

PROCEEDINGS OF OREGON LEGISLATURE

Friday, February 1.

Salem, Feb. 1.—War on normal schools has broken out again in the legislature, and the forces demanding abolition of two of the four institutions are considerably stronger than ever before.

Representatives of the Oregon State Grange are fighting the bills enlarging the powers of eminent domain for certain corporations.

Both houses have passed the bill requiring fruit box labels to show the name and address of the grower and the packer.

Eight bills were introduced in the house, among them one to appropriate \$75,000 for the purchase of additional grounds for the Agricultural college. Several new measures were presented to the senate.

Thursday, January 31.

Salem, Jan. 31.—Speaker Davey has a proposed constitutional amendment. His plan is for the people to elect the presiding officers of the legislature the same as any other officer.

Representative Jackson's bill taxing mortgages was indefinitely postponed. Double taxation was feared by the opposition.

There is some danger of the bill giving osteopaths an independent examining board being shelved in the senate.

Among the 23 new measures in the house today was one to annex a part of Grant county to Baker county; creating the Twelfth judicial district; to prohibit "treating" in saloons and to repeal the poll tax law.

One of the most sweeping bills of its character to make its appearance in the senate legislature is that of Representative Brix, introduced yesterday and providing for appropriation and use of the streams of the state by corporations or persons. The bill declares that all streams, sloughs and waters of the state which have not sufficient water capacity of serving the uses of commerce or of profitably floating, during any part of the year, upon natural water or freshet, logs, ties, shingle bolts or other products of the forest, shall be declared public highways.

There is a proposition on foot to raise the salaries of members of the legislature from \$120 to \$500 for the session.

Wednesday, January 30.

Salem, Jan. 30.—Plans for free locks at Willamette Falls have turned from a state appropriation of \$400,000 for building new locks, or buying locks now existing, to an appropriation of \$300,000, contingent on an additional appropriation from congress sufficient for building new locks, or the purchase of the old ones by the national government. Such was the outcome today of a tussle in the house over the bill appropriating \$400,000 for building new locks.

But for a defect a bill would probably have been passed by the house requiring passengers on cars who are unable to obtain seats to pay but half fare. It will be corrected.

The compulsory education bill prepared by Superintendent Ackerman passed the senate. It requires teachers to compare their registers every two months with the census of the district and report to the county or city superintendent those children not attending.

The senate indefinitely postponed the bill appropriating \$65,000 for the Jamestown exposition. The reason was the large appropriations needed for other purposes.

The house passed the bill increasing the appropriation of the Oregon Library commission from \$2,000 to \$6,000 per annum.

Twenty-five new measures were added in the house today, bringing the total up to 316. The senate added the unlikely number of 13 to their 153.

There was very strong opposition to the new quarantine law proposed by the bill of Senator Smith, of Umatilla, giving the state board of health quarantine powers in towns and on trains, but it passed the senate by a good majority.

Miners of the state are interested in a bill by Representative Moore, of Baker county, creating the office of inspector of mines, providing for the appointment of deputies, defining the duties and fixing the salaries of both.

Free passes for public officers of the state and of districts and counties must be furnished by any railroad exercising the power of eminent domain, according to a bill introduced by Representative Freeman, of Multnomah, prepared by John F. Logan, of Portland. This free transportation is intended to compensate the public for the privilege of eminent domain, and will save the taxpayers considerable money.

Tuesday, January 29.

Salem, Jan. 29.—A bill has been presented in the house providing for the branding of packed fruit with the name of the packer, the grower and the locality where grown.

According to a house bill presented last week mortgages are to be taxed by the holder thereof. This provision was not discovered until today.

A bill has been introduced in the house exempting from the state corporation tax all farmers' ditch companies of which there are many in the semi-arid districts of the state.

State Aid for Tillamook.

Salem, Jan. 30.—Representative Beals, of Tillamook and Yamhill, in a bill introduced yesterday, asks an appropriation from the state of \$50,000 to be expended in deepening and improving the harbor in Tillamook bay. The bill authorizes the appointment by the governor of a commission of five persons, reliable residents of Tillamook county, who shall have charge of the work incidental to the expenditure of the appropriation asked.

Committees have been appointed in both houses to investigate the state institutions. This session, however, they will not be allowed any clerks or mileage.

Much opposition is being developed to the new water code as drawn by the Portland board of trade.

To place the printer on a flat salary of \$3,000 per year and appropriate \$20,000 for a building and plant is the object of a bill by Speaker Davey.

The general appropriation bill, prepared by the ways and means committee, carries a total of \$1,244,970.

Most of the new bills in the two houses today were of a minor character. Among them, however, was one creating the new county of Cascade, increasing appropriation for Agricultural college from \$25,000 to \$50,000, abolishing the death penalty and appropriating \$10,000 for the portage road and authorizing its extension to The Dalles.

The house passed eight of its bills today. All were of a local character. The senate passed three and killed two of its measures.

Monday, January 28.

Salem, Monday, January 28.—A memorial has been presented in the Senate asking Congress to compel railroads to sell their land grants. The sentiment of the legislature is that the remedy lies with Congress.

There is a wide difference between the valuation placed on the Oregon City locks by the owners and Federal officials. The former estimate the value at about \$1,200,000 and the latter at about \$310,000. Should the Legislature decide to acquire this property, it is probable the matter will have to be settled in the courts.

Among the new House bills today were:

Establishing union high school districts from two or more contiguous districts.

Appropriating \$100,000 for veterans of Indian War, 1855-56, and members of Ninth Regiment, Oregon militia, while actually in service, for use and risk of their horses, at per diem of \$2, and appraised value of every animal that was killed or rendered unfit for service.

Authorizing Governor, Secretary of State and State Treasurer, composing Board of Public Building Commissioners, to procure site by purchase or condemnation, and construct building for state printing plant, and appropriating \$20,000 therefor.

Placing State Printer on flat salary of \$3,000 per annum, appropriating funds for purchase of supplies and equipment of office.

Appropriating \$50,000 for deepening and improving harbor and channel in Tillamook Bay, and authorizing Governor to appoint commission of five persons to supervise its expenditure.

For relocation of State Deaf Mute School, and appropriating \$14,000.

Creating Crook County into the First Central Oregon Agricultural District, authorizing holding of an annual district fair at Prineville, and appropriating \$1,000 and printing to amount of \$200 therefor.

Appropriating \$27,000 for maintenance and support of Central Oregon State Normal School.

Jamestown Fair May Win.

Salem.—The senate committee on federal relations has decided to report favorably the bill to appropriate \$65,000 for an exhibit at the Jamestown exposition.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Fruits—Apples, common to choice, 50¢ to 75¢ per box; choice to fancy, \$1 to 2.50; pears, \$1 to 1.50.

Vegetables—Turnips, \$1 to 1.25 per sack; carrots, \$1 to 1.25 per sack; beets, \$1.25 to 1.50 per sack; horseradish, 7¢ to 8¢ per pound; sweet potatoes, 3½¢ per pound; cabbage, 2½¢ per pound; cauliflower, \$2.50 per dozen; celery, \$3.50 to 4¢ per crate; pumpkins, 2¢ per pound; squash, 2¢ per pound; sprouts, 8¢ per pound.

Onions—Oregon, \$1 to 1.35 per hundred.

Potatoes—Oregon Burlanks, fancy, \$1.40 to 1.50; common, \$1 to 25¢.

Wheat—Club, 68¢; bluestem, 70¢; valley, 66¢ to 67¢; red, 66¢.

Oats—No. 1 white, \$29; gray, \$28.

Barley—Feed, \$22 per ton; brewing, \$23; rolled, \$24 to 24.50.

Rye—\$1.40 to 1.45 per cwt.

Corn—Whole, \$25; cracked, \$27 per ton.

Hay—Valley timothy, No. 1, \$14 to 15 per ton; Eastern Oregon timothy, \$17 to 18; clover, \$9; chest, \$9; grain hay, \$9 to 10; alfalfa, \$14.

Butter—Fancy creamery, 32½ to 35¢ per pound.

Butter Fat—First grade cream, 36¢ per pound; second grade cream, 2¢ less per pound.

Eggs—Oregon ranch, 37½¢ per dozen.

Poultry—Average old hens, 12 to 13½¢ per pound; mixed chickens, 12 to 12½¢; spring, 14 to 14½¢; old roosters, 10 to 11¢; dressed chickens, 14 to 15¢; turkeys, live, 17 to 17½¢; turkeys, dressed, choice, 20 to 22¢; geese, live, 10 to 12¢; ducks, 16 to 18¢.

Veal—Dressed, 5½ to 9¢ per pound.

Beef—Dressed bulls, 2 to 3¢ per pound; cows, 4 to 5¢; country steers, 5 to 6½¢.

Mutton—Dressed, fancy, 8 to 8½¢ per pound; ordinary, 6 to 7¢.

Pork—Dressed, 6 to 8½¢ per pound.

Curbs Land Barons.

Salem, Jan. 30.—Curbing of Coos bay land barons, who hold lands granted by congress in 1869 for the Coos bay wagon road on condition that the grantees or their assigns would sell it at not more than \$2.50 an acre and in not larger than 160-acre tracts and only to actual settlers, is the purpose of a bill introduced today by Senator Malarky. It would compel the barons to deed to any bona fide purchaser who shall offer the \$2.50 an acre stipulated in the grant.

POWERFUL CENSORSHIP.

Proposed to Give Postal Authorities Control of Newspapers.

Washington, Jan. 29.—The bill of the Joint Postal commission, just completed, if enacted into law, would create a press censorship in the hands of government employes to determine what information the reading public wants, and extend a paternalistic guardianship over the counting room by limiting the amount of advertising and specifying just how it shall be printed in the pages of daily newspapers.

The joint commission started work on the hypothesis that second class mail matter is carried at a loss to the government, and does not pay its proportionate share in revenue. One of the main results of its pondering is the discovery that the newspaper, especially the Sunday edition, has expended too much in the direction of the magazine. The members of the commission avow that the miscellaneous matter contained in the Sunday issue of a newspaper lacks the "quality to make it socially and educationally valuable." They would reform everything by abolishing the Sunday supplement or else make it so innocuous that nobody would care to read it.

A glance at the above provisions of the bill will fully convince any one of the radical nature of the law the commission proposes. It would limit the amount of advertising; it would eliminate all legitimate advertising matter from supplements, and it would prevent the publication in the supplements of all fiction, of all matter of general and useful information regarding the affairs of the world, and make the supplement merely an overflow for the news of the main sheet.

CROPS CAUSED SHORTAGE.

Railroads Had So Much Traffic They Could Not Carry Coal.

Washington, Jan. 29.—Representative Marshal, of North Dakota, in an interview tonight declared that while there is a shortage of fuel at some points in North Dakota and danger of shortage at other points, growing primarily out of the so-called car shortage, and later of an unusual snow storm, North Dakota is in no need of financial assistance.

"The shortage of cars," he said, "grew out largely of the enormous crops raised through the state and through the expansion of business far beyond all ordinary limits, which literally swamped the railroads, not only with products going out of the state, but also with merchandise and materials coming in. In an attempt to handle this tremendous volume of traffic, the railway companies were grossly negligent in relation to the fuel supply, so our great prosperity is the real cause of our temporary embarrassed condition. It is not a financial shortage, but a railroad shortage which embarrasses the people of the state at this time."

HARMONY IN SIGHT.

Californians Confident of Solution of Japanese Question.

Washington, Jan. 31.—After two hours conference at the White House last night regarding the Japanese question on the Pacific coast, the California delegation in congress authorized the following statement:

"The California delegation had a very full and harmonious discussion with the president, the secretary of state and the secretary of the navy on the serious questions relating to the Japanese on the Pacific coast. The character of the discussion leads us to feel confident that a solution will be reached satisfactory to all concerned."

The existing treaty between the United States and Japan will expire March 12, this year. President Roosevelt has heretofore assured the members of congress from California that he would endeavor to form a new treaty with the Japanese empire which would meet with their entire approval and at the same time prove satisfactory to the Tokyo government. The Californians have in the past insisted on an exclusion act to bar Japanese coolies out of the United States, but it is hinted as a result of the conference that Senator Perkins and Flint and the members of the house of representatives from that state have practically agreed to waive this demand and leave it to the president to negotiate a new convention that will keep the Japanese coolie labor out of this country.

LAGUNA DAM ENDANGERED.

Rio Colorado Threatening to Destroy Irrigation Project.

Los Angeles, Jan. 29.—The Times this morning says: If the Rio Colorado should not be forced to return to its old channel and remain there, the Laguna dam, constructed by the United States Reclamation service across the river 12 miles above Yuma, will be destroyed and the irrigation of hundreds of thousands of acres in Arizona, California and Mexico will be impossible.

The Laguna dam is unique in that the danger threatening its existence lurks below instead of above the surface. During the past three years, the Colorado, instead of repairing its breaks by salt deposits, has cut them wider and deeper, and it has formed a gorge 60 feet deep and 1,500 feet wide through the cultivated lands of the Imperial valley. The period of the highest flood it cut back at the rate of a third of a mile a day. The Laguna dam is said to have cost about \$2,000,000.

Very Few Sheep Are Lost.

Helena, Mont., Jan. 29.—Sheepmen and cattlemen declare all reports sent out recently detailing big losses in the eastern and northern parts of the state are utterly untrue, and that while losses will probably be somewhat above the average, it is still to early to approximate, as the heaviest losses usually occur during February. Sheepmen were better prepared to stand a severe winter than cattlemen, and in many places have kept the losses down by using rotary snow plows with which they bared the ground, allowing the sheep to feed.

Contract Goes to Olliver.

Washington, Jan. 29.—Following a conference at the White House it was officially announced that the contract for building the Panama canal would be awarded to William D. Olliver, who, with Anson M. Bangs, was the lowest bidder in the recent competition, provided that within the next ten days he and his associates, with at least two independent contractors shall cover the entire field of the work to be performed under the contract.

Capture Desperate Cuban Bandit.

Havana, Jan. 29.—Enrique Mesa, a bandit of the province of Santiago, who for more than two years had terrorized Eastern Cuba and defied the rural guards, and who was wanted for alleged murders, was captured here last night by the secret police.

ALL MEETINGS STOP

Chicago Adopts Drastic Measures to Fight Disease.

CITY'S POWERS ARE OVERTAXED

Epidemic Shows Immense Increase—Every Family Must Be Shut in Its Own Home.

Chicago, Jan. 31.—With a new leap of 300 cases of contagious diseases in the city and a fresh outbreak in the suburbs that brought the total number of victims over the 15,000 mark, Health Commissioner Charles J. Whalen, under fire in the most serious epidemic of a decade, today issued a public proclamation calling on the people of the city to suspend public and social gatherings and thus aid in checking the pest.

Further drastic action may follow, including the closing of all schools of the city, a move which was considered when the epidemic first broke out but was abandoned as unnecessary. If the spirit of the commissioner's appeal is followed generally, Chicago will place an embargo on herself, each family establishing a quarantine, as in a place withering under a plague.

Fearing that the epidemic in violent form will spread into the Ghetto and further south into the stock yards district led to the issuance of the public plan for assistance. Scarlet fever broke out in several neighborhoods on the West Side, showing a tendency of the disease to spread from the Northwest side, in the vicinity of Humboldt Park, and from Oak Park and Austin east and south.

Dr. Whalen, head of the city Health department, did not come to his office early enough to get the first returns. In his absence his assistant, Dr. Herman Spalding, with the perspiration running down his face from overwork and excitement, admitted for the first time that the department was helpless.

"It must be admitted now," said Dr. Spalding, "that the epidemic is on the increase. I was in hopes that yesterday's figures simply meant that more reports were coming in. The new record today shows I was mistaken and that the conditions are most serious."

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SALT AND SUGAR BAGS.

Mr. Brown Learns Something About Their Household Uses.

"Say, mother," said Letitia Brown, "we won't have any more salt bags; will we?"

"No more salt bags?" said Mr. Brown to himself, having by chance overheard Letitia's remark. It took but little questioning to bring out information on these points, and incidentally there was elicited other bag information, which, to Mr. Brown, was even more interesting.

Salt bags, it seems, are, in many households, when empty, washed out and used as dish cloths. But the Brown family has given up housekeeping and gone to boarding; it retains its apartment, just the same, but takes its meals in a neighboring good boarding house. So naturally, they wouldn't be buying any more salt.

Then Mrs. Brown said that, anyhow, they hadn't been using salt bags for some time, because lately, while salt is still put up in bags, they had been buying salt put up in wooden or in pasteboard boxes. They'd been making their dish cloths lately, she said, out of sugar bags. Sugar, it appears, once never so put up, is now quite commonly sold in bags.

Casually, Mrs. Brown mentioned another use of salt bags that was new even to Letitia, who knew something about salt bags. Mrs. Brown said that once they had a servant who used to take the salt bags when they were emptied and open them out and wash the marks out of them, and then for economy's sake have them for handkerchiefs for her little brother.

And yet there remained the fact, mildly bewailed by Letitia, that there would be "no more salt bags" for dish cloths. Here Mr. Brown wanted to say to Letty, "Well, what of it? Not housekeeping any more, we shan't have any dish cloths, salt bag or sugar bag." But he didn't say these things, for he didn't want to hurt Letitia's feelings by showing her how little she looked ahead, nor did he want to make her feel worse by showing her how much more logical his mind. He said nothing, but just kept these things to himself, but not without his usual modest consciousness of superiority.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

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