

### ROADS MEASURE WINS IN HOUSE; DEBATE IS WARM

#### Charges of Attempted Bribery by One Representative Against Patent Trust Are Not Heeded. PROVIDES FOR \$10,000,000

### Near Fist Fight Also Enlivens Stormy Session That Led Up to Victory for Paving Interests

Salem, Feb. 19.—After an all day session, filled with sensations ranging from charges of attempted bribery, insinuations of too close solicitude for the welfare of the Warren Construction company, and down the gamut of thrilling incidents to a barely averted fist fight between Representatives Scheubel and Bean, the house late Tuesday afternoon passed the \$10,000,000 road bonding bill by a vote of 51 for and 4 against, with three absent.

Those voting no were Cross, Richards, Scheubel, Smith of Multnomah and Mrs. Thompson. Those absent were Horne, Slicher and Wheeler.

Cross, in explaining his vote, said that he did not believe an emergency existed, because the commission now had more money than it could spend in the act of making the roads. He said that the act would take effect without the emergency clause.

Richardson objected to the emergency clause, to the payment of any sum for royalties on patented pavement, and because, he said, the bill put a mortgage on the property of the state without giving the people an opportunity to say whether they wanted to do so.

Smith said that the bill was wrong, that the emergency clause was untrue, and Mrs. Thompson said that there were things in the bill that she could not support, and that she was able to go home and explain her position to the people who had sent her to the legislature.

Just before the vote was taken Sheldon moved that the house, which had just come out of the committee of the whole, after its day-long session for consideration of the measure, again return to committee for the purpose of bringing out the words "strength, durability and resistance to war," which were included in section 14, and which, as the bill stood, gave to the highway commission the option of taking these things into consideration in the award of contracts for pavement. The motion was voted down without debate and the vote was

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**SISTRAN THEATRE**

VAUDEVILLE

CURRENT EVENTS WEEKLY

Starts Tomorrow

then taken on the final passage of the bill.

After luncheon Scheubel introduced an amendment providing "that the state highway commission shall not construct, contract for, or specify in any contract for the payment of any road or highway any patented pavement specifications, mixture or process."

Graham said he did not believe the legislature wanted to say that the commission would not use patented pavement. The amendment was lost by an overwhelming negative vote.

Tying Commissioner's Hands

Smith of Multnomah moved to amend by so changing section 14 that the commission would be empowered to construct highways by force account only.

Smith said that he probably would be the only one in the house who would support the amendment. A peculiar condition existed, he said. They had been contending that no restrictions should be thrown around the highway commission that would tie its hands, but all the time, for weeks in the committees and for two days in the open session, they had been trying to write into law all kinds of restrictions upon the commission.

highway commission wanted those things which were not right the measures which have been suggested would not change them. If the legislature wanted to leave their hands—the commissions'—hands—untied they could do so by leaving them to say how the work was to be done.

It was unfortunate circumstances that Scheubel and the majority of the legislature had made during the morning session. He had been talking with Scheubel and Hare last night about amendments to the bonding bill, and he had stated that he was not in a mind to support any contract system.

"What he was going to say was not going to cast any aspersions against any member of the legislature, or any contractor or anyone else."

Smith Tells What He Knows

"All I know is what I know," Smith said. "Each member of the house and senate are endowed with a conscience and they know what the conditions are. The fact of the matter is this, unsupported by anything but my own word. The occurrence of last Friday morning was what unalterably fixed my position."

"Last Saturday morning I was approached, and I feel humiliated about it. It is no compliment that I was picked out as the only crook in the 60 of you. But I was approached by a man whom I had always considered as a friend, and I believe that he was influenced by his surroundings. If I thought that his best interests or those of his family were to be conserved I would give his name."

"Those who usually try to use bribe money don't usually go before a notary and send their money up by messenger. But there was an offer to make an offer of money, a substantial sum to a man in my financial condition—with the statement that if it was not enough I could name my own terms. There were several things that I could have done. I could have taken the money and cashed it here and made grandstand play, or I could have dragged the man here into the legislature and ruined his family."

Contract System Is Wrong

"It was sufficient to convince me that my thoughts on these things were correct and that the contract system was the wrong system. I did not know where the money came from; I did not have proof that would convince any court. But that money was being offered me to do as I pleased with it, and I, Senator Thomas or Dimick did not offer me money to vote for the bill. Certainly someone must have been offering it who was expecting to get money out of his bond issue."

"Put these things together and you can know where the money was coming from. I mention the circumstances to serve notice that these things cannot go on in the legislature. When men want to do business with me that all they have to do is to get down to brass tacks and do it honestly."

"And I want to say as to Kubi's motion for an investigation, that the man who is concerned knows that it is up to him to speak. I have that regard for his family, and so believe that he will yet come right. No matter what your investigation is, if he does not speak, I will not."

Stewart said that the question of force account problem had been threshed out before one public meeting held in the house and that it had been shown to what enormous extent the expense of the system would be to the force account plan was put upon the commission.

Cheapsness Causes Corruption

The corruption and collusion came, Stewart contended, in the employment of cheap commissioners and cheap engineers, who could be corrupted. Withycombe, member, said anything better than when he put Benson, Booth and Thompson on the highway commission. They were big men.

had never been any agitation saying: To him with steel rails, let us use putty or wood."

Smith Amendment Lost

The Smith amendment was lost by a practically unanimous vote. Hare of Washington then moved an amendment to section 14 in addition to the force account amendment reading, "Provided, further, that if the commission shall let any contract for the construction of any road under the provisions of this act, consisting of any article or pavement upon which a patent is claimed, then, in such event, the state highway commission may so levy royalties that the due amount of account of the construction of such road so laid with such patented article or pavement, direct to the patentee, and the contractor or contractors shall only be required to bid on the construction of such road without including in their bid the cost of royalties that may be claimed on account of the construction of such road with such patented article or pavement."

Hare said that this amendment met with the sanction of the highway commission and the chairman Thompson of the highway commission, who had said that if the provision was written into law the would do his damndest to squeeze the royalty out of bituthite."

Could Make Segregation

It would give the commission the power to segregate the royalty from the cost of construction and go as far as could be done in securing honest payment at an honest price.

"The Warren Construction company would never be driven out by such an amendment, Hare would have contended, "but if it were found to be necessary to drive them out to protect the state from the ravishment of the road, then the sicks ought to be put under it."

Dennis said that the committee had consistently contended that none of the money should be devoted to the royalties unless they had been included in the total cost of the smallest bid submitted. The Hare amendment, which was in the position of the committee, but was in complement of the bill passed by the house at the morning session, provided for investigation and patents by the attorney general and subsequent refusal to pay in event of invalidity.

The Hare amendment was adopted, and the section as amended by the Gore and Hare amendments was approved. The bill as amended was then approved and placed on its final passage.

INCURABLE INSANITY AS DIVORCE CAUSE BUMPED ONCE MORE

Perpetual Bill Comes Up for Its Customary Defeat, This Time at Hands of Senate.

Salem, Feb. 19.—Once again the Oregon legislature has rejected the proposition that incurable insanity shall be made legal grounds for a divorce.

A bill with that provision has been introduced at every session for many years past, and it is as regularly killed. The bill was introduced by Senator Thomas of Multnomah county, and was passed by a vote of 10 to 13 with seven senators absent.

The measure was senate bill 134, introduced by Senator Thomas of Multnomah county when supporting the bill, that if he should lose his mind he would want his wife to be free to marry again and if his wife lost her mind he would want the same freedom.

The vote on the bill was as follows: Yes—Gil, Handley, Howell, Hurley, Jones, Moser, Smith of Josephine, Strayer, President Vinton. No—Baldwin, Eberhard, Eddy, Farrell, Lachmund, La Follett, Nickelsen, Patterson, Pierce, Porter, Shanks, Smith of Coos, Wood.

Absent—Banks, Bell, Dimick, Huston, Orton, Rittner, Thomas.

"This is the third time since I have been a member of the legislature that I have been forced to fight this pernicious bill," said Senator Smith of Coos. He said that no one knows whether a person is permanently insane and that two instances coming under his personal knowledge of women who had been pronounced incurably insane, and who had recovered.

He said these bills are introduced at the instance of men who want to abandon their wives and marry younger women.

### 60 DAY SESSION AND WAGE RISE LEFT TO VOTERS

#### Legislators Would Avoid Midnight Toils by Adding 20 Days to Biennial Session at \$5 Daily.

#### SALARY COVERS EXPENSES

#### Resolution Would Provide Reconstruction Hospital in Portland; Governor Would Fill Vacancies

Salem, Feb. 19.—By a practically unanimous vote the house went on record this morning as favoring submission to the people of an amendment to the constitution extending the time limit of legislative sessions from 40 to 60 days and increasing the pay of legislators from \$3 to \$5 per day.

Representative Hare, who, together with Representative Lewis, introduced the resolution providing the amendment, declared that it was an effort to correct at least some of the evils to be found in the present legislative system by extending the time limit to 60 days, the last 20 days of which would be devoted to consideration of bills without the necessity of laboring under the press of new bills.

No bills, except appropriation measures and measure relating to the defense of the state or nation, would be introduced after the fortieth day of the session, and no bills would be taken into consideration after the expiration of the session. Under the present system, he pointed out, both the house and senate are compelled to contend with midnight sessions and cram through bills without due consideration of their merits, and "the surprising thing is that we are able to pass as many good bills as we do."

Special sessions would be limited to 20 days at \$5 per day, and legislators would receive 3 cents for every mile traveled to and from the state capital.

Representative Hare denied that it was the intent of the amendment to provide "primarily stipend" for members of the legislature and doubted that the \$5 per day would secure any better legislative material than could be secured at \$3 a day, but, he declared, that will at least cover necessary expenses while members are in attendance upon the legislature.

Vacancies in the legislature due to the death of a member after his election, would be filled by appointment by the governor, according to the provisions of a house joint resolution providing an amendment to the constitution, which was passed by the house today.

Coos and Curry counties are now without a representative in the house due to the resignation of Representative Stannard and no provision whereby the vacancy could be filled.

The house passed joint resolution No. 20 by a vote of 10 to 13, providing for a reconstruction hospital to be erected on land adjoining the present medical college in Portland. The measure involves an amendment to the state constitution and must be approved by the people—if it passes the senate—before becoming effective.

FOUR YEAR TENURE IN COUNTY OFFICES IS NOT ENCOURAGED

Resolution Defeated Is Said to Have Been Inspired by Officials Fearing Election Fate.

Salem, Feb. 19.—An attempt to extend the tenure of office of county officials from two to four years met with slight encouragement in the house today, but 10 members voting for the resolution.

The measure had been introduced by Representative Richardson by request. "Who requested you to introduce the resolution?" queried Coffey. But Richardson refused to enlighten his colleagues on the subject.

### Remodeled Measure For Double Boards In Election Passes

#### Salem, Feb. 19.—Representative Crawford's double election board measure was passed by the house today after having been remodeled to meet the objections of several members when it came up for consideration and met defeat two weeks ago.

Principal among the objections was the provision requiring the counting board to begin work within 30 minutes after the polls were opened and to proceed with the count as rapidly as possible. Under the amended bill the count will not begin until 25 or more ballots have been cast and no box will be opened until it contains 25 or more ballots, with the exception of the last box of the day. This change was made in order to eliminate the possibility of invading the secrecy of the ballot which, it was contended, would have been the case should the box have been opened after only one vote had been cast. The measure, it was explained, would expedite the count of ballots without increasing the expense of elections.

### Start Negotiations To Postpone Strike

London, Feb. 19.—(I. N. S.)—Premier Lloyd-George expects to meet representatives of the miners tomorrow to negotiate a postponement of the threatened strike pending a government investigation into the question of nationalizing the coal mines.

Accused of Killing Policeman

Los Angeles, Feb. 19.—(U. P.)—Bert Williams, alias Frank Burns, is in the city jail today charged with the murder of Policeman P. J. Downey, who was killed Tuesday afternoon near River station, Los Angeles. Williams was found hiding under a flatcar soon after Downey was killed and partially confessed when arrested. Williams, the police investigation showed, had been arrested by Downey and then broke away from the officer. Downey gave chase and Williams shot him.

### OSWEGO DISTRICT AGAIN LOSES ITS ANNEXATION HOPE

#### Bill to Transfer Area to Multnomah Once More Is Voted Down in House.

#### CROSS STAYS MEMBERS

#### Clackamas Man Pleads That Legislature Not Punish His County To Get Revenge on Scheubel.

Salem, Feb. 19.—Oswego lake and some 10 square miles of territory adjacent thereto were saved to Clackamas county today by the indefinite postponement of house bill 154, altering the boundary lines between Clackamas and Multnomah counties.

A favorable majority report which had been tabled several days ago after a heated debate centering around the move was removed from the table Monday evening by a motion of Representative McFarland. Following immediately on the heels of the heated discussion over the \$10,000,000 bond bill the move was regarded as an effort to reprimand the Clackamas county delegation, which had opposed the passage of the road measure.

Sensing the temper of the house, Representative Cross arose to a defense of Clackamas county with a plea that the house should not strike this county in an effort to revenge itself against his colleagues. Representative Scheubel and Senator Dimick, who have been most consistent in their opposition to roads legislation.

that time and that the measure might be considered on its merits and not used as a club against his erring colleagues, of whose actions he denied any responsibility.

"I have been entrusted with their care while at the legislature and I have promised to bring them both home just as alive," he said. "I have been kept pretty busy carrying out my part of the contract. First, I have had to pack Mr. Scheubel's head in the trunk, and now I am all out of legs and I want the house to bear with me and not punish me just to get even with them."

Clackamas and Multnomah counties have too much in common and there are too many big things clamoring for attention to stoop to "little spiteful things," he declared. Cross was born in Clackamas county and had spent his entire 62 years in that county, he declared, and was more representative of the people that county than either of his colleagues.

Measure Is Lost

The plea of Cross won a postponement of action until this morning, when it came up for consideration immediately after the house convened. Cross then moved the indefinite postponement of the bill. The roll call started out with a succession of noes that boded ill for Clackamas county. When the clerk reached the name of Cross on the roll he crossed it with his wife on a farm 13 miles east of here, attempted to end his life Tuesday by shooting himself through the head. Ill health is blamed. No hope for his recovery is given.

Discharged Soldier, Ill, Tries to End Life

Roseburg, Feb. 19.—William Bayless, a recently discharged soldier, who resides with his wife on a farm 13 miles east of here, attempted to end his life Tuesday by shooting himself through the head. Ill health is blamed. No hope for his recovery is given.

Taft Speaks in Roseburg

Roseburg, Feb. 19.—William H. Taft, former president of the United States, made a brief address to school children Tuesday when his train stopped here. Mr. Taft was greeted by local citizens while he was taking a constitutional up and down the platform.

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