

### The Salem Sampler

The classic blunder of the legislature to date was made by Representative John Dickson, the kindly engineer in the Multnomah delegation. Mr. Dickson sits close to the front in the second seat of the second aisle on the speaker's right.

He attended a committee meeting in the Senate end of the building and was returning to his desk to look over his mail when he noticed that an elderly gentleman was occupying his chair at the desk. Mr. Dickson thought that the man must be a lobbyist using the chair temporarily and started to open up the drawer to get at his mail. The gentleman stopped him and asked him who he was and what he meant by such an act. Mr. Dickson bristled up and said that he was a representative, that that was his desk, and that he would jolly well do what he pleased with it. Whereupon the other gentleman, who turned out to be Senator Wheeler, called for the Sgt.-at-Arms and asked him to throw out the interloper, Representative Dickson, who was attempting to steal Wheeler's seat in the Senate. Amid roars of laughter, poor Mr. Dickson slunk out of the Senate and hurried stealthily to his seat in the House hoping that his mistake would not be found out.

But next morning he discovered that his error was the talk of the legislature and so to beat his tormentors to the punch, he got up and confessed his sins in public. He did it to circumvent the story that he had followed a blonde secretary into the Senate. He also eagerly refused to yield to a question by Mr. Harvey. After the uproar had subsided, the speaker stated that his confidence in Representative Dickson had been restored and he felt that the House could trust him to find his way home hereafter.

The best Lincoln's Day program in years took place in the House the afternoon of February 12th.

Under the skillful hands of station KEX, some very excellent musical numbers rendered by a high-class orchestra and members of the radio staff, together with a magnificent speech by Senator Coe A. McKenna, made the afternoon an enjoyable one.

One incident to mar the enjoyment of the occasion was the death of Mr. Frank C. Bramwell, who had been asked to take part in the ceremony. Mr. Bramwell died suddenly Friday morning at his home in Portland while getting ready to come to Salem. He was to be the receiver of a gift from the legislators in token of their appreciation of his untiring efforts to bring about the much needed increase in the legislative pay. The gift was turned over to his son by unanimous action of the House and Senate.

The House fired the opening gun on the old age pension business by passing House Bill 242 Tuesday morning. This bill was prepared by several public-spirited citizens who desired to pattern our old age assistance set-up after that of Sweden. The vote was very close and was probably indicative of the division of opinion in the legislature on this matter.

Opposition to the bill centered chiefly on the facts that its arithmetic was faulty, that it could not accomplish what its proponents claimed for it, that it was another cruel political trick with the aged people as the innocent victims, and that it did not provide any definite sum but merely gave the aged what was in the till at the time. Another serious fault pointed out was that it would give aged people less than what they are getting under the present system, because it eliminated all question of need and paid everyone alike.

Nevertheless, it was passed on to the Senate for their consideration because of the fact that it provided for passing the buck to the voters at the next primary election in May of 1944.

In my opinion, the legislature should not make a practice of allowing bills to be submitted to the people for their approval unless all of the bugs are first extracted. I believe this is what the legislature is for and that the people expect to have this safeguard, as indeed they should.

A horrible example of the foregoing is the recent action of the Idaho State Legislature in repealing the old age measure passed by the voters in last November's elections.

After the act had carried, it was found to be so impractical that its provisions could not be carried out and the state legislature was forced to repeal it, much to the embarrassment of the individual members.

Again let me repeat, there never can be any method devised for caring for the aged that can even remotely compare to the comforts of self-help or the loving care of sons and daughters and close relatives. Everyone wishes to provide for the unfortunates and something will eventually be arranged. Whether this bill is the answer is highly debatable.

A bill to abolish the milk control board and to place the milk control

function in the hands of the State Department of Agriculture has passed both Houses.

This bill doesn't abolish milk control, but only the milk control board. It is intended as a measure of economy inspired by the fact that the OPA have virtually taken over milk control in the entire country and that the state board will not be necessary during the war.

This may be of some interest to Coos county dairymen but I doubt whether the average Coos county citizen even knows that we had such a board.

It is a common-sense measure and in line with Governor Snell's program.

The storm center on Tuesday in the House was House Bill 200, being the so-called truck bill. This provides for the legalizing of the present freight truck units being used temporarily during the war emergency.

Division on this bill is led on the proponents' side by trucking concerns of the state and on the opponents' side by the large railroad lobby. It is one of the perennials, like the fish bill. It pops up at every legislature.

Proponents point to the mysterious introduction of the fantastic 100,000 pound truck bill in the Idaho legislature, followed a little later by its timely and mysterious withdrawal after the Oregon hearings had taken place, as evidence of skulduggery on the part of the railroad lobby. They alleged that this device was used to scare Oregon legislators and to support the contention that the truck people would never be satisfied.

Opponents now point to the request of the U. S. Army that the bill be referred to committee in order that they may send an officer to appear before the legislature as evidence that the truck owners have lined up the army on their side.

I should hate to think that either of the foregoing stories were true, and that such high-handed tactics are being used to pressure the members of the legislature. Yet both stories do sound plausible, do they not?

At any rate, a secret hearing has been set for Friday, February 19th, at which time an officer of the U. S. army will appear before a joint meeting of both Houses. Only members of each body will be permitted to attend and all are pledged to the greatest secrecy regarding the matters of military importance which will be divulged.

All are looking forward to the meeting in the hope that it will point the way to proper action on this perplexing problem.

The revised edition of the so-called teachers' bill, passed by the voters last November, and now called House Bill No. 344, got through the House without very serious opposition.

What objections there were centered upon the fact that the committee had reduced the first year's payments from the \$5,000,000 suggested by the Department of Education to \$4,000,000.

The committee worked under the theory that it was better to set up a moderate payment that could be expected to be maintained indefinitely rather than to make a larger payment now and lesser payments later on. In other words, they adopted Harry Lauder's philosophy of life—"a wee drap in the bottle fer the mornin'."

The majority of the House sustained the committee and passed the bill.

An interesting side-light on the debate was the announcement that a bill is being prepared which would make the state responsible for a substantial portion of the cost of educating our children and would relieve local property tax of a large portion of this expense.

In my opinion, this is a step in the right direction. It cannot be denied that all of our children have a right to a reasonable public school education regardless of the economic position of their parents. It is therefore proper that substantial portion of our public school expense should be born by the people at large in the interest of the national welfare.

I was glad to welcome George C. Huggins and Claude Nasburg of Marshfield and L. J. Cary of Coquille as visitors on Thursday.

It was my pleasure to secure the courtesy of the House for Mr. Huggins, the greeting of whom immediately started a trek to my desk by veterans who had known Mr. Huggins during the last session.

Our taxation and revenue committee have the toughest assignment of this session.

This committee is composed of very able and veteran legislators of proven ability. They are working hard on these tax matters and will come out with bills that fit into the picture of state financing. These bills will be compromises with the ideas set forth by interested groups of taxpayers. They will lean toward the side of

### Out-of-Doors Stuff

by LANS LENEVE

Recently, much publicity was given to the fact that a hunter down in Curry county had bagged a large bear, had divided the meat with neighbors and had rendered several gallons of grease from the fat on the animal. Everyone seems to have overlooked the fact that the season was closed on bear at the time the bear was bagged. And this reminds us of the man in northern California who killed a big bear, loaded it on his auto and brought it into the court house yard. He sought out the county clerk and asked him how much bounty was paid on bear. The clerk informed him that there was no bounty, but that he figured that he, the man who had killed the bear, would no doubt "get at least \$25.00" for slaying the animal. The man was somewhat mystified until a game warden showed up and took him into custody. A \$25.00 fine was assessed him, proving that the clerk evidently "knew his onions," for it was unlawful to kill bear in that county.

The moral to this story is: know your game laws.

Game laws, bag limits, seasons, etc. are changed so often that it behooves a sportsman to keep in touch with the laws constantly or he is liable to find himself violating some code most any old time. And speaking of the change in laws: that was a mighty good stroke of business that the Game Commission did when they changed the limit on steelhead from three fish in a single day to five.

It has always been the writer's policy to speak his piece regarding the framing of game and fish laws by the Game Commission and we have not been at all backward in the past in panning them for the enactment of laws that we considered adverse to the welfare of the game or fish. But we seek to be fair-minded in the matter and are just as quick to compliment them upon sensible legislation as we are to express our opinion when certain acts do not meet with our approval.

We are not in favor of an open season on elk in Southwestern Oregon and we know that 90 per cent of the sportsmen of Coos county felt the same way as we did concerning the opening of the season and the sickening slaughter of the poor animals that followed. However, that was another feature of The New Deal—the converting of wilderness trails into roads that gave access to the herds; roads that were constructed by the Three C's and which have retarded the propagation of game and fish to an alarming extent in every district of the state. There have been more game slain and more trout taken during the past few years that wilderness retreats have been opened up than would have been killed or caught within the next fifty years had the trails not been converted into auto roads.

The principle upon which the CCC outfit was founded—that of keeping the youth of America off the streets and giving them something to do during the depression, was evidently a sound idea, if their efforts had been put to a worthy cause, such as building and improving market roads but, like a lot of other New Deal stuff, it misfired and our game had to suffer from it. Personally, I am mighty glad to see the CCC organization disbanded. We still have left one of the finest and soundest organizations of American youth today—The Boy Scouts. More power to 'em!

conservatism and in the direction of maintaining sound basis of state financing.

I am told that there will be a small percentage decrease in income taxes, also corporate excise taxes. These percentages were established after careful study by the committee.

Everyone should remember that we are in for a period of very severe taxation. It is therefore dangerous for us to think of our income in terms of daily wages or monthly salaries. We should rather think of our income in terms of what we have left after Uncle Sam and the state get done with us.

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State House, Salem, Feb. 25—The forty-second regular session of the legislature is drawing to a close. All things being equal, the presiding officers of both houses hope to bang down their gavels for the sine die adjournment not later than a week from next Saturday, which will be March 6. If such can be accomplished it will be the shortest session in many years, namely 55 days. Next Monday, March 1, will mark the end of the 50-day session.

From then on the lawmakers will work for love and glory, because their pay stops, regardless of how much longer they remain on the job. Everyone is anxious to get home, except the rest of the hired help, who continue to draw down their \$5 to \$8 per day as long as the legislature remains in session. The closing days will see many of the severest hot bills before both houses for final action. Tempers are on edge from the long grind and some of the boys are beginning to indulge in personalities when they engage in debate on the different measures.

Speaking of the open and closed seasons on hunting and fishing, it looks very much like some groups have decided to declare an all-year open season on farmers. Senate Bill 115 would give any group of farmers the right to establish a bird game preserve on their land. The farmer would raise their own birds, such as pheasants, grouse, and quail, paying for all such propagation, and in turn would be privileged to charge a fee to sportsmen who came to shoot on their land. The bill further provides that the farmer shall be licensed by the state and must propagate 5 per cent more birds than he will be licensed to kill. However, several sportsmen from a swanky private Salem gun club appeared before the senate committee where the bill was under consideration and holstered their heads off. The very idea—even to think the farmers of Oregon would ask for such a law. But, of course, it's absolutely all O. K. for the sportsmen to have such clubs, which they do, and many of them, too. These protesting gun club members apparently overlook the fact that the bill also provides that each farmer applicant shall pay a license fee of \$10 which shall go to the game commission and become a part of its funds for the benefit of the sportsmen.

The house taxation committee, which has been wrestling with the state income tax headache ever since the session opened, finally have drafted a bill which would reduce all such taxes to a flat ten per cent. The majority of the committee brought in a report of Do Pass on the bill, but Lawmakers Pier and Hall of Multnomah county, who are also members of the committee, squawked long and loud and have written a minority report which would grant a 25 per cent reduction. The battle is now going on for votes to sustain the minority report, and from all appearances Messrs. Pier and Hall will have enough votes to put their bill over for the 25 per cent cut. Chairman Giles French of the committee says ten per cent is as far as it's safe to go, while Pier and Hall argue that with thousands of new taxpayers to extract money from, 25 per cent is safe for the next two years. The next legislature could then fix the tax at any rate the existing condition seemed to justify.

Just before the close of any legislative session the politically ambitious always start their campaign for two years hence, especially those who aspire to be president of the senate and speaker of the house. Both honors were accorded up-state candidates this session, so it's only natural for Portland lawmakers to be casting an eagle eye in the direction of the chairs. Senator Corbett in 1935 was the last Portland legislator to head the upper house. Dorothy McCallough Lee, who ran a dead heat with the present incumbent, President Steiwer, and then withdrew on the 45th ballot, will be urged by her supporters again to be a candidate. However, Dorothy must be re-elected again, as her term expires before the next session. Then we hear that Senators Coe McKenna and Marshall Cornett have the same idea. Over in the house Stanhope Pier, Portland; Earl Hill, Cushman; Carl Engdahl, Pendleton; John Steelhammer,

Salem, and H. H. Chindgren, Molalla, are being groomed by their supporters for the speakership. The boys are now busy attempting to obtain pledges for their favorites.

Observations from the press box: The "third house" show was a honey... all-lawmakers came in for some good ribbing; some got more than others... and the big dance after the show, attended by many of the state house stenographers... and many soldiers, too... Many Portland folks came down for the show, including flocks of ex-lawmakers... Some talk of night sessions to assure adjournment not later than March 6... Who will Governor Snell appoint to this, that and the other thing, after the legislators have gone home, is the burning question... Lots of talk on the subject... and the governor is very mum... which is smart.

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