

Straight Party Ballot Measure Dies In Stormy Session of Senate

Senate Fails To Override Olcott's Veto Lie Passed, Charges and Counter Charges Enliven Session of Tuesday Afternoon

Lies were passed, charges and counter charges were hurled and just as promptly denied. The galleries packed with sensation seeking humanity added their quota to the general confusion which prevailed on the floor of the senate.

And when order had been restored and the casualties counted, senate bill 13 of the special session of 1916—the justly infamous straight party ballot bill—was withering in the last throes of its death agony.

Seventeen senators—including Norblad, who changed his vote upon the demand of Senator Dennis who insisted that he deliver as promised—had arranged themselves in defense of the bill and been counted as enemies of the Oregon election system. But this was three short of the two-thirds vote necessary to pass the bill over the veto of Governor Olcott and its puny efforts at recuperation from the effects of the executive veto administered shortly after adjournment of the special session were unavailing.

Attention was first publicly directed toward this measure last Saturday by Senator Joseph, who wanted to know the whereabouts of the bill. When informed by Senator Moser that it was safe in the hands of the judiciary committee, Joseph demanded that it be produced forthwith. Moser assured the senate that the bill would be forthcoming in due time, upon which Joseph insisted upon immediate delivery of the measure, declaring that Moser had delayed its appearing long enough already and charging that the chairman of the judiciary committee had held the bill up for the purpose of trading on it in exchange for support of other measures.

Moser refused to comply with the demands of Joseph and the senate upheld him in his refusal.

Joseph renewed his demands again Monday with the same results.

Yesterday afternoon the hydra-headed monster dragged its hideous form forth from its hiding place in a last feeble effort to undermine the Oregon primary system.

Although it was reported out by the senate judiciary committee that the committee did not stand sponsor for its debut into polite society and it carried no recommendations either favorable or unfavorable.

Senator Moser, however, arose to defend the measure which he declared to be a good one which "ought to pass notwithstanding the veto of the governor." This contingency, however, Moser doubted, asserting that some of the senators who believed in the provisions of the bill would not vote for it because they lacked the courage of their convictions.

The measure he insisted would not deprive any person of the right of voting as they wished while at the same time it would result in the saving of thousands of dollars in election expense through simplifying the ballot system.

Moser also denied that he had ever asked any one to vote for the bill except upon their approval of the principles contained therein.

Senator Eberhard, also a member of the judiciary committee, followed Moser in befriending the measure although he insisted that if he had been allowed to use his judgment in the matter the bill would not have been brought out at this time but would have been permitted to sleep on undisturbed in the bosom of the committee. There were 19 senators who would vote for the bill if it could be passed, Eberhard insisted, but he doubted if it had that many friends under the present adverse circumstances.

It was at this stage of the argument that Senator Joseph found an opportunity to voice his sentiments

Marion Loses One Delegate To Multnomah Reapportionment Bill As Finally Passed Cuts Valley Counties of Members

In the interest of harmony, the reapportionment bill as passed by the senate was adopted by the house late Tuesday afternoon, the house receding from the amendments which it made at midnight Monday.

These are the only changes brought about in redistricting the legislature: Two new representatives are gained by eastern Oregon and one by Multnomah county. In detail they are:

Crook, Deschutes, Jefferson, Klamath and Lake counties, now having two representatives, have three.

Grant county, which was part of the above large district, is made a joint district with Harney, which was joint with Malheur. Now Grant and Harney have one representative under the new law.

Malheur county, heretofore a joint with Harney, has one representative of its own.

Multnomah gains one representative.

Marion county's representation is reduced from five to four members; Linn county's representation is reduced from three to two members; the joint district of Douglas and Jackson is abolished.

Tillamook now joined with Yamhill on one representative, has the representative alone.

These are very few changes, considering the trouble that the reapportionment issue has caused for the last six weeks. Not a single change was made in the senate, but in a senate were like Artemus Ward, willing to sacrifice all of their relatives in the house, and that is why the house was forced finally to adopt the senate bill with out amendment.

Senate Has Upper Hand. It had to go the way the senate bill read or there would have been no reapportionment. When the senate passed the measure it went to the house and bobbed up near the witching hour Monday. A storm broke immediately. When the house passed the bill, it had amended it so that it combined Curry and Josephine counties in one senatorial

Bill Validating Old Contracts Is Killed In House

Senator Bell's bill, 235, designed to legalize the claims of some 35 contract holders in the Tumalo irrigation project, whose contracts were invalidated by the expiration of the time limit prescribed by law, failed to receive the required constitutional majority in the house Tuesday afternoon.

The representatives split evenly on the ballot, the roll call showing 27 in favor and 27 opposed to the bill.

Representative Kay led the opposition in his fight on the floor, declaring that the intent of the bill was simply to reimburse holders of worthless contracts which became invalidated at the expiration of the legal time limit, July 1, 1917. The bill sought to extend this time limit to January 1, 1921.

Charging that the state cheated settlers into the project which later proved to be a failure, Gallagher declared that the state owed an obligation to those settlers and that means for them to realize on their contracts should be provided.

Bill To Legalize Betting on Races Fails In Senate

Playing the ponies at the Oregon state fair is not to be a legitimate sport with the approval of the state legislature. The senate last night by a vote of 16 to 11 voted to indefinitely postpone Representative McFarland's bill which would legalize betting on horse races the same to be under the control of a state racing commission of five members to be named by the governor.

Although the bill was represented as having the backing of the state fair board who had requested its introduction this was disputed during the consideration of the measure last night by Senator Staples who declared that three of the members of the board had told him they were opposed to the bill.

Staples declared his unqualified opposition to any move on the part of the legislature which would place the state on record as approving gambling, especially at the state fair which was an educational institution and should be kept free from such contaminating influences. The pure bred livestock associations of Oregon, he declared, had declared their opposition to any games of chance at the fair.

Senator Eddy characterized the measure as one of the most audacious pieces of legislation brought into the senate at the present session.

"It is a most cold blooded attempt to convert the state fair into a gambling den," he charged.

Senator Moser declared his approval of the measure "regardless of what the other senators or the audience thought" of his stand.

This bill he insisted was merely an attempt to take the crookedness out of the racing game by placing

Compromise On Bill Is Enacted

By a vote of 36 in the affirmative and 16 in the negative, the house Tuesday afternoon passed house bill 396, a compromise bill on the Roosevelt highway. The bill designates it as a state highway, so that it can take the benefit of co-operative federal aid when such is available.

Speaker Bean took the floor of the house to lead in the support of this measure, urging that under the provisions of the bill it is not mandatory on the state highway commission to sell any bonds for the construction of this road under present conditions; that the \$2,500,000 provided for the Roosevelt highway is conditioned on federal action matching this appropriation, and that the whole effect of the act is to put the road on the highway map, making it mandatory on the commission to proceed with the making of this highway at such time as the government provides its part in the financial program.

Bill Dividing Auto License Fees Defeated

By overwhelming vote the house Tuesday afternoon indefinitely postponed senate bill 318, providing, through amendment, that at least 25 per cent of the money collected in Multnomah county by the state

Bill Allowing Women Jurors

If women of Oregon want to serve on juries such shall be their privilege—if Governor Olcott gives his approval to Mrs. Kinney's bill which passed the senate Tuesday night by a vote of 28 to 10. The privilege of jury service, however, is only optional with the members of the gentler sex who may refuse to serve in this capacity if they so choose, giving only their sex as the reason for such refusal.

With Senator Lachmund declaring himself in opposition to the bill—forced to that position through the influence of his wife who does not want to serve on juries so the senator explained—and with Senator Strayer opposed to the bill as an "assinine measure" which would completely disrupt the justice court practice in Oregon prospects for favorable action on the bill in the senate looked rather gloomy until Mrs. Kinney came over from the house to defend her pet measure.

The women's clubs of the state representing between 20,000 and 35,000 women, everyone of them with a vote, too, wanted the bill, Mrs. Kinney told the members, intimating that any senator who voted against the bill would find himself out of luck with the women voters of his particular bailiwick when next he was a candidate for the legislature. It had been reported, she declared, that the lawyers of the legislature were organized to defeat the bill because they could handle mere men on the jury but were not able to fathom the minds of women. She did not like to believe such a report, she declared, and the vote in the senate did not substantiate the suspicion.

Women, Mrs. Kinney insisted, had a right to a trial by a jury of their peers when haled into court. Under the present system she declared, they were denied this privi-

lege and had to submit to a trial by a jury of men.

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House Action Authorizes Sale Short Form Bonds

Whenever in the judgment of the state highway commission it will be for the best interests of the state, and will more adequately promote highway construction and conserve and protect highway funds, the highway commission is authorized, by house bill 268, passed by the house, to sell short term bonds which shall mature at a date not later than five years from the date of sale. The commission, by the terms of this bill, is authorized to pay or refund such bond as they shall mature with funds procured from the sale of other bonds authorized under the provisions of the act. The short term bonds are to bear a rate of interest to be determined and fixed by the commission, but not greater than 6 per cent per annum.

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