

EFFORTS TO REPEAL UTILITIES ACT FAIL

Measure to Limit State Body's Power Postponed.

EXTENDED DEBATE IS HELD

Senator Eddy, Leader of Attack on Bill, Declares Authority to Reduce Rates Put Into Use.

STATE CAPITOL, Salem, Or., Feb. 6.—(Special.)—Efforts to nullify the vital provisions of the public utilities act, and to take away from the Public Service Commission the right to alter or change rates which were fixed by municipalities and public service corporations prior to November 7, 1912, were overwhelmingly defeated on the floor of the Senate today when Senator Eddy's Senate bill No. 4, which proposed to limit the powers of the state commission, was indefinitely postponed.

Coming up as a special order of business immediately after the Senate convened this afternoon, the measure was the subject of an extensive and comprehensive debate which continued until 5 o'clock. At every moment present, a rollcall vote showed the Senate favoring the indefinite postponement of the bill by a vote of 21 to 3.

Those voting against the bill were: Senators Baldwin, Banks, Bell, Eberhard, Eddy, Farrell, Gill, Handley, Howell, Jones, Lachmund, Moser, Nyberg, Nordblad, Pattee, Patterson, Porter, Ritner, Smith, of Josephine; Thomas, Vinton.

Those favoring the measure were: Dimick, Huston, Hurley, Lafollette, Pierce, Shanks, Smith, of Coos and Curry; Strayer and Wood.

Measure In Debated.

Senator Eddy, of Douglas County, led the attack against the bill and made an extended argument against its passage, both from a legal standpoint and as a matter of public policy. He declared that the passage of the measure would put the people of Oregon within the grasp of the public service corporations, inasmuch as there would be no body in Oregon which would have the authority to lower or alter the rates at any time in the future.

In pleading for support of the bill Senator Eddy contended that the Public Service Commission has not the right to lower rates. He contended that the measure would give the state authority to raise them at will. He asserted that the people of Oregon never would have put this commission into being had they had the right to have power to lower rates as well as to raise them. He quoted numerous decisions from the United States Supreme court to bear out this contention.

In reply, Senator Eddy declared that the Public Service Commission has the right to lower rates, but has exercised this right on numerous occasions.

Rate-Reducing Power Shown.

"Can you point to one instance where this commission has ever reduced rates?" interrupted Senator Eddy. "Yes, I appeared before the commission myself to ask them to cite one instance where the highest cost of the country ever had set aside a rate reduction when such reduction had been made by a state Public Service Commission."

Senator Eddy declared that every case in which the United States Supreme Court has decided that a contract between a municipality and a public utility corporation cannot be broken to bring about reduced rates was a special and peculiar case. He challenged Senator Eddy to cite one single instance where the highest cost of the country ever had set aside a rate reduction when such reduction had been made by a state Public Service Commission.

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SENATE BILLS NUMBER 203

Even Score of New Measures Introduced Yesterday.

STATE CAPITOL, Salem, Or., Feb. 6.—(Special.)—New bills introduced today in the Senate follow:

S. B. 814, by Farrell—Prohibiting granting of road tax to Treasurer of Hillsboro.

S. B. 183, by Hurley and Dimick—Repealing law providing for grand jury impanelment in certain state penal institutions.

S. B. 182, by Eberhard—Increasing salary of District Attorney of Klamath County.

S. B. 187, by Lachmund—Increasing salaries of Marion County officials.

S. B. 188, by Moser—Making it a misdemeanor to deny owners of apartment-houses and restaurants.

S. B. 189, by Howell—Relating to the re-

GERMANS MURDER AUTHOR OF "LION AND THE MOUSE."

One of the first Americans murdered by the Germans was Charles Klein, author of "The Lion and the Mouse." Mr. Klein was lost on the Lusitania when that trans-Atlantic liner was sunk by a submarine. This crime of the Hun was the turning point in America and led to the entrance of the United States into the world war. Mr. Klein, who lived in Oregon, was a dramatist of this country, was on his way to England to gather material for his drama when he met his fate. "The Lion and the Mouse," which was revolutionary in the theater because it under-

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MERCHANT MARINE FOR PACIFIC ASKED

Oregon Memorial Calls Upon Congress to Act.

OTHER STATES WILL AID

Determined Drive Planned to Secure Vessels to Handle Products of West.

STATE CAPITOL, Salem, Or., Feb. 6.—(Special.)—Backed by the Pacific Coast states, a determined drive will be launched on Congress to create, foster and maintain an adequate merchant marine for the handling of products of the Pacific Coast. The first step was taken at a conference in the Government office today and the plan assumed material form when Senator Eddy, chairman of the Senate committee on reconstruction, offered a joint memorial.

Assurances have been received from California and from Washington that the Legislatures of those states will unite with Oregon in demanding action from Congress. Messages exchanged between the legislatures of California and Washington, and the memorial which is being forwarded to the Federal Government, are convinced of the necessity for the establishment of a merchant marine in the United States to compete with England and Japan for foreign markets.

Vast Resources Available. At the conference in the executive offices of the Senate, it was stated that 400 vessels can be continuously and profitably employed carrying Oregon lumber to the world markets, and the resources of Oregon available for foreign shipment, applies with equal force to the resources of California and Washington.

In his message to the Legislature on his inauguration Governor Withycombe touched on the need of a merchant marine. Since then weeks have elapsed and no action has been taken until noon today. Attending the meeting were Governor Withycombe, Senator Quayle, of the State Chamber of Commerce; President Vinton, of the Senate; Speaker Jones, of the House; Senator Sheldon, chairman of the House reconstruction committee, and the situation which is to start the ball-rolling for an American merchant marine was drafted.

It was agreed to expedite the memorial by having Senator Eddy introduce it in the Senate and Mr. Sheldon handle it in the House. Then, upon its adoption, Governor Withycombe will address the Legislature on the subject. Washington, and Governor Stevens, of California. This tri-state alliance, it is believed, will be supplemented and reinforced by similar action in other states throughout the Nation until such pressure is brought that Congress cannot resist the demands of the people.

Memorial Is Drawn. The meat of the memorial reads: "Whereas, Conditions of unemployment exist and threaten to become more aggravated during the period of reconstruction upon which our Nation entered following the great war, and

"Whereas, in order to encourage the production of commodities of commerce and industry and to create a market absolutely essential for the Pacific Coast states, and

"Whereas, no adequate merchant marine now exists on said Coast;

"Therefore, be it resolved by the Senate of Oregon, the House of Representatives of the United States and is hereby memorialized to take immediate action by the passage of such legislation as will create, foster and maintain an adequate merchant marine for the handling of products of the Pacific Coast, and that such legislation include such regulations as will give of tolls and other charges as will give ships of American registry at least an equal standing with ships of foreign registry.

Governor is Optimistic. Governor Withycombe is optimistic and expressed himself as convinced that Congress will not ignore the memorial, particularly as it will voice the sentiment and demand of all the states on the Western Coast.

"If this was a separate country, these states on the Pacific Coast would have their own merchant marine," declared Mr. Quayle.

"There is some talk of subsidizing ships," said the Governor, "but it would probably mean secession for a state to operate ships to engage in foreign commerce on its own account. But there is no reason why the Federal Government should not act. We have a network of railroads, but they end at our borders. To develop our resources and members of the reconstruction committee of the Legislature on the subject of the beginning of public construction of the reconstruction of the unemployed of Oregon.

Henry W. Teague, assistant director of efficiency in the reconstruction bureau of the Department of Labor, who is touring the country in an effort to hasten the beginning of all public works, said that the reconstruction of the country is a task of the first magnitude, which resulted in the hasty trip to Salem.

ELECTION BOARD BILL KILLED. Extended Debate Held on Measure by Representative Crawford.

STATE CAPITOL, Salem, Or., Feb. 6.—(Special.)—The House this afternoon held an extended debate on a bill of Representative Crawford providing for one election board to be counting ballots at every election. The bill was killed by a vote of 27 to 26, it failing to receive the necessary majority.

Senator Howell's Bill Meets Favor With Welfare Workers. STATE CAPITOL, Salem, Or., Feb. 6.—(Special.)—Portland welfare workers and a number of physicians are expected at the Capitol shortly to appear on behalf of Senator Howell's bill providing that student nurses in hospitals shall not be compelled to work more than eight hours a day. The bill is now before a Senate committee which, it is expected, will be asked to hold a hearing.

STUDENT NURSES PROTECTED. Senator Howell's Bill Meets Favor With Welfare Workers. STATE CAPITOL, Salem, Or., Feb. 6.—(Special.)—Portland welfare workers and a number of physicians are expected at the Capitol shortly to appear on behalf of Senator Howell's bill providing that student nurses in hospitals shall not be compelled to work more than eight hours a day. The bill is now before a Senate committee which, it is expected, will be asked to hold a hearing.

Obituary. LA GRANDE, Or., Feb. 6.—(Special.)—Harry Beck, aged 30, died yesterday on his ranch near here of pneumonia. Beck was one of the best amateur trapshooters and sportsmen of Eastern Oregon. He has extensive farming connections.

RIDGEFIELD, Wash., Feb. 6.—(Special.)—A message was received here yesterday saying that Marie Keith Beckler had passed away at her home in Portland. She was the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James E. Keith, who recently moved from here to Portland. Mr. Keith was cashier of the Ridgefield State Bank for a number of years.

KELSO, Wash., Feb. 6.—(Special.)—

Mrs. Julia A. Richards, mother of Mrs. J. W. Stephens, who had made her home with the Stephens family for a number of years, passed away at the home of her son at Hartford, Wash., yesterday. She would have been 95 years old in April. She is survived by four sons and four daughters.

Wasco County Pioneer Dies. THE DALLES, Or., Feb. 6.—(Special.)—Charles E. Sandos, a pioneer resident of this county, died yesterday at his home at Hartford, Wash., yesterday. He held in this city tomorrow morning. Mr. Sandos was a native of Switzerland. He was 68 years old. He came to this county in 1870 and lived here for 40 years. He is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Edna Sandos, a son, Julius Sandos, both of this city.

LIME BOARD UNDER FIRE. REPRESENTATIVE KUBLI EXPOSES ALLEGED JOKER. Warden Stevens Says Plant Costs Maintenance Fund of Penitentiary \$2000 a Month.

STATE CAPITOL, Salem, Or., Feb. 6.—(Special.)—Representative Kubli today exposed an alleged "joker" in a bill passed at the instance of the Lime Board, which would allow the board to sell outside of the state or to dealers lime for \$1.75 a ton which cost the state \$1.20 to produce, according to Mr. Kubli.

Members who supported the bill on its passage stated that it repeated only the sections of the old bill which provided that lime could be sold in nothing less than carload lots. Laboring under this impression the House passed the bill, and Representative Kubli called attention to how it threw the bars down to general sale to dealers at \$1.75 a ton, who could turn around and retail it at market price, or how it could be sold outside the state, if the board wished, at \$1.75 a ton, after it had been produced at a high cost at the expense of the state.

Discovery of this feature in the bill today caused Representative Kubli to take sections of the old bill which provided that lime could be sold in nothing less than carload lots. Laboring under this impression the House passed the bill, and Representative Kubli called attention to how it threw the bars down to general sale to dealers at \$1.75 a ton, who could turn around and retail it at market price, or how it could be sold outside the state, if the board wished, at \$1.75 a ton, after it had been produced at a high cost at the expense of the state.

"If farmers of Oregon want the lime I want them to get it," said Mr. Kubli, but I object to having the board try to put over a measure like this under false pretenses."

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