

HOUSE HAS TASK BEFORE IT

Senate is Well up With Work---In Month Legislature Has Seen 925 Measures Proposed---Cello Project is Endorsed---Teachers Win Bill.

SALEM, February 11.—The close of the fourth week of the legislature finds the senate up with its work, a few measures being left over for a third reading and final passage.

The situation was quite different in the house. That branch of the assembly is so badly clogged that the task of clearing the calendar before the close of the 40 day period will be a prodigious undertaking.

The trouble in the house is that they have been indulging in too much oratory lately. Unless the talk is cut out the result will be great confusion during the closing hours of the session, the death of many good measures and hasty action on others.

The job for the house is especially distressing, for in that body 601 bills have been presented, and the senate has already sent over 24 bills, a total of nearly 700 for that wing of the legislature to act upon. Up to the present time the house has passed 50 of its 601 bills over to the senate, and has killed off or withdrawn nearly that many more.

925 Bills Proposed.

The last day for introduction of bills brought forth an avalanche in both the senate and the house that nearly swamped the clerks. With adjournment 325 bills had been introduced in the senate so far this session and an even 600 in the house, or a total of 925 bills for the session. This is just 200 more bills than were introduced two years ago.

Several Important Measures Passed.

Among the important measures passing the house were the workmen's compensation act and the board of control bill. Both branches passed the widow's pension bill and the Multnomah school teachers' measure. The home rule amendment was defeated in the house. The senate passed the minimum wage bill for women and minors, the measure placing all charitable institutions under state supervision, the bill amending the direct primary and the railroad headlight measure. No large appropriation bills have passed either house. The outlook for the passage of good roads legislation next week is excellent.

Legislature Asked to Give \$8,287,819 Appropriations already asked from the Oregon legislature, and now under consideration by the joint ways and means committees of the house and senate, have reached the huge total of \$8,287,819.07.

By the time all requests for state money are in, the total may reach \$9,000,000. This will be a record-breaker for requests, but there is no reason to believe that when the smoke has blown away and the final tale has been told that this will be a much more expensive legislature than the one two years ago, when the appropriations totaled \$5,750,000.

Compensation Bill Passes House

The Lawrence employes' compensation bill passed the house, after a battle on the floor of 2 1/2 hours, with only Murnane and Upton voting against the measure, and Campbell, Lofgren and Hagood absent.

May Oust Officials For 90 Days.

Only four votes were mustered against the substitute bill by the senate judiciary committee giving power to supplant district attorneys, sheriffs and constables, and the substitute measure passed the senate.

The drastic provisions of the original bill, which allowed the governor summarily to supplant such officials, were materially softened in the new bill. Under the new bill officials may be supplanted for periods of 90 days, but only after they have been given a hearing in court and the circuit judge decides that such officer has not been faithfully executing the criminal laws of the state.

Widows' Pension Bill is Signed.

With no member but Dimick voting in the negative, the widow's pension measure, introduced by the committee on health and public morals by request of the Oregon congress of mothers, passed the senate, and on being enrolled, was sent to the governor, who signed the bill.

Primary Amendment Passes.

Seven senators went against the Smith bill to amend the presidential preference primary law, but the bill passed in the senate.

Under the presidential preference law, as passed by the people in 1910, an elector can vote for but one candidate for delegate to a national convention or candidate for presidential elector.

The Smith bill contemplates amending this by dividing an equal number of delegates in each of the congressional districts and the balance at large. Thus each elector can vote for the number of candidates from his district and for the candidates from the state.

Teachers Win Bill
Over 200 school teachers from Port-

land invading Salem on a special train and standing at the back of the members of the state senate when they voted on Applegren's bill providing what is practically civil service for the teachers of counties of more than 20,000 population brought an unanimous vote in favor of the bill, which had already passed the house.

Refuse to Submit Home Rule.

Notwithstanding the fact that the senate has sanctioned the submission to the people in 1914 of the so-called home rule amendment, passed by the people in 1910, the house, by a vote of 22 to 25, refused to submit the amendment and it will not, therefore, go to the people through the medium of the legislature. It is intimated here that it will, however, be voted on by means of the initiative.

Electric Headlight Through Senate.

Senator Neuner's bill requiring railroad companies to equip their engines with electric headlights won the day in the senate after a hard fight.

The bill has been amended to allow the railroads one year in which to equip all engines with the modern lights, and the paragraph making it the duty of the railroad commission

to enforce the act was struck out. Legislation Division Favored. The Malarky and McColloch resolution, carrying a proposed constitutional amendment, dividing the sessions of the legislature, passed the senate despite some opposition. The proposed amendment provides that bills be introduced for the first 20 days only, these 20 days to be followed by an adjournment of not less than 60 days nor more than 90 days, and the balance of the session to be devoted to consideration of legislation.

Reopens a Way For Income Tax.

Two resolutions to place before the voters important constitutional amendments relating to taxation were passed by the house.

One resolution is practically an enabling act to put into effect the initiative measure passed at the last election to exempt household goods. It is held by many lawyers that such an enabling act will be necessary to legalize the measure.

The other proposed amendment would open the way for a state income tax. It is practically a duplicate of the income tax measure, defeated at the last election by only 250 votes.

Eastern Asylum Requests Are Pruned

Applying the pruning knife, the ways and means committees of both houses cut the appropriation asked for the Eastern Oregon asylum \$131,218, reducing it from \$404,949 to \$267,731. The committee also reduced the \$50,000 appropriation asked for by the medical department of the University of Oregon to \$45,000. The most important item eliminated in the appropriation asked for by the eastern Ore-

gon institution was the \$95,000 for a new wing. The asylum here is about asking for an appropriation of about \$70,000, for the construction of the north wing to the new receiving ward, and this also may be refused.

Short Ballot Title Passes Both Houses

The senate has sent on to the governor Representative Hurd's bill providing for a short ballot title to initiative measures, in addition to the usual title, which in not more than 10 words will give a "catch line," as a ready guide to voters, setting forth the name by which the measure is commonly known.

Cello Project is Endorsed.

Giving a hearty indorsement to the project, the committee authorized by the legislature and headed by Governor West to investigate the proposed Cello power project, has reported back with the recommendation that the lawmakers set aside the sum of \$25,000 with which to co-operate with the state of Washington in making thorough estimates and surveys of the situation.

The report is the result of the investigation made by the joint committee from the two legislatures, headed by the governors of both states.

Legislative Brevities.

Remarriage until six months after divorce is prohibited in future by the terms of a bill passed by the house.

The bill giving Grand Army posts the right to hold their meetings in state armories, was passed by the house without opposition.

The bill giving the state's consent to the purchase of the Oregon City canal and locks passed the house without opposition.

Senator Butler has fathered a bill, by request, providing for the abolishment of the present board of horticulture and substituting therefore one commission, to be named by the governor.

Governor West caused to be introduced in the house by Gill of Clackamas a bill to repeal the act passed over the governor's veto, commonly known as the "Thompson swamp land law."

A bill making it compulsory for county courts to publish a budget of proposed expenses each year and giving the taxpayers the right to be heard before any levy was fixed, was passed by the house.

HE WAS A GROUCH.

And He Furnished a Good Text For a Good Sermon.

"I had a little lesson several weeks ago," remarked the man with the gray mustache, "and it called me in good shape."

"Go ahead," said the stout man. "I was in the garage where I keep my car and happened to overhear a conversation among the boys. A certain man had been injured while traveling abroad—very badly injured. It was reported—and one of the boys was telling the others about it. 'The story in the paper says he can't get well,' the youngster went on. 'Did you know him, Pete?' And the boy addressed promptly replied, 'Sure, I knew th' old grouch.'"

"Say, that hit me pretty hard. Here was a leading citizen dying, and all the boy could remember about him was that he was a grouch. Yes, sir, it made me sit up and think hard. And I got in my mind that when I passed out I'd like to be remembered for something different."

He paused. "That's worth considering," said the other man.

"Good text," said the first man. "Good sermon," said the other.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

A Regular Old Sherlock.

"Poor girl!" said the general manager as the young woman who had just applied for a position as stenographer walked out of his office.

"What's her trouble?" asked his secretary.

"It's too bad that a girl who is so pretty—one who might be living in luxury—is compelled to go out looking for work because she refused to listen to her parents. You heard her say she was married, didn't you?"

"Yes, but I didn't hear her mention her parents."

"Evidently you have not developed much ability in the way of making deductions. Why would a girl with such eyes, such hair, such a complexion, such teeth, such a beautiful face and such a figure as hers have to go out looking for work if she hadn't married against her parents' wishes?"—Chicago Record-Herald.

Population in United States.

The United States at present is in danger of overpopulation. The Japanese empire has about 50,000,000 people, and the Japanese empire is of the same area as the single state of California. The German empire has 64,000,000, and the German empire is 60,000 square miles less than the state of Texas. The United States of America could furnish room and support for at least a billion human beings. It will be a long time before the danger line is reached in this nation and the population begin to enroach upon the means of subsistence. There is no cause for immediate worry.—Exchange.

As to the Dog.

"My dog understands every word I say."

"Um."

"Do you doubt it?"

"No; I do not doubt the brute's intelligence. The great question he be-

stows upon your conversation would indicate that he understands it perfectly."—Kansas City Journal.

Had Poor Taste.

"That's a valuable dog of yours."

"Yes, but he doesn't know he's a valuable dog. Look at him, will you, scratching yonder in that cheap dirt when he might as well be up the boulevard scratching in ground worth \$500 a front foot?"—Washington Herald.

Difficult Tongue to Master.

A cynic who says he speaks from experience declares that a linguist may be able to master all the modern tongues except his wife's.—London Standard.

When It Comes.

"Does your wife raise a rumpus when you stay away from home at night?"

"No, but she does when I get home."—Houston Post.

He that well and rightly considereth his own works will find little cause to judge hardly of another.—Thomas a Kempis.

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