

# OREGON LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS IN BREVITY

## PASSED IMPORTANT BILLS.

### What the Legislature Accomplished During the Session.

Salem—Many important bills passed both houses of the Oregon legislature at the session just ended, and a considerable number were defeated. The appropriations are very large—amounting to some \$3,500,000—and no bills passed raising any considerable amount of revenue by new methods.

Several bills for new revenue were defeated. Among them was that of Representative Beals to tax timber holdings on the basis of cruising submitted to assessors by their owners. Another was that prepared by the late tax commission and introduced by Representative Freeman taxing public service corporations on their capitalized net earnings. A third was that of Representative Settlemier for collection of taxes on land that had escaped taxation in the last six years.

One of the defeated measures of large moment was that of the Portland board of trade, for control of the water powers of the state. Another was that for a \$60,000 appropriation for extension of the portage road to The Dalles.

First of all the enactments was that for a railroad commission. The bill for this law was introduced by Representative Chapin and the three commissioners already have been appointed—T. K. Campbell, C. B. Aitchison and Oswald West.

Representative Jones, of Polk, is father of a successful bill appropriating \$300,000 for free locks at Willamette falls, contingent on the national government's appropriating an additional sum sufficient to provide the locks and maintain them.

Representative Eaton, of Lane, has the credit of having secured enactment of a bill granting to the State university an annual standing appropriation of \$125,000.

Representative Jackson, of Douglas, introduced a successful bill appropriating \$100,000 for National Guard armories.

Representative Perkins, of Jackson, has the credit of securing for fruitmen a law to prevent false labeling and branding of packed fruit, and of another law to prevent false marking of nursery stock. A third bill of his permits orchardists to kill birds that destroy crops, but this bill is in danger of a veto.

Representative Slusher is father of a successful bill creating a sheep commission and a sheep inspector, and authorizing inspectors of the bureau of animal industry to exercise police powers in the state for eradication of sheep scab.

Representative Settlemier's bill passed both houses to appropriate \$100,000 for the Seattle exposition in 1909.

Representative Edwards was promoter of an important enactment to raise the per capita tax of school districts to \$7.

Representative Vanter of Jackson had a bill passed to create one board of regents for all the normals, also to appropriate \$40,000 for the Ashland normal. Representative Barrett of Umatilla did the same for the Weston normal, in the sum of \$35,000. Senator Longhry secured enactment of his bill providing \$30,000 for Monmouth and Representative Jackson put a successful rider on it appropriating \$27,000 for Drain. Representative Carter of Benton secured passage of a \$125,000 appropriation for new buildings at the State Agricultural college, and Senator Johnson of a \$75,000 appropriation for maintenance.

Representative Beals is author of an enactment creating the office of cheese, dairy and creamery inspector, as deputy to the state dairy commissioner.

Representative Driscoll introduced the bill for the act creating the Port of Columbia District of Multnomah, Columbia and Clatsop counties, for regulation of towage and pilotage at the mouth of the Columbia river.

Senator M. A. Miller, of Linn, has to his credit a compulsory education law, which promises to be the most effective measure of the kind ever proposed in Oregon.

Among the most important senate bills enacted was the Haines banking bill, which, though acknowledged to be imperfect, is believed to be a wise measure for the reason that it is the beginning of state supervision of banking.

Senator M. G. Miller, of Linn, was the author of a bill that has passed both houses providing for the loaning of surplus funds in the state treasury to banks giving security and paying interest on daily balances.

Senator F. J. Miller, of Linn-Marion secured the passage of bills for the establishment of an institution for the feeble-minded, an institution for which there has been general demand in order to place under control a class of people not fit for the asylum but who ought not to be at large.

Senator Sichel fathered two bills that will have considerable effect. One provides for the working of husbands who fail to support their families, and the payment of \$1.50 a day to the family for their support. The other provides a uniform insurance policy.

Senator Coshov will be remembered

## Board Fixes Terms.

Salem—The state land board has made an order permitting a number of holders of school land certificates purchased from A. T. Kellher to secure title to the land by surrendering their certificates and making new purchases. In doing so they must make affidavit that they don't already own 320 acres of land of that character. This is a measure enforcing the legal requirement that only 320 acres of school land shall be sold to one person.

## kindly by all jurors hereafter, for he secured the enactment of a law raising the fees of jurors from \$2 to \$3 a day.

Senator Hart of Baker was author of the bill which places restrictions upon the pasturing of foreign sheep in Oregon, so as to protect Oregon sheepmen.

Senator Malarkey introduced three measures which will be of considerable importance. One limits the hours of labor of trainmen, another makes the husband's courtesy the same as a wife's dower, and the third provides for the building of a bridge across the Willamette at Oswego, thus affording the means of taking the trains off Fourth street in Portland.

Senator Mullit of Jackson remembered the widows and orphans by securing the enactment of a law which raises from \$3,000 to \$7,500 the amount that may be recovered for acts causing death.

Senator Calk framed the bill which has passed providing for the appointment of two Supreme court commissioners to assist the court in catching up with its work.

Senator Kay pleased the merchants everywhere by securing the enactment of a law which provides for the garnishment of wages of public employees. Such employees are very often judgment proof without such a law.

Senator Schofield fathered a number of fishery laws, and has had the census law amended so that it is now suited to modern conditions.

Senator Nottingham interested himself in the improvement of public morals as usual, and secured the enactment of a law for the punishment of persons guilty of enticing away children under 18 years for immoral purposes.

Senator Bingham was father of a new forest fire law, the efficiency of which has yet to be shown. It requires the burning of the debris of logging operations, and there were conflicting opinions as to the practical working of the measure.

Other noteworthy house bills enacted were the following:

H. B. 36, Burns—For pure foods and regulating branding of same.

H. B. 53, Revision of laws committee—For recording conditional sales of machinery.

H. B. 57, Beals—Fees for corporations capitalized for more than \$1,000,000.

H. B. 61, Jones of Lincoln and Polk—For convention of district school boards.

H. B. 75, McCue—Providing clerk of master fish warden.

H. B. 84, Freeman—Authorizing disposition of estate as directed by will without order of Probate court.

H. B. 85, Freeman—Assessing bank stock.

H. B. 86, Freeman—Defining powers of county boards of equalization.

H. B. 88, Freeman—Levy and collection of taxes.

H. B. 89, Freeman—More efficient system for assessment and taxation.

H. B. 97, Steen—For display of United States flag on school buildings.

H. B. 101, McCue—Appropriating \$5,000 for patrol boats for master fish warden.

## PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Club, 70c; bluestem, 72c; valley, 70c; red, 68c.  
Oats—No. 1 white, \$29; gray, \$28.50.  
Barley—Feed, \$22.50 per ton; brewing, \$23; rolled, \$23.50@24.50.  
Rye—\$1.45@1.50 per cwt.  
Corn—Whole, \$24.50; cracked, \$22.50 per ton.  
Hay—Valley timothy, No. 1, \$14@15 per ton; Eastern Oregon timothy, \$17@18; clover, \$9; cheat, \$9; grain hay, \$9@10; alfalfa, \$14.  
Butter—Fancy creamery, 32½@35c per pound.  
Butter fat—First grade cream, 33½c per pound; second grade cream, 2c less per pound.  
Eggs—Oregon ranch, 18@19c per dozen.  
Poultry—Average old hens, 14@15c per pound; mixed chickens, 14@14½c; spring, 13½@14c; old roosters, 9@10c; dressed chickens, 14@15c; turkeys, live, 16c; turkeys, dressed, choice, 18@20c; geese, live, 9@10c; ducks, 16@18c.

Apples—Common, 75c @ \$1.25 per box; choice, \$1.50@2.50.  
Vegetables—Turnips, \$1@1.25 per sack; carrots, \$1@1.25 per sack; beets, \$1.25@1.50 per sack; horseradish, 7@8c per pound; sweet potatoes, 3½c per pound; cauliflower, \$2.50 per doz; celery, \$3.50@3.75 crate; sprouts, 9c; rhubarb, 11c per pound; asparagus, 17c per pound.  
Onions—Oregon, \$1@1.15 per hundred.

Potatoes—Oregon Burbanks, fancy, \$1.40; common, 75c@81c.  
Veal—Dressed, 5½@9c per pound.  
Beef—Dressed bulls, 2½@3½c per pound; cows, 4½ @ 5½c; country steers, 5½@6½c.  
Mutton—Dressed, fancy, 8½@9c per pound; ordinary, 6@7c.  
Pork—Dressed, 6@9c per pound.  
Hops—8½ @ 10½c per pound, according to quality.

Wool—Eastern Oregon average best, 13@18c, according to shrinkage; valley, 20 @ 23c, according to fineness; mohair, choice, 27@30c per pound.

## Goes to Naval Academy

Portland—Clarence W. Walls, has received an appointment from Senator Mulkey to fill a vacancy at the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md. Mr. Walls is a native Oregonian, having been born at Prineville 18 years ago. His friends are confident that he will have no trouble in passing the entrance examination. This is to be held in this city April 16 next by the United States Civil Service commission.

## MUST NOT OWN PROPERTY.

### California Legislature Passes a Bill Against Orientals.

Sacramento, Cal., Mar. 1.—The lower house of the legislature today passed a sweeping anti-Japanese and anti-Chinese measure, introduced by Assemblyman Drew, of Fresno. The bill is known as the "anti-alien property holding bill." It is aimed at the Japanese and Chinese property owners in this state and is intended to prevent them from acquiring and owning property for a longer period than five years.

In urging the passage of the bill Drew stated that since January 1 of this year one-third of the property transfers in Fresno had been to Japanese.

The bill provides that any alien who does not become a citizen of the United States shall acquire and hold title to land in this state for not more than five years. If within that time the alien does not become a citizen, the district attorney shall compel the sale of his land or houses. Japanese and Chinese are not specifically named, but, as they cannot become citizens, the bill is aimed directly at them and precludes them from owning property for more than five years. The measure also provides that no contract, agreement or lease of real estate for a longer period than one year shall be made to any alien and any lease, agreement or devise of real estate made to any alien for a longer period shall be null and void.

The impression is given out that if the bill reaches the governor he will sign it.

## LABORATORY FOR NORTHWEST.

### Agricultural Department Will Establish One Soon.

Washington, March 1.—In the near future the department of Agriculture will locate a pure food laboratory in some Northwestern city and make it headquarters for the examination of all food products imported into that section from abroad. Investigations are now being made to determine whether it shall be located at Portland or Seattle.

Senator Bourne is urging the department to locate the laboratory in Portland, but before this can be done Portland must convince the department that its food imports exceed those of Seattle, or else offer advantages in the way of quarters that cannot be obtained at Seattle. The department desires to locate the laboratory in a public building.

It is of the greatest importance to Portland to make a creditable showing, for if the laboratory is located there rather than at Seattle, it will have a tendency to increase importations of food products at that port, where they can be properly examined, rather than at other ports where there would necessarily be delay.

Mr. Bourne is looking to the chamber of commerce to support him in his efforts.

## STICKS TO HERMANN.

### Former Private Secretary Says Good Things for Defendant.

Washington, March 1.—The prosecution in the trial of Representative Hermann consumed today in a futile attempt to break down the evidence given yesterday by Elliott P. Hough, former private secretary to the defendant, which was most favorable to Hermann. Hough had been put on the stand by the prosecution with the expectation that his testimony would be damaging to the defendant, and District Attorney Baker was incensed that he should give evidence so much in Hermann's favor as his statements yesterday that Hermann and John A. Benson, who is under indictment for alleged land frauds, were not good friends; that, if official letters got into Hermann's private books it was through his fault; and that it had been the custom of all outgoing commissioners previous to Hermann's time to take their private letterpress copybooks with them.

Christman H. Muller and Alexander E. Foster, who had been messengers in the land office under Hermann and who destroyed the letterpress copybooks by his irection, testified to the part they had played. Mr. Muller received an order from Hermann three weeks before the latter retired to take the letterbooks, about 35 in number, from Hermann's private room.

## Beatty to Continue Duties.

Boise, Idaho, March 1.—In answer to a telegram received from the attorney general asking me to withhold my resignation for a time," said Judge J. H. Beatty, of the United States District court, today, "I sent a telegram stating that I would willingly continue the duties of my office until after the March term. If by that time my successor has not been named, I shall probably urge the people in Washington to push matters." The telegram to Judge Beatty arrived some days after his resignation had started for Washington.

## Stands by Wickersham.

Washington, March 1.—It was announced today that the president would not send the nomination of Judge James Wickersham for the judgeship in the Third Alaska district to the senate this session, but will give him a recess appointment. As soon as circumstances will permit, a suitable person will be sent to Alaska for further investigation. This action was determined on at a conference between the president and Attorney General Bonaparte.

## Favors Philippine Bank Bill.

Washington, March 1.—The house committee on insular affairs today decided to make a favorable report on the Philippine agricultural bank bill as passed by the senate.

# REORGANIZING CANAL BOARD

## Only One of Old Members to Remain in Present Position.

### Friends of Olliver Ask That He Be Given Place, But President Is Not Considering Him in the List of New Appointees—Change to Come in April.

Washington, Feb. 28.—The president conferred at the White House today with Secretaries Taft and Root regarding the details of the reorganization scheme for the Panama canal work. It is understood that Colonel Haines and Benjamin Harrod, civil engineers, both members of the present commission, will retire. Admiral Endicott, the only remaining member of the old commission, will be retained, as the law requires that one naval civil engineer shall be included in its membership.

Majors Goethals, Gaillard and Siebert, who were named as members of the commission, will receive salaries considerably in excess of those they now receive, namely, \$4,000 a year. It is the intention to divide among them the salaries now paid to Messrs. Shonts and Stevens, aggregating \$60,000 per annum, as long as they are engaged in canal work.

It is stated that Chief Engineer Stevens resigned with the statement that he would remain in charge of the isthmus until his successor arrived and was thoroughly initiated into the new duties and prepared to take them over. It is probable the transfer can be effected early in April.

It will be necessary for the army engineers to make a personal inspection of every part of the canal construction work before any determination can be made as to the method of conducting work in the future. The president's letter yesterday indicated that there might be a recurrence to the contract plan, but even if that should be the case, the officers will find themselves able to manage the work in a supervisory capacity, just as they now do several of the large river and harbor projects in execution in this country.

Telegrams were received at the White House today from the South, asking the president to name W. J. Olliver, whose bid for the construction of the canal was rejected, as a member of the Isthmian Canal commission. Mr. Taft said tonight that he did not believe the president was considering such an appointment. Mr. Olliver said he would not accept the place if it were tendered him. When he has been officially notified that the bid of the Panama Canal Construction company has been rejected, Mr. Olliver will give out a statement for publication.

## HERMANN SCORES.

### Not Friendly With Benson; Only Did as Other Commissioners.

Washington, Feb. 28.—Two important points for the defense developed today in the trial of Representative Hermann. One was that Hermann was not on friendly terms with John A. Benson, the San Francisco real estate dealer now under indictment for alleged land frauds, the other that Hermann's predecessors in the land office had all, with one exception, removed their private letterpress copy books from the office when they retired.

Mr. Worthington for the defense scored his two points in the cross-examination of Elliott P. Hough, former private secretary to Hermann. In answer to questions, Mr. Hough said that upon one occasion Benson came to see Hermann at the land office and complained bitterly at the action of the land office in not allowing his claim for a survey made in California. The survey was under a \$50,000 contract. The land office held that the claim was fraudulent in that the alleged survey had never been made. Benson was very angry, and Hermann, during the interview, became incensed.

## Petition 45 Feet Long.

Washington, Feb. 28.—Senator Ankeny today presented to the senate a petition 45 feet long from the lumber manufacturers of Washington, urging an immediate amendment to the railroad rate law providing for reciprocal demurrage. The petition stated that \$30,000,000 worth of lumber is now awaiting shipment in Washington and, because of the failure of railroads to handle it, mills have closed down and 15,000 men have been thrown out of employment. It is too late to pass any such legislation, however.

## Only One Dredge for Coast Harbors.

Washington, Feb. 28.—All Oregon and Washington items in the river and harbor bill were agreed to by the conference committee, with the exception of the senate amendment authorizing the construction of a dredge for exclusive use in harbors along the Oregon coast. The chief engineers stated that one dredge would be ample for the harbors of both the states and on his recommendation the senate amendment was knocked out.

## Fever Prostrates Crew.

Norfolk, Va., Feb. 28.—The battleship Connecticut, proceeding from Southern waters to New York with an epidemic of typhoid fever among her crew, was in communication with Norfolk by wireless telegraph tonight when off the Virginia capital. A message from the Connecticut says 15 of the men stricken with typhoid are in a critical condition.

## LET NO CONTRACT.

### President Decides to Let Army Engineers Dig Canal.

Washington, Feb. 27.—By an order addressed to Chairman Shonts of the Isthmian Canal commission today, President Roosevelt, as far as lay in his power under existing law, transferred to the engineer branch of the army the responsibility for the further construction of the Panama canal. He also formally recorded the abandonment, for the present at least, of the project of having the canal work done by contract on the percentage system. Another feature was the announcement of the resignation of John F. Stevens as engineer in chief of canal construction. Mr. Shonts is in New York, where he will tomorrow preside at a meeting of the directors of the Panama Railroad company, of which he is president, and will formally resign that office.

The president intends that there shall be an entire reorganization of the commission with three army officers of the engineer corps as its leading members, who are to have charge of the engineering features of the canal work. The chairman and engineer in chief of the commission will be Major G. W. Goethals. His associates will be Major DuB. Gaillard and Major William L. Siebert, to rank in the order named. These officers are all comparatively young, ambitious and energetic.

Senator Joseph S. Blackburn, of Kentucky, who will retire from the United States senate on March 4, is to be made a member of the reorganized commission.

## HELPED LAND THIEVES.

### Informers About Frauds Betrayed by Hermann.

Washington, Feb. 27.—Interest in the trial of Representative Hermann was revived today by the introduction in evidence of letters written him in 1901 by Benjamin T. May of La Grande, calling his attention to specific land frauds in Oregon and a later letter criticizing Hermann for omitting to make an investigation of the alleged frauds, and also for having made known to interested parties the name of the informer.

After their identification by May, the letters were read to the jury. The first was from May to Hermann and informed him that sawmill owners were securing title to public land in the Blue mountains by fraud. Their plan was to get an employe to file on a certain tract and, when the claim was proved up, the employe was to deed the property over to them and receive \$50 for his work. One firm kept a man employed to look out for the best timber land and to secure it in this manner for his firm. In the year preceding the writing of this letter May charged that this firm had placed on record about 60 deeds secured in this manner. May concluded his letter with the statement that he was a poor laborer and had no ax to grind and only desired to keep out land grabbers.

## HARRIMAN EXPLAINS.

### Tells Interstate Commerce Commission a Few Things.

New York, Feb. 27.—An assertion by E. H. Harriman that Stuyvesant Fish was deposed from the presidency of the Illinois Central because of misconduct as to the funds of the company was a leading feature of today's session of the Interstate Commerce commission. Mr. Harriman was the only witness of the day, the events brought out by his testimony making the hearing a memorable one.

Other features of Mr. Harriman's testimony follow:

A continued refusal to answer questions relating to individual stock transactions.

Explanations of the transfer of 300,000 shares of Southern Pacific stock to William G. Rockefeller during the attempt of James R. Keene to secure control of the road and of the delayed announcement of the dividends on Union Pacific and Southern Pacific.

Attempts of the government to show that the Union Pacific charges unfair rates, stifles competition in the vast territory traversed by its lines and its dividend of 10 per cent and its expenditure of \$240,000,000 on betterments came from an unfair toll on its patrons.

## Miners Vote for Advance.

Butte, Mont., Feb. 27.—The vote of the Miners' union on the increase of wage scale resulted 2,349 in favor and 1,068 against, the new scale of \$4 to take effect May 1. Many miners did not vote. The mines of Butte will continue in operation, notwithstanding the demand, but development work in all of the amalgamated properties will cease. Officers of the union are emphatic, however, that there will be no strike. Companies will devote all time and energy to taking out ore and making copper.

## Returning to Coal for Fuel.

Pittsburg, Feb. 27.—The Southern Pacific Railroad & Steamship Co. and the St. Louis Gas company have contracted with the Monongahela River Coal & Coke company for \$1,000,000 worth of coal. The largest contract was secured from the Southern Pacific company, which contracts for 250,000 tons to be delivered at its wharves at New Orleans. The order means a beginning of the end of oil as fuel in New Orleans.

## Two-cent Fare is Law in Indiana.

Indianapolis, Feb. 27.—The governor today signed the 2-cent railroad fare act. It has no emergency clause, and goes into effect with the publication of the new laws about May or June.

# BURNED HERMANN LETTERS

## Receiver Bridges Received Many Letters From Commissioner.

### Two Found in Desk — One Mentions Agee Conspiracy—Judge Stafford Overrules Motion to Dismiss the Case for Lack of Evidence and Trial Continues.

Washington, Feb. 26.—Justice Stafford today overruled the motion of the defense in the trial of Representative Binger Hermann to take the case from the jury and dismiss the charge on the ground of fatal variance between the indictment and the evidence before the grand jury. Hearings were resumed. The trial was halted last Thursday, when Mr. Worthington for the defense made a motion on the evidence submitted by Hermann's former secretary, E. Ough, as to his testimony before the grand jury. Mr. Worthington also argued that the prosecution could not adduce evidence of conspiracy on the part of Mr. Hermann with others to defraud the government out of public land in order to show a motive for the destruction of records, as alleged by the prosecution, on the ground that Hermann was not on trial for conspiracy. After hearing the argument on Thursday, Justice Stafford adjourned the trial until today, in order to consider the points made by the defense.

J. T. Bridges, ex-registe of the land office at Roseburg, testified that he had received many letters from Hermann of a private character that he had destroyed. Two were found in his desk when the desk was broken open at the time he was suspended in 1905. One of these mentions the name of Agee, who is identified by the government with what has been designated as the "Agee conspiracy." It was identified by Mr. Bridges, District Attorney Baker stating that he desired to show the intimately friendly relations existing between them. He further said that this transaction in which Agee was involved took place while Hermann was at the head of the land office, and that he should have knowledge of it.

## WATCH SEVERAL SUSPECTS.

### Secret Service Men Have No Clue to Identity of Thief.

Chicago, Feb. 26.—Although a score of detectives are at work on the case, the theft of \$173,000 from the sub-treasury in this city last Wednesday seems as far from solution as the day on which the robbery was committed. The general impression prevails that the thief must have been a government employe, and several of these men are being closely watched, but, as far as known tonight, no tangible evidence has been discovered.

Among those under surveillance is George W. Fitzgerald, who was in charge of the teller's cage from which the money was abstracted, but he insists that he has no knowledge of how the money disappeared.

## MAY STOP FIGHTING.

### United States or Mexico Threaten to Intervene in War.

Washington, Feb. 26.—Unless Nicaragua and Honduras speedily agree to arbitrate their difficulties in response to the suggestion of the United States and Mexico, it is not improbable that intervention will be resorted to in order to bring an end to the present hostilities. It became known today that within the last day or two a second note was sent to the presidents of Nicaragua and Honduras, in effect conveying this threat.

No replies have been received and, while in official circles the hope is expressed that further bloodshed may be averted, there is an underlying belief that it will be necessary for either the United States or Mexico to step in and force an arbitration.

## Steamer Empire at Old Game.

Washington, Feb. 26.—Advice received by the State department today through Minister Corea of Nicaragua are to the effect that the small steamer Empire, which in the past has figured conspicuously in filibustering expeditions, is being utilized for the transportation of munitions of war from Salvador to Honduras. Minister Corea will request this government to have the steamer Newport intercepted by the cruiser Chicago, believing that she carries supplies ultimately intended for Honduras.

## Big Air Ship Ready to Fly.

San Francisco, Feb. 26.—The Examiner says a new flying machine, arranged to carry 15 persons, is now ready at Pleasanton to start on its initial voyage. This machine measures 225 feet in length, and has a diameter of 40 feet. The frame of the structure is built of 18,000 feet of aluminum. The six propellers are moveable and adjustable. The engines located within the ship drive the propellers, which are eight feet in diameter.

## Bandits Get Big Plunder.

El Paso, Tex., Feb. 26.—Bandits raided the hacienda of Jesus Urangun Salenz in the village of Durango, Mexico, Sunday night. After making prisoners of Salenz and his servants, the bandits robbed his safe of \$7,000 in gold and gathered up many thousands of dollars' worth of jewelry and plate, destroying all they could not carry off. Officers are searching the mountains for the robbers.