

Water Diversion and Racial Bills Easily Pass in House

Bills to stop Oregon water from going to other states and to allow white persons to marry persons of other races won easy approval in the house yesterday and went to the senate.

The water bill would require legislative approval before water from any stream in Oregon or any stream forming the state's boundary could be sent into another state.

Rep. Henry Semon, Klamath Falls, father of the bill, said California has its eyes on water from the Columbia, Klamath, Rogue and Umpqua rivers. He declared that Oregon needs all of its own water, and that the bill would keep Oregon water in Oregon.

Rep. Paul Geddes, Roseburg, the house's chief expert on things legal, questioned whether Oregon had any right to stop diversion of water from interstate streams. He asked Semon if any lawyers had checked the bill over.

Semon answered that the lawyers hadn't looked at it, but that when the bill gets to the senate, the legal minds of the upper house could make it legal. Some lawyers wondered what would happen if congress voted to divert some Oregon water to California, after the Oregon legislature banned it.

With only three dissenting votes, the house supported repeal of the 1866 law prohibiting white persons from marrying Negroes, Indians, Hawaiians or Chinese persons.

The bill was requested by Oregon Indian leaders, who don't like to be discriminated against.

Rep. Sprague Carter, Pendleton, told the house that when his committee considered the question of the Indian marriage ban, it decided to remove discrimination against other races as well. Voting against the bill were Reps. Graham Killam, Portland; C. L. Lieualle, Pendleton; and B. A. Stover, Bend.

The senate already has voted for a similar bill. But this one has to go back to the senate, because it is a substitute for the senate bill.

The house also sent to the senate a resolution to create an interim committee to find out why the fisheries in coastal streams are being depleted. The committee also will recommend

State Income Tax Change Voted

The house, with only one dissent, voted today to reduce state income taxes for persons with two or more children, but to increase them for single persons and childless couples.

The bill accomplishes this by changing Oregon's tax exemptions to conform with the federal system of a \$600 exemption for each member of a family.

The bill goes to the senate. A single person would have his exemption cut from \$750 to \$600, while a childless couple would have its exemption reduced from \$1,500 to \$1,200.

A couple with one child would get a \$1,800 exemption, the same as at present.

A couple with two children would have its exemptions increased from \$2,100 to \$2,400; with three children, from \$2,400 to \$3,000; four children, \$2,700 to \$3,600; and with five children, \$3,000 to \$4,200.

The state tax commission said the bill would make no difference in the total amount of revenue produced by the state income tax.

The bill also would give an extra \$300 exemption to any blind person, or any person over 65 years of age.

Rep. Stanhope S. Pier, Portland, cast the only vote against the bill.

ways of restoring these fisheries. Legislative action was completed by the house on a bill to let the prison warden pay convicts up to \$1 a day for their work.

Another bill passed by the house and sent to the governor appropriates \$12,000 to put statues of Jason Lee and Dr. John McLoughlin, Oregon's two principal founding fathers, in the state capitol or on the capitol grounds.

These statues will be replicas of those to be placed in the United States capitol's statutory hall.

The house had its busiest and longest day yesterday of the long legislative session. The chamber was so hot that many members took off their coats.

The senate, which had only routine bills, got hot under the collar, too. It appointed a three-man committee to study how to cool the place off.

The house education committee held a hearing today on the senate-passed bill to reorganize school districts.

The first U. S. patent for wireless (radio today) was issued to Dr. Mahlon Loomis in 1872.

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