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DOINGS AT THE CAPITOL

News in Brief of the Doings of Oregon's Law-makers During the Past Week

Last Week of Session Begins With Large Amount of Work Remaining to Be Done.

Appropriation Bills Total \$5,653,307—Primary Election Laws Amended—House Passes State Insurance Bill—Sheriffs Get Old Jobs Back—Schoolhouses for Social Centers—Senate Votes Dry on Test—Regulate Dairy Corporations.

Salem.—The legislature started on the last week of the 28th session with the usual congestion of business and as in past sessions confusion promises to mark the closing hours. All the really important measures remain to be passed, few of them having gone through both houses. No measures of statewide interest have reached the governor's desk.

Prohibition legislation remained unsettled. Tax measures are incomplete, irrigation codes are not yet revised, fish and game legislation is in a tangle, and complications are threatened on consolidation.

The workmen's compensation act amendments are up to the senate. Election and road law revision, in a few particulars, are badly needed, but neither house has got anywhere on those questions. Night sessions will be necessary all week and by proper attention to business it may be possible to clean up the work of the session, but there is some doubt as to whether the "orators" can be held down without a repressive rule in the house. The senate has already adopted a rule of this kind.

The legislature has approved the lease of Summer and Abert lakes by the state land board to an eastern syndicate, headed by Jason Moore. The large appropriation bills are in but have not been passed.

\$5,653,307 Provided for in Live Bills. Although the joint ways and means committee has assigned to the legislative cemetery bills appropriating a total of \$1,545,199 and cut requests for appropriations to the bone, there were still pending in the legislature measures appropriating the huge sum of \$5,653,307, to be disposed of during the closing week of the session.

Bills appropriating a total of \$107,935 are pending in the senate, and bills appropriating a total of \$1,127,246 are pending in the house. Committees have passed on appropriation measures aggregating \$1,543,908 and there are pending before the committees measures calling for appropriations in the sum of \$1,486,792.

The house has passed bills appropriating \$1,238,416, and the senate bills appropriating \$23,100. One bill making an appropriation for the partial payment of the expenses of the legislators and their clerks has passed both houses, and been signed by the governor.

Petition Change Passed.

A remedial enactment was the passage of Representative Olson's bill providing certain changes in the primary election laws to eliminate petition-peddling and enable aspirants for primary nominations to become candidates by paying flat fees instead of obtaining the signatures of voters. The petition system is not eliminated entirely, however, as the candidate is given the option of the two methods.

Representative Allen's bill to enable rural communities to form organizations to obtain a low rate of interest was passed by the house and is heralded by the up-state members as the first step in the establishment of a rural credit system for the state.

It does not attempt to place the state in the business of extending credit to the farmers, but empowers

the farmers, themselves, to organize along lines similar to those that have been followed successfully in European countries for many years.

State Insurance Provided.

The Hinkle bill passed by the house is a departure in the way of state aid in industrial development. The measure proposes a system of annuities similar to those in effect by many countries of Europe and by some of the Canadian provinces. It is not unlike state life insurance, only the payments are to be made on an annuity basis instead of in lump sums. In the event that the insured person dies before the date of the first annuity becomes due his estate is to receive all the money that has been paid in, with interest at the rate of 3 per cent.

Sheriffs Win Back Tax-Collecting Job. Sheriffs of the state won a victory when the house passed Representative Kelly's bill, providing that hereafter all taxes shall be collected by the sheriffs instead of the county treasurers, and it means that all bills increasing the salaries of the latter officials will be withdrawn, provided this last measure passes the senate.

The last legislature passed a law providing that the county treasurers should collect all taxes except those which were delinquent. Because of the extra work, appeals were made to this legislature by the county treasurers for an increase of salaries. The committee on assessment and taxation found itself confronted with the problem of reducing the salaries of the sheriffs if they increased the salaries of the county treasurers.

Social Center Bill Passes.

Senator Moser's bill, providing that public schoolhouses may be used as social and civic centers, was passed by the house.

This measure legalizes a practice that has been in vogue in Portland and other cities of the state for the last few years. Under the present law the school directors are required to give formal permission for the use of the school buildings for these purposes, and a fee must be charged to cover the cost of light, heat and janitor service. Under the Moser bill these costs will be paid for out of the special county school district funds. The use of the buildings, however, is not to interfere with the regular school service.

Senate Test Vote is "Extra Dry."

The first test in the state senate on the prohibition bill was a victory for the advocates of a strict law. The minority report of Senator Dominick of the committee on alcoholic traffic, which was favorable to the bill as passed by the house with no important amendments, was adopted by a vote of 15 to 13.

It retained the sentence, "It shall be unlawful for any one person or family within this state to receive from any common carrier more than two quarts of spirituous or vinous liquors or more than 24 quarts of malt liquors within a period of four successive weeks."

The majority report, by Senators Farrell, Bishop, J. C. Smith and Strayer, eliminated the words "or family" making it possible for each adult member of a family to purchase the stipulated amount.

Absent Voter Wins in Bill.

The senate passed a bill providing that persons away from home election day may vote wherever they may be for presidential electors, state officers and constitutional amendments by identifying themselves and producing a certificate by the judges of election in their home precincts that they are qualified voters.

The bill provides that an elector who expects to be away from home on election day may apply to the judges in the election district in which he lives for a certificate as to his qualifications. Upon the presentation of

the certificate to the judges of election where he may be election day and identification by two qualified resident voters, he may exercise the right of suffrage.

Pro-Farmer Act is Passed.

A measure intended to prevent big dairy and creamery corporations from freezing out the small co-operative concerns of the farmers went through the house. All the representatives from the rural districts voted for it and most of the urban legislators also were for it.

The bill was introduced by Representative Hunt, of Clackamas county. It requires creamery companies and others, who purchase dairy products from farmers, to file a schedule of their rates with the state authorities and prohibits them from paying more for the same commodity in one community than they pay in others, freight rates and other costs being considered.

Governor Signs Teachers' Bill.

In the presence of a large delegation of school teachers from Portland, who are members of the Grade Teachers' association, other educators, Senator Moser and others, Governor Withycombe signed Senator Moser's bill, which provides that there shall be no discrimination in the payment of salaries between male and female teachers.

Governor Withycombe used two pens, and one was presented to the Portland Grade Teachers' association and the other to Miss Galloway, of the Albany schools, where the movement toward the passage of the measure originated.

Legislative Brevities.

The house passed the tax committee's bill to remit all penalties on delinquent taxes under the 1913 tax law. Insanity shall not be made a cause for divorce in this state, according to a decision of the senate.

By a unanimous vote the senate passed a bill which provides a preferential of 5 per cent for Oregon products in letting contracts for public work.

By a vote of 21 to 8 the senate voted an appropriation of \$50,000 for erecting a building for training work at the Oregon state normal school in Monmouth.

The house passed the measure providing for an appropriation of \$49,200 for the industrial school for girls. This includes \$15,000 for a new cottage.

Road work for the coming biennium is to be continued on the one fourth of 1 mill tax levy of 1913, according to a decision of the house.

A substantial saving in the expenses of state and local elections will be possible through the operation of Representative Childs' bill which the house has passed. It provides for only two election judges instead of three, under the present law.

NEWS FROM OVER THE STATE

Salem, Oregon Feb. 15.—One freak bill has passed the Senate to make all salaries of women the same as men in certain public work. As usual such a law will increase taxes and may put a lot of men and women out of work.

Eastern Oregon, an undeveloped section of the state, may enjoy the luxury of representation on the Railroad commission and that body may see the value of doing something to encourage railroad construction.

If the Supreme Court sustains the Portland meat trust ordinance it will practically bar farmers shipping dressed hogs, sheep and calves to the city market.

Klamath Iron Works has turned out 400 flanged carwheels for the Pelican Bay sawmill yard trucks.

The Dalles business men went on record as opposed to further legislation or regulation burdening railroads.

Malheur—Gold dredge arrived to operate on Lyon placer mines.



EVERYBODY WILL LIKE THE FAT MAN'S LOOKS WHEN HE WEARS OUR CLOTHES. THEY WILL FIT HIM AND MAKE HIM FEEL GOOD.

WE CARRY BOTH "SLIMS" AND "STOUTS" IN MANY BRIGHT NEW PATTERNS. LONG, THIN MEN AS WELL AS SHORT, FAT MEN AND "REGULAR" MEN CAN GET A FIT IN OUR STORE.

TRY THE STORE THAT TRIES TO PLEASE YOU AND HAS GOT THE GOODS TO DO IT.

VALUABLE COUPON OUT THIS OUT

Bring this coupon to our store, make a cash purchase of 25c or more, and you will receive \$1.00 worth (10) Fidelity Trading Stamps FREE in addition to the regular stamps.

N. SELIG, Falls City, Oregon.

This coupon not good after February 27, 1915.

N. SELIG'S FALLS CITY DEPARTMENT STORE

Gold Hill gets a powder warehouse.

Ontario—A fruit evaporator is to be built here.

Flax plant and wagon plant considered at state prison.

McMinnville—Two story annex will be built to hospital.

Madras—Commercial club is boosting a starch factory.

Tillamook—Electric plant being constructed at Bar View.

Out of 400 bills in legislature 40 regulate salmon industry.

Salem is to have a three-story brick apartment building.

A Douglas County library may be established at Roseburg.

Gresham—Beaver State motor car factory ready to operate.

Eaton bill for \$20,000 for Employment bureaus was killed.

Tax collection has begun while the legislature is still grinding.

Pendleton will construct an \$8,000 swimming pool at Roundup Park.

It is estimated border counties lost \$100,000 fees in 1914 on account of freak marriage laws.

At end of fourth week legislature two economy bills and one salary reduction bill had passed.

St. Johns and Milwaukee shingle mills resume work on open shop basis.

Baker—Chambermaid sues Crabb Hotel for \$5680 personal injuries.

Canyon City—Utah mining men are here to develop Canyon mountain mines.

Shortage of hogs and cattle as reported is prelude to raise in meat prices.

The Rogue River Public Service Corporation will install an electric ditch digger.

The S. P. Co. bridge across Coos Bay will be 2400 feet long of structural steel.

Grants Pass—Portland architect is to prepare plans for an \$80,000 Court House.

T. A. Livesley & Co., of Salem sold ten tons loganberries to a Chicago mail order house.

Governor Withycombe's watchwords for his administration—"economy, efficiency and optimism."

It is estimated \$300,000 can be saved every two years on election expenses by reforming the laws. Why don't the legislature do that instead of passing more new laws?