

THE SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE SESSION WILL TACKLE MANY QUESTIONS BESIDES TAX LAW REVISION

PORTAGE ROAD LIKELY TO DEMAND ACTION

Sentiment Among Multnomah Members in Favor of Return to the Old System of Paying Taxes.

Among the members of the Multnomah delegation in the state legislature it is generally taken for granted that Gov. Chamberlain will call a special session to remedy the defect in the tax law passed last winter. Despite the governor's known reluctance to convene the legislature, the opinion is virtually unanimous in the emergency session and the need of legislative action is too great to be ignored.

Other Law Making Likely. But the tax law will not be the only matter to be considered by the legislature, if the expectations of some members are realized. It is said that several of the acts passed at the last session will come up for reconsideration. An appropriation of \$105,000 was made last winter for the construction of the portage railroad, but unexpected difficulties have been encountered in the acquisition of the right-of-way, and many persons now believe that the road cannot be constructed and equipped for the amount of the appropriation. At the coming special session the legislature will probably demand a report from the engineers employed to make the preliminary surveys, and the whole question of the feasibility of constructing the road may be reopened.

Likely to Sit 20 Days. There is plenty of evidence that the legislators will have their hands full, and the session may be protracted to the full 20 days, which is the limit imposed by the constitution. At the regular session the members received pay for only 10 days, but may continue to receive pay after that time without pay, if they see fit to do so. But the constitution provides that special sessions shall not last over 20 days, and at the expiration of that time the members must adjourn.

Senator Sweet's Views. Senator Sweet spoke as follows: "I am in favor of repealing the Phelps act and returning to the old system of paying taxes in the spring. One reason for my position is that the Phelps act entails double payment of taxes next year, and I think this will prove very burdensome, especially in view of the fact that next year's taxes will be considerably increased on account of the Lewis and Clark fair. I do not know whether anything but tax legislation will be attempted, though I have heard that the portage road may come up for consideration. I think there can be no question that a special session will be called—it seems inevitable. I am in favor of returning to the old law," said Representative C. W. Nottingham, decidedly. "I think the Phelps law should be repealed."

HE DEPOSED THE KING OF BROOKLYN



PATRICK MCCARREN New York, Nov. 2.—On the eve of election affairs over in Brooklyn show that Hugh McLaughlin, who for nearly half a century, has been the undisputed leader of the Democratic party of Kings county, has surely been deposed, and Patrick McCarren is now in command. Mr. McLaughlin would not agree to support the city ticket, and believed he could carry his wish. Today it is clear that the venerable leader is out of power. The above photograph was taken of McCarren while he was telephoning to a member of the campaign committee.

LAND LAWS ARE IN A BAD STATE

Commissioner Richards Files His First Annual Report and Points Out a Remedy For the Existing Evils.

Washington, D. C., Nov. 2.—In his first annual report, given to the public yesterday, Land Commissioner W. A. Richards presents the following views concerning forest reserve problems, which brings new light on the stubborn subject: "The work of forest reserve extension has been pushed forward as rapidly as possible during the past year," says he. "It has, however, been greatly retarded by a lack of authentic information regarding many of the regions under consideration, which has prevented recommendations being made, as yet, in many cases."

Forest Reserve Fires. Commissioner Richards highly commends the work of forest rangers in suppressing forest fires throughout the West. The effectiveness of the present fire protection system is shown by the constantly decreasing number of fires in reserves. Whereas in 1901, 1,355 fires were discovered, in 1902, there were 1,083, and in 1903 only 597, while the area in reserves, and for which fire reports were made, was materially increased each year. The excessive fires reported last year were in the Cascade reserve, Oregon, Rainier reserve, Washington and the Teton and Medicine Bow reserves, Wyoming, where location, weather and wind conditions made it practically impossible to control the flames, once they got under way.

OREGON COAL TEST

First Trial of Coal Dug in This State By the O. R. & N.

APPARENTLY A SUCCESS

Special Run to The Dalles Made Saturday Night to Determine the Quality of Coal Mined Near Heppner.

The first Oregon coal ever tested on the O. R. & N. Co.'s line was the product of the Heppner mines, burned in engine No. 155 Sunday morning, hauling an extra freight train from Albina to The Dalles. The test was made to ascertain its steaming powers and was successful according to the indications from an untechnical point of view. The engine pulled 85 cars, all being empty excepting five. The tonnage was 100 tons, approximately, and the coal consumed was 8-12 tons, the usual quantity for that run. The actual running time was as usual.

Some difficulty was experienced with clogging of grates beyond Bonneville, because of dirt that was mixed with the coal. This trouble, declare the owners of the mine, will be obviated when the properties have been furnished with better machinery.

Engineer Donean, Fireman Smith, Draughtsman Rose, Conductor Weiden, brakeman Monn and Wade composed the train crew that made the test, which was witnessed by President Geo. Conser and Supt. W. Bertram Hancock of the Heppner coal company. The trip began at 3 o'clock Sunday morning and ended at 11 a. m., after some delay in waiting for passing of regular trains and to clean the grates at Bonneville.

MONTANA MAY HAVE AN EXTRA SESSION

People Areclamoring for a Fair Trial Bill and the Governor is Considering Matter—15,000 Men Want Work.

Helena, Nov. 2.—Gov. Toole is being fairly engulfed with petitions from labor organizations and individuals to call an extra session of the legislature for the purpose of passing a fair trial bill which will permit hearing the various cases pending between Heintze and the Amalgamated Copper company and by others than the present judge of Silver Bow county. The Amalgamated company announces today that in case such a bill is passed it will resume operations and thus give employment to 15,000 men. The governor is still considering the matter, but will give no indication as to what his decision will be.

EIGHT-HOUR LAW NOT GOOD.

San Francisco, Nov. 2.—The United States court of appeals this morning decided that the eight-hour law does not apply to Alaska or other territories. The suit was brought by Charles Moses, a carpenter, employed on a government contract in Alaska. Moses claimed over time and won his suit against the United States in the district court at Seattle.

POINTED QUERIES

C. V. Cooper Interrogates the Oregon Monument Committee.

"LOOKS BAD" HE SAYS

Public Money Spent Behind Closed Doors—As Banker of the Woodmen He Holds \$1,047 for the Statue Fund.

Head Camp, Pacific Jurisdiction, Woodmen of the World. Portland, Or., Nov. 2.—To the Editor of The Journal: Referring to the statement made by the monument manufacturers in Saturday's Journal, in reply to the arguments of the chairman of the general committee as to why the contract for the Oregon volunteer monument was privately let to outside parties, I desire to say that the Woodmen of the World were the first to agitate the question of a monument to our soldier dead and took active steps to raise \$1,000 as their contribution for a fund for that purpose. I have in my possession, as chairman of the Woodmen finance committee, the sum of \$1,047.58, which was contributed by camps of Woodmen of the World, circles of the Women of Woodcraft and from the result of entertainments, etc.

The proceedings of the general committee seem to me to have been held behind closed doors. They had in charge a public trust, a public proposition to which the public contributed, or, in other words, an Oregon monument to Oregon soldiers to be built by Oregon money. The excuse that Vermont granite was desirable or necessary and that the contract was let to an outside party for both the bronze statue and the granite base for a much greater sum than the same could be furnished by our local dealers seems to me to need some better explanation than that furnished by the chairman of the general committee.

Why No Call for Public Bids? Why were bids not publicly advertised for? Why were our local manufacturers not allowed to bid? They claim they went several times for the purpose to the committee's headquarters, but were turned down. Why did the committee pay \$5,000 for the bronze statue when our local firms claim they furnish identically the same statue (from plans adopted by the committee) for \$2,000? Why pay the sum of \$15,000 for a monument that can be built from Oregon granite for from \$8,000 to \$9,000, or from Vermont granite for from \$10,000 to \$11,000? Why is not Oregon granite good enough, and if so, could not the committee have executed a much more elaborate monument for the same money?

CASHIER HELD UP BY MASKED ROBBERS

Nashville, Tenn., Nov. 2.—Cashier Wheeler of the Cumberland Telegraph company, while working on his payroll at 5 o'clock this morning, was held up and compelled to open the vault by two masked men who secured \$3,000 and then escaped. The office is in the heart of the city and brilliantly lighted. Many persons were in the building at the time. The robbers' task was made easier by a heavy rain which kept many early pedestrians off the street. The cashier took two shots at the fleeing robbers, but they were ineffective. Every avenue from the city is guarded.

SAN FRANCISCO FOR THE FRAY

San Francisco, Nov. 2.—The Republicans closed their campaign today with meetings all over the city and a great parade. Candidate Crocker stopped his carriage at several points and talked to crowds. All is practically given up to politics today, and there promises to be the biggest contest at the polls tomorrow that this city has ever seen. The Democrats close their end of it tonight with a huge mass meeting at the pavilion. All three of the candidates have come out with cards announcing their certainty of victory. The labor vote is a guess, and today it can be said with probable truth that it will be about evenly split between Schmitz and Lane. A forecast is given out today by the conservatives that Schmitz is in fair chance to win, and the rest of the ticket will be easily split.

MERE LUCK SAVES IT

East Side Escapes Great Loss From Fire—Light Wind

NEED OF A FIRE BOAT

Councilman Sharkey Heads Volunteer Fire Brigade—Telegraph Companies Bothered By Fallen Wires.

The river front along the east bank of the Willamette was again threatened by fire last night when the plant of the Standard Box company, between Washington and Alder streets, together with the adjoining docks, many thousand feet of lumber and several adjoining buildings, were totally consumed by the flames. Not in many months has there been such a spectacular blaze in Portland. As soon as the alarm was rung in, at 8:47 o'clock, the sky became illuminated and for three hours the reflection of the flames was vividly portrayed in the black clouds overhead. To the fact that the firemen worked like Trojans and that there was no wind, is due the containing of the flames.

The origin of the fire is unknown. A. H. Smith, the night watchman, was startled by a sudden blaze near the boiler room of the river front. He turned in and the apparatus was in flames. The dry kiosk and warehouses were filled with stock and refuse, dry lumber and oil soaked woodwork about the machinery proved splendid fuel. The double-deck docks surrounding the mill were stacked high with lumber, so piled that the flames soon spread throughout. When the department arrived the situation indeed looked hopeless. The Standard mill was a mass of flames with the C. R. Davis wood yard and docks to the south and those of the White company on the north. Then there were many frame structures across East Water street and it was seen that only Hercules efforts would prevent the spread of the blaze. Chief Campbell and Holden at once sent in calls for many other pieces of apparatus and in a short time every available man was at work.

The greatest efforts were made to prevent the flames crossing Washington and Water streets for near-by were the Fireside Wood company's docks, the Hammond Packing company's building, Spicer's feed mill, the Central hotel and other structures. In spite of their efforts the department was unable to keep the fire from the Knott rooming house on the corner of East Washington and Water streets. The flames gutted this building and now only the bare walls are standing. However, the occupants had plenty of time to escape. This hotel was a two-story structure owned by Miss Carrie Elwert and leased by a man named Elliott. It was a landmark, having been built by Levi Knott 31 years ago. North of the Knott house are many frame shacks resting on piling, besides sawhouses beached on the bank. The flames whirled and leaped many feet into the air and burning embers were carried long distances. The firemen directed much of their effort to preventing the fire igniting these frame buildings and also moving from the docks to the north. All these structures were kept well wet down and as a result they were saved and the flames were confined to the Standard plant and the Knott building. Soon after the fire started the heavily loaded docks about the box factory fell.

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MORE ORDERS OF THE LAND OFFICE

Washington Bureau of the Journal. Washington, D. C., Nov. 2.—The land office at Spokane was instructed by telegraph today to withdraw from all forms of entry excepting the homestead 12 townships in ranges 31 and 32. These lands being intended for use in construction of the Big Bend irrigation project. Similar instructions were telegraphed the land office at Waterville concerning four townships in ranges 23 and 30. In an informal interview today, Senator Mitchell says he is stoutly opposed to the proposed program of eliminating river and harbor legislation at the coming session of congress. The commerce of the country he says warrants many new improvements. Many undertakings must be carried on by appropriations at the coming session, else there will be loss of millions of dollars to the government by the suspension of work. "We are preparing for the big expedition on the Pacific coast to be held