

REVIEW OF WORK OF OREGON LEGISLATURE

Legislature Passes \$6,000,000 Bonding Measure to Build State Roads.

Legislature Exceeds 40-Day Limit for Session—New Irrigation Code Passed—Six Per Cent Tax Limitation Observed—Appointments Confirmed—Delinquent Tax Law Amended—To Vote on Land Grant Tax—Anti-Cigarette Law Passed.

Salem.—Owing to the congestion of business in the senate, brought about largely by the fight over what is known as the paving bill, which would bond the state for \$6,000,000 for highway purposes, the legislature was unable to complete its work Saturday and in order to clear up unfinished business of importance both houses adjourned until Monday. When the senate adjourned Saturday night about 100 bills still remained on the calendar, but the house calendar was in better shape.

Monday was the 43d day of the present session, but really only the 22d actual working day. Members get no pay after the 40th day of the session.

While the \$6,000,000 bonding measure passed the house by a vote of 32 to 27 it did so only after a spectacular battle, during which it was asserted that Governor Withycombe would veto the measure if it carried an emergency clause. This threat of a veto was effective for the emergency clause was eliminated, as it passed the house, leaving an opportunity to invoke the referendum.

Measure Has Hard Time Passing.
When the house took up the bill for final action prospects were not bright for its passage. Several of the 38 members who had signed the measure when it was introduced were wavering. But after nearly two hours of argument and parliamentary maneuvering the bill went through substantially in the same form as originally introduced.

After blocking action on the \$6,000,000 road bond bill in the senate for several hours by voting down every motion to suspend the rules and bring it up for passage, senators opposing the bill agreed to let it come before the senate on its merits and refer it to the people for approval.

Features of Road Bond Bill.
Provides for a \$6,000,000 bond issue to construct a system of highways.
Bonds to carry 4 per cent interest and to be refunded by throwing all automobile license taxes into a fund for that purpose.

The highways will extend into and through every county of the state, giving Oregon one of the most comprehensive road systems of any of the states.

Administration of the funds and construction of the highways will be under the supervision of the state highway commission and state highway engineer, provided for in the new road code which has passed both houses of the legislature.

Adjournment until Monday not only gave plenty of time for consideration of the road measure, but did away in a large part with the feverish and pell-mell rush usually incident to the final night of the session.

Few Important Measures Left.
Of the 100 or more bills on the calendar when adjournment was taken Saturday night, aside from the road bonding bill, few of them were of much importance, as the two houses had acted upon all the big measures.

Among the bills passed during the session perhaps a dozen may be regarded as constructive legislation of real interest to the people of the state at large, and these affected particular lines of business or moral issues.

The measures of benefit indirectly to the general public and directly to agriculture, insurance, education, lumbering, militia, public utilities, children and morals, are:

Irrigation aided with needed code amendments; the insurance code; the military code brought into conformity with federal enactments; the grain standard adopted; the bill to enforce the bone-dry law; rural school terms lengthened; streams opened to logging; needed revision in the highway commission law provided; cut-throat competition in public utilities prevented by passage of the certificate of public convenience bill; sterilization act passed and the anti-cigarette law strengthened.

Irrigation Code Enacted.

The irrigation district code passed the senate with a few minor amendments in which the house immediately concurred. This new code is one of the big pieces of legislation which the legislature was called upon to enact, and its sponsors claim that its enactment will mean the investment of millions of dollars in irrigation works and the reclamation of hundreds of thousands of acres of arid lands in eastern and central Oregon.

The code follows in most respects the existing law in reference to the

organization and general management of the district, and the principal changes have been made in connection with those sections relating to the security and sale of bonds.

Appropriations Within Legal Limit.

The 6 per cent tax limitation amendment has been observed by the ways and means committees of the legislature, and the paring down of budgets and demands of various kinds has brought the total to be appropriated down to \$6,288,408.43. This is well within the limit, leaving a \$20,037.33 balance, which will be taken up by the appropriation for miscellaneous measures. There is on hand in the state treasury \$200,000 from unexpended balances appropriated two years ago which now has reverted to the general fund. This amount, the committee decided, will not be appropriated at this session, and will be available when the emergency board is called upon to assist in helping out where shortages occur in the next two years.

Senate Confirms Multit and Gore.

The senate ratified Governor Withycombe's appointment of W. H. Gore, of Medford, and L. L. Multit, of Portland, as members of the board of regents of the University of Oregon. Mr. Gore succeeds Roy Goodrich, deceased, and Mr. Multit succeeds Collector of Customs M. A. Miller.

The senate also ratified the governor's appointment of Miss Cornelia Marvin, state librarian, and W. C. Bryant, of Moro, as members of the board of regents of the Oregon normal school. Both are reappointments.

Delinquent Tax Bill Passed.

The Forbes amendments to the delinquent tax bill were adopted. Under the bill as amended the formal notice of delinquency will be mailed 90 days after the tax becomes delinquent, and 30 days later all unpaid taxes will be advertised in the papers. In Multnomah county two papers are to receive the advertising on showing of a circulation of at least 10,000, and in outside counties the county courts are to select the papers.

Publishers of newspapers throughout the state have been attending the session and co-operating with Forbes and his committee in the effort to get the law changed. They were as eager as any member of the legislature to get enactments that would save money for the counties yet give due publicity to delinquencies.

Land Grant Tax up to People.

Every voter in Oregon will have a chance to express an opinion on the merits of Representative Bean's land grant bill, which passed both houses.

As amended by the senate the bill is automatically referred to the people for their approval or rejection at the general election in November next year.

The bill does not affect in any particular the status of the pending legislation between the federal government and the Southern Pacific railroad over the title and ownership of the Oregon & California grant lands. It merely asserts the sovereign right of this state of Oregon for ever to tax the lands, regardless of who owns them.

Boys Prohibited to Use Cigarettes.

Without one dissenting vote, the Sweeney-Brand anti-cigarette bill for minors passed the senate. It was adopted without amendment from the form in which it came from the house.

The Sweeney-Brand law is even more drastic than the original Sweeney bill in safeguarding against the use of cigarettes by minors. It makes no attempt, however, as did the original bill, to prohibit the use of cigarettes by grown men.

Heavy penalties are provided in the law against any person who sells or gives away any cigarettes to minors.

Legislative Brevities.

Senator Cusick's bill repealing the law requiring a health certificate from male applicants for marriage licenses was defeated in the house.

After a brief skirmish, the house defeated the resolution proposing a change to the initiative law that would have required eight per cent of signatures in a majority of the counties.

The house passed the insurance code with only seven negative votes. It already had passed the senate. It codifies all the insurance laws of the state.

The drastic sterilization bill, passed by the house, and a bill putting up to the people the problem of whether the state shall support delinquent, dependent and defective children cared for by private institutions also passed the senate.

The house passed Representative Eaton's bill increasing the inheritance tax rates.

Among the important bills passed in the senate were the house measure doubling automobile licenses so as to provide a fund to match the Shackelford federal road fund, and the Beaumont bill authorizing issuance of bonds up to \$1,800,000 necessary to match any portion of the federal fund not otherwise provided for.

One of the bills passed tightens up the bone-dry prohibition law. It requires peace officers having "reasonable information" that liquor is being transported in any vehicle except a railroad car, shall search it and seize any contraband liquor found. This bill already has passed the house.

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FRIDAY, FEB. 23 1917

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

THE FINAL CHAPTER

The Sheldon joint resolution, which had previously passed the house, was passed by the state senate Friday evening. This was done despite the fact that a majority of the committee to which it had been referred reported against the measure. Much work had been done in its behalf, and the Southern Oregon, Multnomah county and Polk county senators were lined up for it.

The Sheldon resolution submits to the people a bill to be voted upon at the next general election providing \$125,000 and one twenty-fifth of a mill for each of two normal schools—one of them at Ashland in Southern Oregon and the other at some point in Eastern Oregon to be named by the state board of regents after the measure carries. If Weston—where the state owns a normal school plant—is not selected, then the town which is granted the plum must donate a suitable site to the state.

No illusions are entertained here as to the effect of this measure. It is intended to eliminate and will eliminate Weston permanently as a normal school factor. Although Oregon owns a \$75,000 normal school plant in this community, it will be abandoned for all time. Weston delegates to the normal school conference held in Portland last December advised Mr. Sheldon—representative from Jackson county—that they and Weston were opposed to any such measure. Circulars were sent to every member of the legislature voicing Weston's opposition, and photographs were sent of every building embraced in the Weston Normal plant—with the truthful statement that this plant is adequate for the normal school needs of this section of the state and that one-fortieth of a mill would be ample for its maintenance. One-fortieth of a mill would, in fact, have given the Weston Normal twice as much maintenance money as it ever received before, although when closed in 1909 it was the largest normal school in the state.

SOMETHING FOR NOTHING

Realizing that he cannot pave his own roads with good intentions and unlimited talk, Old Man Oregon has at last, through his legislative servants, adopted a practical good roads program.

By a vote of 25 to 4 the senate Monday night adopted the six million dollar bonding measure, which will be submitted to the people at a special election on June 14th of this year.

The mooted effect of the provisions of this bill is that Oregon's roads will be unique, in that they will cost nobody anything. Both principal and interest will be cared for by an increase in automobile licenses, and the motorists will save all and more of this increase by lessened tire and gasoline bills. Not owning an auto, the Leader man is in hearty accord with this delightful bit of financing.

Walter Pierce, one of the few senators who opposed the bill, questioned the need of haste, saying that the bonding measure could just as well go over until the regular election—thus saving about \$100,000 election costs. He asserted that hasty action was in line with the views of the paving trust, as its bitulithic patents would soon expire.

As this is the first indication of speed ever shown by Old Man Oregon, we regard it as somewhat inconsiderate of Walter to try to trip him up.

The German undersea campaign would be a positive success if it were not a comparative failure. The hated English will soon be starved into submission, although they are getting and will continue to get plenty of food. Merchant shipping is being swept from the seas, although new tonnage is building faster than old tonnage is destroyed. In fact, everything one reads about the war would be true if it were only so.

The starving poor of New York would have plenty to eat if they could only be supplied with the surplus from one of Weston's lodge suppers.

An overt act? The definition is easy. It's what Uncle Sam is waiting for.

Herolem Extraordinary.

"It's a brave man who always takes his wife's advice," says the Albany Knickerbocker Press, but for downright desperate herolem give us the man who refuses to follow it.

son the Weston plant, when abandoned in 1909, was gutted of everything movable and a vast quantity of school furniture and equipment—the property of the State of Oregon—sold to Walla Walla junk dealers for a song. The school's enemies wished to make its resurrection as difficult as possible.

Monmouth is a smaller town than Weston, yet did not suffer from the machine's antagonism, for the reason that the "prominent educators" held the one-normal idea in 1910 and decided upon Monmouth as its location. One of them became its president at a salary double the amount ever paid a normal school president before in Oregon, and the school has since received many thousands of dollars more than were voted by the people, who were led to suppose that an annual tax of one-twenty-fifth of a mill would be sufficient. Now these same educators want imposing \$125,000 schools in big towns for the reason that larger salaries than were ever paid at Weston will undoubtedly be the rule. The Weston school was successfully maintained for only \$12,500 a year. In the eyes of the educational machine it was intolerably "small potatoes."

No, Weston will never have the chance of a troutling in a carp pond if this Sheldon resolution carries at the polls in 1918. Neither will La Grande, nor Baker, nor Hood River.

The town that will get the school is more or less happily celebrated for its Happy Canyon dances and its name begins with the sixteenth letter of the alphabet. That's the way the cards are stacked.

PLAIN FACTS

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Middy aprons.....	60c	Cotton gloves (knit wrist).....	8 1/2c-12 1/2c
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Ladies' union suits.....	25c-49c-60c	Boys' union suits.....	25c-45c
		Mechanic suits (khaki).....	\$1.99
		Mechanic suits (Indigo).....	\$2.25
		Harvest shoes.....	\$1.69-41.99

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Boys' "Underhill" overalls (Indigo) 69c-79c. Men's overalls—"Crown Special," pin stripe, 83c; "Underhill" overalls (Indigo) 98c; "Underhill" waist (Indigo) overalls, 83c; "Ehrman" and Big 3 overalls, 83c.

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