

REVIEW OF WORK OF OREGON LEGISLATURE

Only 29 Unimportant Bills Have Been Passed, With Half of Session Gone.

Dry Bill Ready for Passage—Two Consolidation Bills Considered—Finance Causes Worry—Would Revise Insurance Laws—Work on New Highway Code Begins—Report on State Institutions—Woman in Speaker's Chair—Another Sunday Closing Bill.

Salem.—The legislature assembled Monday for the last half of the session with practically all the big measures still awaiting final action at the hands of one or both houses. Most of the work of the third week of the session was confined to whipping proposed legislation into shape by the committees. Both houses must turn in and do some real hard work this week if they wish to keep the legislative wheels from being clogged. Doubtless this week will witness a considerable flow of oratory, for some of the important bills are liable to meet with spirited opposition.

When the first half of the session closed with adjournment last Friday 531 bills had been introduced, 348 in the house and 183 in the senate. Only 16 unimportant bills had been passed by both houses and received the signature of the governor and thirteen other bills had passed both houses and awaited action by the governor, so that out of the 531 bills introduced only 29 passed both houses.

Dry Bill Made Special Order.

The Anderson bill designed to make effective the "bone dry" amendment came back from the joint alcoholic committee and was made a special order of business in the house Monday morning. This is one of the measures that most of the members seem to have taken for granted and there was only a handful of members against it in the house. The promised fight on the emergency clause did not materialize and as no opposition to the "bone dry" amendment has developed in the senate the law will be in the hands of the governor the latter part of this week.

The committee on alcoholic traffic submitted a favorable report with a number of more or less important amendments. Probably the most important amendment provides for the manufacture of denatured alcohol in the state.

Physicians will have the right to sell one quart of alcohol to any one person, for medicinal purposes, in any four-week period. The original bill, before amended, permitted the sale of two quarts.

Another amendment will permit dentists to obtain alcohol for their professional work.

Some relief has been provided to the express companies handling liquor shipments under the present law. They will have five days after the governor signs the act to complete deliveries of shipments on hand or in transit. After that all undelivered liquor will have to be sent out of the state.

May Agree on Consolidation Program.

After considerable hickering between the two houses, the two consolidation committees have agreed to co-operate on a program and it seems likely something may be accomplished in the way of consolidation or abolishment of certain state boards or commissions, although there is such a diversity of opinion on this question that considerable wrangling is apt to occur.

The committee has under consideration two consolidation bills. One would consolidate the industrial welfare commission, the child labor commission and the labor commissioner with the state industrial commission. It would make the labor commissioner an industrial commissioner, provides for a second commissioner to be appointed by the governor and a physician who is to sit with the commissioners in awarding claims.

The other bill provides for the abolition of the state tax commission and its consolidation with the public service commission or board of control.

Financial Problems Knotty.

The joint ways and means committee are still struggling with the financial problems and the members are uncertain just what will be the result of their labors. One of the knotty problems which bobs up to bother them is the matter of continuing appropriations, and the task of keeping within the 6 per cent constitutional limitation will require some expert accounting.

A bill passed in 1915 was designed to do away with these continuing and annual appropriations and it was thought they would be eliminated, but the present joint ways and means committee discovered early in their deliberations that quite a large number of these annual appropriations still remained.

Aside from the budget requests, the

total appropriations asked for during the first three weeks of the session total \$640,887.50.

Insurance Code to Appear.

This week will witness the introduction of a comprehensive insurance code revising the insurance laws of the state, and putting the insurance department on a solid and efficient basis, according to the claims of its advocates.

The code is encountering more or less opposition, however, and it will probably precipitate a lively fight.

Highway legislation has marked time for the first half of the session. There are some 15 bills on matters relating to highways now in the hands of the committees on roads and highways. Five are senate and 10 house bills.

Begin on Road Legislation.

The first concerted step towards the enactment of a state highway code was made on Tuesday evening, when the joint committees on roads and highways held their first meeting and took up the various bills now before the legislature for consideration.

Two highway code bills have been presented to the house, one by Laurgaard and the other by Schimpf, chairman of the house roads and highways committee.

Still another, the so-called "federal code," has been given to the committee, as a sort of model from which to build. The latter has not been introduced as a bill in either house or senate and may not be.

No other subject to come before the session holds more promise of contention than the subject of road legislation, unless it is that of consolidation of commissions.

University and O. A. C. Criticized.

That there is a tendency on the part of Corvallis and Eugene citizens to take advantage of the students at the University of Oregon and Oregon agricultural college in charging them for living facilities and sometimes "grafting them to the limit"; that a condition exists among the Greek-letter societies at the university that "is undemocratic and dangerous"; that a feeling of jealousy exists between the university and the agricultural college and there is little or no tendency between the two institutions to co-operate in educational matters, with a tendency to duplicate work, a condition "that is detrimental to both institutions," are some of the findings made by the special legislative investigating committee, appointed by the last legislature, which filed its report with the legislature.

Mrs. Thompson in Chair of Speaker.

For the first time in the history of the Oregon legislature a woman presided over one of its branches last week, when Speaker Robert N. Stanfield called Mrs. Alexander Thompson, representative from Hood River and Wasco, the only woman member, to the chair.

Mrs. Thompson has a voice that fills the entire chamber, and she is well acquainted with parliamentary procedure. Four bills were passed while she was in the chair.

The men addressed her as "Mrs. Sepaker," but at her own suggestion did not cease smoking.

Sunday Closing Bill in.

Representative Gore introduced a Sunday closing bill in the house. It would close up everything tighter than the proverbial drum. It is aimed particularly at grocery stores and is said to have the backing of many of the grocers who met here this week. In effect it would revive the so-called "blue law" repealed by the people at the recent election.

Would Bar Aliens From Public Work.

Only citizens of the United States are eligible to employment on public works in cities, towns, school districts, counties and the state, under the provisions of a bill introduced by Senator Orton. It provides that if any public officer knowingly employs an alien, he shall be charged with a misdemeanor and, if convicted, fined not to exceed \$200.

Legislative Brevities.

The legislators with their wives visited Eugene Saturday as guests of the state university.

With six votes against it, the senate passed senate bill 95, by Eddy, providing for the recall of school directors.

The senate passed house bill 60, by Stott, providing that prisoners in the county jail shall be fed by the county instead of by the sheriff.

A bill passed by both houses and which now awaits the signature of the governor gives a school district fee simple title to property condemned for school purposes.

A joint memorial to congress urging the enactment of legislation which will open the waterpower resources of the nation to development and use has passed both houses.

A bill regulating cold storage plants was introduced in the house by Mrs. Thompson and Representative Bean, jointly, at the request of the Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs.

Hero worship is not altogether dead in Oregon. Representative Al Jones introduced a bill appropriating \$800 for medals to be presented to Oregon guardsmen who served on the Mexican border.

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FRIDAY, FEB. 2 1917

Entered at the postoffice at Weston, Oregon, as second class mail matter.

WILL IT "GET BY" THE SENATE?

The Sheldon resolution has passed the House but private advices received by the Leader from Salem would seem to indicate that it may have rather tough sledding in the Senate.

The resolution submits to the voters at the next election a bill appropriating \$125,000 for each of two normal schools—one located at Astland in Southern Oregon and the other at some point in Eastern Oregon to be designated by the board of regents. Such point must have doated a suitable site within sixty days after the passage of the measure. One-twenty-fifth of a mill annually is levied for the maintenance of each school.

Obviously it will be the effect of the bill—as is doubtless its purpose—to eliminate Weston as a normal school factor. Were there any idea of reopening the school here, no appropriation for a new plant would be required. Weston has therefore fought the resolution from its inception. Its attitude may be regarded as selfish in certain quarters. It is less so, however, than the motive which prompted Pendleton to send a lobby to Salem ten years ago to support a bill for moving the Eastern Oregon Normal from Weston to Pendleton. The school was then open and running in a town in the same county that had always been friendly and loyal toward Pendleton. Last spring Pendleton initiated its normal school bill without consulting Weston, giving as an excuse for its haste that it wanted to forestall La Grande. Is, then, Weston narrow and selfish and Pendleton frank and generous? Were Pendleton in Weston's shoes would it timidly submit, after struggling to retian the school for thirty years?

On the first page we are reprinting the circular mailed Saturday to every member of the Legislature. This, it is hoped here, may have some effect in the Senate. Not long ago photographs of all four of the normal school buildings here, neatly arranged in the form of a folder, were similarly mailed.

Germany having resumed her wholesale submarine warfare, we have decided to postpone our European tour until a more salubrious season.

This we take to be a singularly inopportune time for the Oregon Legislature to be tossing bricks at the Japanese dragon.

"Clear vegetable soup" has nothing on our relations with Germany.

VALUE OF MUSIC IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL

To the Editor:—

It is only after careful study of the conditions here in Weston that I venture to write on this important subject. Proper musical training is as necessary as any other study in the school and is so regarded in all our cities and towns of any importance.

And why should it not be? Isn't music—especially vocal music—the greatest of all accomplishments? How often do you hear some person say, "I wish I could sing?" And how many do you hear say, "I wish I understood geology, algebra, physical geography," etc.? Now I do not mean to belittle these studies, but merely to draw comparison. These are among your standard high school studies and you all think they are very necessary. Music, however, is just as essential and would to a large percentage of pupils be

of more importance than some of the studies mentioned.

While the appreciation of music has grown in the last 20 years the number of singers among the younger generation has decreased more than 50 percent. Why? Because of lack of proper instruction. Years ago the singing school furnished the singers. Now you could not conduct a singing school any more than you could an algebra school. Consequently the early musical training must come through the public school.

It is a matter of record that where vocal music is and has been taught for a few years, activities in vocal music have increased more than 80 percent; also, the efficiency has increased more than 50 percent. Diseases of the throat and lungs have decreased 30 percent among music pupils. This should be a convincing argument.

It is a pity that there is no standard for music teachers. As a rule anyone who can sing and play a little is considered qualified as a teacher. This is a serious mistake. Many good voices are ruined by improper methods, and children's voices are very easily injured. Therefore a qualified teacher of school music must have a thorough understanding of voices, registers, and the proper use of all organs of voice production, and should be able to apply this knowledge in the work. Such training will be of great value to any young person, as it will lay a proper foundation for a life of musical activities and enjoyment as well as health.

A. W. LUNDELL.

UPLAND NEWS NOTES

Weston Uplands, Feb. 1.—Mr. Jaech of Portland, a traveling salesman of the Ford company, visited his brother-in-law, Tom McCarty, Saturday and Sunday.

L. H. Dowd is visiting at his brother's home near Washtucna.

Mrs. Lizzie Lansdale and daughter Zena, visited in Walla Walla Saturday and Sunday.

Bert Ferguson has just returned from a week end visit with friends in Pendleton.

Mrs. Clarence Beathe and daughter Susie visited friends in Weston the latter part of the week.

Mrs. Roy May has been ill with la grippe for several days.

Rev. Goode, Charles Schneider and family were dinner guests Sunday at the Joe Cannon home.

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