

# PROCEEDINGS OF OREGON LEGISLATURE

## PASSED IMPORTANT BILLS.

### What the Legislature Accomplished During the Session.

Salem—Many important bills passed both houses of the Oregon legislature at the session just ended, and a considerable number were defeated. The appropriations are very large—amounting to some \$3,500,000—and no bills passed raising any considerable amount of revenue by new methods.

Several bills for new revenue were defeated. Among them was that of Representative Beals to tax timber holdings on the basis of crumblings submitted to assessors by their owners. Another was that prepared by the late tax commission and introduced by Representative Freeman taxing public service corporations on their capitalized net earnings. A third was that of Representative Seltman for collection of taxes on land that had escaped taxation in the last six years.

One of the defeated measures of large moment was that of the Portland board of trade, for control of the water powers of the state. Another was that for a \$60,000 appropriation for extension of the portage road to The Dalles.

First of all the enactments was that for a railroad commission. The bill for this law was introduced by Representative Chapin and the three commissioners already have been appointed—T. K. Campbell, C. B. Aitchison and Oswald West.

Representative Jones, of Polk, is father of a successful bill appropriating \$300,000 for free locks at Willamette falls, contingent on the national government's appropriating an additional sum sufficient to provide the locks and maintain them.

Representative Eaton, of Lane, has the credit of having secured enactment of a bill granting to the State university an annual standing appropriation of \$125,000.

Representative Jackson, of Douglas, introduced a successful bill appropriating \$100,000 for National Guard armories.

Representative Perkins, of Jackson, has the credit of securing for fruitmen a law to prevent false labeling and branding of packed fruit, and of another law to prevent false marking of nursery stock. A third bill of his permits orchardists to kill birds that destroy crops, but this bill is in danger of a veto.

Representative Shusher is father of a successful bill creating a sheep commission and a sheep inspector, and authorizing inspectors of the bureau of animal industry to exercise police powers in the state for eradication of sheep scab.

Representative Seltman's bill passed both houses to appropriate \$100,000 for the Seattle exposition in 1909.

Representative Edwards was promoter of an important enactment to raise the per capita tax of school districts to 7¢.

Representative Vawter of Jackson had a bill passed to create one board of regents for all the normals, also to appropriate \$40,000 for the Ashland normal. Representative Barrett of Umatilla did the same for the Weston normal, in the sum of \$35,000. Senator Loughry secured enactment of his bill providing \$36,000 for Monmouth and Representative Jackson put a successful rider on it appropriating \$27,000 for Drain. Representative Carter of Benton secured passage of a \$125,000 appropriation for new buildings at the State Agricultural college, and Senator Johnson of a \$75,000 appropriation for maintenance.

Representative Beals is author of an enactment creating the office of cheese, dairy and creamery inspector, as deputy to the state dairy commissioner.

Representative Driscoll introduced the bill for the act creating the Port of Columbia District of Multnomah, Columbia and Clatsop counties, for regulation of tonnage and pilotage at the mouth of the Columbia river.

Senator M. A. Miller, of Linn, has to his credit a compulsory education law, which promises to be the most effective measure of the kind ever proposed in Oregon.

Among the most important senate bills enacted was the Haines banking bill, which, though acknowledged to be imperfect, is believed to be a wise measure for the reason that it is the beginning of state supervision of banking.

Senator M. G. Miller, of Linn, was the author of a bill that has passed both houses providing for the loaning of surplus funds in the state treasury to banks giving security and paying interest on daily balances.

Senator F. J. Miller, of Linn-Marion secured the passage of bills for the establishment of an institution for the feeble-minded, an institution for which there has been general demand in order to place under control a class of people not fit for the asylum but who ought not to be at large.

Senator Sichel fathered two bills that will have considerable effect. One provides for the working of husbands who fail to support their families, and the payment of \$1.50 a day to the family for their support. The other provides a uniform insurance policy.

Senator Coshaw will be remembered

### Board Fixes Terms.

Salem—The state land board has made an order permitting a number of holders of school land certificates purchased from A. T. Kellier to secure title to the land by surrendering their certificates and making new purchases. In doing so they must make affidavit that they don't already own 320 acres of land of that character. This in a measure enforces the legal requirement that only 320 acres of school land shall be sold to one person.

### Goes to Naval Academy.

Portland—Clarence W. Walls, has received an appointment from Senator Mulkey to fill a vacancy at the United States Naval academy at Annapolis, Md. Mr. Walls is a native Oregonian, having been born at Prineville 18 years ago. His friends are confident that he will have no trouble in passing the entrance examination. This is to be held in this city April 16 next by the United States Civil Service commission.

## PLAN TO STOP SACK GRAFT.

### Palouse Farmers Will Carry Their Wheat to Elevators.

Waverly, Wash., Feb. 26.—The farmers and wheatgrowers of this district have decided to do away with the "sack profit," and elevators for handling wheat in bulk will be built all along the Spokane & Inland Electric road. A very enthusiastic meeting was held here recently and the matter thoroughly discussed by the farmers. The meeting was addressed by a representative of the elevator company, who explained the advantages to be derived from the farmers handling loose instead of sacked grain.

The company will be organized to enable the wheatgrower to handle his grain in the most economical manner, and thereby save the price of sacks, which sell for from 10 to 11 cents each. The farmers feel that they have been imposed upon by the "sack grafters" long enough, and they have decided to stop buying sacks and handle their wheat in bulk.

Wagon boxes that will hold 100 bushels of wheat to haul to the elevators will cost the farmers but \$15 each, and these boxes can be used from year to year. All elevators will be equipped with the most modern machinery for the handling and cleaning of grain in the most economical manner. Wheat can be handled fully a cent a bushel cheaper than through the warehouses in sacks. Wagon dumps and shipping scales will be provided at every elevator. These elevators will probably be built all through the Palouse country this season, as farmers all over Eastern Washington are anxious to do away with sacks.

## TRUST IS REALITY.

### Farmers Holding Back Produce for Better Prices.

Chicago, Feb. 26.—The farmers' trust has arrived. It has stretched its big, strong hands over the states of Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Wisconsin, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Missouri and Texas. Its knotted fingers have piled up millions of bushels of grain and fruit and thousands of bales of cotton into a mountain heap, and the trust has said to the dealers of the world:

"You can't have any of this until you pay us what we think is coming to us. Now do your worst."

Ever since early last fall, board of trade men and shippers of grain have been talking about the scarcity of cars. To that scarcity they have attributed almost entirely the fact that corn, wheat and other farm products do not move to the market centers with more haste. The dearth of cars is an everyday theme in the speculative and commercial gossip. That there is a great deal in it nobody disputes, but a still more significant phenomenon of the day is that grain is being held back because the farmers are determined they shall get the price they have set on their own property.

## RATES ON DECLINE.

### Senator Elkins Files Long List of Railroad Statistics.

Washington, Feb. 26.—Senator Elkins, of West Virginia, has just completed and filed in the senate a minority report on the railroad rate law. It presents a comprehensive history of the economic development of American railroads, together with exhaustive tables which tend to show a constantly decreasing freight and passenger rate, and the relation between such rates and the price of commodities and cost of labor.

"The average passenger rate," says the report, "advanced slightly from 1870 to 1880. During the next 24 years there was a decline equal to 17.85 per cent of the average for 1880. The net decline from 1870 to 1890 averaged 16.14 per cent. The decline in the average rate per mile per ton of freight was 58.71 per cent during the years from 1870 to 1904, the rate for the earlier year being about two and one-half times that of the latter, and the net saving to the shippers averaged 11.99 mills per ton per mile."

The report says that the cost of transportation in 1904 was nearly \$2,000,000,000 less than it would have been had the rates for 1870 still prevailed.

## Dry Farming in Malheur.

Vale, Or., Feb. 26.—Persons here from Pendleton and Walla Walla state that they will take up some of the bench land just west of Vale and use dry farming methods. They feel certain that the soil is similar and better than that around Pendleton, on which such excellent returns are being made. No dry farming has ever been tried in this section of the county, and the outcome is being prophesied as a failure by some of the old settlers, but those who are studying the situation state there can be no doubt as to success.

## To Enlarge Irrigation Project.

Pendleton, Feb. 26.—More than \$6,000 will be expended this spring on the work of extending the Hinkle ditch, one of the small private reclamation projects in the vicinity of the government's East Umatilla project at Hermiston. The announcement was made by Attorney J. T. Hinkle, of this city, who is at the head of the company. The contract has been let to the Newport Land & Construction company, and the work will be started at once.

## Forty of Crew Perished.

Canea, Island of Crete, Feb. 26.—All the passengers on board the Austrian steamer Imperatrici, which ran on a rock Friday evening near Cape Elaphosia, were saved. Forty members of the crew, of whom 32 were Austrians and eight Indians, perished.

## CHANGE ALL AROUND

### President Reorganizing Heads of Canal Board.

### CAN FIND NO PLACE FOR OLLIVER

### Stevens Will Retire Early Next April After Successor is Thoroughly Broken In.

Washington, Feb. 23.—The president conferred at the White House today with Secretaries Taft and Root regarding the details of the reorganization scheme for the Panama canal work. It is understood that Colonel Haines and Benjamin Harrod, civil engineers, both members of the present commission, will retire. Admiral Endicott, the only remaining member of the old commission, will be retained, as the law requires that one naval civil engineer shall be included in its membership.

Majors Goethals, Gaillard and Siebert, who were named as members of the commission, will receive salaries considerably in excess of those they now receive, namely, \$4,000 a year. It is the intention to divide among them the salaries now paid to Messrs. Shonts and Stevens, aggregating \$60,000 per annum, as long as they are engaged in canal work.

It is stated that Chief Engineer Stevens resigned with the statement that he would remain in charge of the Isthmus until his successor arrived and was thoroughly initiated into the new duties and prepared to take them over. It is probable the transfer can be effected early in April.

It will be necessary for the army engineers to make a personal inspection of every part of the canal construction work before any determination can be made as to the method of conducting work in the future. The president's letter yesterday indicated that there might be a recurrence to the contract plan, but even if that should be the case, the officers will find themselves able to manage the work in a supervisory capacity, just as they now do several of the large river and harbor projects in execution in this country.

Telegram received at the White House today from the South, asking the president to name W. J. Oliver, whose bid for the construction of the canal was rejected, as a member of the Isthmian Canal commission. Mr. Taft said tonight that he did not believe the president was considering such an appointment. Mr. Oliver said he would not accept the place if it were tendered him. When he has been officially notified that the bid of the Panama Canal Construction company has been rejected, Mr. Oliver will give out a statement for publication.

## HERMANN SCORES.

### Not Friendly With Benson; Only Did as Other Commissioners.

Washington, Feb. 28.—Two important points for the defense developed today in the trial of Representative Hermann. One was that Hermann was not on friendly terms with John A. Benson, the San Francisco real estate dealer now under indictment for alleged land frauds, the other that Hermann's predecessors in the land office had all, with one exception, removed their private letter press copy books from the office when they retired.

Mr. Worthington for the defense scored his two points in the cross-examination of Elliott P. Hough, former private secretary to Hermann. In answer to questions, Mr. Hough said that upon one occasion Benson came to see Hermann at the land office and complained bitterly at the action of the land office in not allowing his claim for a survey made in California. The survey was under a \$50,000 contract. The land office held that the claim was fraudulent in that the alleged survey had never been made. Benson was very angry, and Hermann, during the interview, became incensed.

## Votes Down Jim Crow Car.

Guthrie, Okla., Feb. 28.—The constitution of the proposed new state of Oklahoma will not contain a plank providing for separate coaches and waiting rooms for the two races. By a vote of 46 to 31 the convention this morning laid on the table the committee report urging the "Jim Crow" measure. While the majority of the delegates were elected on platforms endorsing the separate coach law, the result was due to the alleged attitude of the president on the question and the terms of the enabling act.

## Only One Dredge for Coast Harbors.

Washington, Feb. 28.—All Oregon and Washington items in the river and harbor bill were agreed to by the conference committee, with the exception of the senate amendment authorizing the construction of a dredge for exclusive use in harbors along the Oregon coast. The chief engineers stated that one dredge would be ample for the harbors of both the states and on his recommendation the senate amendment was knocked out.

## Fever Prostrates Crew.

Norfolk, Va., Feb. 28.—The battleship Connecticut, proceeding from Southern waters to New York with an epidemic of typhoid fever among her crew, was in communication with Norfolk by wireless telegraph tonight when off the Virginia capital. A message from the Connecticut says 15 of the men stricken with typhoid are in a critical condition.

## SUB-TREASURY ROBBED.

### Two Hundred Thousand Dollar Theft Uncovered in Chicago.

Chicago, Feb. 23.—The Tribune today says:

One of the largest—if not the largest—thefts from the United States treasury has been unearthed in Chicago.

Somewhere between \$175,000 and \$200,000 was stolen from the local sub-treasury last week. The money has disappeared as completely as if it had vanished from the earth.

The authorities here and in Washington have been working night and day on the robbery since it was discovered.

Chief Wilkie, of the United States Secret Service, has been keeping informed by telephone and telegraph of every development, and, according to telegraphic advices, he will leave Washington today to take personal charge of the investigation.

Secretary Shaw, of the Treasury department, was told of the big theft when in Chicago last week, and was in conference with Sub-Treasurer William Boldenwick and secret service officials. The money was stolen either a week ago Saturday, the next day or Monday. The chances are it was abstracted on Monday. The loss was discovered Tuesday.

All the money taken was in large bills—bills of the denomination of \$1,000, \$5,000 and \$10,000. Just who discovered the loss the sub-treasury officials would not admit last night. Neither would they tell from what department the money was taken, nor how the loss was discovered.

## DANGER TO HARBOR BILL.

### May Be Killed Entirely to Avert Big Treasury Deficit.

Washington, Feb. 25.—Since Chairman Tawney, of the appropriations committee, called attention to the probability of a deficit of \$100,000,000, in consequence of the large appropriations made this session, there has been considerable talk around the capitol about defeating the river and harbor bill, thus removing the possibility of such deficit.

The river and harbor bill as passed by the house carried \$83,000,000. As amended by the senate, it carries \$92,000,000, and the prospects are that, if the conference committee agrees, it will report a bill carrying in the neighborhood of \$90,000,000, or approximately the amount of the deficit predicted by Mr. Tawney.

Friends of the river and harbor bill, since the rumor started, have become active in urging prompt agreement on the bill in conference, so that it will not run the chance of being talked to death in the last day or two of the session. If the report is delayed until the middle of the week, and a few senators determine to kill it, they will have the bill entirely within their power.

## STOP FOREST RESERVES.

### Fulton Would Give Congress Authority to Create.

Washington, Feb. 25.—Senator Fulton has offered his amendment to the agricultural appropriation bill, prohibiting the creation of further forest reserves in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Wyoming and Colorado, except by authority of congress. Senator Lodge, who threatened to raise a point of order against the amendment, withdrew his objection, and it was generally agreed that the amendment would be permitted to go in the bill if it was not debated. This is satisfactory to Mr. Fulton, and he expects to have the amendment accepted by the senate when the bill is taken up.

Western men in congress are thoroughly aroused at the Forest Service for its attempt not only to regulate all government timber land but public range land as well, and in consequence legislation recommended by the president, looking to the leasing of the public range and the reservation of all public timber land now in reserves, will be tabled.

## Japanese Will Investigate.

Seattle, Feb. 25.—The Japanese association of Seattle has appointed a committee of five to make a full and impartial report on conditions existing in the Pacific Northwest, as regards their countrymen. The result of the committee's investigations will be sent to the government at Tokyo, through the Japanese ambassador at Washington. A. Hattori, president of the association, declared that the meeting was not called as a government function, but merely through a sense of national pride to investigate conditions.

## Alaska Loses by Much Wrangling.

Washington, Feb. 25.—All important Alaska legislation now pending before congress will fail because of disagreement among the Alaskans now here. The most Alaska can expect is the passage of the bill creating land offices at Nome and Fairbanks, a new game law, a bill requiring the recording of assessment work on mining claims and the bill relieving the Tanana Mines Railroad company from the payment of taxes.

## No Hope for Seattle Fair Bill.

Washington, Feb. 25.—Senator Piles has about abandoned hope of securing the passage through the senate this session of Senator Ankeny's bill appropriating \$700,000 for the Seattle exposition. Senator Hale refuses to withdraw his objection. As the bill cannot pass the house this session, the whole matter will go over to the next congress, when it stands a fair chance of passing.

## TRIAL TO CONTINUE

### Judge Stafford Refuses to Dismiss Hermann Case.

### LETTERS TELL OF CONSPIRACY

### Prosecution Has Two That Hermann Wrote to ex-Register of Roseburg Land Office.

Washington, Feb. 26.—Justice Stafford today overruled the motion of the defense in the trial of Representative Binger Hermann to take the case from the jury and dismiss the charge on the ground of fatal variance between the indictment and the evidence before the grand jury. Hearings were resumed. The trial was halted last Thursday, when Mr. Worthington for the defense made a motion on the evidence submitted by Hermann's former secretary, Hough, as to his testimony before the grand jury. Mr. Worthington also argued that the prosecution could not adduce evidence of conspiracy on the part of Mr. Hermann with others to defraud the government out of public land in order to show a motive for the destruction of records, as alleged by the prosecution, on the ground that Hermann was not on trial for conspiracy. After hearing the argument on Thursday, Justice Stafford adjourned the trial until today, in order to consider the points made by the defense.

J. T. Bridges, ex-register of the land office at Roseburg, testified that he had received many letters from Hermann of a private character that he had destroyed. Two were found in his desk when the desk was broken open at the time he was suspended in 1905. One of these mentions the name of Agee, who is identified by the government with what has been designated as the "Agee conspiracy." It was identified by Mr. Bridges, District Attorney Baker stating that he desired to show the intimately friendly relations existing between them. He further said that this transaction in which Agee was involved took place while Hermann was at the head of the land office, and that he should have knowledge of it.

## WATCH SEVERAL SUSPECTS.

### Secret Service Men Have No Clue to Identity of Thief.

Chicago, Feb. 26.—Although a score of detectives are at work on the case, the theft of \$173,000 from the sub-treasury in this city last Wednesday seems as far from solution as the day on which the robbery was committed. The general impression prevails that the thief must have been a government employe, and several of these men are being closely watched, but, as far as known tonight, no tangible evidence has been discovered.

## MAY STOP FIGHTING.

### United States or Mexico Threaten to Intervene in War.

Washington, Feb. 26.—Unless Nicaragua and Honduras speedily agree to arbitrate their difficult dispute in response to the suggestion of the United States and Mexico, it is not improbable that intervention will be resorted to in order to bring an end to the present hostilities. It became known today that within the last day or two a second note was sent to the presidents of Nicaragua and Honduras, in effect conveying this threat.

No replies have been received and, while in official circles the hope is expressed that further bloodshed may be averted, there is an underlying belief that it will be necessary for either the United States or Mexico to step in and force an arbitration.

## Steamer Empire at Old Game.

Washington, Feb. 26.—Advice received by the State department today through Minister Corea of Nicaragua are to the effect that the small steamer Empire, which in the past has figured conspicuously in filibustering expeditions, is being utilized for the transportation of munitions of war from Salvador to Honduras. Minister Corea will request this government to have the steamer Newport intercepted by the cruiser Chicago, believing that she carries supplies ultimately intended for Honduras.

## Big Air Ship Ready to Fly.

San Francisco, Feb. 26.—The Examiner says a new flying machine, arranged to carry 15 persons, is now ready at Pleasanton to start on its initial voyage. This machine measures 225 feet in length, and has a diameter of 40 feet. The frame of the structure is built of 18,000 feet of aluminum. The six propellers are moveable and adjustable. The engines located within the ship drive the propellers, which are eight feet in diameter.

## Bandits Get Big Plunder.

El Paso, Tex., Feb. 26.—Bandits raided the hacienda of Jesus Uranga Salenz in the village of Durango, Mexico, Sunday night. After making prisoners of Salenz and his servants, the bandits robbed his safe of \$7,000 in gold and gathered up many thousands of dollars' worth of jewelry and plate, destroying all they could not carry off. Officers are searching the mountains for the robbers.