

GOVERNOR WEST SENDS MESSAGE

(Continued from Page Three.)

smallest practical units in order that the members may have a better opportunity for considering the merits of each.

Our constitution should be amended so as to permit the governor to veto any item in an appropriation bill. As the matter now stands useless appropriations are allowed to slip through for the reason that they are included in a bill carrying appropriations of merit.

Taxation

Three tax amendments approved by the legislature were submitted to the people at the last election. Of these two were defeated and by a very small vote. Their defeat was not due to any particular opposition, but because of the great number of tax measures upon the ballot and the inability of many voters to distinguish them from others which they were anxious to defeat.

Similar measures should be again submitted, for they open the way for rational tax reform. The amendments should permit the adoption of the so-called "Michigan plan" of devoting the taxes collected from public service corporations to the support of the public schools. If such a system was in effect in Oregon today and the taxes paid by the public service corporations, together with the interest earnings of the common school fund, apportioned to the several school districts in this state on a basis of school population, it would be found to be sufficient to practically cover the cost of conducting our public schools. Such a plan would do away with the necessity of school districts levying a tax.

It is the duty of the board of state tax commissioners, in January of each year, to ascertain the total amount of money necessary for state purposes and to apportion the same among the several counties. In ascertaining this amount the law states that the board shall take into consideration all items of expense to which the state will be subjected under the existing laws, all deficiencies, including interest upon unpaid warrants, the current expense of the Oregon National Guard, the sum required for the support of the University of Oregon and the Oregon Agricultural college, and when such apportionment is made in an odd year that \$200,000 shall be added to cover appropriations which may be made by the legislature for additional public buildings.

The system is all wrong as it fails to equalize the levy as between odd and even years. Last year the levy was in round numbers \$3,000,000, this year \$1,000,000. The board, following the law, has estimated the state expense for 1913 at \$2,500,000. After deducting cash on hand, or which will be on hand, there is left a balance of about \$1,000,000 to be raised by taxation.

Should the appropriations at this session place the expense for the biennium at the same figure as the last, viz., \$5,000,000, there will remain the sum of \$3,400,000 to be taken care of in 1914. Deducting \$600,000.00, or the estimated amount of accumulated license and other fees, would leave \$2,800,000 to be raised through direct taxation in 1914 as against about \$1,000,000 this year.

To bring about greater equality as between odd and even years, the law should make it the duty of the state board, consisting of the governor, secretary of state and state treasurer, to prepare for the use of the tax commission a budget setting forth the amount which in its opinion would be necessary for the proper conduct of the state government.

Labor

Most important among the questions which affect the interests of the laboring classes in this state is the proposed compensation act. Just compensation to an injured workman or his family is right in principle. The measure proposed was drafted only after painstaking investigation by representatives of the different interests involved. These different interests each had to give and take a little in order to construct a measure which would work for the common good. It is easy to find fault with a measure of this kind, but so long as it is founded upon sound principles minor objections should be waived in order that the bill may become a law and given a trial. Its shortcomings, should any exist, will develop and can easily be taken care of in the future.

A minimum wage bill will also be presented for your consideration. The bill is aimed primarily to protect the working girls of this state in a living wage. Such a law would fill a long felt want and would go far to remove conditions which often drive deserving, but helpless, girls to lives of shame.

It appears that the eight-hour law passed at the last election was without an enacting clause and will therefore be of no effect. I would, therefore, suggest that a new bill covering the eight-hour feature of the said bill be

passed at this session.

Miscellaneous Recommendations

A measure providing for the pensioning of widows will be presented at this session. The bill appears to possess much merit and deserves your earnest consideration.

This state needs an auditor of public accounts. A good man in this position would each year save the cost of his office many times over.

A law to regulate the business of "loan sharks" has been prepared and will be submitted to you for your approval. Such a law has long been needed in this State and I earnestly hope one may be adopted at this time.

The present system of making appropriations for support of county fairs is not only unscientific but leads to much logrolling in the legislature. An equitable system whereby each county would receive just treatment should be worked out and substituted for the present indefensible method. Some new system should also be adopted with a view of equalizing the salaries of the different county officers and do away with the practice of continually applying to the legislature for increases.

The office of State Immigration Agent and the State Immigration Board should be consolidated. With the coming of the Panama Canal there will be much work for this board to do. The next few years will decide whether our State is to receive an increased population of desirable or undesirable citizens. The flood-gates of Europe are soon to be thrown open and it will be the work of the Immigration Board to see that the stream which flows toward this State carries as many farmers and home-builders as possible.

Law Enforcement

The governor is admonished by the constitution to take care that the laws be faithfully executed, but neither the constitution nor the statutes give him adequate authority to execute this command. It is true that he may call the militia to his aid in the execution of the laws, but this is an extraordinary power which it should be necessary to exercise only upon grave and extraordinary occasions. The governor should not be forced to use the artillery of the state to bombard bootleggers or pursue blind pigs.

The governor should not be expected to go out and gather evidence and arrest and prosecute offenders. That is a function which should be performed by subordinate officials chosen for and charged with that particular duty. If these officials fail to perform their duty, the governor, being charged with the enforcement of the law, should have some suitable reserve powers which would enable him to call them to account.

Our liquor laws should be strengthened as follows:

Shipments of liquor of any kind into dry territory, except under certain restrictions, should be prohibited.

The sale of near beer should be prohibited in dry counties.

No license for the sale of liquor should be issued to anyone doing business outside of an incorporated city or town.

Saloons should be kept closed Sundays, and on week days between the hours of say 11 o'clock at night and seven o'clock in the morning.

No saloons should be permitted in or about a railroad station.

All saloons should have open or glass fronts; all chairs and card tables should be prohibited.

Saloons should not be permitted to cash checks.

Illegal sale of liquor by druggists should work a forfeiture of license to do business.

The several measures recommended by the Portland Vice Commission should be given state-wide application and stringent laws as to the sale of cocaine, morphine and similar drugs should be enacted; also laws which will better enable us to abate nuisances through injunction proceedings.

Sterilization

Degenerates and the feeble-minded should not be allowed to reproduce their kind. Society should be protected from this curse. Our asylums and our prisons are being populated afresh through such parentage. We confine the vicious and the irresponsible for a while, only to send them forth to blight the future by the creation of defective children that grow into the criminal or the imbecile.

Two remedies are needed—one of prevention, another of cure. We have from session to session been considering the first. We should now act upon the two.

Sterilization and emasculation offer an effective remedy. I would recommend, therefore, that a statute be enacted making it the duty of our state penal and eleemosynary institutions to report all apparent cases of degeneracy to the state board of health. It should then be the duty of the said board to cause investigation to be made and, if the findings warrant, to cause such operations to be performed as will give society the protection it deserves.

"Blue Sky" Law.

A "Blue Sky Law" proposed at the last election failed to pass, not because the voters were opposed to such protective legislation, but because it

apparently created a new office and carried an appropriation.

This is a question which merits your careful attention and I earnestly hope you will favor legislation which will drive from our State the many bogus concerns which are preying upon our citizens.

Appropriation of Private Property

The Constitution says that private property shall not be taken for public use without just compensation. By just compensation is meant the value of the property. The law also says that such property shall be assessed at its full cash value. Yet we find the State and municipalities called upon in condemnation proceedings to pay for a needed piece of property many times its assessed value.

This condition of affairs should not be allowed to exist. The assessed value should be more of a guide to the price which the public should pay.

Panama Exposition.

The committee appointed in accordance with an act of the last legislature to select a site for Oregon's buildings at the coming San Francisco Exposition met with kindly treatment at the hands of the good people of California.

This exposition will undoubtedly prove the greatest of all expositions and will redound to the benefit of the entire west. The Pacific Coast states in particular will profit and each in proportion to its activities in bringing to the attention of the visitors its wonderful resources.

A liberal appropriation should be made that Oregon may make a showing in keeping with her wealth and resources, and thereby reap her full share of the benefits to be derived from the exposition.

Direct Election of Senators.

There will be presented for your consideration and approval a resolution of Congress proposing an amendment to the Constitution providing that Senators shall be elected by the people of the several states. I earnestly hope that this amendment will receive your endorsement that the people of the several states may at least enjoy the privilege of choosing their own senators.

The Oregon System.

Oregon's system of popular government, having successfully withstood the attacks of its enemies, is here to stay. The time has come therefore when its friends should take steps to remove such defects as a fair trial has shown to exist.

None but registered voters should be permitted to sign initiative or referendum petitions. Each petition should have a precinct heading and signatures should be taken according-

ly. This would enable county clerks to quickly check the signatures and when necessary certify the list to the Secretary of State. As the matter now stands it is physically impossible for the Secretary of State to check the signatures on the petitions filed in his office.

In conclusion, gentlemen, I desire to congratulate you upon the promptitude of your organization and upon your very evident earnestness and intention to give to the people of the State an energetic and business-like session. In past years much time has been lost during the first week of the session and I trust that the pace you are now setting will not falter during the remainder of the forty days.

Before leaving my message with you, permit me to express my every confidence in this, the Twenty-Seventh Legislature. I believe that it is your intention and desire, and will be

your effort, to give to the people of Oregon a session which the members of past legislatures may envy and after which those of the future may pattern. It is said to be your purpose to reduce the volume of our present statutes, rather than to increase it. This purpose alone, if intelligently adhered to, will make your record a monument in the history of the State.

In anything you do, or attempt to do, in the interest of the taxpayers and for the good of the people of Oregon, I pledge you the untiring effort, co-operation and influence of the executive office in the present, and its unwavering championship during the two years to come. I assure you of my appreciation of your most courteous attention.

Respectfully submitted,
OSWALD WEST,
Governor.

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION
Department of the Interior, U. S. Land Office at The Dalles, Oregon, December 16th, 1912.

Notice is hereby given that Nella Anderson of Bend, Oregon, who on January 5th, 1909, made desert land entry No. 02181, for NE 1/4 NE 1/4, sec. 21, and W 1/4 NW 1/4, section 22, township 17 south, range 12 east, Willamette Meridian, has filed notice of intention to make final proof to establish claim to the land above described, before H. C. Ellis, U. S. Commissioner, at his office at Bend, Oregon, on the 8th day of February, 1913.

Claimant names as witnesses Archie Pattie, Adam Kotzman, Charles Boyd, Walter Daniels, all of Bend, Oregon.

43-47 C. W. MOORE, Register

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