

THE COOS BAY TIMES, MARSHFIELD, OREGON, THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 1914-EVENING EDITION.

Economy In **State Affairs**

Editor Times:

The Plan of Portland , in urging twelve of her leading stizens to stand for the nomination for State Representative, on a platform of eco-nomy and efficiency, should be adopt ed by every county in Oregon.

That too many laws are enacted. and too much money appropriated by the Legislature, all must admit. But the important question is, what

are we going to do about it. First in importance, I suggest pub-licity. Since many of the members of the last. Legislature are candidates, either for re-election or for some higher office, a complete re-cord of the acts of each member, giving the amount of appropriations vot ed for; the number cast to raise the salary of some public official; creat-ing new offices, etc. would make in-teresting reading for the voters, and serve as a warning to future Legis-lature against extravagance and reck less legislation.

lecs legislation. Many unnecessary laws, as well as expensive appropriations are the result of inefficiency, and inexper-ience, on a part of a large per cent of the legislators. A careful busi-ness man would not employ a bank cashier, a manager for a store, fac-tory of farm who had no knowledge tory or farm, who had no knowledge of that particular line, but the peo-ple frequently send men to the Legis-lature, who have but slight conception of needed legislation, or the re-quirements of the state institutions; apparently overlooking the fact that they have power to spend millons of dollars of the people's money. I expect to introduce a resolution at the next session of the Legisla-

at the next session of the Legisla-ture, submitting a constitutional amendment to a vote of the people, providing a four year term for State Representatives. If this resolution shall pass and is approved by the people, the Legislature would a ways have at least 45 experienced members members.

Another abuse, is the perfunctor manner in which the joint committee from the House and Senate, investi gate and report on the needs of the various state institutions. In plac of appointing members with a view of their fitness for the position, the Speaker of the House and the Pres dent of the Senatee usually pay a pc litical debt, by appointing member who desire to be placed on a certai-

committee. Provision should be made for on or more committees, composed o members of well known businer judgement and honesty, to make r thorough investigation of all state in stitutions, during vacation, and sub mit a detailed report to the nxt Leg islature, of their needs and the am ount of money necessary for their maintenance. Such committee should of course, be paid a reasonable sum for their services. From hal a million to a million dollars can be saved the state by every Legisla-ture, by the exercise of business methods, and honest effort, on the part of its members

The future growth and develop-ment of Oregon, depends in a grea-measure, on the reclamation of its arid lands; but the 1913 Legislature in my opinion, established a danger ous precedent when it appropriated nearly half a million dollors to take nearly half over a bankrupt irrigation project in Eastern Oregon. A few years ago, the reclamation service, made a thorough investiga-tion of what is known as the "Malh-eur Project" in Malheur county, and reported that 100,000 acres could be reclaimed at a cost of \$42.00 an acre Now let us suppose the business in terests of Malheur county, should ask the next Legislature for an appropriation of \$4,000,000.00 for this prac-ticable project, I wonder if the mem-bers who voted to establish this precedent, would vote consistently for this appropriation, in order that al' sections of the state may be treated with equal fairness All of these projects are of vast importance to the future greatness of the state of Oregon, but in justice to the state of Oregon, but in justice to the tax-payers of other sections of the state should be left to the reclamation service, which has diver-ted LARGE SUMS OF MONEY col-lected from Oregon to other states. A forty day session as provided by the state constitution which was adopted more that 55 years ago, is en-tirely inadequate for the careful con-sideration of the vast amount of business that comes before a Legislature of the present day. The last session considered nearly 1000 bills. session considered nearly 1000 ons. besides many memorials, resolutions etc. It is to be hoped that the con-stitutional amendment providing for a longer session, will be adopted at the next election. The writer joined with President Malarkey in a resolution, at the last constant parameters to submit to the session, proposing to submit to the people a constitutional amendment fimiting the members to five bills each but the resolution was defeat-ed in the Senate. I now suggest a commission (with no additional pay) consisting of Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, State Treasurer and Commis sioner of Labor, to examine all bills and report to the Legislature their opinion of both the desirable and undesirable features of each measure. This would enable the Legislature to cut out many unnecessary, and unconstitutional bills. The general appropriation bill is The general appropriation bill is considered, in the committee of the whole and no record is published of the vote on the various items con-tained in the bill. All bills should be consideredd in open session, and a strict record kept of the vote, of each member, so the people might know to what extent their own re-presentatives are to blame for exces-sive appropriations. sive appropriations. Every general appropriation bill contains many items which should be reduced, or cut out, but this will never be done until the bill is considered as above suggested and the Governor given power to veto single items of bill.



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I. S. Smith.