

HOUSE CONCURS IN AMENDMENTS MADE BY SENATE

Following amendment and passage by the senate, the house late yesterday afternoon passed the \$1,500,000 appropriation bill for the relief of the farmers as amended and sent the bill on to the governor for his approval or rejection.

The bill was designed primarily to relieve farmers in several eastern Oregon counties whose winter wheat crops have been destroyed by cold weather and who will have to re-plant them. The \$1,500,000 fund, which is appropriated to their use from the sinking fund of the state bonus and loan commission, is to be loaned to them directly or through banks for the purchase of seed wheat for re-planting purposes. Aside from the relief appropriation, the sum of \$5000 is appropriated to put the measure into effect.

Upon its receipt from the house the measure was put through three readings in the senate under suspension of the rules on motion of Senator Toose and placed on final passage. There was no actual adverse argument against the measure, though Senator Johnson asserted it should provide for the board of control which is to administer the fund, how two methods of making the loans, either directly to the farmer or through banks. Senator Butler contended this was already possible, since the bill gave the board authority to promulgate such rules as it may seem advisable.

For purposes of amendment the senate went into committee of the whole. One amendment simply makes more specific the language relative to security given the state in first mortgages. The other added to section 2, a provision "that lessees of land which is held in trust by the United States government for its wards shall be entitled to the benefits of the act, without the signature of the amendment primarily for the benefit of farmers who farm Indian land on the Unatilla reservation.

The bill was introduced in the house as a joint ways and means committee bill, taking the place of a similar measure introduced in the house by several house and senate members from eastern Oregon, and in the substitution an attempt to boost the political prestige of Governor Pierce. This, however, was not mentioned in the debate.

Prior to going into committee of the whole, Senator Toose, chairman of the senate ways and means committee, explained the bill. Senators Taylor and Riner spoke in favor of the bill. Riner declared newspaper articles to the effect that farmers are "rolling in wealth" because of the high price of wheat. Toose admitted a certain amount of risk is obvious in all loans.

Senator Johnson, while not opposing the bill, declared that his experience of 34 years as a banker confirmed the opinion of all bankers that crop mortgages are not highly desirable. He declared 75 per cent of the banks would prefer, rather than take second mortgages, to take the money over from the state, put up collateral security to protect the state, and then look after the losses to the farmers. The bankers on the ground, he declared, would be better able to judge of the qualifications of the state officials. While he branded the bill as poor business he said the emergency was so great that he would vote for the measure even in its present form.

Johnson also objected to a provision of the bill extending the loan privilege through 1926. He declared the bill carried the assumption that there would be a freeze out next year. He declared further that it would be illegal to take a mortgage on a crop before it was sown. He urged the ways and means committee to consent to amendments as suggested by him.

Butler, replying to Johnson, declared the things he had suggested had all been discussed before the ways and means committee. He said the clause giving the board of control power to make such rules and regulations as it might deem advisable made possible for financial arrangement to be made by banks as desired by Senator Johnson. Butler declares that in eastern Oregon crop mortgages are considered absolutely safe.

"This bill," said Butler, "safeguards the state and safeguards the money of the bonus commission, as well as affording relief to a people who otherwise would have no relief. These farmers are good moral risks. And though it may be urged that this is not according to the soundest business principle, yet this is an emergency. I am proud that I live among a people of the character of those

Post Primary Bill Passes House by Vote of 32 to 27

The Mills post primary convention bill passed the house yesterday afternoon by the narrow margin of 32 to 27 votes. Sharp bursts of oratorical fireworks marked the arguments over the measure.

The negative votes on the bill were: Bailey, Bennett, Bratcher, Cramer, Flaker, Graham, Hall, Hazlett, Mercer, Hense, Howard, Hunter of Union, Hunter of Union and Wallowa, Hurlburt, Mott, Peirce, Potter, Randall, Russell, Settlemeier, Shrock, Shunway, Teegarden, Wilson, Winslow and Woodward.

"The idea is to restore party government," declared Hammond of Clackamas county, arguing for the measure. "Practically speaking, there is no party government in Oregon today. The country owes a great part of its growth to political parties. The plan proposed would make it impossible for boss control, that thing so often charged by the people in referring to the former convention system. There is a clause in the bill to prevent domination by Multnomah county. Passage of this act will restore to Oregon party government which the nation has grown up on. It will mean that the candidates will run under the single platform of their parties."

Bennett, Multnomah county, charged that the bill was masquerading under false colors. "It should be entitled the repeal of the primary law," he declared. "The people of Oregon are not demanding a change in the primary law. I was told that it would be a good joke to dump the bill on the senate. It would be, but the joke would be on the house, not on the senate. It has been said that passage of this bill would eliminate the self-starter. I'm a self-starter and I am proud of it. You can't pass this on to the voters or the people without registering your responsibility. I don't think there is a single member in the house who thinks this is a good measure. The bill was held up two weeks so that members of this house could be sand-bagged into voting for the measure."

Representative Graham, Washington county, explained that he represented the people of his county when he voted to keep the primary law as it is.

Bailey, Multnomah county, pointed out the great majority by which the people had adopted the present primary law. "It shows in my mind conclusively that the people of this state are in favor of the present law," he declared. Bailey charged that the author of the bill had financed the campaign of Jefferson Myers in his last campaign against Thomas Kay, state treasurer.

Woodward, Multnomah county, charged that the bill was designed for the benefit of "political lambs."

"It is revolutionary," he declared. "We should not attempt to shift burden on to the senate or the people. The people have not voted with any degree of emphasis a desire to change the present law."

Mott, Clatsop county, declared that he had never thought the bill worth considering.

Coffey, Multnomah county, urged referring the measure to the people. "If it is right the people will pass it; if wrong it will be killed," he declared.

Coffey, in defending the bill, declared that the present primary law system permitted "wolves to masquerade in sheep's clothing."

"By adoption of the measure, we would simply be back to the old convention system," declared Shunway of Morrow and Unatilla. "Secret influences at work years ago would be drawn out again. We would simply be going back twenty years. It would aid in putting into disrepute our initiative and referendum. The only way to do it is if we think it a bad law is to vote no now and not let it pass further."

German, Multnomah county, explained that he was voting yes on the bill because he felt that the people should have a chance to change the present law if they saw fit.

Roberts, Wasco county, supported the measure, declaring "that in the days of Oregon conventions, better results were accomplished. In last election we had people on one ticket working for people on who will be benefited by this bill and to be a member of a body that will go to the rescue of such a people in a time of great need. I hope every senator will vote for this appropriation which will be as broad east upon the waters."

COMMITTEE TO WORK FOR CITY BRIDGES NAMED

A definite step toward the establishment of permanent bridges within the city limits of Salem was taken last night by Mayor J. B. Giesy, when he appointed a working committee to make an exhaustive study of costs and durability of the present type of structures spanning the two streams that cross the city from east to west and to work out a plan of financing permanent bridges instead.

Alderman A. Galloway, chairman of the council bridge committee, demurred at the high cost of permanent bridges as sponsored by Mayor Giesy, but expressed a willingness to co-operate with the large committee named in working out a feasible plan for their building. He pointed out that any action taken would finally have to be referred to the people of Salem for a direct vote, and was agreed with by Mayor Giesy, in view of the amount of money involved.

Mr. Galloway gave some construction estimates that he believed would give the committee some cause for close figuring.

The new working committee appointed by the mayor is composed of Aldermen B. B. Herrick, W. H. Dancy, J. A. Galloway, L. J. Sinceral, S. E. Purvine, W. W. Rosebraugh, H. Rogers, city engineer, W. E. Lowe, street commissioner, and private citizens, S. A. Hughes, F. A. Erixon, C. B. McCullough, S. Van Patten and H. Pohler.

MORSE BROTHERS LOSE APPEAL

Washington, Feb. 3.—Benjamin W. and Harry F. Morse, sons of the shipbuilder, Charles W. Morse, today lost in the supreme court their contest against the legality of their arrest some months ago in New York city.

The Moroses had been indicted in New York City with twenty-one others on the charge of conspiring to use the mails to defraud and they were arrested when they passed through from New England leaves will give the committee some cause for close figuring.

en route to Washington to stand trial on a separate indictment pending against them here. They contended they were immune while proceedings to answer to charges against them in another judicial district, but both the lower courts and the supreme court held that their arrest had been legal.



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