

# WESTON LEADER

VOLUME 41

WESTON, OREGON, FRIDAY, FEB. 21, 1919

NUMBER 38

## WHAT THE OREGON SOLONS ARE DOING

Salem.—The present legislature in one respect at least has followed precedent for it started out on the closing week of the session with the legislative hopper clogged with undisposed of business. Both houses are badly congested with work and the closing days will witness the usual confusion, heated arguments and strenuous efforts to save pet bills. It seems to be the habit of legislatures to fritter away much valuable time during the early days of the session with useless discussion on unimportant bills, while the money and other important measures are held back for committee tinkering and then rushed through during the closing hours when there is little time for consideration.

Practically the only important piece of legislation to its credit when the legislature started out on Monday was the appropriation of \$100,000 for the soldiers. No road bills had been passed and all the big appropriation bills had not been presented.

### Anti-Trust Paving Bill Passed.

Stormy times are expected over road legislation this week. The house and senate started the week at loggerheads over the anti-trust paving bill which passed the senate last week after an extremely bitter debate.

By a vote of 21 to 9, the senate passed bill 67, the chief of the four anti-trust paving bills.

The bill as passed is identical as reported by the majority of the roads and highways committee and favored by those seeking to curb the paving trust, with the exception of the Moser amendment to section 7, which now says: "All contracts which may be awarded for laying any pavement or for the purchase of any material, mixture or process entering therein, shall be awarded to the responsible bidder submitting the lowest aggregate bid under the specifications in the class of pavement which the public authorities mentioned in section 2 of this act shall determine to accept."

Those who have been straining the patent paving company fought the minority report of the road committee, which recommended the adoption of the words, "considering quality and durability," which gave this discretion to the state highway commission in awarding contracts. Over these four words the battle was waged in the senate.

Moser's amendment is construed as tying the hands of the state highway commission, by those who voted no. The others say not.

The addition of the four words would have given the commission the power to use its judgment in selecting pavements and awarding bids.

Strong opposition developed against the senate anti-trust paving bill when it reached the house and the ire of house members was aroused by threats of certain senators to defeat the \$10,000,000 road bonding bill unless the house enacted the senate bill.

### Tax on Estates Proposed.

Estates in Oregon will contribute an extra \$100,000 annually to the state treasury under the provisions of Representative Schuebel's inheritance tax bill which passed the house. The bill is a compromise measure over house bill 1, which would have produced an annual revenue of approximately \$350,000 from inheritance taxes. This bill, it is said, will produce a revenue of approximately \$160,000 annually.

Exemption is provided on estates up to \$10,000, but above that amount the tax is assessed against the estate and not against the distributed shares as under the present law. Additional tax, over and above that assessed against the estate, is imposed against shares which go to others than the direct heirs of the decedent.

### Local Autonomy for Counties Favored.

By adopting senate joint resolution 14, introduced by Senator Farrell, the senate went on record in favor of taking from the legislature authority to increase the salary of any state official during his term of office and of referring all county salary increases to a vote of the people of the county.

The resolution embodies a constitutional amendment, which will be referred to the people for approval if the house takes the same action as the senate. The proposed amendment provides that the legislature shall not have authority to increase the salary of any state official during the present term of that official, and that no increase in salaries of county officials shall be valid unless approved by the

people of the respective counties at the next general election.

### Session of 60 Days Proposed.

A proposed constitutional amendment submitted to the senate by Senator Jones of Lane county contemplates several changes in the provisions governing Oregon's legislative assemblies.

The most important proposal would extend the session from 40 to 60 actual working days, for which members shall receive \$200. It also provides that in case an extra session is called by the governor it must not be of more than 20 days' duration and the members shall be paid at the regular rate for every day of such extra session.

It provides that all bills must be introduced during the first 20 days of the session.

### Absent Voter Bill Passes the House.

The house passed a bill introduced by Representative Kuhl which will enable qualified voters who may be away from home on election day to vote.

The bill provides that voters who are absent from home but within the state may notify his county or city clerk, as the case may be, 30 days before election. The clerk will then forward an official ballot, which the absentee will sign, together with a certificate, which will then be returned to the clerk, who will cast the ballot for him. The bill was designed with special reference to students and traveling salesmen, but also applies in all other cases of necessary absence from home on election day.

### Income Tax Is Proposed.

The committee on assessment and taxation to the house introduced a bill providing for income taxes in the state and exempting certain personal property from taxation.

Under the bill a rate of 1 per cent would be charged on the first \$1000 of taxable income; 1 1/2 per cent on the next thousand; 2 per cent on the next; 2 1/2 per cent on the next; 3 per cent on the next; and a similar ratio on the next each succeeding thousand up to 5 1/2 per cent on the tenth \$1000 and 6 per cent on any sum in excess of \$10,000.

### Gasoline Tax Bill Passed By House.

The house passed the bill of the roads and highways committee providing for imposition of a tax of 1 cent a gallon on gasoline and a tax of half a cent on distillate. The bill as passed carries the emergency clause, but with a tacit understanding among the members that in event the emergency clause is stricken from the big bond issue bill it will be taken from this and other minor road bills. The bill will raise about \$350,500 in revenue, of this \$310,500 coming from gasoline and the balance from distillate.

### Would Curb Independent Candidates.

A bill aimed at disappointed candidates and persistent office seekers was introduced in the senate by Senator Norblad, of Clatsop county.

The bill provides that if a person is a registered voter of one political party he cannot become the candidate of another political party, nor can he accept the nomination of that party, should he be nominated.

The principal purpose of the bill, however, is to prevent defeated party candidates from running after the primaries as independent candidates, according to the author of the bill. If the bill becomes a law, the only person who can run as an independent candidate is the man or woman who is registered as an independent voter.

### Legislative Brevities.

The house also passed a bill by Representative Cross providing that suits for divorce must be filed in the county in which the plaintiff resides.

A joint resolution, calling for a bill to be placed on the ballot providing for compulsory registration and voting, was adopted by the senate.

Death came to the Oregon military police when the bill to keep the organization alive under the measure introduced by Senator Orton was killed.

With but eight opposing votes, Senator Dimick's resolution providing for a submission of the capital punishment amendment to a vote of the people, was adopted in the senate.

Delinquent tax notices will not be sent to the owners of property on which the delinquent tax amounts to less than \$1, according to an amendment to the delinquent tax notice law passed by the senate.

The prediction that the consolidation programme for the session was virtually killed when the house killed



Evangelist Geo. W. Taylor in action at Saling's hall.

the department of agriculture bill, was fulfilled when the committee withdrew all of its bills.

A house bill by Senator Gill, providing for compulsory surgical treatment of all school children afflicted with diseases of the eyes, ears, nose, throat or teeth, was defeated after a stormy debate, which was featured by Provision for re-establishment of the straight Australian ballot system in the state, with party candidates segregated on the ballot and the voter given the right to vote a straight ticket by checking the circle at the top of the ballot over the party of his choice, as made in a bill by Representative Lewis which passed the house.

### MESSAGE TO Y. W. C. A. FROM FRANCE.

I must express to you the very great satisfaction and most sincere gratitude of the French Government for the service rendered to the women working in Government factories through the establishment of Y. W. C. A. Foyers des Allicees (clubrooms for munitionettes). These foyers have been an excellent means for bettering the physical conditions and the morale of our workers. They have been constantly used by the women workers, who have found there new elements of dignity and social education. I must thank you for bringing this to pass, and I hope that Y. W. C. A. work will not disappear with the war, but will be carried on in order to develop the principles of social solidarity which it has inspired. (Signed) M. LOUCHER, Minister of Arms and Munitions Manufacture.

### INSIGNIA, CURTAINS, MADE FROM SKIRTS.

Blue broadcloth skirts used for organization insignia and plaid summer dresses reconstructed into window curtains are after war economies of the blue Y. W. C. A. secretaries in Archangel, Russia. These secretaries have just succeeded, in the face of food and cloth shortages, in opening a Y. W. C. A. Hostess House for American troops stationed in Archangel, a town behind the allied lines. It was necessary to hunt up a voile summer dress which one of the secretaries had discarded for heavy winter clothes in order to have curtains at the windows. They live on regulation army rations.



## OREGON NEWS NOTES OF GENERAL INTEREST

Astoria and Clatsop county are lining up solidly against the proposed creation of the Port of Columbia.

Hoggrowers of the Sheridan section are signing contracts for the hop crop for a three-year period at 25 cents.

W. W. Poland of Shedd was elected president of the Linn county farm bureau in the annual meeting held in Albany.

The cranberry growers of Clatsop county have decided to increase the amount of their acreage 20 per cent this year.

Students of Oregon Agricultural college who are entirely or partially self-supporting form 77 per cent of the student body.

The Victory Rose Festival will be held in Portland Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, June 11, 12 and 13, it has been decided.

Oregon's quota in the \$6,000,000 Victory drive, being conducted by the national committee of northern Baptist laymen, has been fixed at \$33,963.

Work will start next week on a seven-mile extension of the Shevlin-Hixon company's logging railway near Bend, the improvement to cost \$100,000.

To succeed W. B. Ayer, who resigned from the soldiers' and sailors' relief commission, Governor Withycombe appointed Frederick W. Mulkey of Portland.

Astoria was selected as the next meeting place and Charles Brown of Astoria was elected president of the Oregon Retailers' association, which held a successful three days' convention in Salem.

The employment situation in Portland is steadily improving, according to the federal employment bureau. Before the middle of March, it is expected, jobs will be available to absorb the surplus in the labor market.

To set dates, arrange the lists of events and standardize rules for the annual Oregon interscholastic track and field meet, delegates from Deschutes, Crook and Jefferson counties met in Prineville Saturday.

With a total of six points in its favor and but two against, the Corvallis high school has won the interscholastic debate championship of the west side Willamette district. Beaverton is second, with five points in its favor.

Sheriff John W. Orr, of Polk county, seized a shipment of about 180 bottles of whisky at Ballston, a little hamlet in the northern part of the county. The liquor was packed in a steel vault and was shipped from a point in California.

Final hearing on the proposed increase in telephone rates in Oregon, approved by the postmaster-general, which were to have become effective December 6, will be held before the Oregon public service commission on Monday, February 24.

Two hundred delegates, representatives of 140,000 employees of shipyards and allied industries, met in Portland Monday when the Pacific coast metal trade workers convened for their annual session. The convention will probably last about a week.

Federal money secured on farm loans through the Bandon-Curry County National Farm Loan association during the past year totals \$12,400, according to figures presented at the annual meeting held in Bandon. The entire amount is being used in developing the dairy industry.

Completing a contract for supplying the French government with 22 carloads of an evaporated material for soup, the Wittenberg-King company of The Dalles shipped its last carload Saturday. One-half of the big order was filled by the The Dalles plant and one-half by the plant at Salem.

To prevent the district meeting of the Loyal Legion of Loggers and Lumbermen, scheduled to be held at the Bend Athletic club gymnasium, members of the central labor council waited on directors of the club, protesting against the use of the gymnasium for that purpose. The labor representatives contend that the Loyal Legion is hostile to union interests.

Unless restrictive conditions imposed by the United States railroad administration are removed from the manufacture of ties practically all of the small mills of Oregon will be forced to suspend operation, according to the widespread opinion among operators. At least one has done so already, and others are apt to follow within a short time, it is predicted.

March 4 has been set by the Umatilla county court as the date for a special election to vote upon the proposed bond issue for \$1,050,000 with

which to improve the principal highways of all parts of the county. If the county votes the bonds the state highway commission will appropriate more than half a million dollars to match the county expenditures on state highways.

During the war Mrs. C. F. Daniels, wife of a well known Pendleton farmer, carried on a correspondence with 98 different Umatilla county boys in the service. In doing this she has written more than 1700 letters to them. During the last 12 months she has written an even thousand letters and sent 598 packages. This is probably the record for correspondence with soldier and sailor boys.

The secretary of the Interior has advised Representative Sinnott that there will be no more grazing permits issued for Indian lands in Gilliam county, Oregon, for a long time. By new regulations recently completed, the secretary says allotments in Gilliam county will soon be made to the Klickitat Indians which makes the chance of leasing any of these lands for grazing purposes quite indefinite.

A three-days' irrigation school was held in Grants Pass under direction of County Agent C. D. Thompson, with 50 farmers in attendance. Farmers from the newly organized Gold Hill irrigation district and from other sections of the county were given instruction in the management of their soils under irrigation in a series of lectures and demonstrations by W. L. Powers, of the Oregon Agricultural college.

By the terms of the postoffice and postroads appropriation bill, as passed by the senate, Oregon receives federal aid for highways more than trebling the amounts already authorized by a previous congress for the fiscal years 1919, 1920 and 1921. The total allotted to Oregon road building by the federal government for those three years was \$1,181,100, but the new bill just passed by the senate increases that amount to \$4,130,944.

One million dollars worth of good roads for Marion county seem not only possible, but probable from the intense enthusiasm shown at a mass meeting of representative road boosters from every part of the county and every road district in the county, held at Salem. The meeting unanimously went on record favoring a \$1,000,000 bond issue for market-town roads and of getting it before the people at a special election as soon as possible.

Two fatalities, as the result of accidents within the week and another death as the result of a previous accident are included in the report of the state industrial accident commission for the week. A. G. Dibbern was killed in a Portland shipyard accident. John Lefevre, logger at Strassel, met accidental death, and Norman Ramsdell died as the result of injuries sustained in a shipyard accident in Portland February 23. A total of 505 accidents were reported.

Checks aggregating \$170,000 will be forwarded this week by the Hood River Apple Growers' association in a distribution of the returns on apples. The co-operative sales organization to date has distributed a net total of \$991,000 to growers for the 1918 apple and pear crop. When the final accounting is rendered the total will exceed \$1,225,000 for the apple and pear crop and the returns on cherries and strawberries will bring the 1918 net business to more than \$1,500,000.

A railroad completed to Dairy, with a spur seven miles southeast to Bonanza, in time to take care of the coming crop movement, is the aim of Robert E. Strahorn, who is building the municipal line to Dairy for the city of Klamath Falls as the first link of his projected railroad into central Oregon. Bonanza residents have agreed to furnish the grade and the ties if the builder would lay the steel and operate train service, and Mr. Strahorn hopes to get the project completed this summer.

Senator Chamberlain has secured the passage through the senate of Representative Sinnott's bill revesting title in the government to 93,000 acres in Douglas and Coos counties, Oregon, known as the Coos Bay wagon road land grant. The bill has passed the house and will become a law on signature from the president. The counties of Douglas and Coos will profit more than \$1,200,000 in back taxes and from the sale of the lands by the passage of this bill.