

Restoration of Capital Punishment Is Doubtful Special Session Issue

Political prognosticators who have been carefully scanning the horizon since Governor Olcott issued his call for a special session of the legislature to be convened here January 12, are freely predicting that the solons will be in Salem at least two weeks—if prompt action is taken by the legislature to shut off the flow of bills early in the session. If the flow is permitted to proceed unhampered it is declared the lawmakers will be grinding away for the full 20 days to which the constitution limits a special session.

While most of the five problems specified for solution in Governor Olcott's call for the session are regarded as slated for easy passage it is generally believed that a bitter fight will be waged around the attempt to restore capital punishment in Oregon. His measure, it is believed, promises to become the rock upon which the session will strand, as even those who favor the restoration of the supreme penalty for murder admit that opponents of the plan are strongly entrenched and in a position to make a telling fight against the measure.

The proposed increase in the rates of compensation to injured workmen and their dependents, will, it is believed find clear sailing through both houses on the legislative program, which is being framed at a conference in Portland today.

Aside from the five problems which Governor Olcott puts up to the legislature in his formal call for the session no less than a dozen others have made their appearance on the political horizon during the past two weeks and it is generally believed here that many others which have not yet opened their eyes to the light of day are being incubated in the minds of the lawmakers or their friends who might be possessed of a hobby upon which the welfare of the state is believed to depend.

A new bill regarding a certain to make a bid for recognition at the January session is one changing the test requirements on gasoline sold within the state. The recent action of the oil companies in boosting the price of this commodity a cent and a half per gallon because of the present requirement of a 56 degree specific gravity test is regarded as practically insuring an attempt at securing some relief for the consumers thereof at the forthcoming session. The novelty of being the only state in the union with such a test is not regarded as being worth the more than \$800,000 which this requirement will cost automobile owners and other consumers of gasoline during the next year in the added cost represented by the extra one and one-half cents per gallon. While no measure providing the relief from this financial burden has yet been brought into the legislature light one is confidently expected. The nature of such a measure is as yet only a matter of conjecture, but it is regarded as practically certain that it will be based upon the boiling point of the gasoline, upon which the federal government now bases its tests, rather than on the specific gravity test.

James S. Stewart of Corvallis, representative in the last session from Wheeler county, will introduce his proposed constitutional amendment increasing the limit to which the state may be bonded for road purposes to 4 per cent, in an effort to secure action by the legislature referring the bill to a vote of the people, that saving to him the time and expense otherwise incident to circulation petitions for an initiative measure.

C. H. Gram, state labor commissioner, has already declared his intention of trying to secure the creation of a state safety commission which would be given jurisdiction over all matters of public safety not already directly and specifically covered by statute. Such a commission, according to Gram, would go a long way toward preventing such calamities as the explosion of defective boilers which annually take a heavy toll of life and limb in this state.

An increase in the number of state bank examiners over the three now permitted by the present law is absolutely necessary to the efficient conduct of the rapidly increasing business of the state banking department, according to Will H. Bennett, state superintendent of banks, who has intimated that legislation along this line may be sought at the special session.

The large number of accidents, many of them fatal, due to reckless driving of automobiles and the use of automobiles by inexperienced drivers, is regarded as calling for some action by the special session in an effort to secure a remedy for the situation. Many remedies have been suggested heretofore the most practical of which is regarded as that of licensing drivers as well as the machines which they drive and requiring a test to prove the ability and competence of the driver.

A check-valve upon crime within the state, especially holdups is suggested by the Chamber of Commerce of Veneta, Lane county, which would make conviction for this crime punishable by the death penalty or at least a more severe penalty than is provided by existing laws.

An increase in the appropriation for the state fair in order to permit of more generous prize distributions that the state exhibit might at least hold its own with competing fairs and stock shows will likely be sought by the state fair board. These and many other measures covering subjects that extend all the way from increased salaries for state employees to regulating the cost of living are expected to be clamoring for recognition when the solons convene here January 12, and the special session of 1920 is regarded as in a fair way to equalling if not exceeding the last extraordinary when forty measures found their way through the legislative mill.

FRESH SENSATION IS PROMISED IN TRIAL

Los Angeles, Cal., Dec. 22.—Harry S. New's trial for alleged murder, opened today with a fresh sensation promised.

Defense attorneys, heretofore reticent in revealing their plans, declared they would place a woman on the stand as a "surprise witness" who would throw an entirely new light on the case. They declared this witness would testify that a short time before Miss Lesget was killed alleged revelations involving the girl he was to marry were made to Harry S. New which would unbalance the mind of even a sane man. The defense claims New is insane and that these alleged revelations would easily drive a man of his type to murder.

This announcement was considered a counter to reports that persisted that the prosecution was holding back the most important witness of the trial, said to be an eye witness to Frieda's death. The district attorney would neither confirm nor deny that report.



Santa Claus' Proclamation

Only 1 More Shopping Day Until Christmas

OPEN EVENINGS

On Account of the heavy snow having prevented people from buying, we have decided to keep open today and tomorrow till 8:30 p. m.

1/2-PRICE FOR CHRISTMAS GIFTS

On account of the enormous holiday rush we have found it impossible to count the coupons for the Brunswick Phonograph contest and we have therefore decided to extend the time until New Years. Those holding coupons will please send them to this store before January 1st, when the Phonograph will be given away.

Hurry to Santa Claus' Headquarters, The People's Cash Store, and Shop Early

Thousands of dollars' worth of Sample Goods just received! The time is short—and these goods must be sold. We had about given up receiving them on account of the critical railway situation. But, at last the goods are here. Better late than never, and for the benefit of the people and also for our benefit to avoid storing these goods for the next year our management has decided we

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Wool and cotton in plaids, plain colors and Indian styles.

Underwear

Men's, Women's and Children's Underwear of heavy wool, also summer weights.

Underskirts

Fancy Jersey and Wool Underskirts; white embroidered Underskirts; cotton flannel and Satin Underskirts.

This Big Sale Lasts Until Christmas--Shop Early

Gifts for the Men, 40% off

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WOOLEN CAPS—Heavy Woolen Caps for ladies, men and children; also silk umbrellas, silk handkerchiefs, etc.

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