

PROPOSED BILL WOULD PROTECT FOREST OF STATE

Buchanan Measure Vividly Recalls Horrors of Recent Fires and Gives Best Means for Preventing Any in Future.

Without an adequate fire law scenes of destruction and death witnessed in Oregon last summer may be repeated among the forests of the state next year according to supporters of the Buchanan bill, which proposes the creation of a state board of forestry.

The bill, it is said, embodies the best and most practical methods of forest fire protection as practiced by the government forest service and in other states.

It is recalled that last summer the flames raged through the forests in every part of Oregon, that their fury was irresistible, and that timber worth several millions of dollars was destroyed.

It is pointed out that where there were green forests edged by cabins of settlers there are now barren and blackened wastes. Most of the destruction, if not all, say investigators, was due to the carelessness of campers and hunters, and in some instances to the settlers themselves, because of the fashion they had of burning over land during the dry season.

Cause of Fires.
A match dropped in the leaves, a cigar butt carelessly thrown aside, a camp fire unextinguished, or a burn that was watched, crop into the timber, was sufficient to start a fire with a puff of wind and in a few hours establish a fire that men were helpless to check. It is against such carelessness or vicious people or the methods that allow spreading of fires that the Buchanan fire bill is directed.

It is also intended that the fire board shall keep a rigid check on all systems of fire protection, to make sure that each is performing its duty and functions properly.

The press dispatches of last summer carried reports all over the world of the horror of the fire. Women and children fought for their lives only a few miles from Medford in southern Oregon. The water supply was first threatened at Ashland and then the town was endangered. Women were burned to death, domestic animals were destroyed and men killed and mortally injured in fires that raged through the forests near La Grande, Walla and other portions of eastern Oregon.

Special details of fire fighters were rushed to the Mount Hood forest reserve in order to check on the fire on the Bull Run watershed which had been checked to save Portland's water supply. Near Mount Hood whole families were forced to abandon homes and property and were satisfied to escape with their lives. Down along the North Santiam river three men fighting with others against the flames and the smoke gave up, and the fire consumed their bodies.

Terrible Disaster.
Along the road to Mount Hood hotels and homes were wiped out. The town of Sandy was threatened. Before it was delivered from danger as by a miracle, the plank road just outside the town was burning and sparks flung by the wind were falling on the roofs which had to be kept constantly wet to prevent conflagration.

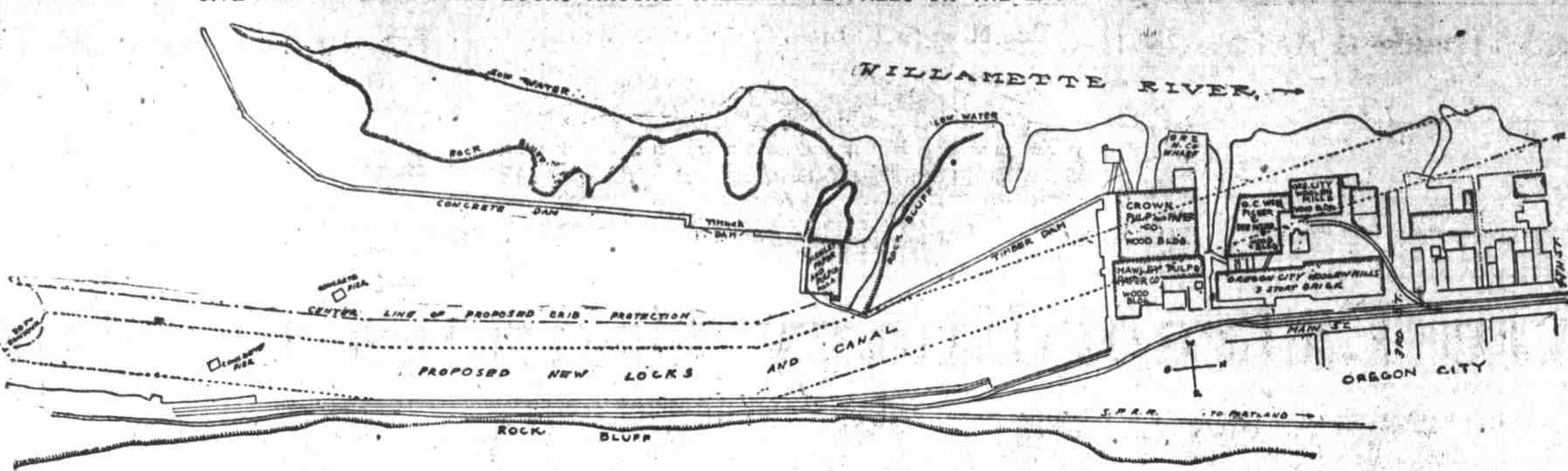
The men who fought against forest fires until their shoes were burned from their scorched and bleeding feet, until their eyes lashed and eye brows had been burned off, until they were choked and wounded, the families who lost their homes, who buried their loved ones, and who are now trying to start again—these are the forces lined up in support of the Buchanan bill or House Bill No. 50. With them are joined the timber owners and the government interests and it is said that the support of the measure is so strong and the opposition so weak that its passage is inevitable.

HE WAS POLITE, BUT NEEDED COIN
Chesterfield Holds Up Man, Returns Watch and 20 Cts., and Whistles Gaily.

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)
San Antonio, Texas, Jan. 28.—One of the most polite hold-up men so far recorded showed his hand in this city last night. El McCord, a young business man from Cameron, Texas, was going to the home of his sister when he was accosted under the glare of an electric light by a man fashionably dressed and told to hold up his hands. Seeing that the man had him covered with a large gun, McCord did as he was directed. The man then went through his pockets securing a watch and \$2.30 in cash. Looking the watch over carefully, the hold-up man said: "I have always made it a rule in my business not to take watches. It is never safe to do so; they have such tell-tale marks about them. So I return yours, assuring you that I think it is a good one, but not a safe pocket companion for a man in my occupation. I also notice that you have \$2.30. You really appear to be worth more than that. In fact, you have a real prosperous air about you, so much so that I estimated you at least worth \$50. It has always been a custom of mine never to take anything but even dollars, hence I return you the 20 cents. You may want to buy a drink or take a streetcar ride and if you should desire either, you will find the 20 cents convenient. I hope that when we meet again you will be in more prosperous circumstances, and thanking you for your mild manner and non-resistance, you are at liberty to pass on." The man then suggested to McCord to get busy getting away, and the latter was not long in acting on the suggestion. When McCord was a few rods away the hold-up man turned and walked in an opposite direction whistling softly as he went. "In the Shade of an Apple Tree."

Albany Defeats Eugene.
(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)
Albany, Or., Jan. 28.—The Eugene high school basketball team was defeated by the Albany school, 19 to 25 last night in one of the fastest games of the season. Dean Walker of the U.

SITE FOR PROPOSED FREE LOCKS AROUND WILLAMETTE FALLS ON THE EAST SIDE AT OREGON CITY



It is estimated that the cost of building the locks will amount to \$1,300,000. An appropriation of \$300,000 would be necessary from the state of Oregon and \$400,000 from the federal government, in addition to the sums already secured from state and nation. Government engineers have decided that rebuilding of the present locks on the west side is not feasible.

SECOND PUBLIC SERVICE BILL IS CAUSE OF STRIFE

Fouts' Bill Differs From Malarkey's in That It Permits Cities to Establish Local Commission.

Salem, Or., Jan. 28.—Introduction of a second public service commission bill, excluding cities and towns making local regulations from its provisions, has launched into the legislature one of the big fights of the session. The interest back of the respective bills are hard at work already into getting support for them.

It has developed that the bill presented by Seneca Fouts of Multnomah on Thursday is one favored by the East Side Push clubs of Portland. In most respects it is similar to the commission plan outlined in Senator Malarkey's bill, but it makes the necessary exceptions to local regulation so as to permit Portland or any other cities planning local public service commissions to establish them if they desire to do so.

The Fouts bill also corrects some of the provisions of the Malarkey measure which he and some others do not regard favorably.

Few members have as yet committed themselves to either proposition. Most of them at present have not given a great deal of thought to the matter and they are waiting until the bills come from the committees and they hear arguments upon them before they make up their minds.

Make Good One of Two.
Some of the members however, are in favor of taking the best provisions of two bills and perhaps some from commission plans in other states and combining them into one bill. Baker is one of those who believe that some sort of a compromise measure might be framed which would be satisfactory to both sides. He thinks that the powers of the railroad commission could be extended over local corporations so far as the interests of those outside the city are concerned. Keen legal minds and great care would be necessary in framing such a bill, but he declares that he thinks it could be done in an eminently satisfactory manner.

Governor West has told some of the members of the legislature that he is strongly in favor of the Wisconsin commission bill. He declared that the state railroad commission had in many respects followed the Wisconsin policy in its rulings and had been highly successful in the courts, wherever contests followed. He believed that the Wisconsin plan applies far more successfully under Oregon laws than that of New York.

The Kentworth Push club, of Portland, is one of the Portland organizations which has already taken a hand in the fight. This morning each law maker received a letter from it containing a resolution which declares against any commission bill which would deprive Portland of the privilege of establishing a utility commission with powers within the city limits.

CLASH TO COME OVER NEW BILL
Measure Provides for Change in Representation of Various Counties.

Salem, Or., Jan. 28.—Multnomah county will be allowed 15 representatives, including one joint representative with Clackamas county in a legislative reapportionment bill to be introduced into the house Monday. This is an increase of two over the present representation and it will probably be opposed by most of the Multnomah men, who contend that the largest county should have 20 men in the house, having a third of the population. The bill will be passed upon the constitutional provision which states that each county having one-sixth of the population or a major portion, or each group of counties having this proportion of the population, shall have one representative and that the remainder shall be represented according to population.

AMENDMENT JUST PASSED BY VOTERS MAY BE MENACE

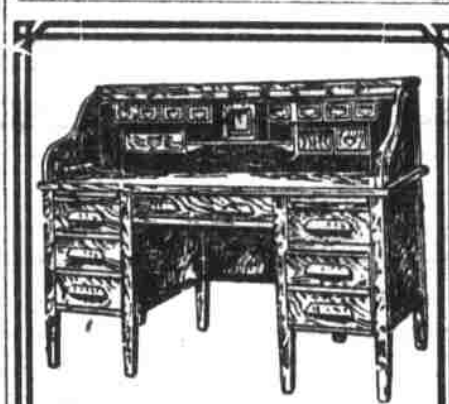
Repeal of Poll Tax by People at Last Election Subject of Much Concern to Lawmakers at Capital City.

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)
Salem, Or., Jan. 28.—Declaring that the constitution, as amended by the people at the last election by the passage of the taxation amendment, repealing the poll or head tax, has created a situation which will prove dangerous in times when a crisis occurs, friends of the initiative will ask the people to repeal the amendment adopted. The voters will also be asked to again consider and adopt the two other amendments defeated in the election.

Resolution Framed.
In the senate Monday the committee on assessment and taxation will introduce the following resolution, amending section 1 of article IX of the constitution:

"The legislative assembly shall, and the people through the initiative may, provide by law uniform rules of taxation, except on property specifically taxed. Taxes shall be levied on such property as shall be prescribed by law. The legislative assembly, or the people through the initiative, may provide by law the levy and collection of taxes for state purposes and for county and for other municipal purposes, on different classes of property, and may provide for the ascertainment, determination and application of an average rate of levy and taxation on property taxed for state purposes. The legislative assembly, or the people through the initiative, may provide by reasonable and equitable rules for the apportioning of any state tax among the several counties as county obligations to the state."

The second amendment reads as follows: "No tax or duty shall be imposed without the consent of the people or their representatives in the legislative assembly. Taxes shall be levied and collected for public purposes only, and the power of taxation shall never be surrendered, suspended or contracted away. All taxes shall be uniform upon the same class of property within the



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territorial limits of the authority levying the tax."
The third resolution may provide: "No poll or head tax shall be levied or collected in Oregon. The legislative assembly shall not declare an emergency in any act regulating taxation or exemption."

At the last election three taxation questions were considered, two of which were submitted by the tax commission. The third, backed by W. S. U'Ren, was passed, and provides that subjects of taxation must be submitted to the people before they can become a law.

West Sees Danger.
Governor West, in his inaugural message to the legislature, said on this subject:

"This new amendment will no doubt prove beneficial, because it will open the way for any and all reforms which were aimed at through the two defeated amendments, but it is objectionable in that it provides that no tax measure passed by the legislature can become effective, not even a meritorious emergency measure, until it has been on the hook for two years and has been approved by the people. This provision was no doubt inserted for fear that in the absence of legislative restrictions unjust measures might be passed by the legislature."

"This was undoubtedly a wise precaution, but it was unnecessary to go to extremes. The people would have been given ample protection if it had simply provided that no tax measure passed by the legislature should carry an emergency clause. This would have given

the people a chance to examine all tax measures passed by the legislature, invoke the referendum on the objectionable ones, and permit the taking effect without delay of all those which are meritorious."

This significance of the movement to repeal the tax provision adopted by the people lies in the fact that it will come from friends and not enemies of the initiative. These men declare that the state will probably have to face dangerous situations at times, if the law is permitted to remain in its present state.

These legislators will ask that the two defeated amendments to the legislation submitted at the election, providing for an equitable system of taxation, be passed. A number of senators and representatives who are strongly anti-assembly, and are Statement No. 1 men, will take the stump in favor of the proposal.

To show that they are in earnest in the proposition and have no concealed motives, they will ask that provision be made that no taxation measures be passed by the legislature with an emergency clause attached except on a two-thirds vote. They declare that this will be a guarantee to the taxpayers that nothing harmful to the interests will be done by the legislature.

George P. McLean, who has been chosen to succeed Morgan S. Bulkeley in the United States senate, has been prominent in Republican politics in Connecticut for many years and served as governor of the state from 1901 to 1903.

BRIDGE BILL HAS CHANCE IN CONGRESS

Encouraging news was conveyed to City Attorney Grant by letter from Washington, D. C., yesterday concerning the bill introduced in congress for the purpose of curing alleged defects in the federal laws governing the construction of bridges across navigable streams within a state. Judge Eugene Milner of Portland, who is in Washington on business, says in the letter that Senators Chamberlain and Bourne are doing all in their power to achieve passage of the bill, realizing that its passage would greatly stimulate the sale of bonds for the Broadway bridge by removing the alleged flimsy legal objections raised by an attorney for a large eastern firm of bond buyers.

United States Senator Isaac Stephenson of Wisconsin, who has been charged with having obtained his seat in the senate corruptly, was sent to the senate in 1907 to fill out the unexpired term of John C. Spooner. Senator Stephenson was born in Canada in 1829 and has resided in Wisconsin since 1841. He long has been prominent in Wisconsin politics, having been a member of congress from 1882 to 1889.

COMMITTEE VERY MUCH DIVIDED

Abolition of Capital Punishment Bill Has Friends and Enemies Alike.

Salem, Or., Jan. 28.—The revision of laws committee in the house is hopelessly divided on the subject of whether or it is advisable to abolish capital punishment in Oregon and two reports will come from this committee to the floor next week.

Peterson, of Umatilla, who introduced the bill to abolish capital punishment, and Fouts of Multnomah, are the committee members who are in favor of it. Derby, of Hood River, and Neuner, of Douglas, believe it is safest to permit the present system to remain in effect, and Hollis, of Washington, the fifth member of the committee, has not yet made up his mind as to whether or at least has not yet committed himself.

The Peterson bill is intended to limit the pardoning powers of the governor as well as abolish the death penalty. It provides that justices of the supreme court may hear any new evidence, uncorroborated by the conviction of the prisoner. If they find that he or she was wrongfully or erroneously convicted of the crime, or is innocent, they may transmit the facts to the governor, who then has privilege of granting a pardon. The bill provides for life imprisonment for those convicted of treason and first degree murder and for a sentence of from 15 to 30 years and a fine of not more than \$10,000 for second degree murderers.

BABY ON TRAVELS IN BIG MARKET BASKET

New York, Jan. 28.—From Texas to this city two weeks old Harold Brandt traveled in a market basket. He is now aboard the Scandinavian liner United States on his way to Copenhagen to meet his grandmother. Harold arrived here with his father, Carl Brandt. Mr. Brandt's home and business are in Texas. His wife presented him with twins recently. One died and a few days later the death of Mrs. Brandt followed. Mr. Brandt decided to take his other baby to Copenhagen. He obtained a large market basket, had it lined with soft feather pillows, and started on the long journey.

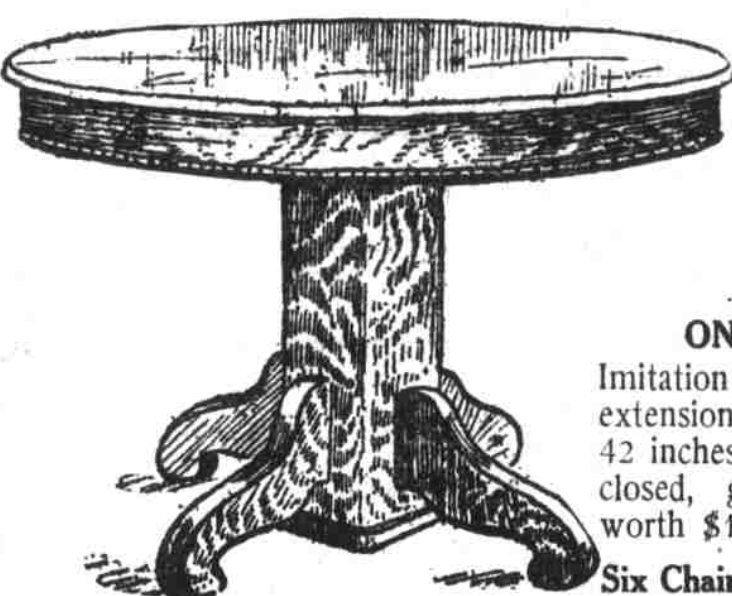
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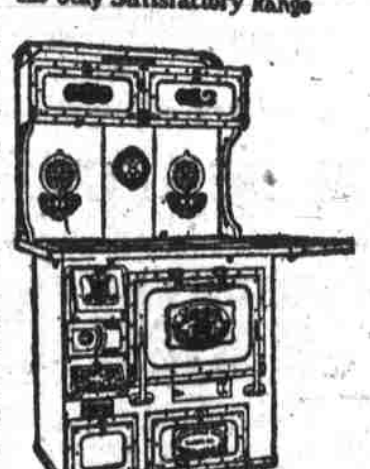
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