

PROCEEDINGS OF OREGON LEGISLATURE

Saturday, February 23.

Salem, Feb. 23.—The legislature which adjourned today went down in history as the most lavish Oregon has ever had. A grand total of \$3,500,000 has been appropriated.

The senate refused to adopt the house bill changing the brush fire law.

The house reconsidered a vote of yesterday and passed two bills giving farm laborers and threshermen liens on crops for money due them.

Indorsed by nearly every assessor in the state, the bill providing for an equitable system of assessing the timber lands of the state went down to defeat in the senate.

The house finished up its business at 11:30 but it was 2 o'clock before the senate was through, and it was necessary for the house to continue in session until that time.

It was announced to the members of the legislature that it would be more convenient to buy tickets at the depot than to pay fares on the train. Passes would not do, as the new anti-pass law is in effect.

PASSED IMPORTANT BILLS.

What the Legislature Accomplished During the Session.

Salem—Many important bills passed both houses of the Oregon legislature at the session just ended, and a considerable number were defeated. The appropriations are very large—amounting to some \$3,500,000—and no bills passed raising any considerable amount of revenue by new methods.

Several bills for new revenue were defeated. Among them was that of Representative Beals to tax timber holdings on the basis of cruises submitted to assessors by their owners. Another was that prepared by the late tax commission and introduced by Representative Freeman taxing public service corporations on their capitalized net earnings. A third was that of Representative Settlemier for collection of taxes on land that had escaped taxation in the last six years.

One of the defeated measures of large moment was that of the Portland board of trade, for control of the water power of the state. Another was that for a \$60,000 appropriation for extension of the portage road to The Dalles.

First of all the enactments was that for a railroad commission. The bill for this law was introduced by Representative Chapin and the three commissioners already have been appointed—T. K. Campbell, C. B. Aitchison and Oswald West.

Representative Jones, of Polk, is father of a successful bill appropriating \$300,000 for free locks at Willamette falls, contingent on the national government's appropriating an additional sum sufficient to provide the locks and maintain them.

Representative Eaton, of Lane, has the credit of having secured enactment of a bill granting to the State university an annual standing appropriation of \$125,000.

Representative Jackson, of Douglas, introduced a successful bill appropriating \$100,000 for National Guard armories.

Representative Perkins, of Jackson, has the credit of securing for fruitmen a law to prevent false labeling and branding of packed fruit, and of another law to prevent false marking of nursery stock. A third bill of his permits orchardists to kill birds that destroy crops, but this bill is in danger of a veto.

Representative Slusher is father of a successful bill creating a sheep commission and a sheep inspector, and authorizing inspectors of the bureau of animal industry to exercise police powers in the state for eradication of sheep scab.

Representative Settlemier's bill passed both houses to appropriate \$100,000 for the Seattle exposition in 1909.

Representative Edwards was promoter of an important enactment to raise the per capita tax of school districts to \$7.

Representative Vawter of Jackson had a bill passed to create one board of regents for all the normals, also to appropriate \$40,000 for the Ashland normal.

Representative Barrett of Umatilla did the same for the Weston normal, in the sum of \$35,000. Senator Loughary secured enactment of his bill providing \$30,000 for Monmouth and Representative Jackson put a successful rider on it appropriating \$27,000 for Drain.

Representative Carter of Benton secured passage of a \$125,000 appropriation for new buildings at the State Agricultural college, and Senator Johnson of a \$75,000 appropriation for maintenance.

Representative Beal's is author of an enactment creating the office of cheese, dairy and creamery inspector, as deputy to the state dairy commissioner.

Representative Driscoll introduced the bill for the act creating the Port of Columbia District of Multnomah, Columbia and Clatsop counties, for regulation of towage and pilotage at the mouth of the Columbia river.

Senator M. A. Miller, of Linn, has to his credit a compulsory education law, which promises to be the most effective measure of the kind ever proposed in Oregon.

Among the most important senate bills enacted was the Haines banking bill, which, though acknowledged to be imperfect, is believed to be a wise measure for the reason that it is the beginning of state supervision of banking.

Senator M. G. Miller, of Linn, was the author of a bill that has passed both houses providing for the loaning of surplus funds in the state treasury to banks giving security and paying interest on daily balances.

Senator F. J. Miller, of Linn-Marion secured the passage of bills for the establishment of an institution for the feeble-minded, an institution for which there has been general demand in order to place under control a class of people not fit for the asylum but who ought not to be at large.

Senator Nichol fathered two bills that will have considerable effect. One provides for the working of husbands who fail to support their families, and the payment of \$1.50 a day to the family for their support. The other provides a uniform insurance policy.

Senator Cashow will be remembered kindly by all jurors hereafter, for he secured the enactment of a law raising the fees of jurors from \$2 to \$3 a day.

Senator Hart of Baker was author of the bill which places restrictions upon the pasturing of foreign sheep in Oregon, so as to protect Oregon sheepmen.

Senator Malarkey introduced three measures which will be of considerable importance. One limits the hours of labor of trainmen, another makes the husband's courtesy the same as a wife's dower, and the third provides for the building of a bridge across the Willamette at Oswego, thus affording the means of taking the trains off Fourth street in Portland.

Senator Mult of Jackson remembered the widows and orphans by securing the enactment of a law which raises from \$3,000 to \$7,500 the amount that may be recovered for acts causing death.

Senator Calk framed the bill which has passed providing for the appointment of two Supreme court commissioners to assist the court in catching up with its work.

Senator Kay pleased the merchants everywhere by securing the enactment of a law which provides for the garnishment of wages of public employees. Such employees are very often judgment proof without such a law.

Senator Schofield fathered a number of fishery laws, and has had the census law amended so that it is now suited to modern conditions.

Senator Nottingham interested himself in the improvement of public morals as usual, and secured the enactment of a law for the punishment of persons guilty of enticing away children under 18 years for immoral purposes.

Senator Bingham was father of a new forest fire law, the efficiency of which has yet to be shown. It requires the burning of the debris of logging operations, and there were conflicting opinions as to the practical working of the measure.

PLAN TO STOP SACK GRAFT.

Palouse Farmers Will Carry Their Wheat to Elevators.

Waverly, Wash., Feb. 26.—The farmers and wheatgrowers of this district have decided to do away with the "sack profit," and elevators for handling wheat in bulk will be built all along the Spokane & Inland Electric road. A very enthusiastic meeting was held here recently, and the matter thoroughly discussed by the farmers. The meeting was addressed by a representative of the elevator company, who explained the advantages to be derived from the farmers handling loose instead of sacked grain.

The company will be organized to enable the wheatgrower to handle his grain in the most economical manner, and thereby save the price of sacks, which sell for from 10 to 11 cents each. The farmers feel that they have been imposed upon by the "sack grafters" long enough, and they have decided to stop buying sacks and handle their wheat in bulk.

Wagon boxes that will hold 100 bushels of wheat to haul to the elevators will cost the farmers but \$15 each, and these boxes can be used from year to year. All elevators will be equipped with the most modern machinery for the handling and cleaning of grain in the most economical manner. Wheat can be handled fully a cent a bushel cheaper than through the warehouses in sacks. Wagon dumps and shipping scales will be provided at every elevator. These elevators will probably be built all through the Palouse country this season, as farmers all over Eastern Washington are anxious to do away with sacks.

TRUST IS REALITY.

Farmers Holding Back Produce for Better Prices.

Chicago, Feb. 26.—The farmers' trust has arrived. It has stretched its big, strong hands over the states of Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Wisconsin, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Missouri and Texas. Its knotted fingers have piled up millions of bushels of grain and fruit and thousands of bales of cotton into a mountain heap, and the trust has said to the dealers of the world:

"You can't have any of this until you pay us what we think is coming to us. Now do your worst."

Ever since early last fall, board of trade men and shippers of grain have been talking about the scarcity of cars. To that scarcity they have attributed almost entirely the fact that corn, wheat and other farm products do not move to the market centers with more haste. The dearth of cars is an everyday theme in the speculative and commercial gossip. That there is a great deal in it nobody disputes, but a still more significant phenomenon of the day is that grain is being held back because the farmers are determined they shall get the price they have set on their own property.

RATES ON DECLINE.

Senator Elkins Files Long List of Railroad Statistics.

Washington, Feb. 26.—Senator Elkins, of West Virginia, has just completed and filed in the senate its minority report on the railroad rate law. It presents a comprehensive history of the economic development of American railroads, together with exhaustive tables which tend to show a constantly decreasing freight and passenger rate, and the relation between such rates and the price of commodities and cost of labor.

"The average passenger rate," says the report, "advanced slightly from 1870 to 1880. During the next 24 years there was a decline equal to 17.85 per cent of the average for 1880. The net decline from 1870 to 1890 averaged 16.14 per cent. The decline in the average rate per mile per ton of freight was 58.71 per cent during the years from 1870 to 1904, the rate for the earlier year being about two and one-half times that of the latter, and the net saving to the shippers averaged 11.09 mills per ton per mile."

The report says that the cost of transportation in 1904 was nearly \$2,000,000,000 less than it would have been had the rates for 1870 still prevailed.

Dry Farming in Malheur.

Vale, Or., Feb. 26.—Persons here from Pendleton and Walla Walla state that they will take up some of the bench land just west of Vale and use dry farming methods. They feel certain that the soil is similar and better than that around Pendleton, on which such excellent returns are being made. No dry farming has ever been tried in this section of the county, and the outcome is being prophesied as a failure by some of the old settlers, but those who are studying the situation state there can be no doubt as to success.

Forty of Crew Perished.

Canea, Island of Crete, Feb. 26.—All the passengers on board the Austrian steamer Imperatrix, which ran on a rock Friday evening near Cape Elaphonio, were saved. Forty members of the crew, of whom 32 were Austrians and eight Indians, perished.

TRIAL TO CONTINUE

Judge Stafford Refuses to Dismiss Hermann Case.

LETTERS TELL OF CONSPIRACY

Prosecution Has Two That Hermann Wrote to ex-Register of Roseburg Land Office.

Washington, Feb. 26.—Justice Stafford today overruled the motion of the defense in the trial of Representative Binger Hermann to take the case from the jury and dismiss the charge on the ground of fatal variance between the indictment and the evidence before the grand jury. Hearings were resumed. The trial was halted last Thursday, when Mr. Worthington for the defense made a motion on the evidence submitted by Hermann's former secretary, Hough, as to his testimony before the grand jury. Mr. Worthington also argued that the prosecution could not adduce evidence of conspiracy on the part of Mr. Hermann with others to defraud the government out of public land in order to show a motive for the destruction of records, as alleged by the prosecution, on the ground that Hermann was not on trial for conspiracy. After hearing the argument on Thursday, Justice Stafford adjourned the trial until today, in order to consider the points made by the defense.

J. T. Bridges, ex-register of the land office at Roseburg, testified that he had received many letters from Hermann of a private character that he had destroyed. Two were found in his desk when the desk was broken open at the time he was suspended in 1905. One of these mentions the name of Agee, who is identified by the government with what has been designated as the "Agee conspiracy." It was identified by Mr. Bridges, District Attorney Baker stating that he desired to show the intimate friendly relations existing between them. He further said that this transaction in which Agee was involved took place while Hermann was at the head of the land office, and that he should have knowledge of it.

WATCH SEVERAL SUSPECTS.

Secret Service Men Have No Clue to Identity of Thief.

Chicago, Feb. 26.—Although a score of detectives are at work on the case, the theft of \$173,000 from the sub-treasury in this city last Wednesday seems as far from solution as the day on which the robbery was committed. The general impression prevails that the thief must have been a government employe, and several of these men are being closely watched, but, as far as known tonight, no tangible evidence has been discovered.

Among those under surveillance is George W. Fitzgerald, who was in charge of the teller's cage from which the money was abstracted, but he insists that he has no knowledge of how the money disappeared.

MAY STOP FIGHTING.

United States or Mexico Threaten to Intervene in War.

Washington, Feb. 26.—Unless Nicaragua and Honduras speedily agree to arbitrate their difficulties in response to the suggestion of the United States and Mexico, it is not improbable that intervention will be resorted to in order to bring an end to the present hostilities. It became known today that within the last day or two a second note was sent to the presidents of Nicaragua and Honduras, in effect conveying this threat.

No replies have been received and, while in official circles the hope is expressed that further bloodshed may be averted, there is an underlying belief that it will be necessary for either the United States or Mexico to step in and force an arbitration.

Steamer Empire at Old Gate.

Washington, Feb. 26.—Advises received by the State department today through Minister Corea of Nicaragua are to the effect that the small steamer Empire, which in the past has figured conspicuously in filibustering expeditions, is being utilized for the transportation of munitions of war from Salvador to Honduras. Minister Corea will request this government to have the steamer Newport intercepted by the cruiser Chicago, believing that she carries supplies ultimately intended for Honduras.

Bandits Get Big Plunder.

El Paso, Tex., Feb. 26.—Bandits raided the hacienda of Jesus Urangan Salenz in the village of Durango, Mexico, Sunday night. After making prisoners of Salenz and his servants, the bandits robbed his safe of \$7,000 in gold and gathered up many thousands of dollars' worth of jewelry and plate, destroying all they could not carry off. Officers are searching the mountains for the robbers.

SUB-TREASURY ROBBED.

Two Hundred Thousand Dollar Theft Uncovered in Chicago.

Chicago, Feb. 23.—The Tribune today says:

One of the largest—if not the largest—thefts from the United States treasury has been unearthed in Chicago.

Somewhere between \$175,000 and \$200,000 was stolen from the local sub-treasury last week. The money has disappeared as completely as if it had vanished from the earth.

The authorities here and in Washington have been working night and day on the robbery since it was discovered.

Chief Wilkie, of the United States Secret service, has been keeping informed by telephone and telegraph of every development, and, according to telegraphic advices, he will leave Washington today to take personal charge of the investigation.

Secretary Shaw, of the Treasury department, was told of the big theft when in Chicago last week, and was in conference with Sub-Treasurer William Boldenwick and secret service officials. The money was stolen either a week ago Saturday, the next day or Monday. The chances are it was abstracted on Monday. The loss was discovered Tuesday.

All the money taken was in large bills—bills of the denomination of \$1,000, \$5,000 and \$10,000. Just who discovered the loss the sub-treasury officials would not admit last night. Neither would they tell from what department the money was taken, nor how the loss was discovered.

DANGER TO HARBOR BILL.

May Be Killed Entirely to Avert Big Treasury Deficit.

Washington, Feb. 25.—Since Chairman Tawney, of the appropriations committee, called attention to the probability of a deficit of \$100,000,000, in consequence of the large appropriations made this session, there has been considerable talk around the capitol about defeating the river and harbor bill, thus removing the possibility of such deficit.

The river and harbor bill as passed by the house carried \$83,000,000. As amended by the senate, it carries \$92,000,000, and the prospects are that, if the conference committee agrees, it will report a bill carrying in the neighborhood of \$90,000,000, or approximately the amount of the deficit predicted by Mr. Tawney.

Friends of the river and harbor bill, since the rumor started, have become active in urging prompt agreement on the bill in conference, so that it will not run the chance of being talked to death in the last day or two of the session. If the report is delayed until the middle of the week, and a few senators determine to kill it, they will have the bill entirely within their power.

STOP FOREST RESERVES.

Fulton Would Give Congress Authority to Create.

Washington, Feb. 25.—Senator Fulton has offered his amendment to the agricultural appropriation bill, prohibiting the creation of further forest reserves in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Wyoming and Colorado, except by authority of congress. Senator Lodge, who threatened to raise a point of order against the amendment, withdrew his objection and it was generally agreed that the amendment would be permitted to go in the bill if it was not debated. This is satisfactory to Mr. Fulton, and he expects to have the amendment accepted by the senate when the bill is taken up.

Western men in congress are thoroughly aroused at the Forest service for its attempt not only to regulate all government timber land but public range land as well, and in consequence legislation recommended by the president, looking to the leasing of the public range and the reservation of all public timber land now in reserves, will be tabled.

Japanese Will Investigate.

Seattle, Feb. 25.—The Japanese association of Seattle has appointed a committee of five to make a full and impartial report on conditions existing in the Pacific Northwest, as regards their countrymen. The result of the committee's investigations will be sent to the government at Tokio, through the Japanese ambassador at Washington. A. Hattori, president of the association, declared that the meeting was not called as a government function, but merely through a sense of national pride to investigate conditions.

No Hope for Seattle Fair Bill.

Washington, Feb. 25.—Senator Piles has about abandoned hope of securing the passage through the senate this session of Senator Ankeny's bill appropriating \$700,000 for the Seattle exposition. Senator Hale refuses to withdraw his objection. As the bill cannot pass the house this session, the whole matter will go over to the next congress, when it stands a fair chance of passing.

NEWS OF THE WEEK

In a Condensed Form for Our Busy Readers.

HAPPENINGS OF TWO CONTINENTS

A Resume of the Less Important but Not Less Interesting Events of the Past Week.

The Nebraska legislature has passed an anti-pass bill.

The British premier favors action on disarmament at The Hague.

Reform of land laws will go over to the next session of congress.

Russian terrorists have planned a wholesale massacre of officers.

The president may create many forest reserves before the new law takes effect.

Forty-two Greek laborers were injured in a smashup of a construction train on the Salt Lake road at Leith, Nev.

Railroads affected by the 2-cent passenger rate laws passed in several states will combine to carry the fight to the courts.

Fighting between Nicaragua and Honduras is now general. The former seems to have the advantage, though Salvador is helping Honduras.

Sylvester R. Rush, of Nebraska, has been appointed special assistant to the attorney general. He is to have charge of the land fraud investigations in the Northwest. He has had much success in convicting land thieves in Nebraska.

Chinese famine sufferers are dying by thousands.

Hill has purchased the Astoria & Columbia River railroad.

A number of senators and representatives will visit Hawaii this summer.

General Koslevky was assassinated after joking about threats made to kill him.

The National Arbitration and Peace congress will meet in New York April 14 to 17.

President Roosevelt and Secretary Root have been asked to urge the people to help the Russian famine sufferers.

A Baltimore & Ohio express train was wrecked near Connelville, Pa., and two persons killed and eight injured.

The Iowa legislature has adopted a resolution calling on congress to call a convention to amend the constitution so that United States senators may be elected by direct vote of the people.

The San Francisco water board has revoked the franchise supplying the city with water on the ground that the company has been collecting excessive rates. The property is estimated to be worth \$5,300,000.

The French accuse the church of having meddled in politics.

The St. Paul railroad has stopped all improvements till popular wrath cools.

Sixteen children and their teacher were burned to death in a Montreal school.

Grand Duke Nicholas of Russia narrowly escaped being blown up by a terrorist bomb.

Stoessel is called a coward by Smirnoff, one of the generals at Port Arthur during the siege.

Fire at Los Angeles destroyed property valued at \$200,000. Firemen rescued 12 people from the flames.

A British naval paymaster at Victoria, B. C., is to be court martialed because his carelessness caused a loss of \$1,550.

The English parliament will arrange a loan of \$5,000,000 for Kingston, the money to be used to rebuild the business portion of the city.

George Von L. Meyer, former American ambassador to Russia, has returned to the United States to become postmaster general in President Roosevelt's cabinet.

The Texas senate has voted to exonerate Senator Bailey.

A Denver man has confessed to killing his wife that he might marry another woman.

The senate has approved of another Federal judge for the Northern district of California.

The senate has refused to consider a measure to reduce tariff on sugar, tobacco and rice from the Philippines.

Secretary Shaw will leave the cabinet March 4 to become president of the Carnegie Trust company, of New York.

Pittsburg has just had a fire in the heart of the business district, the loss amounting to several hundred thousand dollars.