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OREGON'S LAWMAKERS

LEGISLATIVE DOINGS AT THE STATE CAPITAL.

Half of Session Over and Both Houses Scarcely Started at Any Legislation.

Salem, Ore.—Although the legislature has been in session three weeks the important legislation has made little progress. Much time has been wasted, very little accomplished, and the big legislation scarcely started. The session is more than half over with both houses behind in their work.

With the Senate staving off action on its own bills, it has displayed even smaller concern for House bills which are in the Senate, and not one House bill has been placed on third reading, although several have been on the desk for several days. It has reached the point where the House suspects the Senate is holding up its bills and House members have about decided to ignore Senate bills until the Senate indicates some degree of interest in House legislation.

Relatively Few Bills Passed.

The Senate has passed 31 bills out of 191 introduced. It has indefinitely postponed 16 others, and 3 have failed to pass when put to a vote. Ever with this slim record, and with most of the important measures unacted upon the Senate is much in advance of the House, for the number of bills passed by the more numerous branch is eight less, and these are of less general importance.

The public service legislation, the compensation act, which was talked and the reapportionment—the most important legislation which the session is expected to handle—have been sidetracked. Only the highway bills have been under discussion. The compensation act, which was talked of for months did not appear until Friday. The bill for a new judicial system on which a committee of lawyers was supposed to be laboring since last November, has not been presented.

Much Jockeying in Asylum Scandal.

The complications over the asylum investigation promises to develop a merry row. Already there are several resolutions for an investigation. The Senate has adopted the concurrent resolution of Senator Locke, but the House has not considered it. The House has several investigation resolutions of its own. The selection of an unbiased, open-minded committee should be a simple matter, and the investigation can be made with dispatch, but there are innumerable obstructionists and general jockeying to stave off the probe.

Only one side of the asylum situation has been told thus far, but Steiner and his friends have been promising some disclosures which, they assert, will completely dispose of the charges which have been leveled against the institution. If half of the rumors have foundation in fact, the hottest stuff on the asylum situation and also on the selection of the branch asylum at Pendleton by Bowerman has not been uncovered.

Many State Commissions Proposed.

No less than thirteen new state commissions and boards are proposed in bills now pending before the legislature. Several of these are to be without salary, if established, and others consist of present state officers invested with new duties or extended authority.

For instance, the public service commission, one of the most important, merely extends the jurisdiction of the state railway commission. Another example is the proposed state purchasing board, which would center in the present state board the purchase of supplies for all departments and institutions.

Other state commissions and boards named in pending bills are: A civil service commission to formulate rules for examination of all employees of the state government; a highway board; a naval militia board; a parole board, to pass on all applications for pardon; a state printing board; a board for the examination and registry of graduate nurses; a state board of accountancy; a game commission; a commission to revise the judicial system of the state; a text-book commission.

Besides these, there are bills for the creation of several new state officers, including bills for an assistant secretary of state, a state hotel inspector, a fire marshal and a state auditor or examiner of accounts. Another new office is proposed by an amendment to the constitution creating the position of lieutenant governor. A resolution submitting the last named proposal to the people has already been adopted by both houses.

Good Roads Boosters Invade Senate.

Good roads boosters invaded the Senate during the discussion of the highway bills. The good roads advocates won three victories in the Senate, the most important being the bill creating a State Highway Commission, and the bill permitting the use of all convicts on the roads when not needed at the state penitentiary. A third bill makes operative the provisions of the constitutional amendment passed at the last general election and permitting counties to bond for the construction of good roads.

It is freely predicted that these good roads measures will meet with strong opposition in the House, as sentiment in that body is decidedly adverse to their passage.

Few "Salary Grab" Bills.

A notable feature of the session is the small number of "salary grab" bills proposed this session. Thus far measures affecting the salaries of county officers in not more than half a dozen counties have been introduced. The scarcity of this class of bills may be traced largely to the record of the 1909 session when more than a score of such measures, after passing both houses, were vetoed by Governor Chamberlain. The present legislature declined to give these rejected bills further consideration, holding that if any of them had merit they should be reintroduced and take their chances.

House Upholds Initiative.

Legislation amendatory of or supplemental to any of the laws adopted by the people under the initiative stands but little chance of receiving the indorsement of the present legislature.

This was demonstrated when the House, for the second time since convening, rejected a bill having for its purpose the creation of a law board which should prepare all of the laws to be submitted to the people under the initiative. Consideration of this measure following the unfavorable report of the committee on revision of laws, was postponed indefinitely by a two-to-one vote.

Abolish Whipping Post.

With only ten dissenting votes the House passed Buchanan's bill abolishing the whipping post. By the provisions of the bill, wife beating is made punishable in the same manner as other aggravated cases of assault and battery. The debate on the bill, which was defeated in the legislature two years ago, was brief.

Revision of Irrigation Code.

Extensive revision of the irrigation code of the state is provided in a bill introduced by Representative Brooke. The proposed amendments, if adopted, embody the best features of the irrigation enterprises in the state.

Principal among the changes is one enlarging the powers of the board of directors of irrigation associations, enabling them to treat with all complications arising. Another amendment defines more especially who are legal voters within the meaning of the act, giving to any man or woman who owns land or has a homestead or desert claim a right to vote. Provision is also made whereby assessments may be levied at any time in the year. Further amendments on ex-

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OUR FRUIT INDUSTRY

INDEPENDENCE APPLES SHIP- PED TO ENGLAND.

Local Fruit Growers Pack and Ship Apples to All Parts of United States.

Last fall, at the beginning of the apple season Collins & Nelson packed several thousand bushels of apples in the canning and packing house in this city, with a view of shipping to the eastern markets when fruit became in demand sufficient to afford good prices, and the experiment has surpassed their greatest expectation in the way of profit and demand.

During the season they have shipped to different parts of the United States and England more than 5000 boxes of apples. Two car loads were shipped to London recently, and the top market price has been received from every shipment. Another car was loaded last week and shipped to the east.

The Oregon apple is receiving recognition all over the world today and these enterprising men are making an effort to place Independence in the front rank as an apple growing section. Their new undertaking will probably be the means of developing a great fruit industry in this city, and the thousands of bushels of apples which have heretofore gone to waste may be placed upon the market at a good profit.

The territory surrounding Independence is just as much adapted to raising good fruit as other sections and if the apple industry is given proper attention here in the future we will be able in a few years to place apples on the market that will make Hood River jealous.

OREGON HOPS IN NEW YORK

Market Above Others is the Condi- tion of the Local Crop in The East.

Hop conditions in this immediate vicinity remain about the same, and there is little or no activity, although the market continues to show considerable strength.

In the Eastern markets Oregon hops are said to be bringing higher prices than hops grown in other sections, and it is said that they are selling in New York for from 27 to 29 cents. From this it is evident that growers are offering a better article.

Considerable activity in the contract market has developed during the past two weeks and it is said upon good authority that several hundred bales of 1911s have been signed at 13 to 13 1-2 cents. The demand for remaining 1909 hops is fully equal to that for the 1910 crop and 12 to 13 cents is being offered. One hundred forty-three bales of 1910s were recently purchased in Mc Minnville for 17 1-2c.

FIRE AT FALLS CITY

Early Morning Blaze Destroys Three Buildings on Main Street.

Falls City suffered another heavy loss by fire last Monday morning and it is supposed to have been of incendiary origin. The fire started at about 2:30 o'clock in the morning and before its progress could be checked a rooming house, restaurant, and pool hall on Main street were consumed. One man was quite seriously injured by a falling timber, but will recover.

The fire started in the rear end of a restaurant and had gained great headway before it was discovered. The drug store adjoining the pool room caught fire five times and it was only by diligent efforts that it was saved.

HOP MAN PLEASSED WITH SOUTH

Says Arizona Affords Best Climate in the World.

J. H. Dixon returned the latter part of the preceding week from Arizona where he went as a witness in the hop stealing case mentioned in the Enterprise a few weeks ago.

Mr. Dixon says the steal perpetrated in that country was one of the most extensive that has ever been known. Something like forty Mexicans were implicated in the affair and it has covered a period of more than a year. During the past year scarcely a car had been side-tracked at Tucson, Arizona, that the seal had not been broken. The stealing comprised silks and cotton mostly and was valued up into the hundreds of dollars. The miscreants were apprehended and tried before a justice of the peace at Tucson, where they were bound over to the circuit court, and the trial will be held next April, at which time Mr. Dixon will be called upon to again visit the fair country of the south.

The hops which Mr. Dixon loaded at Independence were found hidden about 35 miles from the station. He located five important witnesses in California who accompanied him to the preliminary trial.

It was the hop man's first trip to that country and it proved to be an enjoyable one to him in many respects. He says California and Arizona are affording beautiful weather at present, and while we were having the worst climatic period of the season, that country was enjoying beautiful sunshine. Mr. Dixon speaks in glowing terms of the Arizona climate, and thinks it is the finest in the world.

CENSUS OF THE STATE AND COUNTY

The Director of the Census has furnished the State Legislature a statement showing population of Oregon by counties distributed according to color and race.

The total population of the state is 627,765; 655,610 white, 1526 Negro, 5001 Indian, 7317 Chinese, 3286 Japanese and 25 Filipinos.

According to this report Polk county's population is 13,469; 13,197 white, 2 Negro, 133 Indian, 28 Chinese and 109 Japs.

NOT LATE, BUT HURRIED

G. W. McLaughlin's team engaged in a lively runaway Monday, but no serious damage was done. He left them without being tied and the high spirited animals decided to have a little excitement. They ran a distance of about a mile in the direction of the church, hurrying as if they were late for Sunday school. Mr. McLaughlin followed, but of course not as fast, and found them standing in the shed near the church. They went there by force of habit as the driver is a regular visitor of that house of worship. The only damage was a broken wagon handle.

A AND B DIVISIONS

Since our school population is increasing so rapidly it has become necessary to divide each grade into A and B divisions. A will be the higher division and in this will be placed those pupils who have done the best work. For example, the best pupils in the 5th grade will be transferred into the 6th grade room but will continue the 5th grade work so that no pupil will be placed a grade ahead. It will be the same all through the grades so that although a pupil may be in the 6th grade room, if they are in the B division, they will continue their work from where the 5th grade teacher left it.

Attend the entertainment at the M. E. church this evening. It will be of great interest.

INDEPENDENCE IS VICTORIOUS

REPORT OF SCHOOL DEBATES IN POLK COUNTY

Result of the Polk County High School League Debates Held Friday, Jan. 27.

The series of debates held Friday January 27, among the High Schools of Polk County who are in the Polk County High School Debating League, resulted as follows:— All negative teams won, thus showing that Single Tax is not desirable to the people of Polk County or at least to the debaters of the six different high schools of the league.

Independence defeated Dallas at Dallas by a 3 to 0 decision. Monmouth defeated Bethel at Monmouth by a 2 to 1 decision. Bethel defeated Perrydale at Bethel by a 3 to 0 decision. Perrydale defeated Falls City at Perrydale by a 3 to 0 decision. Falls City defeated Independence at Falls City by a 3 to 0 decision.

As the championship is to be decided by all points won by the two teams of a school, and as each vote of a judge counts one and the decision counts one, the schools now stand as follows in regard to points won:— Dallas, 5; Bethel, 5; Falls City, 4; Perrydale, 4; Independence, 3; Monmouth, 3.

The following students represented three schools as follows:— Dallas, Affirmative— Pearl Phillips, Carrie Gorke, Ruth Campbell; Negative— Roberta Ballard, Anna Garnar, Harold Bertha Hartman, Earcest Williams, Marion Butler; Negative—Vale Hiltbrand, Cecil Swope, Ray Williams;— Monmouth,—Affirmative—Emma Parker, Bessie Wade, Nellie Shew; Negative—Ruby Lorence, Minnie Wunder Jean McInturff; Bethel, Affirmative—Vernon Romig, Clarence Rooth, Carl Miller; Independence, Affirmative—Stewart; Negative—Agnes Cook, John Romig, Harry Hubbard; Falls City, Affirmative—Lester Dodd, May Johnston, Edith Harris; Negative—Cecil Dodd, Roy Bowman, Roland White; Perrydale, Affirmative—Fay Morrison, Oatis Foster, James Jones; Negative—Ed Parker, Carl Morrison, Maxwell Flannery.

From a financial standpoint the debates were not what they ought to have been. It costs money to prepare these debates and to send teams and judges over the county, and all teachers and pupils feel that the people ought to turn out and give them a better hearing than they have been doing in the past.

It is earnestly hoped that at the next series of debates, every house in the county will be well filled and you will help a good cause as well as encouraging the young people.

The next debate will be held on March 24, and the team or school winning the most points at that time will be declared the winner of the championship of the county and the holder of the Seymour cup, this cup goes to the winning team each year and becomes the permanent property of the school winning it twice in succession.

It is said the cup was won last year by the Falls City school and in case it is won again by Falls City it becomes their property.

The people of Polk County should be proud of the debating work being done by the schools of the County, as it is considered over the state that Polk County is doing more along this line than any other county in Oregon.

As long as the legislatures of Oregon seek to balk the progress and defy the people we need the initiative and are going to keep it.—Peoples Press.