

COMMITTEE ON FAIR NOW MARKING TIME

Executive Board to Meet on Thursday Afternoon.

LEGISLATION IN MIDDLE

Current Annual Edition Has Article Printed Before Solons Failed to Clear Up Matter.

STATUS OF 1925 EXPOSITION.
The accompanying article explains in detail the present status of the 1925 exposition, which is featured in a special section of The Oregonian today. Although, unexpected complications in financing the fair have arisen, its sponsors feel confident that satisfactory and adequate means will be found. Portland has voted overwhelmingly for the exposition and its proponents are certain that favorable sentiment prevails in the state at large. There is every reason to believe that the exposition will be held as announced, and will be a credit to Portland and to the state.

Owing to the middle in which the 1925 exposition measures were left when the special session of the legislature adjourned Christmas eve, fair proponents are marking time until next Thursday afternoon, when the executive board of the state-wide fair committee will meet. There is in the current annual edition of The Oregonian an important section devoted to the 1925 exposition. The articles and illustrations dealing with this subject were prepared several weeks ago following the special election in Portland, when the citizens of this city went on record by a four-to-one vote in favor of the undertaking.

Course to Be Decided.
What course the executive committee of the fair will adopt cannot be forecast, since at the present time no programme is being worked out to submit to the board. The upstate members may have some solution to the tangle. Legal proceedings may be decided on to test the validity of the measures before the legislature, or the board may formulate an entirely new policy with respect to the contemplated exposition. There is nowhere a disposition to abandon the project. When the state-wide committee worked out the plan of financing the enterprise, it was agreed that \$1,000,000 should be raised by private subscription; \$2,000,000 should be raised by a property tax in Portland, and \$3,000,000 be raised by a state tax. Portland promptly amended its charter and committed itself to raise \$2,000,000 and named five prominent citizens to handle this money. The people of Portland voted, as stated, four-to-one in favor of the tax.

Special Session Held.
Upon this showing, a special session of the legislature was called and house joint resolution No. 3 was introduced. This designated that a property tax be levied to raise \$2,000,000. Of this sum, to be spread over three years, Multnomah county would contribute one-third so that out of the total of \$6,000,000 required for the exposition, Portland would pay \$4,000,000. Thirty-six members of the house of representatives entered into a mutual agreement not to support a direct property tax, although virtually all favored the exposition. A number of the representatives in the agreement signed up with reservations. When these 26 house members were combined, the fair proponents cast about for some other method of financing the fair. A state income tax was suggested, also a sales tax, an amusement tax and a poll tax. Finally it was decided to raise the \$2,000,000 by increasing the present tax on gasoline. On this basis the house passed the resolution and the Fletcher gasoline bill.

Amendment Is Proposed.
The resolution was a constitutional amendment to be referred to the people and voted on May 19. The resolution created the Oregon 1925 exposition commission and made constitutional the gasoline tax, and for some time there has been a question whether the gasoline tax is constitutional. The Fletcher bill provided how the gasoline tax was to be handled.

Once in the state senate, the resolution and the revenue bill were sent to the senate committee on roads and highways, which stood five against the resolution and four in favor. Many amendments were offered and accepted in committee, among others that the legislature instead of the governor should name the exposition commissioners. The resolution and revenue bill eventually went before the senate from the committee and for two days was a bone of contention.

Death Cuts Personnel.
There are 30 members in the state senate, but through the death of W. T. Hume a few weeks before the special session and 29 answers roll call. Fifteen senators voted for the fair legislation and 14 against it. The presiding officer ruled that these measures, not having received the constitutional majority, had failed to pass. The president of the senate, on an opinion from the attorney general, contended that 14 members are the necessary majority. An appeal was taken from the decision of the chair and the chair was not sustained.

Such was the status of affairs when the legislature adjourned. The president of the senate, refusing to abide by the successful appeal from his ruling, declined to sign the resolution and bill. The speaker of the house refused to sign them until the president of the senate did so. Thus, the resolution and bill are still without signatures.

Bill Off Ballot.
The secretary of state will not place the constitutional amendment on the ballot unless compelled to do so by the courts, through mandamus proceedings. The governor has nothing to do with the constitutional amendment, but he has declined to sign it, as the bill is not in proper shape.

Such is the genesis of the fair legislation. The executive board of the fair committee will study the situation and consider the various angles which it presents. Mandamus proceedings may be brought against the secretary of state in order to test the validity of the resolution and bill, the question of validity being whether 15 affirmative votes are a constitutional majority in the senate when there are but 29 living members.

The executive board will either agree on legal steps or will decide on initiating a measure for the November election or evolve some new plan of finance.

EVANGELIST IS MISSING

Police Detectives Asked to Search for R. E. Dayton.

Police detectives yesterday were asked to conduct a search for R. E. Dayton, a traveling evangelist, who has been missing from his room at the Laurel hotel for the last three days.

The inquiry was started by Rev. W. B. Stewart, pastor of the Glencoe Baptist church. Mr. Dayton was to have spoken at the church yesterday, but failed to appear. Inquiry at the hotel developed that he had been missing for three days, although most of his clothes and personal effects were still in his room.

The missing man was described as being about 45 years old. He is of fair complexion, has brown hair, weighs 175 pounds and is six feet tall.

Bank Interest Acquired.

CENTRALIA, Wash., Jan. 1.—(Special.)—J. B. Wood has purchased a considerable interest in the Centralia State bank, it was announced yesterday, and tomorrow will assume the duties of vice-president of the institution. The new bank official has had considerable experience in the banking business in the middle west.

PLEA TO SLAIN WIFE FROM PURDIN FOUND

Slayer Believed to Have Sought Reconciliation.

KNOWLEDGE OF SUIT HELD

Brother Says ex-Soldier Did Not Know Divorce Was Granted and Came Here to Stop It.

Charles W. Purdin, who killed his divorced wife, Agnes Purdin, and Howard Sigby in the home of Mrs. Purdin at 448 East Forty-seventh street, shortly after midnight Saturday, had returned to Portland from a soldier's hospital at Sawtelle, Cal., in an effort to effect a reconciliation with his wife, is the belief of Police Detectives Leonard and Gordon, who continued their investigations into the double slaying yesterday.

Among the effects at the Purdin home there was found a telegram which Purdin sent to his divorced wife on Christmas eve, and which read as follows: "Worried about you. Will you take me back?"

Condition Still Critical.
This plea, so far as is known, was not answered by Mrs. Purdin, and Purdin, it is believed, left the hospital and returned to Portland in order to plead in person.

According to E. M. Purdin, a brother of the slayer, Charles Purdin did not know his wife had obtained a divorce, although he knew that suit had been started, and when he went to her home late Friday night and found her there with young Sigby, he at that time thought she was still his wife.

Purdin is still in a critical condition at St. Vincent's hospital, as a result of his efforts to take his own life by the use of gas, but attending physicians expressed the belief he would recover.

Statement Is Refused.
Deputy District Attorney Mowry, police detectives and a court stenographer went to the slayer's bedside yesterday afternoon and endeavored to get a statement from him, but he steadfastly refused to tell anything about the double killing or of his actions immediately prior to and after it.

C. H. Wattenburger, a taxi driver, told detectives yesterday he had received a telephone call at 1:20 A. M. Saturday, asking him to pick up a fare at East Fiftieth and Division streets. The man then changed his mind almost instantly and asked him to drive to East Fiftieth street and Hawthorne avenue.

Wattenburger said his passenger answered in detail the description of Purdin. Coroner Smith announced an inquest will be held early this week, although the exact time has not yet been fixed.

First Aid to Be Taught.

SILVERTON, Or., Jan. 1.—(Special.)—The four L organization of Silverton is formulating plans for a community class in first-aid training. The work is to be under the supervision of the four L, any one can attend class, and the instruction will be free of charge. The first meeting is to be held in the Silverton Community clubrooms on the evening of January 4. Mrs. T. P. Ristein is chairman.

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