

RURAL CREDITS BILLS START MUCH TALK IN LEGISLATIVE HALLS

Senate Committee on Agriculture Files Two Reports on Measure.

ONE CREATES NEW OFFICE

Other Merely Provides Machinery for Proper and Efficient Handling of Loans Under New Federal Act.

Salem, Or., Feb. 6.—One of the biggest oratorical battles of the legislative session is being waged in the senate today over opposing rural credits bills.

The question came before the senate this morning with two reports from the senate committee on agriculture. The majority report, signed by Senators Huxton and Lewis, favors the bill introduced by Senator Shanks, which was drafted and introduced with the approval of the state land board and the grange and other organizations which initiated the rural credits amendment to the constitution.

The minority report, signed by Senators Shanks and Barrett, favors the bill introduced by Barrett and Shanks.

Much Talk Heard.
The fight is being made on Shanks' motion to substitute the minority report for the majority report. Senator Shanks talked nearly an hour on his motion this morning and was answered by Senator Huxton, and the debate is being continued this afternoon.

The Shanks-Barrett bill creates a new office of superintendent of farm loans and provides for the appointment of land appraisers in all the counties, while the majority bill merely prescribes regulations for the state land board to administer the rural credits fund without creating additional offices.

The state land board now administers the loans of the \$6,000,000 common school fund.

Senator Shanks questioned the motives of the grange in supporting senate bill 128 and attacked the manner in which the state land board has handled the school fund.

Shanks Makes Objections.
"The members of the grange will be the borrowers of the fund," he said, "and they are seeking to dictate the terms on which they are to borrow it. This is not right in principle and it is not right in practice."

He said that half of the state land board attorneys knew nothing about appraising land.

"If we permit rural credits loans to be made in haphazard manner it will not be long until the whole state will be over-mortgaged," he said.

"I do not say that the state land board has lost money in loaning the school fund, but I do say the methods applicable to the school fund are not applicable to the rural credits fund."

"We know in past years there have been great abuses in making school fund loans. The maximum amount allowed for a school fund loan is \$500, but I know large land owners have divided their holdings among members of their families and obtained loans amounting to as much as \$20,000."

One Example Given.
"A senator sitting in this body at this time had \$20,000 of the school fund borrowed for 12 years ago."

He said, while the bill approved by himself and Barrett created the office of superintendent of farm loans at \$2400 a year, he could take the place

BILLS INTRODUCED IN OREGON SENATE

S. B. 265, by Cusick—Repealing law requiring medical certificate as requisite to issuance of marriage license.

S. B. 266, by Hurley—Relating to organization of drainage districts.

S. B. 267, by Hurley—Relating to petitions to county board of equalization for reduction of assessments.

S. B. 268, by Hurley—Killing 30 dead sections of the old water code.

S. B. 269, by Hurley—Defining mortgage insurance and regulating operations of mortgage insurance companies.

S. B. 270, by Cusick—Repealing law requiring teacher to sign contract to resign term for entire term engaged.

S. B. 271, by Huxton—Prohibiting persons representing themselves falsely to be notary publics.

S. B. 272, by Barrett—Limiting the school tax levy in school districts of 100,000 population to 5 mills.

S. B. 273, by Shanks—Permitting persons having fish licenses to angle on enclosed lands.

S. B. 274, by roads and highways committee—Amending existing road code, repealing dead sections, etc., as recommended by district attorneys.

S. B. 275, by roads and highways committee—Reducing penalty for injuring or destroying milestones, posts, etc.

S. B. 276, by roads and highways committee—Authorizing counties to acquire and condemn property for public uses and providing the procedure therefor.

S. B. 277, by roads and highways committee—Providing severe penalties for undermining or obstructing railroads, bridges, etc.

S. B. 278, by joint insurance committee—Regulating hospital associations.

S. B. 279, by Wilbur—Declaring moratorium on real estate mortgages held against soldiers or sailors in active military service of the United States, during period of any war.

BILLS INTRODUCED IN OREGON HOUSE

H. B. 486, by joint committee on insurance—Requiring fraternal insurance companies to provide for mortuary obligations.

H. B. 487, by joint committee on insurance—Providing for juvenile insurance.

H. B. 488, by joint committee on insurance—Providing for membership in insurance societies.

H. B. 489, by joint insurance committee—To assure future security of fraternal insurance benefits.

H. B. 490, by joint consolidation committee—Providing for reorganization of state tax commission to consist of state board of control and one tax commissioner.

A \$2400 clerk now being employed in the state treasurer's office out of the school fund.

"The difference between the majority and the minority of the committee," said Senator Huxton, "is that the majority undertook to carry out the expressed wish of the people who initiated the rural credits amendment, while the other seem to think the people do not know what they want."

The people of the state expressed their confidence in the state land board when they gave the board, in the rural credits amendment, authority to proceed with the administration of the amendment without further legislation, and there is no occasion now for us to express fear that the state land board will administer the fund crookedly. Such sentiment is wrong. It is wrong to say that because a man is elected to public office he must be a crook."

Same Old Song.
Referring to Shanks' plea for the creation of the office of superintendent of farm loans, Senator Huxton said that he had heard the same old song sung many times, that to create a new office would save money in the long run.

"I never yet have known it to do so," he said, "if there is any well defined sentiment in this state, it is against the creation of new offices."

Senator Huxton replied to Shanks' references to the manner in which the land board has administered the school fund.

"I have consulted bankers in the state," he said, "and I do not believe any bank in the state has the interest on its loans paid up as well as has the state land board on the school fund loans. During the depression in business which has been experienced in the last few years we would not have justified the land board if it had foreclosed the mortgages it held as soon as the interest was in default."

Round-Up Misses Coming.
Four Round-up misses, being sent on a trip to San Francisco, as the guests of the Pendleton Tribune, will arrive in Portland tonight. During their stay in this city they will be at the Hotel Multnomah.

When writing to or calling on advertisers, please mention The Journal.

(Adv.)

TERIBLES OF JOY—

"In The American." We believe this to be the greatest bill we have ever offered.

JENSEN & VON HERBERG, Managers.

Dismisses Slander Suit.

An order of dismissal was entered by Presiding Judge Gantenbein in the \$20,000 slander suit of Dr. Gustav Philip von Braun Ehrenstrom, an exile from Oregon, against Rev. W. G. MacLaren of the Portland commonwealth.

Ehrenstrom was banished from Oregon by District Judge Bell on July 11, 1916, because of threats made against his life soon after he had filed suit for divorce. The plaintiff accused Rev. Mr. MacLaren of "using undue influence in the prosecution of the case," alleging that slanderous assertions made had led to the divorce suit.

Judge Gantenbein also dismissed the divorce suit.

Two Divorces Granted.

E. C. Genereaux, a marine surveyor, was granted a divorce from Elizabeth Crafts Genereaux, the ground of desertion. The wife left for San Jose, Cal., several months ago to join a literary colony. The husband was allowed custody of the three children.

Katheryn Knoche was granted a divorce from George Knoche. The custody of the child will be divided in six months' periods between the father and mother.

Tommy Tracey Asks Damages.

Suit for \$20,000 general damages and \$477 special damages was commenced before Circuit Judge Morrow today by Thomas Tracey, former boxing instructor at the M. A. A. C., against Bertha E. Martin, as result of personal injuries sustained by the plaintiff when he was struck by an automobile owned by the defendant and driven by B. H. Young. The accident took place at Twentieth and Washington streets, March 11 last. Reckless driving and incompetence on part of the driver are alleged.

Files Suit for Divorce.

C. F. Ohlsen filed suit for divorce from Dorothy Ohlsen on the grounds of desertion. He asks custody of the daughter, Freda Irene Ohlsen, aged 2.

Echo Woman Is Killed by Train

Echo, Or., Feb. 6.—Crossing the railroad tracks early this morning at Echo, Mrs. A. J. Coburn was struck by a west bound passenger train and instantly killed. A cap over her ears is believed to have prevented her hearing the train, the glasses in the case, were found on the pilot of the engine. Her daughter, Ruth Coburn, is now attending Behrke-Walker college, Portland.

Scenic and educational—a hand-colored Columbia feature showing the beauty and luxury of an Algerian Harem.

Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Drew, famous character artists, in their great film comedy—

"FREE SPEECH"

"Come early and see"

Will Rebuild Plant Of Medford Creamery

Medford, Or., Feb. 6.—After a day of consultation and telegraphic exchange of views, it was decided to rebuild the Jackson County creamery, destroyed yesterday by fire, with a loss of \$10,000.

The new building, both of the ice and the creamery plants, was not much damaged. Manager Kroschel moved the creamery headquarters to the Kroschel building, a block distant, and is rehabilitating that phase of the business. The plant may be rebuilt on a different location and possibly moved to the original site if the fire has not been determined. Insurance partly covered the loss.

Peace Mass Meeting Called for Tonight

Expected That Proposition to Submit Matter of Going to War to Vote of People Will Be Discussed

All Portlanders who favor the maintenance of peace by the United States are called upon to attend a peace mass meeting to be held at 8 o'clock tonight in Gorman House, Thirteenth and Main streets.

The call for the meeting is made by Rev. Karl O. Salzman, pastor of St. John's Lutheran church.

Peace and means for keeping this country out of war will be discussed and it is expected that resolutions will be adopted calling upon the president to use his best efforts to prevent war for the sake of humanity.

It is also expected that memorials to congress will be proposed asking that the proposition of going to war be put to a vote of the people through a nationwide referendum.

In the name of the Federated German Speaking Societies of Oregon a telegram was sent to the president Sunday asking that he do everything in his power to keep the United States out of war.

For all citizens interested.

ACT ON CHRISTMAS DAY

Inmate Is Flee On Which Defendant Is Standing Trial—Quick Selection of Jury Is Expected.

Marcus H. McCall, barber, went on before Circuit Judge J. P. Kavanaugh today, accused of the murder of W. A. Shaner, another barber. The tragedy took place in the Murphy brothers' barber shop in the Morgan building on Christmas day.

McCall is standing trial on a charge of insanity. His attorneys, William A. Carter and W. W. Critchfield, are preparing a defense.

John Celler and Deputy Hindman, are prosecuting. It is expected that the jury will be selected by noon today.

The men are charged with the murder of Shaner, a barber, who was found in a rooming house in the Murphy building on Christmas day.

It will be necessary to prove that McCall was unable to distinguish between right and wrong when he shot Shaner. Attorneys for the accused questioned the jurors closely to learn if they had any prejudices against a plea of insanity in a murder case.

According to the claims of defendant's attorneys McCall has been mentally unbalanced for many years; that he had a hallucination that certain persons were in a conspiracy to take his life and that shortly before the murder he believed a clique of men in Portland was plotting against his life.

McCall shot Shaner while the latter was at his work. McCall had formerly worked at the shop and had been discharged following trouble between himself and Shaner.

CHILDREN PLAY IN COURT

Frank Shillock and Maxine Rushing, both interested in suit.

While opposing litigants occupied opposite sides of the long table in Circuit Judge Davis' court, two children, the daughter of a claimant for legal services, extended the olive branch to each other and enjoyed childish pranks before court and jury.

Attorney John Shillock, suing Mrs. J. Gertrude Shillock, administratrix of the estate of the late C. C. Rushing, for a fee of over \$7500 for services rendered in the settlement of \$50,000, Mrs. Shillock's son, Frank Shillock, aged 3, was present in court with his parents.

Shillock, aged 5, daughter of the defendant, was also present. The antics of the tots caused the adult persons in the courtroom to smile.

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