

WESTON LEADER

VOLUME 41

WESTON, OREGON, FRIDAY, FEB. 14, 1919

NUMBER 37

WHAT THE OREGON SOLONS ARE DOING

Salem.—Both houses resumed work Monday after the usual week-end adjournment with two weeks in which to accomplish most of the real work. While the various committees have been busy whipping proposed legislation into shape and many measures of minor importance have received attention in either house, none of the big bills have passed.

Road legislation, which overshadows all other issues, will occupy most of the time of both houses this week. The \$10,000,000 road bond bill has appeared after weeks of contention in the committee, and numerous paving bills are ready for the legislative grind. There is apparently little opposition to the bonding bill, but some of the other road bills are likely to cause some vocal fireworks.

Wending Bill Follows Closely 1917 Bill.

In its present form, the result of nearly two weeks of consideration and compromise the bond bill follows closely the lines of the \$6,000,000 bond bill passed by the 1917 session and referred to and approved by the people in the special election in June, 1917. Efforts to instruct the state highway commission as to which roads should first be completed have been overruled, inasmuch as members of the commission have said they can and will have work proceeding simultaneously on all the primary trunk roads. The main effort at first was to insist that the commission complete the Pacific highway before any other trunk line was touched. Those advocating this demand have been convinced that they can depend on the commission dealing fairly by the Pacific highway and that there are other roads of importance in Oregon calling for speedy completion.

No Consolidation Legislation.

Early in the session there was some prospect of consolidation legislation, but it is now freely predicted that all proposals for consolidation of the management of state institutions will fail at this session. The department of agriculture bill, chief of all the measures proposed by the joint consolidation committee, was defeated in the house after a stormy debate, and it is understood that other consolidation bills will be quietly consigned to the legislative scrap pile.

Reconstruction Legislation Unlikely.

Apparently there will be no practical reconstruction legislation at this session. Early in the session it was roughly outlined what could be done in reconstruction, such as road work, irrigation, drainage and logged-off lands and land settlement, but no one attempted to combine these ideas into a workable programme. It has been suggested that a reconstruction commission be created to formulate legislation to be presented at a special session of the legislature.

Fewer Bills Introduced.

A record is being made by the Oregon legislature in curtailing the number of bills introduced. Up to the

present time 329 measures have been introduced in the senate, against 305 for the corresponding period of the 1917 session, while in the house 427 bills have been introduced, against 529 two years ago.

At the conclusion of the first four weeks of the session, but 35 bills have been signed by the governor, 23 house bills and 12 from the senate. Many more bills, however, have been sent up to the executive for consideration. Most of the bills passed so far are of minor importance.

Minimum Sentence Law is Repeated.

Provision is made for doing away with the minimum sentence law in sending prisoners to the state penitentiary in a bill by Representative Sheldon, which passed the house. The measure removes the minimum sentence clause from all criminal laws, and provides that, when a convict has served one-fourth of his term he may be paroled, if his record shows him to be deserving.

Another of Sheldon's penitentiary series also passed the house. It makes it a felony to escape or to aid in the escape of any person from a penal institution. Curiously enough, no such law has heretofore been written on the Oregon statutes.

Red Flag Bill to Become Law.

Representative Gordon's "red flag" bill was passed by the senate without debate and without a dissenting vote. All the fireworks over the bill were shot off in the house and the senate passed the bill without oratory or fuss.

Briefly it provides that it shall be unlawful for any person in Oregon to display a red flag or any other emblem indicating disloyalty to the United States government, or belief in anarchy or other political doctrines the objects of which are the disruption of organized government or defiance of the laws of the state or the nation.

\$75 Minimum Pay For Teachers.

A minimum salary of \$75 a month for Oregon school teachers is provided by a bill passed by the house. The measure, which was introduced by Representative Mrs. Thompson, makes it unlawful for a board of directors of a school district in the state to pay a teacher less than \$75 a month, making the members of any board signing a contract in violation of the provisions of the measure personally liable for the amount specified in the contract and withholds all aid from the county school fund.

Bill Provides Education For Soldiers.

Free tuition, board, lodging and clothes for honorably discharged soldiers who wish to attend any educational institution in the state, which is supported wholly or in part by public funds, are provided for in a bill introduced in the senate by Senators I. S. Smith and Walter Pierce.

The bill applies to soldiers who have served in the army or navy within the last two years and who were residents



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of Oregon prior to entering military service.

Budget Cuts Total More Than Million.

Out of total budget estimated requirements of \$6,834,758, so far acted upon by the joint ways and means committee, that committee has tentatively allowed to date \$5,449,137.28 and has made total reductions aggregating \$1,385,650.72, a total of reductions which many legislators fondly warned the committee early in the session could not be reached.

It is believed the outside appropriation bills are pretty well in now and efforts will be made to pass the money around as far as it will go. But the committee and the legislature is committed to the policy of keeping within the 6 per cent basis and intends to do so.

Many Development Plans for State.

Legislation intended to promote the development of Oregon has not been overlooked this session, and if the var-

ious measures with this purpose in view are approved, the legislature will be able to point to something accomplished other than a stream of salary-raising bills. And as to the latter, there are about 50 salary-hoisting bills.

Most of the development bills require funds in large quantities. As a rule, they call for bond issues. They are aimed to open up Oregon's resources of land and water power; to bring into being steamer lines to stimulate commerce and navigation, and to provide roads for all sections of the state. These are the main measures, which are supplemented by several minor ones.

Primarily, the farmer is benefited, and industry advanced. Potentially, these measures are creators of labor, for to carry out almost any one of them will require the services of an army of skilled and common laborers.

OREGON NEWS NOTES OF GENERAL INTEREST

The Clackamas county fair will be held at Canby September 23, 25, 26 and 27.

A Baptist regional conference for laymen of the church is to be held in Portland February 23 and 24.

Veterans of Battery A, old Third Oregon, celebrated the 52nd anniversary of the organization at a banquet in Portland.

After weeks of a snowless winter eastern Oregon points were again snow-covered, much to the delight of wheatgrowers.

Enrollment in the school of law of the University of Oregon has grown to 46, the highest mark in the history of the university.

Senator McNary has appointed William S. Biddle, Milwaukie, and William H. Kendall, Portland, as first and second alternates respectively to West Point.

The decision of the Polk County Fair association not to hold a county fair in Dallas in 1919 has been reconsidered and plans will be made soon to hold the annual show.

Congressman Sinnott has introduced a bill in the house to extend the limits of the Ochoco national forest. This bill will add 6000 acres to the present area and will protect valuable water sources.

John Dierdorff, of Hillsboro, and Merrill Barber, of Twining, were appointed midshipmen to Annapolis by Representative Hawley on report of competitive examinations held at the University of Oregon.

Taxes for 1918 are now due and payable. The first half of the taxes may be paid to and including April 5 without interest. The second half of the taxes may be paid any time before October 5, without interest.

The government will hold an auction sale of wool in Portland on March 1 to take care of the requirements of local mills. The mills will then have at their disposal enough wool to last them until the new northwestern clip is ready.

The first unit of returning Oregon soldiers, the Sixty-fifth Coast artillery, will arrive in Portland on the night of Sunday, February 16, or the morning of February 17, and will be allowed stopover time for a parade on the way to Camp Lewis.

A \$50,000 milk producing plant is to be erected in Portland immediately as a result of a meeting at which 250 dairymen and milk producers were present. The plant will be erected on the co-operative plan, the entire stock being subscribed at the meeting.

Three principals and nine alternates will be recommended by Representative W. C. Hawley for admission to the United States Naval academy at Annapolis by March 4. Candidates should send applications at once to the president's office, University of Oregon, Eugene.

The 69th regiment, Coast Artillery corps, composed of 37 officers and 1708 men from Oregon, sailed from

Bordeaux on February 4 on the transport Mercury, the war department has announced. The transport is expected to arrive at Newport News, Virginia, February 16.

In the person of Joseph Nemchick, aged 90, of Harrisburg, Linn county boasts the oldest angler in the state. He secured a fishing license for 1919 at the county clerk's office in Albany last week. He also secured a similar permit to fish last year, so evidently is a consistent fisherman.

A tentative road paving program for Marion county, contemplating the expenditure of \$1,000,000, was announced by the county court after a conference with business men of the Mount Angel district. A chain of paved highways connecting all incorporated cities and towns of the county is the plan.

Baker enjoyed the heaviest snowfall of the year, varying in depth from six inches in the city to more than four feet in the mountains. The miners in that section had been apprehensive that there would be insufficient snow in the hills to furnish the desired amount of water in the spring, but that fear is now removed.

Miss Anna M. Turley, state leader of home demonstration agents at the Oregon Agricultural college, has resigned and will go to Columbia university, where she will take special courses in home demonstration work. She will be succeeded by Mrs. Jessie D. McComb, assistant state leader, a graduate of the University of Nebraska.

The Ochoco Irrigation district has closed a contract employing the Puget Sound Bridge & Dredging company, at Seattle, to build a large hydraulic earth-fill dam. The work was under contract to Twohy Brothers company, of Portland, and was abandoned by them on February 3, 1919. The pump work has been started and the sluicing operation has commenced.

Perfecting an organization to provide employment for returning soldiers throughout the state, selection of August 14, 15 and 16 as the date for its annual state convention at Klamath Falls, and selection of a committee to memorialize the Oregon congressional delegation to do its utmost in securing the passage of legislation for the benefit of the discharged soldiers, were among the important results of a special meeting of the Oregon State Elks' association held in Portland.

A special session of the Oregon legislature probably will be called by the governor in May, when there will be referred to the people at a special election to be held in June such reconstruction measures as a commission of 15 members may prepare. The plan is contingent on the evolving of a practical program to give employment through big development or building work, irrespective of the amount of bonding necessary for financing and if conditions in the country are not improved.

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