

Investigation of State Irrigation Contracts Asked

Senators Call Highway Bill Back By Vote

The senate this morning by a vote of 18 to 11 voted to recall from the house senate bill 26, by Norblad and Hall, making available \$2,500,000 for the Roosevelt coast highway. The action was preliminary to the ultimate slaughter of the bill which has met with violent opposition from the state highway commission. What action this execution will take is still problematic. On the face of the vote to recall the measure, reconsideration of the senate's vote on the bill, which requires a two-thirds vote, hardly appears practical. Speaking in defense of the bill, Senator Hall and Norblad resented insinuations of "trade" which had been intimated in connection with the success of the bill on its first appearance in the upper house and charged R. A. Booth, chairman of the state highway commission, with "the worst kind of lobbying" in an attempt to defeat the coast highway program. Booth, it was charged by Norblad, had promised to Lincoln county road funds aggregating \$1,640,000 if the coast highway bill were with defeat. Lane county, he charged, had also been promised certain local road improvement by the highway commission if it would get out from under the Roosevelt coast highway program.

House Votes Federal Aid On Highways

Washington, Feb. 7.—A bill authorizing the appropriation of \$100,000,000 for road improvements during the fiscal year 1922 was passed today by the house 275 to 58. The measure also would make available for an additional two years federal funds already allotted to states for road work but not expended.

Accusations Charge Monopoly Enjoyed by California Bank In Purchase of Bonds and Dictation of Contracts on Cost Plus Plan

Elimination of State Engineer from Land Board Sought by Reform Backers

Introduction of the Gallagher resolution calling for an investigation of irrigation district contracts and the state engineer's office, coupled with house bills 178-180, by the committee on irrigation, eliminates the state engineer as secretary of the state land board and concentrates the responsibility of the office upon the governor and state land board and provides for the appointment of a "technically qualified hydraulic engineer" as state engineer, has begun what promises to be one of the big fights of the session.

Bill Asks Investigation

Representative Gallagher of Malheur today introduced the following House Resolution:

WHEREAS it appears that about sixty irrigation districts, with a total irrigable area of 1,200,000 acres, have been organized under the laws of the state of Oregon, a very small percentage of which have been placed under irrigation through the operation of said laws, and

WHEREAS, about \$4,230,000 have already been spent in construction, and about \$70,000,000 will be required to complete all projects, and

WHEREAS, the state has certified as to the security behind \$5,400,000 of bonds already issued and guaranteed the interest upon bonds issued to the extent of \$2,842,500, and

WHEREAS, about \$10,000,000 additional bonds already voted have been, or soon will be, submitted to the state securities commission for certification and interest guarantee, and

WHEREAS, the laws of this state provide that all such bonds shall be sold for not less than 90 cents on the dollar, and

WHEREAS, through the connivance of contractors and bond brokers and the making of cost-plus contracts these contractors and brokers have been permitted to defeat the law and make unwarranted profits, thus throwing unfair burdens upon the land owners within said district, and

WHEREAS, certain of these districts, with the approval of the state engineer, have made cost-plus contracts, which caused them to pay the expense of transporting Mexican laborers from the border to compete with the Oregon labor paying taxes in this state, and

WHEREAS, if the credit of this state and the interests of the investing public be protected, it is necessary that every safeguard be thrown around the organization of these districts and their projects be carefully investigated, and every precaution taken to see that they are feasible, the water supply sufficient, and the lands covered by the proposed lien offer ample security for any bonds issued and sold to the public, upon the strength of the certificate of the State Securities Commission;

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE THAT the irrigation committee of the House be authorized to make a thorough investigation of all past transactions covering the organization of irrigation districts under the laws of this state, all contracts covering the construction of works, and the sale of bonds, and any and all matters which will throw light upon existing conditions, and to this end may subpoena, swear and examine witnesses, and call upon any state official to appear before the committee and provide such books and records as may be necessary for the enlightenment of the committee, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee report its findings to the House at this session, and, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any expense incurred in making this investigation be paid at the time and in the manner as other legislation expenses, by warrant of the Secretary of State, upon vouchers approved by the chairman of the committee.

Senate Calls Highway Bill Back By Vote

Necessary Majority to Reconsider Measure Not Secured in Upper House, However

Wrecked Ship Breaks Apart; Tugs Cast Off

San Francisco, Feb. 7.—The steam schooner Klamath, which was swept ashore early Saturday morning at Del Mar, 85 miles north of here, has broken in two and has been abandoned, according to a wireless message received here today by the coast guard service from its steamer, Unalga. Tugs which had lines aboard have cast off.

McArthur Bill Appropriating Sum of \$100,000,000 Passed by Wide Margin

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Costs of Constructing Doubled and Projects Get Little of Bond Money

per cent of the livestock of Oregon was engaged in work. The freight and moving on and off expenses for all other stock, together with all handling expenses, in addition to the rentals, was paid by the district from the time originally shipped until the work was completed and the stock and equipment returned. In addition to this, the district paid the cost of transportation of Mexican labor shipped from the border. Not satisfied with these profits, among other things, the contract discriminated against the local merchants and permitted the contractor to operate a company store. The contract specifically provided that the contractor should keep all such profits. This contract, which was approved by the state engineer was so one-sided in behalf of the California contractors, who secured the work, that it left practically all matters of business decision and authority to act vested in the hands of the contractor. When the project was completed, the original estimated cost figured at \$922,000 had grown to the amount of certified bonds now outstanding, namely \$1,550,000. This project is only one of several which have been handled in a like manner, and after the written approval of the state engineer.

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Bomb Ruins Building In Mexico City

Mexico City, Feb. 7.—Police authorities and government secret service agents were engaged today in collecting evidence which might lead to the arrest of men who bombed the residence of the archbishop of Mexico and the building occupied by Juergens and company here yesterday. Four men are under arrest but it is known several others were implicated.

Smaller Navies Held Necessary To Save World

Washington, Feb. 7.—An international agreement for limitation of armaments is absolutely essential to the avoidance of bankruptcy by some of the more important nations of the world with its attendant measureless confusion and distress, Representative Mondell of Wyoming, republican house leader, declared today before the house naval committee. If an agreement is not reached in the near future, Mr. Mondell said, the fault will be that of America, as in former days, the fault was that of Germany.

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HON. V.R. McDONALD
HON. CAP. HOSFORD CHAMPION HEAVY WEIGHT BOOSTER FOR NORTH PORTLAND
HON. MAJOR HARVEY WELLS
HON. PHILIP HAMMOND A PRETTY GOOD BOY FOR A MINISTERS SON

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