

PORT BILL DEBATE MAY BE AVOIDED

Controversy Now Seems
Near Settlement.

SPECIAL MEETING TODAY

Senate to Take Up Legislation.
North Portland Harbor May
Get \$25,000 for Work.

STATE HOUSE, Salem, Or., Jan. 30.—(Special.)—With the return here tonight of legislators who passed Saturday and Sunday in Portland, there were rumors that the members of the Multnomah county delegation in the legislature had progressed toward an agreement of the several matters affecting the proposed Port of Portland legislation, and that it would not be surprising if the bill would be reported back to the senate before the session should be reported back satisfactorily to all concerned in the controversy. In this event it was said that the lengthy debate would be avoided and legislation would be enacted insuring speedy development of the project under consideration.

Disposal of the Port of Portland legislation has been made a special order of business for 11 o'clock tomorrow morning in the senate.

Seven bills introduced. Early in the session seven bills dealing with the Port of Portland were introduced in the senate by Senators Moser, Farrell, Banks and Staples.

One of these bills provides for the consolidation of the property of the Port of Portland and the dock commission of the city of Portland. Another bill authorizes the port district to legislate with respect to its internal affairs by the adoption of ordinances and provides for the exercise of the referendum.

The third bill provides for the assessment of damages and benefits while the fourth bill authorizes appraisal and condemnation of lands purchased by the port.

Bond issue authorized. The fifth bill provides for the appointment of the port commissioners, while the last of the measures authorizes the port to issue bonds not to exceed \$1,000,000 for the purchase and operation of dredging equipment.

Still another bill, introduced by Senator Joseph is intended to legalize all acts of the port, provides for the manner of appointing port commissioners, and outlines the manner in which lands shall be purchased in developing the port.

It was said here tonight that practically all of the members of the Multnomah county delegation had agreed that \$250,000 should be included in the emergency bill for the improvement of the North Portland harbor.

Contention To Be Settled. There now remains to be settled the contention of certain members of the Multnomah county delegation that the purchase of Swan Island should have the approval of the voters of the port district and that the property should not be taken over arbitrarily by the port commissioners. The manner of settling the port program also was said to be one of the factors that must be ironed out in case the bills are to be returned, amended and passed without a fight on the floor of the senate.

Should a settlement of the difficulties now confronting the Multnomah county delegation be impossible, there was some assurance tonight that a majority of the eastern Oregon legislators would support the port program, and several of those opposed to the port development as proposed in the Moser bills.

Interest Is Heightened. The Port of Portland bills have injected considerable interest into the legislative session, and while presented as state bills, the bills have caused the legislators from the outside counties feel that they are local in character and that any report on the proposed laws should be made on the floor of the senate, and that practically every member of the Multnomah county delegation in view of statements made on the floor of the senate, have been unanimous in their support of the bills.

Tomorrow's session of the legislature will be featured by a public hearing with relation to any and all bills affecting the teachers' tenure of office law now in effect in Portland. It was said that a large delegation would be here from Portland and that both factions to the controversy would receive an opportunity to be heard.

Tenure Letter Received. A letter received by the Portland school board today indicated that the directors there had endorsed senate bill No. 88, introduced by Senator Shapley. This bill, while safeguarding the interests of the teachers, makes their dismissal from service more simple than under the present teachers' tenure of office law.

Besides the bill relating to the Port of Portland there are seven senate measures, two house bills and one senate joint resolution concerning the third reading in the upper house of the legislature tomorrow.

In the house there probably will be introduced a large number of bills tomorrow in the last day for receiving measures there without the special consent of the body. Last Friday 61 bills were received in the house and there were indications tonight that half that number would find their way to the desk tomorrow.

OVER-INSPECTION WASHINGTON WOE

Administrative Code Marred
by Split Infinitive.

EFFECTIVENESS IS SAFE

Northern State Is Considered Probably No Worse Off With Paternalism Than Others.

(Continued From First Page.)

and issuance of licenses to do certain things has developed an elaborate system of inspection and regulation. These other functions, while distantly related, are not put under the department of licenses, but as might be expected, are distributed among the other nine departments.

In the regulation of public utilities, there are now inspectors of safety appliances and examiners of rates and traffic conditions. There is a grain inspection department now with a chief inspector and four deputies enumerated in the budget.

Insurance companies are examined or inspected by an organization whose cost was nearly \$100,000 in the last biennium. Elaborate inspection and examination are required by the functions of the industrial welfare commission and there is a state safety board which inspects and regulates factory safety.

Taxation Also Inspected. Under the labor commission are steamboat inspectors and factory inspectors. Banks are examined and mines are inspected. The state's hotels are looked over by an inspector and three deputies. The public health requires other inspection and investigation.

Child welfare is under the inspection of a director and four nurses. Inspection of weights and measures requires a superintendent, an inspector and field deputies. Authority inspection extends to state municipal accounts and public institutions, savings and loan companies, horticulture, seeds, industrial welfare, fisheries and other phases of industry and occupation.

The purpose herein is to give an idea of the complicated character of state enterprises and the need admitted by the drafting of the code for their correlation and, where possible, their consolidation.

It is not the purpose to intimate that Washington has gone to extreme lengths in taking on governmental functions. An analysis of conditions in any one of numerous western states would disclose a similarity. The cause, I think, of present duplication of effort by many departments is primarily the attempt to create a governmental machine that better fits the modern idea of what government should be by building upon material that was designed to treat only with the fundamental functions of government.

Whether western states have as a rule overstepped the bounds of true governmental functions is another question. But the functions have been undertaken and there is no concerted demand that any of them be abolished. Hence the administrative code of Washington seeks to continue them, but in a way that will dispense with the duplication and overlapping activities.

Old-Timer Is Discussed. There are persons who reason out to their own satisfaction the causes for the growth of what may be termed paternalism in state government. There is among the observers of the legislature one who, in the absence of other times, has a positive identification, may be called Old-Timer.

Old-Timer has been attending legislative sessions as a member, at other times as an observer or one interested in measures, for 25 years to my own knowledge. He is always to be found in one of the chambers as a member, or in the third house, as he is never absent from republican political conventions.

Old-Timer is a pessimistic about paternalism. He believes that a great many things have been undertaken by the state which the people in truth do not care to do, and that he is inclined to place most of the blame for this condition on the direct primary. His argument is that it has destroyed the responsibility that with conditions as they now exist no member of the legislature is responsible to anybody but himself.

It works out, in Old-Timer's view, that the individual is seldom if ever held to account for what he does, whereas party is held to account when it is in fact responsible. He has at his tongue's end a wealth of anecdotes which to him prove that the people, confronted by a six-foot nominal ballot, do not inquire into a candidate's record or character, either out of despair of the task or through indifference.

All Offices Concerned. His illustrations concern all offices. He tells with a sardonic grin of election of a county treasurer who could neither read nor write, of the return to office of a constable who had confessed to grafting and had been forced to resign, of submission as a purported straw-bailor enterprise to a Seattle office of an equal number of ballots issued in a county in the southern part of the state and of

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3-Mile Ocean Road Planned. KELSO, Wash., Jan. 30.—(Special.)—Three miles of the Ocean Beach highway between the Pliny Shephardson place and Coal creek will be graded and gravelled this year, according to the plans of the board of county commissioners, who have passed a resolution authorizing the state highway board to spend the county's permanent highway money on that portion of road. Bids will be called for at an early date.

More Speed To Be Demanded. Senator Thomas tonight said that he would make demand tomorrow for more speed on the part of the senate committees. He said there were approximately 150 bills in the hands of the committees at the present time, and that without prompt action many measures would be reported out at the eleventh hour and thereby create chaos and confusion.

It was said here that practically all members of the legislature would go to Corvallis next Saturday to inspect the Oregon Agricultural college. In this event, adjournment for the week-end will be taken Friday night.

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