LEGISLATURE READY FOR SERIOUS WORK

Both Houses Have Good Start. Volume of Bills Is Less Than Last Session.

IMPORTANT MEASURES DUE

Prohibition, Insurance and Military Legislation to Come Up This Week—Real Desire for Economy Prevails.

STATE CAPITOL, Salem, Or., Jan. 13.—(Special.)—After a more or less desultory five-day grind the 29th legislative assembly finds itself well organized to proceed with the serious business that is sure to present itself during the next five weeks.

Both houses have made a good start, although the volume of legislation proposed in the House is not near as heavy as in previous years. Only 64 bills are on the House calendar, and 58 on the Senate calendar, compared with 102 in the House and 49 in the Senate two years ago.

Speaker Stanfield has been urging the House members to hasten with their bills. Not that he wants them to swell them in numbers, but if the boys are going to introduce them anyway he wants them in and out of the way before the time of the House is taken up with third readings and incidental discussions.

The Senate has needed no such encouragement or coaching, as the number of bills on the north side of the lobby is slightly greater now than at this time of the last session.

Prohibition Bill Due.

None of the important measures that are sure to come up have yet made their appearance. The prohibition bill is due early next week; the insurance bill and the military bill also will come in some time next week.

The road legislation also is waiting. Each house, however, is entertaining a bill designed to provide state funds to match the Federal appropriation of $1,800,000 for Oregon roads. These measures are entirely independent of the general programme for state road improvements.

The committees of the two houses are following a new course this year, sort of a reversal of previous practices, and it is proving to be a decided improvement. The committees are considering the proposed legislation in advance of its introduction. This is true of the military committee, the insurance committee and, to a certain extent, the alcoholic traffic committee. It always has been the practice of the ways and means committee to discuss appropriations before the bills providing for them have been introduced.

Saving of Time Expected.

It is believed that by this course time will be saved on the floor of the two houses. When the insurance code, the military code, the prohibition bill and some of the road bills come before the House and Senate the committee members will be fully informed on them and will be able to advise other members.

Two bills will be up for third reading in the house on Monday. They are House Bill, No. 6, by Bowman, regulating disposition of stray animals, and House Bill, No. 10, by the Deschutes county delegation, fixing the time for holding court in the Eighteenth judicial district.

The memorials to Congress asking for national prohibition and a law prohibiting the circulation of liquor advertising through the mails also will be before the House for final passage on Monday, and doubtless will be given a heavy favorable vote as was done with the District of Columbia memorial last Monday.

Obviously the appropriation programme will be the subject of most serious and most extended discussion in each house. The six per cent tax amendment already is causing ways and means members considerable worry. There seems to be a genuine desire on the part of the entire legislation to practice real economy.

SILENT HUSBAND SUED

Ruth Hanson Says Cannery Foreman Refuses to Talk to Her.

OREGON CITY, Or., Jan. 13.—(Special.)—Frank Hanson, a foreman in the plant of the American Can Company in Portland, is defendant in a divorce suit filed by Ruth Hanson in the Clackamas County Circuit Court Friday on the grounds of cruelty. They were married September 28, 1908, in Portland.

Mrs. Hanson charges that her husband ignored her, that he would not talk to her or treat her as his companion.

Portland attorneys also filed these suits: Grace A. Cash against Charles T. Cash, married January 1, 1899, at Duluth, Minn., charge cruelty; Clara A. Carter against Walter F. Carter, married at Fortersville, Nev., December 23, 1894, charge cruelty; Margaret Stoltz against Joseph D. Stoltz, married June 22, 1898, in Portland, charge cruelty.

CATHOLIC ORDER INSTALLS

Mount Angel Foresters Declared Hard-Working Court.

MT. ANGEL, Or., Jan. 13.—(Special).—At the regular meeting held this week the Mountain Angel Women's Catholic Order of Foresters installed their officers for the coming year. This society is one of the most active and hard working courts of the state. The following officers were installed:

Chief Ranger, Gertrude Keber; Vice-Ranger, Monica Ebner; Recording Secretary, May Sessler; Financial, T. Donhattes; Treasurer, Mary Traviss; trustees, Elizabeth Saalfield, Mary Schwab and M. Komp; Conductors, Teresa Mattl and Teresa May; Sentinels, Christina Bronkey and Rose Hessing.

DAY LABOR PLAN PAYS

Several Thousand Dollars Saved on Aberdeen Water System.

ABERDEEN, Wash., Jan. 13.—(Special.)—The use of day labor in building Aberdeen's big new water system thus far has proved successful, City Engineer L. D. Kelsey having completed half the work at a cost considerably under the bids of construction companies. Mayor Phillips and members of the Council are pleased with Mr. Kelsey's success and believe that he will complete the project at a price considerably below the best bid offered.

The estimated cost of clearing and grubbing the right of way thus far cleared and grubbed was $23,392 and Mr. Kelsey has spent only $18,646. The estimated cost of building danger trestles was $1638 and the work has been done for $793. The cost of trenching, 25 per cent of which has been completed, was estimated at $19,660 for that 25 per cent and the work has been done for $14,576.

CAMAS COUNCIL AT PEACE

Socialist Administration Does Business Without Further Trouble.

CAMAS, Wash., Jan. 13.—(Special.)—At an adjourned session of the City Council last night to fill the Third Ward vacancy, A. C. Allen, president of the Commercial Club, was elected with only two opposing votes. Mayor Clark, Socialist, appointed the following officers, who were confirmed by the Council without opposition: Dr. R. W. Armstrong, health officer; A. L. Shumway, city engineer; Kelley Loe, police judge, and B. M. Faler, chief of police. The two latter officials are Socialists.

Considerable routine work was accomplished last night and the peaceful session surprised the 50 visitors who expected a resumption of Tuesday's strife, when the initial session of the Socialist administration was adjourned in the midst of the order of business.

STATE GETS OIL FEES

Washington Supreme Court Holds Inspection Law Valid.

OLYMPIA, Wash., Jan. 13.—(Special.)—Through a decision of the State Supreme Court today the State Department of Agriculture realizes a cash accumulation of $70,000, which will be turned into the state treasury. The defendant also is confirmed in its right to inspect Standard Oil coming into the state under a fixed scale of fees.

Through its attorneys, Richard A. Ballinger and Judge Alfred Battle, the Standard Oil Company attacked the constitutionality of the inspection on the ground that it amounted to an illegal tax through far exceeding the actual cost of inspection; that it interfered with interstate commerce, and was in reality an imposition of import duty by the state.

By today's decision the company loses on all counts and a continuation of the inspection is retained. Receipts from Standard Oil fees for the last year have been paid into court pending final decision of the case.

POTATO COURSE OFFERED

Experts Are to Tell Farmers How to Cultivate Important Crop.

OREGON AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, Corvallis, Jan. 13.—(Special.)—A complete course in potato production will be given at the Oregon Agricultural College between January 15 and January 24, as a part of the farmers' short course, which is in session at the college this month.

A series of ten lectures will be given, in which many interesting problems, such as the best variety to grow, when to plant, how to plant, number of eyes to use per hill, method of cultivation, harvesting, marketing and the hill-to-row method of seed improvement will be treated.

Professor G. R. Hyslop, Professor M. B. McKay and Professor A. L. Lovett will lecture.

ASTORIA ASKS ROAD FUNDS

State Aid Sought to Complete Surfacing of Columbia Highway.

ASTORIA, Or., Jan. 12.—(Special.)—At a meeting of citizens this afternoon a committee headed by Mayor Harley was appointed to urge the Legislature to set aside a portion of the state road funds for surfacing the Columbia River Highway leading from this city toward Portland.

Clatsop County has graded the portion of this highway lying within its limits, but has no money for paving. The assertion was made that unless the state comes to the rescue by providing the funds needed to complete the improvement, much of the work already done will be lost, as the grade will soon be destroyed by the elements.

Counties to Provide Free Ferry.

KELSO, Wash., Jan. 13.—(Special).—County Commissioners Lane, Laughlin and Mauer, of Cowlitz County, made a trip of inspection to Pekin on the Lewis River below Woodland, where Cowlitz and Clarke Counties will establish a free ferry across the river for people living along the Lewis River bottoms. Following the visit to this point the Commissioners went to Reno, where they inspected a proposed cut-off which will throw the highway back from the river. Further up the Lewis River at Yale, Cowlitz and Clark Counties will unite in the construction of a new steel bridge this summer.

There are many women sailors among the Finns and Norwegians.

GIRL PAGES TAKE PLACES IN WORLD OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS.

MISS MARIE BRIGGS. MISS RUTH M. JONES.

STATE CAPITOL, Salem, Or., Jan. 13.—(Special.)—This being the era of women's rights, with girl ushers in the theaters, women members of the Legislature and a woman elected to Congress, it's quite in keeping with the times that there should be a girl page in each house of the Oregon Legislature.

Miss Marie Briggs, of Salem, is the girl page in the House. She is 18 years old and a graduate of the Salem High School. Miss Briggs is a daughter of H. L. Briggs, and it is her ambition to go to college and qualify herself for teacher in physical culture. She likes her position as page and is happy in the work.

Miss Ruth M. Jones, the girl page in the Senate, is 17 years old, but would be taken for 14 if somebody hadn't given away the secret. She is a senior in the Salem High School, where she is taking a classical course preparatory to entering college. She is also an accomplished musician. She was born and reared in Salem.

BIG SAVING PLANNED

Senator Barrett Introduces Consolidation Bill.

MORE ECONOMY POSSIBLE

Proposed Acts Also Would Eliminate Clerks, Says Author, Who Says Purpose Is to Start Move Toward Action.

SALEM, Or., Jan. 13.—(Special.)—Senator Barrett, who introduced the five consolidation bills held over from last session, estimates that the bills contain a sufficient number of consolidations and eliminations to effect a saving of $64,800 to the state. He points out these savings as follows:

Desert Land Board, $8500. Industrial Welfare Commission, appropriations made and asked, $7000. Industrial Accident Commission, savings in salary of two Commissioners, $11,600. Boards of Regents for all state educational institutions, salary list by old Board, $2700. The greatest saving here, however, Senator Barrett states, will be in the business administration. Tax Commission, estimated saving, $15,000. Corporation and Insurance Commission consolidation, savings on salary list alone, $10,000.

This total of $64,800, Mr. Barrett says, is on the face of the bills alone, but he sees in consolidating and in doing away with the duplication of work a great chance for saving in eliminating clerks, in using the clerks to their fullest extent at various times of the year when otherwise they might be idle, and in the general decreased cost of maintenance which he says will surely follow the adoption of the bills in question.

Bills Drawn Two Years Ago.

"I introduced the bills more or less hurriedly to get them before the committees as soon as possible. The bills were drawn up two years ago by a good lawyer, who went over them carefully," said Senator Barrett.

"It is possible that some of the conditions that existed two years ago do not apply now. But I made no effort to go over the bills and revamp them, but gathered them together as they were when they came from the consolidation committee of the 1915 session and introduced them as soon as given an opportunity.

"I expect the bills to be gone over carefully by the committees. If there is any manner in which they may be amended to make them more workable, or better bills, I certainly shall not object to any such amendments.

Economies Are Desired.

"I am desirous, and I believe the greater number, if not all, of the members of the Legislature are eager to see some sort of economies effected by doing away with the duplication of work which no doubt exists in many of the state boards and commissions.

"I am satisfied that with the bills introduced a great saving may result, but I am anxious that the committees go over them carefully and if they need amending in any manner, amend them so as to give the state the most efficient service that can be given for the least amount of expenditure. That was the sole purpose in drafting the bills and that is why I am anxious to see legislation of this sort come to a head and be enacted at this session."

ANNUAL TO BE PUBLISHED

Mt. Angel Alumni Work on Issue to Be Ready in March.

ST. BENEDICT, Or., Jan. 13.—(Special.)—The Mount Angel alumni are busy working on the Alumni Annual, which they will publish next March. The Annual is edited and put out entirely by the older students. It is being headed by Rev. Fr. Basil Schieber, O. S. B., president of the college.

An essential feature of the magazine will be the listing of names, occupations and addresses of the more prominent students since the organization of the college in 1887. The Annual will be featured with several cuts of the graduating classes of the early '90s.