

LATE IN DAY TO RAISE A ROAR OF "SALARY GRAB"

When Gill Measure Was Up for Consideration, the Fair Minded High Riders on Steam Roller, Approved.

When the Gill salary bill, favored by Governor West about which so much discussion has since arisen, was passed by the house on February 13, there was no objection to it on the ground that it could in any way be considered a "salary grab."

In fact, the opposition to the measure was based entirely on the ground that it did not provide salary enough for the officials of some counties. For instance, Belland of Astoria, Clatsop county, opposed it for this reason.

"It would mean lower salaries than now for Clatsop county," he objected, "and consequently poorer officials."

It has been only since the refusal of the organization in the senate to consider this measure, which places the salaries of officials of every county in the state on a scientifically worked out basis, with a sliding scale for counties according to their classification in population and assessed valuation, and the passage over Governor West's veto of 20 individual county salary bills, that the steam roller has raised the hullabaloo against the Gill bill as a "salary grab."

The governor, in his vetoes of all these salary measures did so not on the ground that the increases were not justified, but that the legislature, by adopting the Gill bill fixing all county salaries, should take these salaries out of the legislative politics.

What High Riders Said Then.

Far from being in any way a "salary grab," salaries were so moderate under the Gill bill that eastern Oregon representatives insisted on amending the salaries for counties of the fourth class, in which their counties came, by increases of several hundred dollars. This action caused opposition to the measure on the ground that it made salaries of the fourth class higher than those of the third class. This amendment was not in the bill originally, but was inserted there by members of the roller. Showing how members of the house organization viewed this bill, however, a quotation from a speech made at the time by Latourette of Multnomah is of interest.

"If you are ever going to arrange the salaries of county officials and take them out of politics and out of the legislature," said Latourette, "you must pass this measure. Every legislature is disrupted by these county salary bills, and at every session we get roasted by the papers for the log rolling that always results."

"It's all wrong, I tell you, and it ought to be stopped. This is our chance to stop it."

Smith of Klamath, another prominent steam roller member, made a similar speech.

Under the Gill bill as amended in the house, the following classification and salary scale, would have gone into effect. In some instances raising salaries slightly, in others lowering those in certain counties, its purpose and effect generally was to place all county salaries on a fair and scientific basis and to take them out of the legislature.

Start in Right Direction.

Multnomah county, the only one in the first class, had its salaries fixed on their present basis.

For Lane and Marion, in the second class, salaries were: Sheriff, \$2000; county clerk, \$1800; assessor, \$1800; judge, \$1600; school superintendent, \$1600; treasurer, \$1400.

In the third class, comprising Clackamas, Douglas, Jackson, Linn and Umatilla, salaries for the same officials would have been respectively \$1900, \$1700, \$1500, \$1500, and \$1200.

In the fourth class as amended by the eastern Oregon representatives, salaries were as follows: \$2200, \$1800, \$1600, \$1400 and \$1100. In this class were Baker, Coos, Crook, Grant, Harney, Klamath, Lake, Malheur, Union, Wasco, Washington and Yamhill counties.

In the fifth class, comprising Benton, Clatsop, Columbia, Josephine, Morrow, Polk, Tillamook and Wallowa, salaries were fixed at \$1700, \$1500, \$1500, \$1300 and \$900.

In the sixth class, comprising Curry, Gilliam, Hood River, Lincoln, Sherman and Wheeler counties, salaries were fixed at \$1600, \$1500, \$1400, \$1200, \$900 and \$500.

It was not urged for the Gill bill that these classifications were all correct, or that the salaries named were exactly correct in every instance, but it was declared that passage of the bill

was the first step in putting salaries on an absolutely equitable basis and taking them out of politics.

Would Have Saved Much Trouble.

"Had the legislature passed such a measure as the Gill bill," said Allen Eaton, representative from Lane county yesterday, "the next legislature would have only amendments to make in the bill where salaries had not been satisfactory. Instead of that, there will probably be another gnat of 20 to 30 county salary measures for the next legislature to threaten out, and perhaps to pass over the governor's veto, just as in the present instance."

"The argument was made by some legislators that the thing to do was to clean up the salary bills so the next legislature would not have them to contend with. But the proper conclusion is that they should all be combined into one scientifically prepared measure so that the next legislature won't have to struggle with a host of purely local measures."

"One particularly vicious feature of these salary bills is that they are rarely passed on their merits. It is always oy

\$100,000,000 BABY AND HIS PICKANINNY MATE



Mrs. Edward B. McLean and (in wheel chair) Vinson Walsh McLean and John Winbush, son of the McLeans' coachman. This photograph was taken at Palm Beach, Florida, where Vinson, heir to the vast fortunes of the Walsh and McLean families, is having the time of his life with his parents and his favorite chum, John Winbush, son of the McLeans' Washington coachman. After the McLeans had been at the Florida resort a few days they noticed that little Vinson was not as happy as they want him to be every moment of his life. When questioned the youngster declared that life in Palm Beach was next to intolerable because of the absence of the little colored boy. Whereupon the fond McLean parents rushed to a telegraph office and had their coachman rush John to Florida post haste in care of a maid. Needless to say Vin and John are having a better time than any of the other winter vacationers at Palm Beach.

the recommendation of the respective delegations. We have to take their word for it. Sometimes they are split, as in the case of the Marion county delegation this year, when the house adopted the view of the minority of the delegation to raise salaries. Sometimes the delegations fail to represent their constituents.

"A notable example of that is the action of the Multnomah delegation in the famous Assessor Reed \$43,000 deputy assessor measure. The assessor himself discredited the delegation by agreeing to top off \$10,000 a year if the governor would not veto the measure."

And On They Go.

"An almost equally obnoxious bill was that raising the salary of County Clerk-elect Coffey of Multnomah county. While his salary may have been too low, yet he made his campaign proclaiming that he would not accept any fees and would be contented with the salary the office carried. It is quite likely that the people interpreted this to mean the salary the office paid at that time, and that they didn't figure that the Multnomah delegation would assist Mr. Coffey by raising his salary in the legislature."

"But if an outside member votes against the recommendation of a delegation in salary matters, it is considered poor legislative etiquette."

"Too few members seemed to have any appreciation of the effect that every unnecessary bill has upon legislation. The fact that the session just ended has set a high water mark in the number of

bills introduced is responsible for the extended session and for the increased expense to the Oregon taxpayer."

"With every bill contributing its quota to the expense of legislation, the advisability of passing a measure like the Gill bill that would reduce the number of bills, say 20 or 30, in one session, cannot be questioned."

"Even had the Gill bill resulted in some slight inequalities in its first attempt to adjust county salaries with some degree of uniformity, it cannot be questioned that the great saving it would effect during one session of the legislature would fully justify its passage."

EXTENSION OF P. & E. TO COOS BAY RUMORED

(Special to The Journal.)

Central Point, Or., March 7.—It is rumored that the Hill interests contemplate extending the Pacific & Eastern railway westward to Coos Bay, thus giving a direct outlet to the Pacific for Rogue River. Also, the Rogue River Valley Canal company is figuring on extending its ditch around the base of Roxie Anne to Ashland, thence crossing to the west side of the valley to Gold Hill. This would mean a more adequate supply of water, so farmers and fruit men herald the coming of the canal with the greatest spirit of friendliness.

SPECULATORS ARE WILLING PUBLIC SHOULD PAY BILL

Point of View Changes When Riparian and Park Block Improvements Are Made, It Is Declared.

By J. R. Ziegler.

The illiberal concessions to the city in the matter of title to public properties is with great alacrity reversed, when it comes to shouldering burdens upon such properties. Submerged lands along the harbor are riparian property for purposes of private speculation, but the improvement of such properties with seawalls and fills belongs to the public.

Just so, coveted eyes surveyed the park blocks, and when most valuable, the city authorities permitted successful raids upon them, but those retained are burdened with assessments which in equity do not belong to the public.

There is a prevalent impression that all the park blocks were originally platted 100 feet wide, but all official records show a width of 80 feet up to Salmon street, where the private seizures began, and 100 feet from there northwards.

Strange Fact Noted.

It is a strange fact, worthy of notice, that whereas the public records of Portland and Multnomah and Washington counties reach back to 1850 and are complete in parts, that the records of public surveys and plats begins with the Burrage map made in 1866, adopted by the council as the official map in 1869. It was based on the Brady map made for D. H. Lowndale in 1852, upon which were founded the claims of the donation land claimants for public properties laid out upon the original map made by Thomas A. Brown in 1844.

The contention over the title to these disputed dedications raged warmly from about 1850 to 1860, the public having the upper hand for the greater part of the period.

The prevention of trespasses upon Front street, the public levee and the public blocks (in those times everything from the west line of Front street to the river was called the public levee, the first name for Front street being Water street), was an issue always upon the table of the common council. It was the one permanently paramount subject. Only three times did it yield its preeminence, viz: When the first fire engine arrived from New York, when an Indian raid was mooted, and when a smallpox epidemic threatened.

City Fathers Divided.

So warm did it become, that it divided the city fathers into two groups, those for the private claimants and those for the public. A temporary ascendancy of the former party resulted in 1858 in electing a council containing a majority inimical to the city's claims. A member named Hardenburg was summarily expelled from the council for the use of such opprobrious words as "chicanery, etc." in reference to a committee on the subject, and the city attorney, E. D. Shattuck, was ordered to withdraw a number of suits prosecuted for some years in the public behalf.

A former council was severely criticized for "attempts to obtain property from some of her citizens without just compensation or pretension to title."

So reiterated was the resolution of "the rules of equity and justice adopted by this council," and the "unjustifiable confiscations attempted by former councils," that one having listened to the pleas of Messrs. Fulton, Thompson and Day against the unconscionable confiscations of the dock bill might easily imagine these latter gentlemen to be but the ghostly spirits of the defenders of private privilege in the ancient council of the city of Portland.

Measure Was Popular.

After this reactionary resolution, however, a rumor in the city received the attention of the council, to-wit: that the action meant the abandonment by the council of the intention that the city should make entry in the United States land office upon the townsites. This was a very popular measure adopted by a popular vote the previous year, after being referred to the people by a divided council. The rumor had the immediate effect of bringing the recalcitrant councilmen to their senses and they promptly disavowed the intention of abandoning the entry.

Some of the suits, at least, were prosecuted to a successful termination for the city in the territorial supreme court. The decision of Justice Olney of the supreme court, not only establishes the claims of the city, but the existence of maps of public record defining the public levee, parks and blocks. Not only that, but a later map used by the vendors of lots relied upon to establish claims of private parties upon a part of the levee, was held to be spurious, having another map carefully attached in such way that when folded under it would escape notice.

Private Claims Conceded.

Such was the position of these public claims up to about 1869, when the city, having made good in substantially all its contentions, having obtained a patent antedating all others—dated December 7, 1861, while the D. H. Lowndale patent was not issued until 1865—deliberately lay down on its rights and conceded as far as it could the private claims, another proof of the necessity that public properties can not be safely left at the disposal of officials, but must be held inalienable, at least by the officials.

However, the park blocks, sole relics of the liberal plans of our fathers that remain to the public, need not be loaded up with disproportionate assessments, as is proposed in the improvements just completed and as has been done in the past.

Property Owners Benefited.

The benefit of the Park streets accrues to the abutting private owners. This is true also, to a great extent of the park blocks themselves, as is indicated by higher tax assessments on the blocks facing East Park to the southward than those on Seventh street opposite.

Yet the city is assessed on the improvements for the 40 foot strip to the center of the park blocks the same amount as the 100 foot strip of private property on the opposite side.

The park blocks being public, producing no revenue, and being of as much benefit to private property abutting as to the public, it is doubtful whether equity would require that they be burdened with any more of the street improvement than the sidewalks and the intervening cross streets. At all events, the 80 foot park should not be burdened with the same assessments as 200 feet of private property, having market value and revenue producing capacity.

The International Brotherhood of Railway Maintenance of Way Employees plans the erection of a building at Du-

MUNICIPAL RESEARCH EXPERT DUE TUESDAY

William H. Allen, director of the bureau of municipal research of New York will arrive in Portland next Tuesday. The program arranged for his stay here was announced yesterday by Kingman Brewster, chairman of the program committee. Mr. Allen will be the

guest of C. S. Jackson at dinner in the Commercial club Tuesday evening. Fifty Portland business and professional men have been invited to meet him at the dinner. Wednesday at 12:15 p. m. in the Portland hotel, Mr. Allen will address a luncheon given under the auspices of the Ad club, to which the Rotary, Transportation, Progressive Business Men's clubs the reality Board and the Greater Portland Plans association have been invited. His subject will be "Efficiency in Government." Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock Director Allen will address a public meeting in the auditorium of the First Presbyterian church, his subject, "Commis-

ion Government." To this meeting all who are interested are invited, and admission is free.

Suffragette Gets 18 Months.

(United Press Local Wire.)

London, March 7.—Olive Wharry, alias Joyce Lowe, a militant suffragette, was sentenced today to 18 months' imprisonment at mid labor for her part in setting fire to the pavilion restaurant at Kew Botanical Gardens. The defense presented no testimony.

Only One "BROMO QUININE"

That is LAXATIVE BROMO QUININE. See signature of E. W. GROVE. Used World over to Cure a Cold in One Day. 35c

It's Spring Suit Time

—or, what's more to the point, it's Moyer \$15 Spring Suit time.

Moyer is showing hundreds of newest models in his famous \$15 Suits—models that will fit you and please you, no matter what your size may be—no matter what your age.

Tailored from Spring fabrics that are pure wool—tailored handsomely, too. You can't get so much real goodness outside of a Moyer \$15 Suit, unless you pay \$5 or \$10 more for it

That \$5 or \$10 is worth saving; you'll surely save it if your new suit is a Moyer \$15 suit. Let Moyer show you.

When You See It In Our Ad, It's So

MOYER

First and Yamhill
87 and 89 Third

Second and Morrison
Third and Oak

NEW TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

FOR

PORTLAND

WILL CLOSE

MARCH 15th

ANY changes or additions to listings or advertising matter for this issue must be arranged for on or before this date



THE PACIFIC TELEPHONE
AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY



Shivery Mornings

When the wind blows something hot tastes cracking good.

The New Hot Porridge

Post Tavern Special

Is just the thing.

This pleasing blend of the rich food flavours of wheat, corn and rice makes a fetching breakfast dish that the home folks quickly appreciate.

Sold by Grocers everywhere.

"Tomorrow's Breakfast"

Made by the Pure Food Factories of Postum Cereal Co., Ltd., Battle Creek, Mich.