

WOULD HURRY SUPREME COURT

Associate Justice McBride
Chafes at Delays in Im-
portant Cases—Schools of
State Show Progress—
Electric Line Extension.

(By Journal Leased Salem Wire.)

Salem, Or., Aug. 7.—Associate Justice Thomas A. McBride most recent acquisition of the Oregon supreme bench, and the only native Oregonian thereon, displays an indefatigable penchant for work. Judge McBride is 58 years old and has brought with him from the circuit court a youthful impetuosity that betrays a feeling that the new justice himself sometimes wishes to be a pioneer in the law. In fact, the impression is conveyed that the new justice is seeking to get the supreme court caught up with the work of the circuit court. Judge McBride was appointed to the supreme bench by Governor Benson when Justice Robert Bean resigned to accept a federal judgeship proffered him by President Taft. He took up his duties about May 1. When on circuit, Judge McBride had one of the most difficult districts in the state. He held court in four counties, Washington, Clatsop, Clatsop and Columbia, and dockets were always full. Since his promotion the fifth district has been divided and now two judges are doing the work formerly done by Judge McBride. For 17 years he held court in the fifth district and before that was district attorney in the same district for seven years.

For years Judge McBride was regarded to the circuit bench in the fifth district without the least semblance of opposition from any quarter whatever. He was on the bench so long that he knew personally all the confirmed criminals in four counties that comprised the fifth judicial district and, it is said, could even predict when the next outbreak of lawlessness would occur with any one of them.

Like woman's work the work of the supreme court is never done. As is well known the Oregon supreme court is hopelessly behind in its work. Despite this apparent utter hopelessness that seems to enshroud the task, Judge McBride has plunged into it. He has been compelled to watch the slow grinding of the supreme court's cogs from the circuit bench for many years without being in a position to offer a remedy.

School Population Increases.
Five eastern Oregon counties show a decrease in population if the census taken by the county school superintendents is to be accepted. They are Baker, Gilliam, Wheeler, Morrow and Union. The total decrease is less than 100, the largest single decrease being in Union where a falling off of 218 in the school population is reported. This census taken by the clerk of school districts in the eastern counties is supposed to include all persons between the ages of 4 and 20 years.

While a decrease is shown in the eastern counties, on the other hand the increase over the entire state is very encouraging. The total population of the state last year was 166,489. The greatest increase within the last 10 years prior was in 1904, when it was 160,525.

Several reasons are offered for the decrease in eastern Oregon. The large ranches of the inland empire can be handled by wheat and stock men with a greater profit than small farms. Instead of breaking up the large farms, as is the tendency in the Willamette valley, the eastern Oregon farmer acquires more land as he is able to carry it with the result that the ranches are growing in size and the poor rancher is compelled to leave, much to the loss of the population, especially the school population. The poor man ordinarily has more children than the rich man.

State Printer Busy Here.
No state official has more difficulties to meet and cope with than the state printer. He is kept busy night and day defending the conduct of his office. And few are better able or better equipped for the defense than the present incumbent, Willis R. Dunaway.

Dunaway saw rough sledding ahead when he stepped into office. Being cautious and shrewd, Dunaway has been preparing for attacks. He is alert and ready every instant to meet all criticism that may be hurled his way. His political enemies are numerous and small attacks are likely to break out at any time. The people of Oregon can look forward to an interesting swiftest when the major attack takes place for it is coming. The state printer has been gathering material for the coming onslaught for more than 31 months, that is, since the time Dunaway has done the printing for the state.

Master Fish Warden H. E. McAllister will remove to Salem and maintain his office in the capital instead of in Portland. He will move his family to the capital city as soon as he can. The

master fish warden will find a warm welcome among the "fish house" fraternity. Office holders and clerks, where he is already well known.

Secretary Forbes Leaves.
The Salem Y. M. C. A. is to lose its secretary, G. A. Forbes, who goes to take up similar work at Spokane. A successor to Forbes has not yet been selected.

Secretary Forbes Came to Salem about five years ago and found the local branch of the Y. M. C. A. in a weakened condition. Its membership was less than 100 and its debt was heavy. In the five years he has paid off the entire debt, remodeled the building, constructed a swimming pool and an almost entirely new gymnasium and lounge rooms, and built its membership to 300.

Woodmen Greet Head Officers.

Last Friday the Woodmen of the World held a big rally in Salem, the local camp entertaining Head Consul I. I. Boak. Other prominent members and head officers of the Woodmen of the World were present, including W. H. King, district manager; T. M. Robinson, James Steinhouse, John Patterson, F. P. Hawke, P. E. Snodgrass and E. B. Tichenor. One hundred candidates were shown the mysteries of Woodcraft after being paraded through the streets.

May Extend Electric Line.

The visit to Salem of Edward P. Smith of New York, who, it is said, represents the stockholders and bondholders of the Oregon Electric railroad, has started the rumor again that the Oregon Electric will commence at once the construction of its contemplated extension to Albany.

The Oregon Electric does things and talks very little. These people have built lines into Salem and Forest Grove. When the line to Albany is started it is almost certain that it will be rushed to completion with little show about it until it is ready to accept business. Smith's visit follows a tour made earlier in the summer by high officials

of the electric line, who were driven about the surrounding country. Salem's public park project failed to get the required two-thirds majority at the special election held Monday. It was proposed to purchase about 50 acres centrally located on a knoll overlooking the river and the valley on the north and west. The cost was estimated at \$17,000 for which bonds were to have been issued. A legal fight may develop as the result of the election. Those who favor the park project will endeavor to have the election declared illegal on the ground that many legal voters were prohibited from participating. Those who were not in favor of buying the property take the stand that only property holders could vote in the special election last Monday.

Many After gubernatorial Honors.

So far as known only one state official is not a candidate for governor. That man is the present occupant of the gubernatorial chair and the only one who knows anything about the job—Governor Frank Benson. Mr. Benson says he has "never been crazy about being governor," and now that he has had the governorship thrust upon him has found the honors and duties no more attractive than they appeared to him from the viewpoint of private life.

Governor Benson was elected by the people to be their secretary of state. He was chosen from among a number of capable men for that position and feels that he will be justified sufficiently by a reelection to that office, by which act the voters would signify that in their opinion he had been a good and faithful servant.

From such sentiments people get the idea that Governor Benson, who prefers to be called Mr. Benson, does not care much whether or not his life sized portrait hangs in the hall of representatives in the state capitol to be pointed out to future generations as one of the early governors of Oregon. It is the adopted custom that every governor's

portrait must hang in the statehouse to afflict future legislatures.

On the other hand, there are in the statehouse at Salem several officials, two or three at least, who look forward to the time when they may have their vanity satisfied in the way that Mr. Benson seems to care so little about. Each will have a more stony pathway to tread in his progress toward the coveted goal than Governor Benson would have. At any rate, the governor's announcement that he will not be a candidate for governor, but will run for reelection as secretary of state has increased the number of candidates for governor, while it has caused prospective candidates for secretary of state to fade away entirely.

Brushing Up the Capitol.

Repair work at the statehouse has started and it is expected that for several months the capitol will not be in a condition for inspection by visitors. However, with its new tile floors, with replastering where necessary, and upon the completion of the other improvements started, the capitol building will look less like a barn and more like a statehouse. The outward appearance will be improved by newly arranged lawns. A general renovation has been undertaken. The cost will reach many thousands of dollars.

West Salem Has Push Club.

Getting an old railroad map has aroused enthusiasm in the little settlement across the river from the capitol city known as West Salem. This week a push club and improvement association was organized that is the embryo for a chamber of commerce as soon as the destiny of West Salem will permit. In order to get as much work accomplished as possible with little fuss about it, the new West Salem organization has only one officer. That man is C. J. Frazure, president and secretary. With him two other men, George Crosser and John Simmons, act as an advisory board and executive committee.

The Salem, Falls City & Western railroad is building right into West Salem.

That city will be its eastern terminus until traffic will warrant building a steel bridge across the river. Already construction trains are running up to West Salem's back door and by September 1 a gasoline motor will be taking on passengers on West Salem's main thoroughfare.

West Salem would have been a part of Salem a long time ago if it were not for the fact that it is in another county. It will now be an independent city with rail and water connections of its own. When the extension is completed, even without the bridge, which will necessitate connection with the capitol city by launches, the relation of the west side and the state capital will be greatly different. Direct connection with Independence, Falls City, Dallas, Newport and Portland will also include another and more direct route to all the west side towns.

Receipts Bill for One Dollar.

(United Press Leased Wire.)
Vallejo, Cal., Aug. 7.—Theodore Bell, state Democratic leader, has forwarded a receipted bill for \$1 to the Napa county board of supervisors for his services in forcing corporations within the county to pay higher taxes than they have been doing heretofore.

Since Bell has taken hold of the tax rolls nearly \$500,000 worth of taxable property has been added to the county's rolls.

Bell was to receive 25 per cent of the raises in taxes he effected. During his campaign he was criticized by the heads of corporations that Bell investigated, and the \$1 bill, is an answer to the charge that he was working merely for his own gain.

SEINERS HAVE GOOD RUN OF SALMON
(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)
Grants Pass, Or., Aug. 7.—The seining season for salmon in Rogue river has closed. The run this year was better than for several seasons. Heavy shipments were made daily during the open season, and scores of fishermen were employed on the river. Most of the salmon was shipped south and to Portland. As the Hume canneries were not in operation this season, the fishermen

of the upper river were allowed a bigger catch. Very little fishing was done below the mouth of the Illinois river. The season opens again for seining on November 1, for steelhead and silverides.

The Dallas Will Oil Streets.
(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)
The Dallas, Or., Aug. 7.—Ninth street is to be oiled for a distance of three quarters of a mile. If it proves a success some of the other streets will be treated. Early in the season the county treated with oil a mile of road leading from the west end of Ninth street to the rice track, and it has proved a success. The road now resembles an asphalt pavement. This piece of road before being oiled was deep sand.

Low Rates.

Round trip tickets may be purchased to all points east as very low prices via Chicago Northwestern railway, August 11 and 12. Through tourist and standard sleeping cars Portland to Chicago. We sell via all routes. Information gladly given, call or write R. V. Holder, 102 Third street.

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