

PROCEEDINGS OF OREGON LAWMAKERS AT SALEM

Guard Special Service.

Salem, Or., Jan. 31.—The senate this morning passed S. B. 62, by Smith, of Umatilla, carrying an appropriation for premiums for the third Eastern Oregon district Agricultural Society.

S. B. 68, by Bowerman, creating the Seventh Oregon District Agricultural Society, composed of Gilliam, Wheeler and Sherman counties.

S. B. 115, by Smith, of Umatilla, to perfect the collection of vital statistics.

Indefinitely Postponed.

The senate indefinitely postponed S. B. 27, by Miller, for an income tax, and S. B. 27, by Miller, amending the inheritance tax, both because they should have originated in the house.

S. B. 26, 35 and 47, each identical, and to prevent the publication of false information by corporations, reported adversely. A similar bill in the house is the reason assigned.

Killed in the House.

Bribery bill, No. 104, by Coffey, of Multnomah, was killed in the house this morning on recommendation of the election committee, on which the Multnomah delegation comprise the majority.

An attempt was made to strangle the corrupt practice bill of Huntley, the chief measure of this sort in the legislature. Farrell, of the elections committee, brought in a minority report recommending that the bill do not pass and secured considerable backing. Campbell, Chase and other small delegation leaders opposed it and the Farrell report was lost and the measure referred to the committee again.

House bill No. 32, by Jackson, for the assessment of mortgages, was killed on the recommendation of the committee.

H. B. No. 67, by Rothchild, taxing legacies, gifts and inheritances, was also killed. Also No. 72, making half the earnings of a debtor subject to attachment.

The debate over H. B. No. 71, which provides that county and state officials shall be subject to garnishment, was occupying the house this afternoon.

Free Locks Bill Changed.

Plans for free locks at Willamette Falls have turned from a state appropriation of \$400,000 for building new locks or buying the locks now existing, to an appropriation of \$300,000 contingent on an additional appropriation from congress sufficient for building new locks or purchase of the old ones by the government. Such was the outcome yesterday of a tussle in the house over the bill of Representative Jones, of Polk, appropriating \$400,000 for building new locks, after the house in committee of the whole, had declared itself against the passage of the bill.

When the committee of the whole reported, Jones saved his bill from indefinite postponement by having it referred back to the special committee, consisting of Jones, of Polk, Eaton, of Lane, Simons, of Marion, Huntley, of Clackamas, Barrett, of Umatilla, Coffey, of Multnomah, and Kubli, of Jackson. The special committee will come back with a new or amended bill, making a contingent appropriation of \$300,000 to be expended in case the national government will increase the sum to what is needed.

In this shape the bill will probably pass, such being the indications after the debate yesterday afternoon. Leaders of the fight against the original bill included Newell, of Washington, and Vawter, of Jackson, who say they will support the new bill. Jones is ready to accept the compromise.

For an Open River

Claiming to be the sole owner of all the water power of the Willamette falls, the Portland Railway, Light & Power Company, owner of the Oregon City Locks, demanded in 1899 \$1,200,000 for its interests there, this sum representing not only the value of the locks, but also the water power drawn from the falls by the locks. This sum was almost four times the sum put on the locks in that year by a special board of United States engineers, which appraised them at \$310,500, including \$35,000 for right-of-way.

At the same time the board estimated that the cost of building new locks, according to one project, would be \$414,000, or, according to another project, \$431,000, both without right-of-way. At the present time the government engineers in Portland, under Colonel Roessler, estimate that new locks would cost between \$550,000 and \$600,000, without right-of-way, on account of the advanced cost of labor and materials.

That the right-of-way cost for new locks would greatly swell the total cost of building a new waterway is evident.

Should the state condemn the present locks, however, there is reason to believe that it could get possession of a boat waterway over the falls considerably cheaper than by trying to force the owners of the present locks to sell them, by threat of constructing new locks on the east side of the river.

The bill of Representative Jones, of Polk county, appropriating \$400,000 for free locks at Oregon City, came up in the house Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock as a special order of business, for final passage. It gives the state board authority to condemn right-of-way for new locks, but not to condemn the present locks.

The question of water ownership is an important one, since, even if the state should acquire the present locks the electric company, possessing the water, might not supply all the water needed for navigation at low stages of the river. It is the opinion of the United States officials that the electric company cannot take water needed for navigation purposes even though it claims the sole ownership of all the water power.

Bills Passed by the House.

Bills passed by the house Tuesday were as follows:

H. B. 96, Steen—Fixing salary of school superintendent of Umatilla county at \$1800 per annum.

H. B. 45, Barrett, Washington—Providing for taking up and disposing of stock running at large.

H. B. 63, Barrett, Umatilla—To prohibit driving animals on sidewalks and limiting to six miles an hour the speed of all such animals in all unincorporated towns.

H. B. 51, Northrup—Limiting liability of real estate of deceased persons for payment of debts to a period of six years from date of death.

H. B. 62, Barret, Umatilla—Increasing penalties for intimidation of any judicial, legislative or executive officers.

H. B. 83, Freeman—Curing defects in deeds and other instruments now on record, whether executed in this or foreign lands.

H. B. 84, Freeman—Authorizing sale of property of estates when directed by testator in his will without the need of an order from the probate court.

H. B. 73, Perkins—To prevent false labeling or branding of fruits.

Bills Passed by Senate.

Bills were passed by the senate Tuesday as follows:

S. B. 63, Coshaw—To perfect title of lands formerly belonging to decedents.

S. B. 75, Coshaw—To declare certain marriages valid.

S. B. 83, Malarkey—To authorize creation of a corporation for the establishment of a Reed institute.

The senate killed by indefinite postponement:

S. B. 76, Miller, of Linn-Marion—for employment of school physicians.

S. B. 75, Smith, of Marion—To repeal the Tuttle road law.

Appropriation Bill.

Salem, Jan. 30.—The general appropriation bill for the expenses of the state government was introduced in the house yesterday afternoon, and for the first time a definite idea of what the leaders propose in the way of appropriations can be estimated.

The bill, No. 284, was introduced by Driscoll, of Multnomah, and has all the items usually contained in the general appropriation bill, other expenses, like the state university, agricultural institutes, normal schools and state printing plant being covered by special bills. The bill carries a total appropriation of \$1,244,970, which is fully as much as was expected and somewhat over the total of the estimate of the secretary of state published some time ago.