

MUCH WORK BEFORE OREGON LEGISLATURE

Work Far Behind Schedule, Hectic Week in Sight; May Work Nights.

Will Run a Week Longer—Tax Bill, First Important Measure, Passed—Auto License Measure Has Popular Approval—County Auto Money for Road Purposes Only—Oregon Mineral Wealth Needs Development.

Salem, Ore.—There is much work yet to be done in the house. Speaker Hamilton said Saturday that he would hurry up the business as much as possible and probably would hold night sessions henceforth if it is necessary to clear up the desk each day. He said that the session probably would be held over a full extra week before all the work now before the house and to come can be disposed of.

When the house adjourned Saturday until Monday morning a total of 522 bills had been introduced during the five weeks of the session. Of this number only 200 had been passed, 58 indefinitely postponed, 23 withdrawn and 20 resolutions and memorials had been adopted.

So far 25 senate bills have been passed by the house. Thirteen vetoed house bills and three senate bills of the 1927 session have been passed. There are at present 147 bills in committee and more than 100 house bills and 150 senate bills on which final action remains to be taken.

Instead of completing its labors in 40 days, the present legislative session will be lucky if it does not run more than an extra week. The 40th day is next Friday, February 22, Washington's birthday, but a week beyond that will see the mills grinding unless in desperation, bills are thrown out the window and the solons consider it time to go home.

First Bills of Importance.

After five weeks not one piece of legislation of major importance was enacted until Saturday, when, just before adjourning to gird its loins for the sixth day—and what might have been the last week—the senate passed the property tax relief measure for centralized control of assessments. This is, really, one of the big pieces of legislation that has been before the legislature and, strangely enough, it slid through without a furor.

Adopting of two memorials to congress for an investigation of the telephone situation cannot be regarded as of overwhelming importance to the people of the state, for if congress ever gets around to making such an inquiry, it will be years before there is a prospect of seeing rates reduced. And these memorials also slid through at the tail end of the fifth week, without special comment, for they have been argued in open hearings on divers occasions.

The deficit problem can be solved by the enactment of the excise tax on banks and financial corporations and by the enactment of a tax on intangibles. The former will raise \$750,000 a year and the latter \$500,000, according to estimates. With these two measures the deficit can be wiped out in two years, which is considered soon enough. The measures would also make unnecessary an income tax.

Auto License Bill Passed by House.

With the house passing the revised automobile license fee scheduled Saturday, which also calls for 1 cent additional on gasoline, another big piece of legislation has gone through the house and will be in the senate in a couple of days. This particular measure carries more popular interest than any other before the session.

In the house is a general sales tax bill and a bill for a tax on intangibles and two income tax measures.

There also is a measure in the house calling for the submission to the people of a plan to levy 1 cent a gallon for five years, the sum so raised to be expended exclusively for the construction of roads.

If adopted this will give a 5-cent tax on gasoline, providing the auto revision fee bill, with its 1 cent, is enacted. The reference to the people is at best, a sort of gesture on the part of a number of senators who wanted bonds issued for roads and discovered there was too much opposition to get by with that plan.

Session is Far Behind.

Looking at the session this way and that, and trying to recall all the hundreds of bills which still have to be passed or killed, it is apparent that the session will run far beyond the 40 days for which the legislators are paid. Not even night sessions can catch up with the work. President Norblad and Speaker Hamilton have no expectations

tion of the session ending at the coming week. The session will, perhaps, end March 2.

Virtually all the fish bills are yet to be finally acted on. They are now bringing forth the usual decided differences of opinion—the sportsmen's organizations being directly opposed by the commercial fishing interests.

Probably the most far-reaching legislation that has passed both houses and that has been given the signature of the governor is the Bennett bill which changes the date for registration of automobile licenses from January first to July first, effective next year.

The automobile bill, as passed, provides for three-quarter-year license fees, a one-half year and a one-quarter year license fee. The basis of payment is placed on weight of cars and not on width of tires. The minimum rate is \$10 for cars weighing 1700 pounds or less, cars weighing over 1,600 and not over 2000 pounds are to pay 90 cents a 100 pounds or fraction thereof; those over 3000 and not over 4000 pounds \$1.10 a hundred.

Penalty for Solid Tires.

Motor trucks under 1700 pounds will pay \$10 flat and those of greater weight will pay on the same schedule of motor cars, provided that vehicles with solid tires shall pay 50 per cent additional.

Senator Dunne's bill, extending the powers of the secretary of state with relation to collecting on bad checks given in payment for motor vehicle license plates, passed the senate, after a spirited debate. The majority report of the road and highways committee approved the bill.

Senator Upton, who signed the minority report, said it apparently was the purpose of the secretary of state to use his traffic officers in enforcing the payment of worthless checks received in exchange for motor vehicle license plates.

"This bill will not help the situation," said Upton, "but will make it worse." Persons who give a worthless check in payment for automobile licenses would be compelled to pay \$3 penalty, \$3 protest fees and other costs incurred in making the collections.

For the rest of the 35th legislative session the cloture rule will be effective in the house. In accordance with a resolution submitted by the committee on resolutions and adopted after some opposition, members will be limited to five-minute talks in the discussion of any measures before the house.

Auto Money Must Go On Road.

An important recommendation from the property tax relief commission, incorporated in house bill 234, was passed by the house Thursday without dissenting vote. It makes mandatory the provision that moneys received by counties from the automobile license fund must be applied to retirement of bonds or to road construction within the county.

The bill makes it mandatory upon the county to use the fund on road bond interest and retirement before it can be used for other road construction purposes.

A brake on bond issues in Oregon is provided in house bill 232, introduced in conformity with recommendations of the committee on property tax relief.

Representative Carlin, one of the sponsors of the bill, presented its advantages, declaring that it, in a measure, takes the place of proposed measures that would permit only taxpayers to vote on bond measures, to which, he said, there is much objection as being an un-American method.

The bill provides: "In addition to the requirements otherwise provided by law, no bond issue, or other evidence of indebtedness voted upon shall be valid unless the total vote cast in the election thereon shall exceed one-half of the total vote cast within the municipal corporation affected at the last preceding general election; provided the provisions of this act shall not apply to any bond issue or other evidence of indebtedness which requires a vote of the taxpayers only within the said municipal corporation."

Mineral Survey Needed.

A plea for state appropriation of \$30,000 to cover the cost of a mineral survey of Oregon was made before the legislative ways and means committee.

Oregon contains millions in hidden wealth waiting for the key of reliable information to unlock the door, Senator Miller told the committee.

Senator Strayer declared that Oregon was the only mineral state in the union which was not contributing something toward the development of its mineral resources.

The bill providing for a tax on intangibles made its appearance in the

MAUPIN HI TIMES

Calendar

February 21—Maupin Junior and High school teams at The Dalles.

February 22—Grade school program.

February 23—High school girls and boys at the tournament at The Dalles.

February 28—Boys at Odell.

March 4—Madra—double header, here.

Washington's Birthday

George Washington's birthday will be celebrated by three programs—one by the Boy Scouts Wednesday night, one by the High school Thursday morning and other by the grade program Friday evening.

That George Washington, our first president, was one of the bravest and ablest of generals the world has ever known was proved in the encounters at Trenton and other scenes of battles.

He was an athlete. In his youth he was a skilled horseman, broad jumper, shot, and it has been said that he once threw a stone across the Rappahannock river. He was honest and truthful—surely no better ideal could be followed by the average American boy.

Humor

The Maupin Hi Times seems to be lost without Art's humor. He is taking lessons in the humor of tooth pulling from Doc Short. We have not seen him for several days so we presume that he is getting along nicely. He will undoubtedly have a surprise for his readers when he returns.

Commander Byrd will be disappointed when he calls for his mail and finds that there isn't a letter from Maupin Hi Times.

The chemistry class has been studying the uses of cocaine and Art made a remarkable grade of "A."

We hope he will not return with a gold tooth.

Boy Scouts

The Boy Scouts have their uniforms and are even more enthused over the activities of scout work. Scoutmaster L. S. Stovall has been drilling the members for the public reception Wednesday night. The troop has been organized into four patrols; The Bob White patrol of Maupin, The Fox patrol of Criterion, but the Juniper Flat and Wanic patrols have not yet found a favorable name.

Assemblies

Wednesday morning's assembly was opened with a duet—"Old Comrades" played by Mabel Weberg and Crystal Stuart. Mr. Poling led the regular singing, rounds being the chief pleasure. The singing was followed by an especially beautiful number, "September Morn," by Doris Kelly.

A program will be given in assembly Thursday morning and the following numbers will be given:

- 1 "Memories of France"—Estel Stovall.
- 2 "Counsel Assigned"—reading by Andrew Crabtree.
- 3 "Hail to You Old High School"—song by several High schools girls.
- 4 Maxims of George Washington—Eighth grade.
- 5 Reading—by Charles Bothwell.
- 6 Song—by Ladies Quartette.
- 7 General singing.

Books

Reading is one of the essentials of house of representatives just before the week-end adjournment.

The bill provides for taxation of incomes derived from money, bonds, notes, claims and demands, secured or unsecured, all shares of stock in corporations and any and all other evidences of indebtedness; provides for administration of the act and for distribution of the proceeds of such tax and provide penalty for violations.

The tax imposed is at the rate of 5 per cent upon income from the money and credits as above included, with an exemption of \$200 from such incomes. The tax may be paid in two installments. If not paid when due, there is to be added an amount equal to 5 per cent and an additional one per cent for each month or fraction of a month of delinquency.

False or fraudulent return is punishable by a fine of \$25 to \$1000 or imprisonment from 30 days to one year or both.

every well-educated person's life and this is easily gained in school work. In this day and age every care is taken to afford the best books for students to read.

Our High school has taken its opportunity of reading worth while books and read them with the idea of obtaining a broader knowledge of the best fiction and non-fiction.

In every school there are the more popular books and authors. "Promised Land" has been read by many of the students here and favorable comments were made on it. Mary Antin, the author, her life in Russia and her immigration to America tend to interest the students more.

"The Crisis" won favor with High school readers on account of its historical background and the reader's chance to become better acquainted with the wonderful personality of Abraham Lincoln.

Most of the students who read "Pioneer" enjoyed it. It was generally classed as a good book.

Other books that have been read and appreciated most are "The Scarlet Cockerel," "Nancy Stair," "Ungava Bob," "Ox Team Day on the Oregon Trail," and the "Scarlet Letter," and others of equal value.

It has been a pleasure to read such good books as those which have been reported on during the classes.

Classes

As a courtesy to the Boy Scouts the typewriting class made one hundred and fifty typewritten copies of a page of songs which were used in the community singing at the public meeting of the Scouts Wednesday night.

The Manual Training class has just completed the shop equipment. This class must expect to do some heavy work, for the benches which were recently finished, look strong and durable. Yew wood has arrived and the members of the class plan on each making for himself a bow or a pair of skis.

The English III class finds Oliver Goldsmith's play "She Stoops to Conquer," interesting and pleasant.

Members of the chemistry class have been arranging the chemicals and apparatus in the new cupboards. The chemicals will be arranged alphabetically and the equipment put in the other portion of the cupboard.

Fashion Tea

The girls of the sewing class will soon invite the ladies of the district to a tea at which they will display the completed dresses upon which they are working. They will tell of the process of silk manufacture, of making woolen cloth and illustrate method of altering commercial patterns to fit individual characteristics.

Grade Notes

The First grade is studying dramatic plays for practice in silent reading. Both the second and first grades have been studying new books this week.

The little students of Miss Harris' room had a lovely little valentine party. Over three hundred of these tokens of loyalty were given.

The Junior basketball team in planning on going to The Dalles Thursday, February 21, and play the Eighth grade team of the county seat. A return game will be played here sometime later.

Bonney Duns says that he is sick—that is, sick of grammar tests.

Maupin Team Meets The Dalles

The basketball team will go to The Dalles Thursday night and engage in a game with their second team. They have a good team and, having the advantage of playing on the home floor and other factors, will undoubtedly show us how the game should be played. We are undaunted and hope to win. The score last year balanced in their favor by one point and perhaps it will be tipped our way this time.

Later—team downed The Dalles' players.

Club Work

(A letter from Mrs. Rutherford) The fourth "H" stands for "Health." A score is kept, recording your weight, height and health conditions for the term. The object of this is to raise the health stand-

Fire Destroys Fischer's Store, Garage and Seven Autos

EXPLODING OIL TANK IGNITES BUILDING WHICH IS TOTAL LOSS—SEVEN AUTOS CONSUMED—MARCUS SHEARER BADLY BURNED

An exploding oil tank which contained fuel oil and used to supply a heating stove at the Laverne Fischer garage in East Maupin threw flames to all parts of the shop, which was entirely consumed, entailing a loss of approximately \$7,775. The fire occurred at 9:15 Tuesday morning.

Marcus Shearer, at work in the garage, wanted to make the fire burn. When he attempted to light the oil he found the feed pipe stuffed up and he supposed it to be frozen. He used a blow torch in an attempt to thaw it out when an explosion occurred. He was at once enveloped in flames and in attempting to extinguish them slipped onto the floor and directly into a large blaze. Marcus then sought the outside and put on a coat in an attempt to smother the flames. He thought he had succeeded in the attempt but a couple of bridge workers later discovered he was still on fire and they proceeded to roll him in the snow and at last put the fire out. The burned man was taken to his home in Maupin and was attended to by Dr. Elwood who advised taking him to a hospital in The Dalles. This was done by Clarence Ziegenhagen accompanied by James Chalmers.

At the hospital Shearer's burns were examined and were found to be very bad. His left leg was badly scorched on the back side. His hands also were badly singed, as was his face. Mrs. Shearer was called later in the day and is now with her husband at The Dalles hospital.

The building was owned by L. D. Kelly and occupied by Laverne Fischer as a garage, parts store and grocery store. Mr. Fischer carried a large line of auto and radio parts while his grocery shelves were lined with canned goods and other things usually carried in such an establishment. The only things saved were

a few canned goods, a radio, part of the garage books and some small tools.

Mr. Fischer had one of the best equipped garage machine shops on the highway. His tools were all new and up to date and all are a total loss. Whether he will start up again is a problem with him, as he carried no insurance and therefore has but little left with which to again embark in business.

The garage contained seven cars, some there for repair and others in storage. All were consumed. A man representing the Reynolds Tobacco company had his car there the night before and had not taken it out Tuesday morning. The salesman, Mr. W. T. Wells says his car contained tobacco to the value of \$300.00 and this with the new Ford went up in smoke. E. V. Doty, the Connollys, Earl Patrick, members of the bridge crew, Jack Burns and one other man are now in line for new cars as their old ones' ashes are mingled with those of the building and Fischer's tools and equipment.

Mr. Kelly estimates his loss on the building as \$2,500. Fischer loses \$2,200 on tools and machinery, \$475.00 on groceries and about \$100.00 on fixtures, making a total of \$7,775 lost in the fire.

When the fire broke out the fire department of Maupin was notified and several members hastened across the river. The hydrant at the garage corner was frozen so the firemen devoted their attention to adjacent buildings. Faggots had fallen on the hotel. Men were stationed on those and as the burning brands lit thereon they were extinguished. Had an east wind been blowing it would have been hard work to save the hotel and cabins and with a wind from the west prevailed the Hunts Ferry warehouse might have gone up in smoke.

Tractors and other present day equipment will be on display to offer a first-class study of the various mechanical features. Several new machines have been introduced in the past few years, some of which are making their appearance in our neighborhood for the first time. Come and see for yourself how these machines operate and what their effect will be on crop production.

Do not forget the date—every progressive farmer should be there. Make your plans now, bring the entire family and spend the whole day. Be prompt.

PATRICK WAS CONVICTED

Maupin Man Found Guilty of Law Infraction—Appeals

Earl Patrick, arrested and taken to The Dalles on a charge of breaking the 18th amendment by making moonshine liquor, was convicted in the circuit court last Friday. Judge Wilson sentenced him to spend one year in jail and also fined the defendant \$150.00. We are told Patrick has appealed his case to the supreme court.

Patrick was not at the site of the still at the time of his arrest but was living in Maupin. Sheriff Setzer visited the still and there arrested Than Cavan, who later was fined \$100.00. The sheriff evidently made a good case against Patrick, as it took the jury but 15 minutes to return a verdict of guilty. Frank Dick defended Patrick.

Check Writer Rampant

Some unknown pen artist has been busy at The Dalles of late, several checks having been later marked spurious being issued here. They are all on the First National bank and call for sums ranging from \$5.00 to \$26.00.

Cleaned Out Ditches

Lester Crofoot is as busy as the proverbial cat these days. He is helping Foreman Addington on the Criterion section. "Budge" Greene's another ambitious Maupin youth who is assisting in keeping the highway in repair.

The broadcasting of this work over KOAC every Monday evening from 7:30 until 8:00 and on Saturday every two weeks over KGW about 1:00, p. m., is very interesting and beneficial to our members.