

CENTRALIZED POWER GOVERNOR'S PLAN

Economy of Proposal Will Be Impressed on Legislature at Coming Session.

PRESENT SYSTEM IS HIT

Boards and Commissions Duplicate Services, Executive Says—Making More Offices Appointive Urged; Recall Curbs Abuse.

SALEM, Or., Dec. 23.—(Special.)—More centralized government by making more offices subject to the appointment of the executive bringing about increased efficiency and consequent decreased financial burdens, coupled with elimination of duplication in all forms of state administration, will be important features which Governor Withycombe will impress upon the legislators of the incoming Twenty-ninth Legislative Assembly, according to ideas which he advanced today.

The executive is making a thorough study of the various administrative departments, including the work of boards and commissions, while he is not stating specifically what will be contained in his message as to recommendations along the line of consolidation or elimination, it is certain that he will offer suggestions to do away with those divisions of work which overlap one another and as a result make added burdens to the taxpayers.

By centralization of power, he stated, the responsibility will be centralized as well, and if an error is made the people will be able to place their finger upon the one at fault and see that the error is speedily corrected.

"The people should place greater administrative responsibility upon the chief executive," he stated, "by giving him the power of appointment of practically all state officers, with the possible exception of Secretary of State, State Treasurer and the Judges of the State Supreme Court, and I am not convinced that it would be better to have these offices appointive. By this plan the executive would be responsible directly to the people for the economical and efficient administration of the state government."

"This system also should be carried down to county administration, by giving County Judges or County Commissioners the power of appointing practically all of the county officials."

"In boards and commissions of the state government, smaller boards and co-ordination of their work would bring better results. Membership of many of the boards and commissions should be reduced and their terms shortened."

Recall is Corrective.

"The plan for centralization of government is not necessarily such as to abridge the rights of the people, as they have the exercise of the recall at hand. While at first glance the plan may seem to be one that gives tremendous power to the chief executive, while it does so, in fact, it also places upon his shoulders the responsibility of state administration, and if by chance the executive proves incompetent or abuses the prerogatives the right of recall may always be used.

"By centralizing the power, if there is inefficiency or mismanagement, an opportunity would be given to ascertain definitely who is responsible. The standard of services unquestionably would be higher and better service would be the result."

"With boards and commissions there is an obvious tendency to play politics and obscure responsibility."

While it is not known definitely that the executive will incorporate in his recommendations to the Legislature all the suggestions which he has offered, it is understood he will bring out clearly and decisively his theory as to a more centralized form of government, with the responsibilities attached.

Some similar suggestions were made in his message to the Legislature. That body gave the executive some greater power by making the terms of appointive offices largely subject to the executive will, but went no further save in one or two isolated instances.

RAIL OFFICIALS CALLED

GRAND JURY WANTS TO KNOW OF LIQUOR SHIPMENTS.

SEATTLE, Wash., Dec. 23.—The United States grand jury, which is still considering violations of Federal laws regulating shipments of intoxicating liquor, reassembled this morning.

Subpenas were issued last night and today for managing officials of Seattle railroad, steamship, telegraph and transfer companies. They were directed to bring before the grand jury all correspondence of any nature involving the shipment of liquor into Seattle.

William Frazer, president of the Frazer Transfer Company, which is alleged by the Federal authorities to have been formed to facilitate illegal shipments of liquor, has been taken to the County Jail at Tacoma, having been unable to furnish \$3000 bail. Fred and Ora Billingsley and W. H. Pielow, who were indicted by the grand jury for alleged violation of the Federal liquor laws, have not been arrested.

County Prosecuting Attorney Lundin said today that he would wait until the grand jury had finished its work before beginning proceedings against violators of the state prohibition law whose offenses had been uncovered by the grand jury's probing.

\$200,000 IS BEQUEATHED

Herman C. Leonard Divides Estate Among Many Relatives.

The will of the late Herman C. Leonard, disposing of property valued at approximately \$200,000 was filed in the County Court yesterday.

Leonard and Laura A. Leonard, of Oswego, N. Y., are to receive 110 parts; a nephew, Lewis H. Leonard, of Oswego, is to receive 100 parts, and the residue is to be divided among more distant relatives, including two grand-nephews, a grandniece and a great-grandnephew.

DEED DECISION REVERSED

Tax Certificate Speculation in Coos County Gets Setback.

MARSHFIELD, Or., Dec. 23.—(Special.)—The recent Supreme Court decision in which a Tillamook County delinquent regained property valued at \$7000 after it had been sold and deeded.

PORTLAND GIRL BECOMES BRIDE OF ROSEBURG MAN.



Mrs. Peter Ballif, St. Charles' Church, in Alberta, was the scene of a pretty wedding Wednesday morning at 9 o'clock, when Miss Lily Margaret Richardson became the bride of Peter Ballif, of Roseburg, Father George Siederhorn officiating. A large number of relatives, neighbors and friends witnessed the impressive ceremony.

The bride was attended by Misses Sadie Richardson and Billie Moore, while Lucille Richardson, the youngest sister of the bride, made a charming flower girl. G. S. Richardson, the bride's father, gave her in marriage. C. Meyers and Robert Petrusich were ushers and Frank G. Micelli was best man.

The altar was beautifully decorated for the occasion with carnations and chrysanthemums. After the ceremony an elaborate wedding breakfast was served at the home of the bride's parents. In the evening a reception was tendered to the happy couple by several hundred friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Ballif will make their home at Roseburg, Or., where Mr. Ballif has financial interests. He is a prominent citizen of Roseburg.

NEWLYWED SEEKS DIVORCE

Another Wants Freedom After 23 Years of Married Life.

R. B. Shafer, married at Vancouver, Wash., only November 2, 1915, filed suit for divorce from Blanche Shafer in the Circuit Court yesterday. Ironically he filed suit against Sofia Pether, whom he married at Portage des Sioux, Mo., in 1893, on grounds of cruelty. He seeks his freedom of the two sons and would allow the mother to have their daughter.

Divorces granted by Circuit Judges, Davis, Gantenbein and Morrow yesterday were Cora A. Clark from J. Homer Clark, infidelity; Mary Gaffney from W. H. Gaffney, drunkenness; Maude Fuller Dabney from Harry B. Dabney, cruelty, and Laura Thomas from Henry Thomas, desertion.

BILLS AIM TO AID FARMERS

Montana Legislature to Seek to Remedy Living Cost.

HELENA, Mont., Dec. 23.—Agricultural interests in Montana are to have their bills before the coming session of the Montana Legislature, which meets here January 3.

The consumer also is to have a showing, bills intended to reduce the high cost of food prices being among those to be introduced. Nearly all of the measures dealing with railroad and flour mill regulation are legislation in this direction. These, with grain inquiry, the farmer, land loans and taxation, will occupy a leading place on the legislative programme.

LINN PIONEER HALE AT 93

Barney Bartenshaw Celebrates Anniversary of His Birth.

LEBANON, Or., Dec. 23.—(Special.)—Barney Bartenshaw, a pioneer of Linn County and a resident of Lebanon for many years, celebrated his 93d birthday at his home in this city last Sunday. Mr. Bartenshaw takes great interest in daily affairs.

The Woman's Civic Club of Lebanon will hold its annual reception in Yeoman's Hall on New Year's afternoon. Music and light refreshments will be features of this occasion.

Sutherland Mine Operated.

SUTHERLIN, Or., Dec. 23.—(Special.)—Work in getting out ore commenced this week in the Sutherland mine, eight miles east of Sutherland. The work has been delayed somewhat waiting for the arrival of machinery for handling the ore. A good many years ago a quicksilver mine was operated in this same region, but was abandoned. The rise in price of this metal during the past two years revived the mining activity.

"Buffalo Bill" Much Improved.

DENVER, Colo., Dec. 23.—The condition of William D. Cody ("Buffalo Bill"), who is ill here, is reported much improved by his physician.

Columbia—Playhouse of Big Events

The Big Show Is Here—

Douglas Fairbanks

That "Knight of Gladness," in the biggest success of the season—"The Matrimaniac," the play that set all New York laughing. We wanted a superlative bill—a play full of the happy spirit of the season—It's here for

4 Days Only

Kiddies Under 14 Years Admitted Free
Christmas Morning 10 o'clock performance

COLUMBIA

The Theater Beautiful—Sixth at Washington

DRYS PLAN 'DRIVE'

Bone Dry Issue to Be Up to Washington Legislature.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—The National Guard, and possibly compulsory military drill in public schools; the calling of a constitutional convention to remedy taxation evils; the distribution of road money; the usual appropriations, and the revision of the school system. The 1917 Legislature placed the higher educational institutions on a millage basis, and it is declared that the levy of 1.05 mills is entirely inadequate.

LIQUOR FORCES MOBILIZE

When Session Opens at Olympia on January 8, Big Fight Will Be Precipitated—Enlargement of Guard Also to Be Up.

OLYMPIA, Wash., Dec. 23.—As the time for convening the Washington Legislature in its 15th biennial session approaches it becomes apparent that the biggest fight will be precipitated over the prohibition issue, although there are other important measures to be considered. Ever since the statewide prohibition law was enacted by the voters in 1914, the recurrence of the anti-liquor issue has loomed large in the issues of the day.

LA GRANDE NEWSPAPER MAN QUITS GAME.

A. W. Nelson, LA GRANDE, Or., Dec. 23.—(Special.)—A. W. Nelson, for 11 years in charge of the news and of the Evening Observer, retired tonight from that position to go into the milk and cream business.

SCHOOL BOY HAS TYPHOID.

BAKER, Or., Dec. 23.—(Special.)—Leland Woodson, a pupil of the Carter School in Grant County, is seriously ill with typhoid fever. Belief that he contracted the disease from water from the school well has caused orders to be given to abandon use of the well, and the children have been carrying water to the school from Miss Harper's spring, a mile away.

Roseburg Plans Dedication.

ROSEBURG, Or., Dec. 23.—(Special.)—The formal dedication of the new Methodist Church South will take place here on Sunday, January 7. The occasion will be observed with a special

BRIDGES MOVED IN JIFFY

Union Pacific Engineers Perform Unusual Feat.

OMAHA, Neb., Dec. 23.—The old steel bridge of the Union Pacific Railway over the Missouri River between Omaha and Council Bluffs, which had been in service for 30 years was today removed and replaced by a new steel bridge, which had been built on false work alongside the old. The actual operation of removing the old bridge, which weighed 5,600,000 pounds, and putting in place the new, which weighed 11,200,000 pounds, required 15 minutes, 4 1/2 for removal of the old, and 10 1/2 to replace it with the new. Five hoisting engines, equipped with block and tackle, were used.

FILMS ADMITTED TO MAIL

Postoffice Makes Special Order, With Packing Restrictions.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—Motion-picture films are admitted to the mails by an order today of the Postoffice Department effective January 1. Films will go under regular parcel postage rates, but stringent regulations governing packing have been adopted. They must be shipped outside mail bags, enclosed in metal cases, and spark-proof boxes bearing a label with a warning to keep fire and lights away.

SOUTH AFRICAN SERVICE RESUMED.

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—The British steamship City of Glasgow, which left here today direct for Capetown, South Africa, carried 28 passengers, the first direct sailing of a South Africa passenger ship from this port for some time. Most of the passengers are Christian missionaries. The City of Glasgow will also call at Calcutta, India.

Sir Albert Stanley Goes to Commons.

LONDON, Dec. 23.—Sir Albert H. Stanley, president of the Board of Trade in the reconstructed Cabinet of Lloyd George, was today elected to the House of Commons for Ashton-Under-Lyne without opposition. He succeeds in the House of Commons Sir William

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TRU-BLU GRAHAMS

WITH MILK When You're Tired