from the Senate. Members who had fought wordy battles with each other and erected what they had at the moment conceived to be lasting enmities were beginning to mellow with the thought of parting.

The lone woman member of the House—a Democrat—started out to make the limited rounds of other Democratic members to bid them good-by. Between her selfish and another of the faithful there had been a more or less acrid disagreement over some issue, the purport of which it is not now consequential to relate.

She approached him hesitatingly. "Aw, kids and make up," said someone. "They did. Actually, Smack on the lips. Fifty-eight other members and half as many more cried and spectators of this morning becomes a precedent, look out for a rush of such candidates for the Legislature every year. It is enough to make the National Short Bill organization shudder in apprehension.

But that which has been said about renewal of friendly relations among legislators as regards legislation under the outsiders. The programmers rebuffed, the bosses unhorsed, the newspapers with selfish or crazy policies ignored, rush forth with unforfeited maledictions. There will be talk again—it is heard already—of abolishing the Legislature.

Right Perspective Gained Late. There are other idiosyncracies of the Legislature aside from the 11th-hour tendency to kiss and make up. One is that it does not usually get the proper perspective as regards legislation until toward the close of the session. In the beginning freak bills and bills of no consequence assume in the legislative process large proportions. Constructive measures, the bills of consequence, do not appear to have superior claim upon the attention of the lawmakers. There is always a fevered protest against submission of an important bill in the last week, but as a matter of fact the Legislature does not usually recognize an important bill as important until that body is about 30 days old.

The legislative assembly which has just adjourned will be best known for its recognition of Oregon's most important need—a program of highways. It is correlated and coherent. Time will, of course, be required to prove its exact worth, but so far as intelligent and earnest effort can direct, the road code that will exist when all the road laws passed become effective will be that well-balanced road code for which all good roads advocates have longed.

Road Bills Important. The road programme consisted of six bills of prime importance. There is one known as a procedure code which prescribes methods for the opening, laying out and vacating of highways. Heretofore three different processes have been available and they have promoted more uncertainty and confusion than good highways. The three systems have by the Procedure Code been revised into one workable system.

There is also a county code which has to do with expenditures of county funds and administration of county road work. It does away with the time-honored supervisor system, and provides for appointment of a county road master instead. In other words it centralizes authority in county road work and eliminates the haphazard and expensive system so long in force in Oregon. It also specifically repeals by section numbers many conflicting road sections in the codes and session laws.

Highway Code Notable. There is, further, an ambitious measure known as the state highway code, which is intended to provide procedure for construction of hard-surfaced highways and for co-operation of highway and state in construction of

what are known as state highways. It dispenses with the existing ex-officio State Highway Commission composed of elected state officers, and provides for appointment by the Governor of a non-salaried commission of three, one member to be from each Congressional district. It severs the highway engineering department from the State Engineer's Office, and gives appointment of a highway engineer to the new Highway Commission. This bill carries an emergency clause.

A measure known as an act to regulate motor vehicles is, in its main effect, a road law. It doubles the present motor vehicle license taxes and devotes the whole proceeds to road work under supervision of the State Highway Commission. The old law required that motor vehicle licenses be apportioned to the counties in which they were collected. Under the new law the license taxes and other incidentals of state administration. The money was thus scattered and inefficiently expended in many instances. Under the new law the automobiles will pay, on the basis of the existing number of such vehicles in Oregon, about \$200,000 a year into the state road fund.

Still another road bill is the Bean-Barrett bonding act. This is a contingency or emergency measure. It provides issuance, in event revenues from established sources are not sufficient to meet the needs of the State Highway Commission, bonds in an amount equivalent to the deficiency. This bill also carries an emergency clause, and insures expenditures in Oregon of the State Government allotment for post roads and forest roads and an equal sum of state money as is required by the Federal Government. This assurance prevails regardless of the fate of the \$6,000,000 road bond issue to be submitted at a special election June 4.

Road System Laid Out. The \$6,000,000 bonding act lays out a definite system of state highways and post roads. State highways are to be paved, hard-surfaced under the provisions of this act. The bond issue proposed is a capitalization of the proceeds for the next 25 years of the quarter-mile road law that has existed for several years, and the increased motor vehicle taxes.

These revenues on the basis of the present tax valuation and the existing number of automobiles in Oregon, will amortize not only the \$6,000,000, but the full limit of bonds authorized under the Bean-Barrett act. In other words issuance of the \$6,000,000 in bonds and issuance of the full amount of bonds authorized by the Bean-Barrett act do not mean any increase in taxation. The \$6,000,000 proposal is to be submitted to vote of the people at a special election June 4, at which time several other measures will also go to the people.

Indirect bearing on the road programme is a reduction of the gravity test for gasoline heretofore established by law. Government investigation has shown the test to be of no value, but it has made gasoline 1 cent a gallon dearer in Oregon. Elimination of the test will give Oregon consumers gasoline at the same price as consumers in other states pay. On an average the saving will just about offset the increase in automobile license taxes in the course of a year.

Good Highways Foreseen. The bills here outlined constitute only one branch of legislation enacted by the 21st Legislature. Other measures were important, but these stand out as truly constructive laws. They promise for Oregon a real system of highways that will aid immeasurably the growth and prosperity of the state. If they do as well as they give evidence they are likely to be change of whatever little sentiment now exists for abolishment of the Legislature. The Legislature and the opponents of the present government may also kiss and make up.

LAW PROVIDES PUZZLE

DATE OF EFFECTIVENESS OF FIRE MARSHAL ACT IN DOUBT.

Question Is to Be Put up to Attorney-General—Jay Stevens Mentioned as Chief Deputy Possibility.

SALEM, Or., Feb. 20.—(Special).—Insurance Commissioner Wells is left in a quandary over a puzzle of his hands in the passage of the act creating the office of State Fire Marshal. He is uncertain whether the act is effective at once, or at the end of the statutory period of 90 days.

One section of the act declares it to be "necessary to the public health, peace and safety" that the act do not go into effect until the end of the 90-day period. The question will be put up to the Attorney-General. As provided in the act, the chief deputy will be named by the Governor within 60 days after it becomes effective. The question is one of importance. Under the new law, which was signed by Governor Withycombe today, the insurance commissioner becomes State Fire Marshal by virtue of his office. He is allowed a chief deputy at \$2400 a year and two assistants at \$1800 a year each.

The insurance commissioner, or State Fire Marshal, is to name the deputy and assistants. It is known that if Jay Stevens, fire marshal of Portland, declines the job, he will have it. At least it probably will be tendered to him. If Mr. Stevens is not named, Fred W. Roberts, of Portland; Thomas Graham of Corvallis; Roy Corey, of Baker; Captain William Gross, of Portland; or Chief Morgan, of the Hood River fire department, may be likely candidates.

Under the act the municipal chiefs of police, constables and other peace officers are made fire marshals without compensation.

H. HAM HELD FOR LARCENY

Youth Accused of Having Entered Two Eugene Houses.

EUGENE, Or., Feb. 20.—(Special).—Harley Ham, 21, who was arrested in Oakland, Cal., and brought back to Eugene, was indicted today on two counts

for larceny. He is alleged to have entered residences here of Dr. F. E. Selover and Howard Brownell, on January 19. Ham originally was arrested on a warrant charging him with the abduction of Gussie Fox, a minor, also of Eugene. The grand jury also indicted Arthur Shirley, 23, for perjury. He admitted that he had sworn falsely that he was 21 years old and had received a shipment of liquor under an assumed name. He was paroled by the court.

Democrat Loses Contest. WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—A House elections committee today unanimously reported against Jeremiah Donovan (Democrat) in his contest for the seat of Representative Ebenezer J. Hill, Republican representing the Fourth Connecticut District in the present Congress.

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