

LEGISLATORS ARE WATCHING STEPS; BIG ISSUES LOOM

Session Proceeds Calmly; Work Is Well Done; Major Fights in Course of Careful Preparation.

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homon of the judiciary committee, of which he is chairman.

SCHEME IS RESENTED
As a result of his arbitrary attitude, he has made a number of the Multnomah men mad, while at the same time the insistence of himself, Frank Warren, and other advocates of the "Big Six" program, upon the bills being swallowed without compromise, confession or clear cut statements of what the port commission wants or intends to do, has raised a question in the minds of many of the upstate members.

This condition taken together with the open division of the Multnomah members on the subject, the presence of the Hooford bills in the house and the promise of the Joseph substitute for the senate all presents a very muddled situation which the coming week may or may not clarify.

THIRD HEARING WEDNESDAY
Wednesday night will see a third hearing on the port question out of which may come a clearer understanding of what is going to happen. Whether that hearing will be under the auspices of the senate judiciary committee or the Multnomah delegation will depend upon whether Senator Hume follows his threat of last Thursday evening to take the port bills away from Moser's committee and re-refer them to the Multnomah delegation, a procedure which without doubt would mean a forensic battle should Hume demand it.

The teachers' tenure bill, another Multnomah county measure, promises to set the capitol by the ears during the present week. The bill, introduced by Senator Staples, will have to meet the combined onslaught of a varied host during the early part of the week.

LOBBYISTS ARE BUSY
Tom Neuhausen and Mrs. George McMahon, both employed to lobby against the Staples bill, have been at Salem during the last week busy putting lobbying blocks in its way whenever possible. Their efforts will be supplemented by recruits during the week.

Road legislation is yet in an embryonic stage. During the early days of the present week it is expected that the highway commission will lay before the joint highway committee a clear and concise statement of its recommendations for additional legislation, and it is probable that these will be followed in the main.

The principal questions confronting the highway committee are the size of the bonding bill which will be presented; the regulation of weight and speed on the highways; alteration of the present road map, and readjustments of the license fee and the gasoline tax.

SCRUTINIZE WEIGHTS
It would seem to be a foregone conclusion that regulation and control of the weights of loads and the speed of trucks will be carefully considered and written into law, while there is much debate whether it would be better to increase the license fee or to reduce it, and add 1 cent, or more, per gallon to the price of gasoline. The highway commission needs more revenue for bond carrying and for road maintenance than the legislature is to grant authority to issue bonds up to the 4 per cent limitation of the constitution. Chairman

Good of the commission estimates that \$5,000,000 more of bonds in the total \$10,000,000 can be handled with safety unless additional revenue is given for interest, sinking fund and maintenance accounts. The four per cent bonds would permit approximately \$9,000,000 of bonds to be yet authorized and there are many who believe that both license fees and gasoline taxes should be raised if necessary to provide carrying money on the one hand and not stop construction work on the other.

GORDON'S BILL TARGET
Gordon's tax supervision commission and county budget bills are in committee waiting for hearings that have been asked by those opposed to them. Before the week has ended representatives of the city council, county government, Portland school district, probably the Port of Portland and other tax levying units will swoop down upon the capitol in an attempt to pick Gordon's pet measure to pieces.

Hooford's bill to repeal the Home anti-injunction act of 1919 has stirred the organized labor interest up to the fighting point and will probably be the cause of a big battle though there seems to be a pretty general sentiment among the members against raising the old bitterness between the employers and employees at this session.

FISH ISSUE MILD
Fish and game legislation, from present indications, will not be the trouble breeder that it has in the past few sessions. The Rogue river is still a possible source of contention but the committee seem to have made up their minds to send in the bills recommended by the fish and game commission with their in-creased of separate fish and game commissions, and the commission's bills do

IN THE LEGISLATURE UPPER HOUSE



not differ in great degree from the so-called "compromise" measures introduced by Thomas in the senate and Sheldon in the house.

Turning to political legislation, strenuous efforts have been made during the past two weeks to line up enough votes to pass the "straight party ballot bill" of the 1920 special session over the veto of the governor. Those who have been making the attempt admit that they have not been able, so far, to find the necessary 20 votes in the senate, while the house is still fallow and uncultivated ground.

ROCKS IN WAY
If it should be possible to put the straight party ballot over then the boys would hop to the task of side swiping the primary law and restoring the convention system in Oregon party politics. But they are having a lot of trouble and are not very sanguine.

The end of the present week will mark the half way point of the session, so far as time is concerned. During the next five or six days issues ought to crystallize and battle lines develop so that from next week on dull moments will be circumstances of the past.

Korell Establishes Record for Number Of Bills Introduced

State House, Salem, Jan. 22.—The most prolific bill producer of the present session has been Representative Franklin F. Korell of Multnomah county. While some other members of the house have attained records of the introduction of as many bills, Korell stands to the fore with a showing of 11 bills introduced by himself and two house memorials introduced by himself jointly with others.

Korell's record today shows that he is sponsor for house bills Nos. 2, defining banks; 24 (Korell with others), relief for indigent soldiers (which bill has been passed); 35, election of constables for four-year terms in Multnomah county (also passed); 77, regulating bond investment companies; 97, creating a state board of aircraft examiners; 102 (Korell with others), providing anti-Japanese legislation; 104, regulating cold storage fish; 105, licensing day nurseries; 109, pertaining to use of certified checks for bail; 111, relating to diseased persons being employed in food production; 116, pertaining to salaries of insurance company officers; house joint memorial No. 2 (Korell and others), memorializing congress for passage of Fordney compensation plans; house joint memorial No. 4 (Korell and others), memorializing congress for use of Fort Walla Walla for hospitalization and re-training of disabled soldiers.

Gordon of Multnomah county, Allen of Lane county and Overturn of Crook, Deschutes, Grant, Jefferson, Klamath and Lake counties, have records of introducing six bills each.

STATE INCOME TAX LAW RECOMMENDED

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tax levy for the current year has already been fixed and that, therefore, no income tax law provided by the present legislature would change the condition of things prior to 1922.

INCOME BY CLASSES
What the proposed commission would need, Senator Day contends, as a basis for proposed income tax legislation, would be the totals of income by classes. In other words, if the commission, or the legislature, knew the total of individual incomes, above a certain minimum, earned within the state in a year, together with the same total of corporate incomes, it would have a basis, which, taken in conjunction with the assessed valuation of the real property of the state, could be made the foundation for an equitable tax code deriving its revenue both from property and income, and burdensome upon neither.

WAY TO REDUCE TAX
This information and data is now, in fact, in the possession of the internal revenue department of the federal government, included in the federal income tax returns of the Oregon district. Should it be possible to secure permission from

the president, or the department, to take the totals of these returns, and this is considered more than probable, the task of the proposed commission would be reduced to the simple operation of compilation from the government records.

While no such suggestion is contained in the committee's report, it is considered possible that, the data once gathered, it might be to the great benefit of the taxpayers of the state to submit the proposed tax legislation which could be predicated upon it to a special session of the legislature called during the latter portion of the current year for the sole purpose of considering such legislation, and thus put the new system, should it be evolved, into full force and effect in ample time to care for 1922 taxation.

PROPERTY BURDEN GROWS
The committee report goes into the history of taxation exhaustively and shows how it is that the burden upon real property has continually grown until now it is burdensome and necessary of fundamental change, pointing to the rapid shift from the time when the country was agricultural in the main, to the present, when industrial and commercial life has shifted the proportion.

It is pointed out also that while the sudden demands of war have thrown the burden of federal taxation out of all proportion to the past, the burdens of state governments have not been effected and the demands of state taxation have not been shifted to any material degree, so that the question of state revenue rests upon the same basis of necessity as it did prior to the war.

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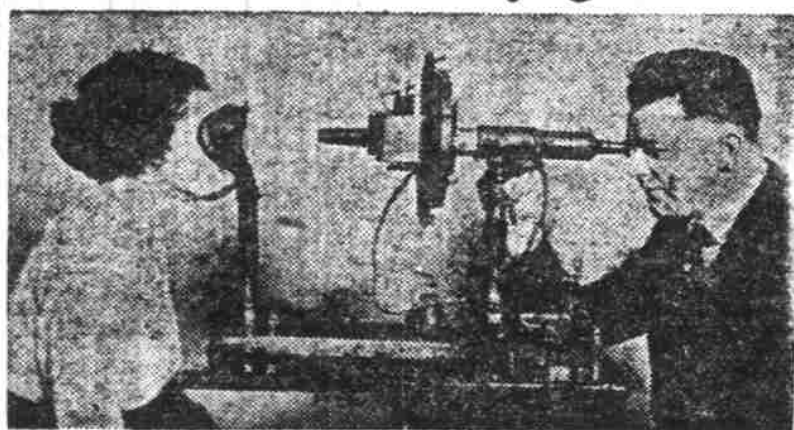
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