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OREGON

LITTLE IS ACCOMPLISHED BY OREGON SOLONS.

Apportionment Bill Causes Some Dissatisfaction; Referendum on Salary Bills.

Salem, Ore.-It is conceded that the fewer laws passed the better for the state, then the present legislature if it accomplishes as little during the remaining days of the session as it has during the first four weeks, may be regarded as a bright and shining example of a successful legislative body. No important legislation has been passed up to the governor for signature. One very apparent reason why nothing is accomplished is the in clination to indulge in useless talk. I: some method could be devised to ap ply a strong done of gag rule and stop the flow of purposeless oratory business might be expedited.

By far, however, the greatest loss of time has been in political debates. These have been numerous and their end is not yet. They have accomplished nothing other than to stir up dissension and bring on vituperation and personalities, which have been and will be indulged in at great length.

There have been 577 bills intro duced, of which 60 have been wiped off the calendar by indefinite postponement or failure to pass; approximately 30 have pased both Houses and have either been filed by the governor or are on the way to the executive office, and there are 487 bills to be disposed of. To date, the session has not introduced as many bills as in 1909 and 1907. Those sessions registered 700 bills each, but with 577 bills on the list now, there is time for the legislators to make up the deficiency. The bills which will come later, with the exception of the appropriation bill, will have small chance of getting through.

In order to accomplish anything at all night sessions will have to be held practically every night this week in order to catch up and wade through the bills shead.

Apportionment Bill Unsatisfactory. General dissatisfaction from representatives and senators from all parts of the state is expressed over the bill of Senator Joseph reapportioning the legislative districts. While Joseph increases Multnomah's representation in the Senate by one and adds four to the House, there is already complaint among the outside members.

Even Multnomah does not gain a great deal, for now it has six sens tors and a joint with Clackamas and Columbia and the Joseph bill costs it the joint but adds two straight senators, making seven. In the House Multnomah fares better, the Joseph bill awarding 16 representatives.

Not many changes are made in the senatorial districts, but the representative districts are considerably disarranged. Josephine, which has had a single senator, loses this and is coupled with Curry and Jackson while Coos, which has been joined with Curry for several years, has in the Joseph bill a senator of its own, and Curry is shifted over to Josephine and Jackson.

Most astonishing, however, is the absence of Columbia from the new list. Senator Joseph appears to have obliterated that county from the map or treated it as though foreign territory, for he does not take care of it in his bill. Gilliam, Sherman and Wheeler, which have had a joint senator, must share him with Merrow, according to Joseph, and Morrow has heretofore been with Crook and Umatilla. The joint senator Umatilla has had with Union and Morrow is lost

to Umatilla. Marion County will complain about the representatives. Now it has five and Joseph allows four, with a foint representative with Clackamas, the latter county being a gainer of a joint representative, but losing its joint senator. Linn has three representatives and Joseph lops one off. Douglas and Jackson lose a joint representative. Grant and Morrow are hitched for a joint representative, while Crook, which has a joint with Klam-

ath and Lake, gets a representative of its own and Klamath and Lake continue together. Umatilia not only loses a joint senator, but also a joint representative. Baker, which had one representative, is given another, and Sherman, Gilliam and Wheeler, which had two representatives, now loss one.

Other reapportionment bills, at least two others, are now being drafted and will be presented this week.

Senate Division Kept. One of the bills in course of preparation will propose that the membership of the state Senate remain substantially as it is, both as to number of senators and the composition of the 23 senatorial districts. In determining the representation in the

House, it is proposed to give each county a representative. The total membership will be limited to 60 as provided in the constitution and the other 26 members will be apportioned over the state on the basis of popula-

Still another measure being considered is one in which the membership of both houses will be apportione among the 34 counties strictly on the basis fixed by the constitution. Under this plan, however, the authors will take care that Multnomah does not receive her proper share elter of the senators or representatives.

May Have Congressman at Large. Oregon's third congressman, provision for whom will be made by Congress under the recent census, will probably be elected by the state at large, for the first term at least. It is unlikely that the legislature in its present session will take any action upon a congressional redistrictment, as only a provisional bill could be en-

There has been some talk of whether it would be advisable to hold a special session in order to take up this subject, but Governor West does not see any such necessity. He declares that Oregon can get along very well by choosing a congressman from the state as a whole until the next

Referendum on Salary Bills.

Various county officials throughout the state, who are seeking an increase in salary by legislative enactment, will have to go before the people if they are to get more pay.

That is the sentiment of the House committee on salaries of state and county officers, to which all salary bills are referred. This committee, in the consideration of these measures, has established an inviolable rule to attach a referendum clause to every bill, giving to the voters of the county affected the right to invoke the referendum if a petition signed by 15 per cent of the legal voters is filed with the proper authorities within 90 days after the bill becomes a law.

Label Convict Made Goods.

Oregon manufacturers will be benefited by the bill which passed the legislature during the week compelling the use of the convict label on prison made goods. Wholesalers and retailers agree that the public will not buy merchandise which it knows has been made by convicts. Thus they argue the competition of this cheap labor will be removed from the field. Removal of Dairy Commissioner

Declaring that the charge of incompetency against Dairy and Food Commissioner Bailey cannot be disproved and that the charge of misappropriating state funds has not, Governor West sent an urgent message to the legislature this afternoon, recommending the abolishment of the office or removal of its incumbent.

Bailot Counting Bill Introduced.

A bill designed to expedite ballot counting has been introduced in the House. It provides that the first election board, provided for by law, shall report at the respective polling places at 8 o'clock in the morning on the day of election. The second election board, instead of reporting for duty at 7 p. m., is to report to the polling

Continued on page 8.

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