

The Salem Sampler

By HON. R. T. MOORE

The legislature adjourned Saturday evening, March 18, on its 69th day. It was the longest session in the history of the state. The conservative, careful painstaking nature of its members may have extended the time for several days but it is becoming obvious that the growth of the state will compel at least sixty day sessions hereafter. When one notes that about 800 bills were under consideration, many of them requiring careful study, it is not surprising that a sixty-nine day session was necessary.

Most of the members could afford the added financial burden of the 19 payless days. But it represented a real personal sacrifice to a few. In the interest of good government the people of Oregon should extend the session term to a maximum of 70 days so that any qualified citizen could afford to serve.

A few of the humorous sidelights of the House session are worthy of note. In discussing a bill providing aid for the schooling of white children domiciled within Indian reservations, Representative Erwin, who is quite bald, opposed the bill as being unnecessary. He cited as his reason that he had been brought up on the Yakima reservation and had received a very excellent education in the Indian schools. The irrepressible Representative Stelhammer, who presented the bill, then suggested that the foregoing was the reason Mr. Erwin was scalped early in life.

During the discussion on a bill investigating health and sanitation in industrial plants an excited opponent, intending to say that the expenditure of money for such purpose was like "pouring sand down a rat hole," actually said it was like "pouring sand down a sat hole." This unfortunate boner took all the steam out of his speech and caused a near riot.

A sign on Representative Condit's desk during the last days of the session read "No votes to trade. My bills have all been signed by the Governor." This sign was characteristic of the sharp wit and keen judgment of this able newcomer to the House. He was a very capable champion of school legislation was a credit to his district. Incidentally, this sign was in recognition of the horse-trading that went on to a limited extent during the final days. He is said to the credit of the House that the horse-

trading was to no avail.

In appraising the work of the legislature during this session it seems to me that a great deal of hard work was done by leading members on the difficult controversial bills. It was almost an obsession among chairmen of major committees to hold repeated public hearings for the accumulation of all pertinent facts bearing on the legislation. There was a reluctance to act without long deliberation and the sending up of trial balloons through the press for the testing of public opinion. The Judiciary committees were especially effective in re-drafting measures deficient in wording and several legislative masterpieces were turned out. An enormous amount of research and labor of compiling was put forth in the drafting of the several milk control measures. The public service retirement bill required weeks of very hard work on the part of its sponsors before it was ready for passage. The same can be said for several of the measures liberalizing the awards under unemployment compensation and the state industrial accident fund. These measures had the careful study of the commission, industry, labor, and several very able attorneys before final draft. Effort was made to base the awards on a carefully planned scientific foundation which would insure maximum benefits to

the recipients and stability for the funds.

While there was more social activity than in 1943 session there was also more hard work and more heavy legislation attempted. The writer had the feeling of frustration at the end of this session the same as in 1943. Probably this feeling was shared by the entire assembly. And yet the session accomplished a great deal for the state and will probably go down in history as among the best ever held. One never feels fully satisfied when the legislature is over. But, after all, this is characteristic of democratic processes which achieve a balanced government through compromise and adjustment.

It was a pleasure to serve with the able Senator Walsh and quiet, sincere Fred Adams of Curry county. Be it said without fear of contradiction that the Coos-Curry delegation was certainly the equal of the best in the legislature. Coos and Curry counties were kept in the forefront and the interests of their citizens were well cared for.

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Oregon Dairy Council Program Being Started in Coos County

Mrs. Mary Kruger, Assistant Nutritionist for the Oregon Dairy Council, expressed her disappointment at finding her visit here coincided with the school vacation, making it impossible to contact school authorities the first of the week concerning the educational program which is being launched throughout Oregon by the Dairy Council. This non-profit organization has as its objective the promotion of the health and welfare of every citizen of Oregon, by means of an educational program which teaches proper nutrition. The need of dairy products is stressed, which will in turn bring about an increased demand.

Mrs. Lela Elrod and Miss Madeline Kelly, of the County Health Dept., are provided with Dairy Council material for use in schools and clinics. School nurses in the city schools use the same material. Mrs. Martha Mulkey has personally distributed a great deal of the material throughout the county schools. Reader booklets are provided for each grade level and are given to each child. Attractive wall posters accompany each unit. Mrs. Dorothy Dunn uses Dairy Council material in many of her programs. Booklets are available at the Coquille Library for the youngsters.

Mrs. Kruger first introduced the program in Coos county in October and will make three trips a year to the county to expand the work.

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