

THE BOARDMAN MIRROR

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REVIEW OF OREGON LEGISLATURE WORK. WEEKLY DIGEST OF BILLS CONSIDERED

Salem.—Following precedent, the legislature started on the final week of the 40-day session with the usual jam of unfinished business. Both houses were badly congested and the closing days will undoubtedly witness the usual confusion, heated arguments and strenuous efforts to save pet bills.

It seems to be a habit with legislatures to waste much valuable time during the early days of a session while important measures are held back for committee tinkering and then rushed through during the closing hours when there is little time for consideration.

The measures which ran the gauntlet of both houses during the first five weeks of the present session were mostly unimportant and of no great interest to the state at large. Many of the big bills remained for final consideration by one or both houses. Night sessions will be in order this week, and President Ritter and Speaker Bean will endeavor to speed up work. Perhaps the steam roller will be oiled up and placed in commission in the attempt to finish up the work this week. Hard work and mufflers on the orators may enable the legislature to clear up most of the important business before the session ends next Saturday night or early Sunday morning.

Road Legislation Unfinished.

Road legislation is still in more or less of a chaotic condition and the main highway bills have not received attention in either house up to the close of the fifth week of the session.

The Roosevelt Highway bill which passed the senate and was sent over to the house, was recalled by the senate last week and put to sleep in the senate committee. Just what will be its fate is problematical.

When the joint ways and means committee began holding executive sessions to round out the appropriation bills it was confronted with the task of pruning about \$2,500,000 from the demands made upon the state treasury. Estimates in the original budget prepared before the legislature met called for appropriations totalling \$9,810,350.63, a sum \$819,378.22 in excess of visible revenues, which total \$8,990,974.41. Since the legislature met various state institutions and departments have revised their estimates upward so as to increase the demands in excess of visible revenues to more than \$2,500,000.

Estimates Must Be Cut.

The committee is under the painful necessity of making some drastic cuts in the estimates in order to keep within the 6 per cent constitutional tax limitation.

One of the most heated contests of the present session was aroused over a house bill fathered by Representatives Burdick and Gallagher, under which it was proposed to oust the state engineer from office and make some radical changes in the irrigation laws of the state. After one of the longest oratorical battles of the session the bill was defeated by a vote of 11 for and 43 against.

Motor Code Introduced.

Under a revised motor vehicle code introduced in the house by the joint roads and highways committee, owners of passenger cars will be required to pay a license fee based on the weight of the car, and motor trucks and trailers will be licensed on the basis of tire width.

Automobiles, except motor trucks, trailers and semi-trailers, having a rated maximum load carrying capacity of one ton or over, shall pay the following license fees, according to the proposed code: Weighing 1600 pounds or less, \$15; more than 1600 pounds and not more than 2000, \$20; 2000 pounds to 2400, \$25; 2400 to 2800, \$30; 2800 pounds to 3200, \$35; 3200 pounds to 3500, \$45; 3500 pounds to 4100, \$60; more than 4100 pounds, \$75.

Licenses of motor trucks, trailers and semi-trailers will be based on the total tire width of such vehicles.

House Passes Bonus Bill.

The house passed the soldiers' cash bonus and loan bill and the resolution referring to the people the constitutional amendment authorizing sale of \$30,000,000 of bonds necessary to carry out the plan, without a dissenting vote.

Under the provisions of the bill as amended since its introduction, Oregon veterans of the world war will be paid a cash bonus of \$15 a month for each month of service, with a maximum of \$250, or may borrow from the state a sum not to exceed \$3000, secured by real property and payable in installments over a considerable period of years.

Another amendment to the bill permits veterans who were citizens of the state at the time of enlistment, but who have since moved out of the state, to participate in the benefits of the bill under certain restrictions.

Proposed Special Election June 7.

A bill providing for a special state election on June 7 was introduced in the senate. The election would afford the voters an opportunity to pass upon the several constitutional amendments which have been and are yet to be referred to the voters by the present legislative session. Among these problems are soldiers' bonus, the department of hydro-electric power and extension of the legislative session to 60 days.

Oregon's delegation in congress was memorialized by the legislature to procure the enactment of legislation which will provide ships or cargo space for supplies for the sufferers in China and the near east.

Logged-Off Land Bill Passes House.

Development of logged-off lands in Oregon through the creation of logged-off land districts, similar in character to irrigation districts, is provided in a bill which was passed by the house with but one dissenting vote.

Members of the house from coast counties championed the bill when it reached the house. It was asserted that through the passage of this bill thousands of acres of land now useless could be transformed into productive agricultural lands, increasing the value of such lands and also the tax value, which would bring additional revenue to the state. The bill provides for the creation of logged-off land districts in Oregon through petition to the county courts and the holding of elections, at which authority can be granted not alone for the creation of districts, but also for the issuance of bonds.

State Aid For Power Plants.

Amendment of the constitution so as to allow the state to lend its credit and incur indebtedness in an amount not to exceed four per cent of the valuation of all assessable property for the purpose of providing funds with which to acquire, construct and develop hydro-electric power plants, and generate and transmit the power for use at a reasonable rate, is provided in a senate joint resolution introduced by Senators Joseph and Norblad and Representatives Bean and Woodson.

Provision is made in the resolution that any plant so constructed under the terms of the amendment shall be sold at such price as will tend to promote the industrial development of the state, and with a view to ultimately repay to the state all moneys invested in such development.

For the purpose of handling the bonds necessary to carry out the intent of the act, there is provided a hydro-electric power commission to be composed of the state engineer, attorney-general and the superintendent of banks.

Would Revise Constitution.

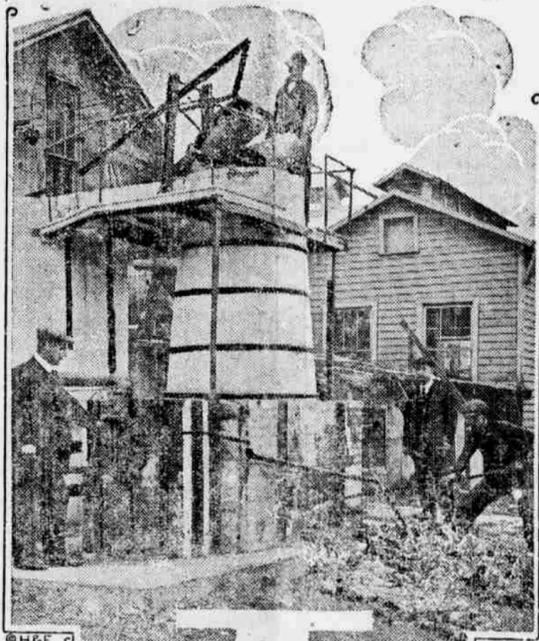
A move to revise the constitution of Oregon has been begun through the introduction of a house bill by Representative Sheldon, of Jackson county.

Under the Sheldon bill, a committee of fifteen is to be appointed by the supreme court to prepare a revised draft of the state constitution. The committee is instructed to retain in the new constitution all provisions in principle that the people have voted into the present constitution, and the matters now in the constitution which the committee may deem more properly belonging in the state's statutes are to be preserved as legislation.

This committee would have four years in which to complete its work.

The American women entries in the Olympic games explain why the doughboys sang of the girls they left behind them.

Fertilizer Is to Be Cheap Again



Farmers who have been forced to pay exorbitant prices for fertilizer face relief. The Department of Agriculture has found a new method of removing phosphoric acid from phosphate rock, which is thought will revolutionize the world's fertilizer industry. The new process is shown in the picture—dumping the phosphate rock in at the top—it is heated with coke and sand in the fuel-fed furnace—the acid coming out at the bottom front pipes, held by the man at the left. There is no loss of rock by this process, whereas the old screening method resulted in an 80 per cent loss.

COMMITTEE CONFERS WITH PROSSER MEN ON ESTABLISHMENT OF FERRY

A committee consisting of Messrs. Ballenger, Weston, Dilabough, Cobb and Barnes made a trip to Prosser Monday to confer with the commercial club of that city regarding the establishment of an up-to-date ferry at this point.

This is a matter of importance toward future development of this locality as well as a boon to our neighboring committee north of the Columbia in that it will unite the Columbia Highway and the Seattle Spokane highway with a direct route, this greatly reducing the distance from eastern Oregon and Washington points to Portland and Seattle, as well as improve transportation facilities of a number of enterprising communities who are left to work out their own salvation in this respect.

Seed Corn

Any farmers on the west extension desiring seed corn can secure some from the O. W. R. & N. Co. at Messner. Farmer Smith has offered seed corn to those that will contract to build a silo this year, to others the price of seed is 8½ cents per lb. in quantities less than 100 lbs. and 7½ per lb. in quantities over 100 pounds. This is all acclimated seed.

The Boardman Trading Co. having purchased the hardware stock from J. C. Ballenger have consolidated the two stores giving us one of the best stocked general stores in this part of the country and have done a good business from the start.

A number of Boardman people attended the dance at Morgan, Saturday, Feb. 12th. Music was furnished by the Boardman orchestra. Refreshments were served and a good time enjoyed by a large crowd.

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OREGON NEWS NOTES OF PRINCIPAL EVENTS HAPPENING DURING WEEK

Albany's city jail has been condemned as unfit to house prisoners.

Bounties for 12 bobcats and four coyotes were paid in Linn county last week.

The city of Sheridan has completed the sale of \$11,000 of street paving bonds.

Several cases of smallpox and scarlet fever are under quarantine at La Grande.

Smallpox has made its appearance again in Independence. Two homes are quarantined.

Albany's third annual automobile show was held Friday and Saturday at the armory.

Oregon City is industrially prosperous, the payrolls now aggregating close to \$350,000 a month.

Albany's Shrine club has been reorganized with a membership of 30. E. D. Cusick is president.

Perry Titus, aged 80, resident of Clatsop county for 46 years, is dead at his home in Astoria.

During the month of January, 23 arrests were made in Roseburg and fines amounting to \$138 were collected.

James Stephens, 60 years old, an old resident of Grant county, was found dead in his bed near Mount Vernon.

The egg market in Salem Friday reached its lowest point in seven years. Eggs sold at 25 cents a dozen retail.

William B. Tucker, at present county agent of Ada county, Idaho, has been appointed county agent for Crook county.

The body of Michael Hoff, pioneer business man of Baker, was found in his woodshed, where he had hanged himself.

Fire losses in Portland in 1920 totaled \$1,048,742, according to the annual report of Edward Grenfell, fire marshal.

The membership drive recently inaugurated by the Eugene Country club has resulted in 45 new names being obtained.

The overhead bridge across the Coyote cut-off east of Boardman on the Columbia highway has been thrown open for traffic.

Nels Nelson, mayor of Carlton and a long time resident of that district, died at McMinville hospital, following an operation.

E. W. McMinden of the State Agricultural college extension department has been appointed agricultural agent for Clatsop county.

Owing to an epidemic of smallpox, measles, influenza and other diseases, the public schools at Yoncalla have been ordered closed.

A short course for Commercial club secretaries of Oregon will be held at the University of Oregon for one week, beginning March 28.

With but 56 families in the parish, Catholics of Roy, in Washington county, are erecting a church edifice at an expenditure of \$35,000.

The night train service on the Coos Bay line will not be resumed until weather conditions obviate the danger of trees falling across the track.

Mrs. Martha J. P. Quick, Oregon pioneer, is dead at Halsey, aged 80. Mrs. Quick came to Oregon in 1847 and had lived in Linn county since 1859.

Worthless checks issued in Bend during the past six months cost business men on an average of \$100 a month, District Attorney A. J. Moore stated.

The Corvallis water commission is starting proceedings for an election to authorize a bond issue of \$100,000 with which to build a new 12-inch pipe line.

Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Woodard have just returned to Cottage Grove from a transcontinental motor trip of 19,000 miles, which consumed 19 months and 20 days.

The supreme court has upheld Corporation Commissioner Handley in a suit by a Texas oil syndicate, to force him to issue it a permit to sell stock in Oregon.

P. F. Fisher, on the banks of the Clackamas near Oregon City, claims that his flock of 180 hens in January produced 3528 eggs, and for the year 25,532 eggs.

Hugh Boyle, a citizen of Scotland, and Pedro Hernandez, a Mexican, in jail at Eugene, are in line for deportation. Both are charged with robbery and vagrancy.

Following investigations by a squad of detectives, one of whom was a woman, Wasco county officers have

made a round-up of alleged prohibition law violators.

January was a hard month on bobcats in Lane county. Seventeen men and one woman collected bounties on 23 bobcat pelts, three mountain lions, two coyotes and one wolf.

Alvin C. L. Chance, wanted on a charge of embezzlement of funds of the Ontario branch of the Boise Payette Lumber company, was arrested at Long Beach, Cal., according to word received by Sheriff Noe of Malheur county.

More than a score of former state, county or municipal officials have organized an X-club in Pendleton and will devote their efforts to giving present and future officials the benefit of their experience.

Interest in the drilling at the Trigon oil well in Jackson county has much increased in the past week, during which oil indications have become more pronounced. The 800 feet of 10-inch casing has all been set.

From 50 to 75 messages from every American Legion post in Oregon were dispatched to Senator McNary, requesting him to support the appointment of Senator George E. Chamberlain as a member of the United States shipping board under the Harding administration.

Senator McNary secured the adoption of an amendment to the agricultural appropriation bill increasing the appropriation for forest fire prevention and forest preservation from \$125,000 to \$225,000. This money will be used in co-operation with the states of the northwest.

There were two fatalities due to industrial accidents in Oregon during the week ending February 10, according to a report prepared by the state industrial accident commission. The victims were William Campbell, carpenter, Portland, and Orville Smith, logger, Deschutes.

Two Deschutes county townships, Harper and Imperial, existing only on paper for years, will cease to appear on the map within two more months. Taxes delinquent since 1913 are the basis for a judgment order signed by Circuit Judge Duffy which authorizes a sheriff's sale of the properties.

With the top of the head chopped off, probably with an ax, the body of Geb Hansen, 60-year-old recluse, living in a three-room shack on the bank of the Columbia river, west of The Dalles, was found lodged among a pile of boulders at the foot of a 40-foot cliff which dropped to the river, below his shack.

Allegations that the Deschutes Lumber company cut 1,297,007 feet of pine timber belonging to the Alworth-Washburn company during the past year are contained in a complaint filed by the latter corporation in circuit court at Bend, in which recovery of \$15,000 is sought, together with \$5000 damages.

H. Prestone of Saskatchewan, Canada, will be the first alien ever to receive final papers on a central Oregon homestead. The fact that his son, Thomas, who made the filing, was killed in action in France, has made it possible for the father to obtain title, under the rules of the United States land office.

Definite information received in Portland that United States Senator George E. Chamberlain will accept appointment to the United States shipping board if the position is offered him has given the Portland Chamber of Commerce and his supporters throughout the entire state an added incentive to work for his appointment.

That the proposal of J. J. Hafdsaker, state director of the China famine fund and the near-east relief to accept foodstuffs in lieu of cash, to be shipped direct from Portland to northern China points in government vessels, has met with a hearty response throughout the state, according to reports received at headquarters in Portland.

Notice of the pardon and release of W. M. Reivo of Astoria, sentenced to serve two years at McNell's Island for publishing matter that cast reflection on the United States military forces has been received by federal authorities. According to the notice, Reivo's pardon was signed by President Wilson on January 26, and he was released on January 27.

Considerable hay is moving out of Boardman to points west.