

INSTITUTE IS CALLED HOUSE OF MYSTERY

More Blind Witnesses Are
Heard by Commission.

ROUGHNESS IS CHARGED

Superintendent and Wife Declared
to Have Been Unkind; One
Reluctant to Testify.

"This is the house of mystery. Where there are queer things going on, and where you don't know what is going to happen next." This was Charles J. Bishop's designation of the Oregon Employment Institute for the Blind, 424 East Burnside street. When on the witness stand yesterday afternoon before the investigating commission appointed by Governor O'Connell to hear the testimony of the superintendent and others in the room where he was, and told of the troubles that finally culminated in his discharge from the institution, his refusal to go, his arrest, discharge by the court, and return to the place.

Considerable roadway was made in the hearing of witnesses at the second session of the investigating commission. Six persons testified and the hearing was then continued until 2 o'clock next Thursday because of the inability of some members of the commission or others directly interested in the matter to be present before that time.

Unkindness in Character. When the hearing re-opened yesterday permission was given to J. H. Hart, as a representative of the board of relief of the Oddfellows, to sit with the members of the commission and the attorneys and to participate in the examination of witnesses.

The testimony emphasized the charges that both J. P. Myers, superintendent, and Mrs. Myers, the matron, were unkind to the inmates. C. A. Bennett, who was the first witness, who has been blind for 15 years and who has lived 11 years in Oregon, said that he had entered the institution June 22 of last year from Baker, Or., but that as he had arranged to sell papers on the streets, in order to earn money for his clothing and to help his wife support their two children, he said he was expelled from the institution on the ground that he was making a living for himself.

Mrs. Myers Held Brusque. Mrs. Bennett said he had found that Superintendent Myers was not patient in his interview with the inmates that he spoke very disrespectfully to other blind men and "was rough with me when I asked him for work. He blows and snorts around and makes very disagreeable noises that irritate the inmates. He jumped all over me about my work." This witness said that one of the principal causes of dissatisfaction among the inmates was the brusque manner of Mrs. Myers.

Carl Parsons, 51 years old, and 29 years in Oregon, said he had been in the institution since last Labor Day, and that "there was nothing but bad and mean that Mr. and Mrs. Myers would not do." He said he had observed that they had built up a regular "spy" system to get the real information about how things were running in the institution. Both Mr. and Mrs. Myers were unkind to the inmates.

One Witness Reluctant. One incident that he designated as cruel was when he entered the institution. He said that he then met Miss Helen Jensen, another inmate, and in the presence of Mr. Myers she had asked Parsons if he could speak Norwegian. He replied, "No, I can't." She then said a few words, and they had a brief exchange of remarks in that language. At the next meal time, he said, he appeared and in a very boisterous manner declared that he had been reported to him that conversations in foreign languages were going on in the institution, and that they must cease, as it would not be tolerated. The witness said that he protested that all that had been said had been before the superintendent himself, but that he was told that if he didn't like what was announced he could get out.

Roughness Is Charged. Sylvester Mayer, who has been blind for 23 months and in the institution since last May, testified that Superintendent Myers was rough and abusive to men in the chair-riding department, that he would jerk the materials out of their hands and use rough words to the workers. He said that Mr. Myers discouraged one of the men from working about with woodwork, declaring "it was a foolish kind of a job" and "it shouldn't be carried on."

When some of the inmates protested that there should be a railing on one of the stairs, on which one woman had fallen and broken her leg, this witness said that Mr. Myers had announced that he was going to "fire" one of the men if he didn't keep his mouth shut about it.

Reconciliation Is Admitted. Mr. Myers admitted that he didn't obey the rules by going out whenever he so desired without asking for permission; but said he was not because when he did ask Superintendent Myers often would not give him any answer.

O. L. Johnson and Charles J. Bishop, the two men who were discharged, refused to leave and were then arrested, kept in jail all night and then discharged by the court. They were told to go back to the institution, told their versions of this affair. They claimed that they were discharged because they had been active in asking for an investigation of the conditions at the institution.

BONUS PAYMENTS WILL BE HURRIED

5000 Likely to Be Completed
by March 1.

17,500 FILE REQUESTS

World Veterans' State Aid Commission Says Lack of Cash
Holds Up Work.

SALEM, Or., Jan. 28.—(Special.)—Payment of every completed cash bonus claim, estimated at 5000, and the making of the first home and farm loans on March 1, is the mark the world veterans' state aid commission has fixed for itself if it is learned today at the bonus commission's headquarters in the United States Bank building here. More than 10000 claims have been finally approved for payment and another 2000 is expected to go through the final processes by March 1.

Not only does the commission hope to clean up the cash bonus settlements but to make actual disbursements under the loan by that time, the complicated machinery for the state-wide loan system has been completed and the property appraisers will start operations within a short time.

Funds Are Lacking. If the commission had any funds in its coffers thousands of claims could be paid now, it was stated by Harry C. Brun, bonus secretary, who said that the commission was held up by the friendly aid launched by ex-service men to test the validity of the law before the supreme court so that the bonds could be sold and the money raised. The bonds were placed on the market and the nation-wide scribble of lithographs recently. The bonds are now being printed in Portland and as soon as signed and delivered will be ready for delivery to the purchasers. This will provide the commission with the necessary funds for making the first wholesale settlement March 1.

While the printing of the bonds was threatened with delay due to a national-wide scribble of lithographs, this difficulty has been adjusted following conferences with labor representatives at Portland.

37,000 Ask Bonus. In all 17,500 initial applications for cash and loans have been received to date by the commission. Of these 10,000 were for cash and 7500 for loans. If this ratio continues until the entire 34,330 eligible are paid, the total in the cash bonus column will be 19,127 while 15,303 will seek the farm and home aid loans. Only 375 of these who originally asked for loans have been charged to the cash, while the commission's estimates of yearly balance cash bonus is about the same.

While the amount of loans asked for, if all completed, will amount to \$12,000,000, the amount of cash which is available under the law, there are large sums that can be released from the annual balances. The commission's estimate of yearly balance show \$15,173,700 available for releasing during the next ten years. The problem of making both ends meet is one the commission is now studying carefully.

Changes Are Expected. If according to the present ratio, 19,127 men ask for the cash bonus, \$25,292 will be required to settle all these claims. Whether the present ratio of cash bonus and loan claims will continue is uncertain, it was stated. Many men will recognize the superior advantages of the loan upon further study, while on the other hand, it is to be expected that belief that many will change to the cash bonus because of having insufficient security with which to obtain loans.

In lending funds on a margin of 75 per cent of the net value of the property offered as security, a very small amount of cash is required, and the commission has indicated that it will not permit of laxity on the part of any appraisers which would involve heavy losses to the state. Inasmuch as the law clearly contemplates repayment of the loan, the commission has decided to adhere to sound business principles and require sound security in the case of every loan.

OREGON BANQUET SLATED
63d Anniversary of Admission as
State to Be Observed.

The sixty-third anniversary of the admission of Oregon as a state will be celebrated with the annual banquet of the Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers on February 14, according to plans made at a meeting of the board of directors of that organization in the office of Harvey C. Starkweather in the Broadway building yesterday afternoon.

A reception committee of 63 members will be selected, one member being chosen for each year since Oregon became a state. Special invitations will be sent to the following: Governor O'Connell, ex-governors and sons of ex-governors.

Officers of the association include Mrs. M. B. Balfour, president; William B. Crane, vice-president; Lillian M. Hackman, secretary; Isabel T. Geer, treasurer, and John W. Minton, secretary. Fred H. Holman, Mrs. A. B. Crossman, Mrs. Albert M. Brown and Harvey C. Starkweather, members of the board of directors.

MAYOR ASKS EVIDENCE
Anonymous Notes Consigned to City
Wastebasket by Official.

SALEM, Or., Jan. 28.—(Special.)—If any person has complaints to lodge with the Salem city government with relation to law enforcement or the operation of any game or device that may be detrimental to the community, he must sign his name to the letters and be prepared to point out the evidence applicable to the case at law.

This was announced here today by Mayor Halvorsen, after he had received a number of letters indicating that games of chance were being operated in Salem. The letters were unsigned and were consigned to the waste basket.

ADVISORY COUNCIL NAMED
Associated Industries of Oregon to
Extend Influence.

An advisory council of the Associated Industries of Oregon was appointed yesterday by H. J. Frank, president, as a means for carrying forward the sale of Oregon products and extending the influence of the organization. A state-wide campaign is planned for this year. It was said.

The committee consists of J. C. Alsworth, Julius L. Meier, D. A. Dinwiddie, John F. Daly, Will F. Lippman, Will Knight, Edward Cookingham, Clifford Stout, C. J. Mathis, A. L. Mills, David T. Honeyman, Ira F. Powers, J. H. Joyce, George Cherry and J. C. Mann. The members will meet at the call of the chairman.

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2,170,000,000 Gold Marks in
Cash and Kind Offered.

LIMIT FIXED FOR YEAR

Reparations Commission Is Urged
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Help Float Loan.

BY ARNO DOSCH-FLEUROT.
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It offered 2,170,000,000 gold marks in cash and kind as the total amount Germany can pay this year, but the commission was urged to decrease this amount. More than two-thirds of these payments—1,450,000,000 marks—will be made in goods and the remainder in cash.

Whether or not the coming struggle in the Reichstag will result in passage of the new taxation laws so as to permit fulfillment of these promises, the government officials themselves have little hope that this performance will be possible unless the Reichstag or some other conference, or the floating of a long-term foreign loan, brings about stabilization of the mark.

Budget Balance Problem. Without such stabilization, it was believed the government will again find itself facing the crucial inability to keep its budget balanced. The industrial in the Reichstag gave way to the majority socialists because they hoped their very acceptance of the new taxes would stabilize the paper mark.

The budget of 1923 is divided into three parts. Part one covers the cost of general administration and shows a surplus of 10,500,000,000 paper marks, apart from extraordinary expenditures, exclusive of reparations, which shows a deficit of 1,100,000,000 paper marks.

Part two, covering maintenance of government buildings, railroads, telegraphs, posts, etc., balances without including the improvement and new rolling stock fund, which, it was estimated, will cause a deficit of 3,000,000,000 paper marks, to be covered by short-term loans. The greatest deficit in the Reichstag budget, shown under part three, the reparations budget.

45 Paper Marks Equal One Gold. All calculations are made on the basis of 45 paper marks to one gold mark, though the actual value of the gold mark is nearly 70 paper marks.

Chancellor Wirth added to his laurels in the Reichstag yesterday when he passed a law to enforce the Reichstag, the national emergency sacrifice tax, because he followed in the footsteps of the late Chancellor Erbert, who fell by the hand of an assassin.

Erberter constructed a great taxation reform which made him the man most hated by German capitalists. Erberter was a member of the clerical central party, as is Chancellor Wirth.

Erberter was the pioneer who pushed through the emergency sacrifice tax law against intense antagonism in the Reichstag, while Chancellor Wirth crowned his success by forming a coalition upon which he forced acceptance of the tax.

Germany Hit by Fate. Germany has indeed been struck by the irony of fate. While thousands of paragraphs of the armistice and the Versailles treaty prescribed in minute detail her complete disarmament and hundreds of commissioners have been traveling about the country to see that the paragraphs were executed, Germany's great industrial plants have unconsciously and unwillingly gained a real advantage over their foreign competitors.

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