(HE LEGISLATURE

Oregon Lawmakers in Session Four Weeks and Accomplish but Little.

FEW MEASURES ARE PASSED

Propose Tax of 1 Per Cent on Gross Earnings of Railroads-State May Build Own Railroads Where Necessary-Water Bill Agreed to-Bills Before Legislature Total \$5,-500,000-Anti-Statement Measure Killed-Flat Salary for Printer.

Salem, Feb. 9 .- The legislature has now been in session four weeks, but, aside from the election of a United States senator, little or nothing of real importance to the state has been accomplished. Practically the only legislation the two houses seem to have interested themselves in is in passing the so-called "salary grab" bills. These salary grabs have affected only counties, however, and have not dipped into the state treasury.

One very apparent reason why the house does not accomplish much is the inclination of so many members to stand in the limelight and talk on all measures. If some method could be devised to apply a little gag rule and stop the constant flow of words business might be expedited.

In the senate the number of orators seems to be more limited. The motion for the "previous question," which shuts off debate, is made frequently, and this enables the senate to keep up with its work. Except while the proportional representational bill was being killed and the governor's vetoes discussed, the flow of oratory has been about normal in the senate.

The session will close February 20, so but ten working days remain. Much, however, may be accomplished in the remaining days of the session If both houses get down to systematle business-like methods and eliminate the oratory.

Few Bills Are Passed.

Besides the "salary grab" bills a small number of unimportant ones have been passed by the house and senate and a few measures of real consequence have passed one body, but not the other. The bill to abolish compulsory pilotage at the mouth of the Columbia river has got

any county or city or district the legislature may create. This comes near being government ownership, inasmuch as i' is state ownership. The constitutional amendment is

to be submitted to the people in November, 1919, so as to remove presont prohibitions against the state's aiding any railroad through state credit. The bill creates a "commission of highways" of nine members, appointed by the governor, to prepare a plan of railroad construction, ownership, operation and firancing, so as to sapply the state with railroads where Barriman and other railroad magnates have failed to build. The commission is to report

to the governor and the next legislature. The bill appropriates \$5000 for the work of the commission.

Agree on Water Lill.

The conflicting interests that have been at war over the question of water legislation have reached a practical agreement, and it is expected that the conservation commission's bill, with a few amendments, will be passed. Upon the proposition that there must be legislation there was no discussion.

While the owners of power plants and the commission have not finally agreed upon one section of the bill, that protecting vested rights, it was said that there is no doubt that an agreement will be reached. This section will define vested rights so as to protect the use of water where already put to beneficial use by riparian owners or lessees, or where riparian owners or lessees are proceeding in good faith to develop their powers, or where appropriators are proceeding in good faith to put the water to beneficial use.

It is stated from what seems an authoritative source that Governor Chamberlain will take steps to help the passage of the water code if the legislature should seem unwilling to pass it, and this, it is thought, had an effect in bringing the conflicting interests together.

Justice Bill May Fail.

It is very evident that the bill increasing the number of justices of the supreme court to five will have hard sledding, especially if an attempt is made to rush it through with an emergency clause, which would prevent the use of the referendum on the measure.

One thing which complicates the situation is the fact that the people of Oregon declared themselves by a large majority against increasing the number of justices.

It is the early expiration of the official life of the two supreme court commissioners, appointed in 1907 to relieve the congestion in the supreme court, which is made by the proponents of the emergency clause on the bill their chief argument for sending it through both houses in its present form. This is their only substantial argument for doing comething which the people

SUMMONS

In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Umatilla County. Jessie B. Bennett, Plaintiff vs. William A. Bennett defendant. To William A. Bennett, above named De-

fendant: You are hereby notified and required to appear and answer the complaint of the plaintiff filed against you in the above entitled court and suit within six weeks from the date of the first publication of this summons which said first publication is made on Friday the 29th day of January A. D. 1909. And you will take notice that it you fail to appear and answer the said complaint or otherwise plead thereto, within said time plaintiff for want thereof will apply to the court for the relief prayed for and demand in her said complaint to-wit:"for a decree of the court delaring atsolutely void the marriage contracted and entered into by plaintlff and defendant at Lewiston, Idaho, on September First A. D. 1908 and for other equitable relief.

This summons is published pursuant to an order of the Honorable H. J. Bean, Judge of the Sixth Judicial Disrict of the State of Oregon, duly made and entered on the 22nd day of January A. D. 1909.

Peterson & Wilson, Attorneys for Plaintiff.

SUMMONS.

In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon, for Umatilla County. H. J. Fleischer, Plaintiff, vs. Ele-nora Fleischer, defendant. To Elenoia

Fleischer, above named: IN THE NAME OF THE STATE OF OREGON you are hereby sumoned and required to appear and answer the complaint filed against you in the above entitled suit, within six weeks from the date of the first publication of

this summons, and if you fail to appear and answer the complaint or plead within that time, plaintiff, for want thereof, will apply to the above entitled Circuit Court for the relief demanded in his complaint filed in said suit, towit: For the decree divorcing plaintiff from you and absolately canceling and annulling the bonds of matrimony now existing be-

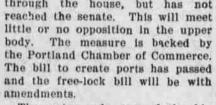
tween you. This summons is published pursuant to order of the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon, for Umatilla County, in open court, made on December 18, 1908, and the first publication of this summons is made on January 1st, 1909.

> Watts & Neal, Attorneys for Plaintiff.

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE. In the County Court of the State of Oregon for Umatilla County.

A. Rainville, deceased.





The water code, one of the big measures, is fought by the corporations, although it is reported a tentative agreement has been reached by the conflicting interests Other big measures are extending power of the railroad commission to street railways; the bill compelling railroads to connect with industry switches and the bill declaring longdistance telephone companies common carriers and compelling them to give service to local independent companies. There is a measure taxing the gross earnings of railroads. and another providing for a constitutional convention, neither of which have received full action. The fish legislation for the Columbia will probably nase, despite the lobby which will fight it.

Tax on Railroad Earnings.

Railroad legislation is becoming more prominent during the past few days. A plece of legislation to make E. H. Harriman, and other railroad interests, sit up and notice Oregon, has appeared in the legislature. A bill has been introduced in the house which proposes a tax of 1 per cent on the gross earnings of all railroads in Oregon on the business done within the state. It is, with the exception of the amendment to the inheritance tax law, the first substantial attempt to raise new revenue for the state. Revenue-producing measures rarely receive as much consideration as appropriation bills.

The bill follows closely the law in New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Minnesota, Vermont, Maine, Maryland and Ohio.

In view of the statutes in Eastern states, where similar laws are enforced, and a late decision of our supreme court upholding the law taxing the earnings of telegraph and telephone companies, there is very little doubt but that the proposed law would be held constitutional.

There are two sections of particular interest in the bill. The first imposes the tax, or license fee, and the second is the definition of what constitutes a railroad corporation, and, therefore, is liable to the taxation under the act.

State May Build Railroads.

Another bill said to be aimed at Harriman is a proposed constitutional amendment and hill introduced by Speaker McArthur, authorizing construction of new railroads by the state and its credit, or by

hav said they do not want, and for doing It in such a manner that the people will have nothing to say about it.

Call for Money Appalling.

The ways and means committees are appalled by the enormous call for appropriations. Senate appropriation bills aggregate \$1,200,00 and house bills \$1,800,000, while the secretary of state's recommended budget amounts to \$3,400,000. The total of all cash calls is \$5,500,000. making allowance for duplications of the house, the senate and the secretary of state.

The largest single item is an es timated \$500,000 for Johnson's road bill. The committees have hardly yet got down to the meat of the subject. They have been devoting their time mostly to necessary items for state departments and institutions.

Anti-Statement Measure Killed.

After two hours' debate, the antistatement bill, introduced by Representatives Brooke and Bean, failed to pass the house by a vote of 27 to 32, one absent.

With the exception of Brady and Richardson, the 25 Statement Republican members voted with the seven Democrats against the bill. The opposition was further strengthened by Farrel and Leinenweber, unpledged representatives. The other 25 anti-Statement Republicans voted solidly for the bill which made it a misdemeanor for any candidate for office to make a pre-election pledge, the performance of which would be in violation of the state or federal constitutions.

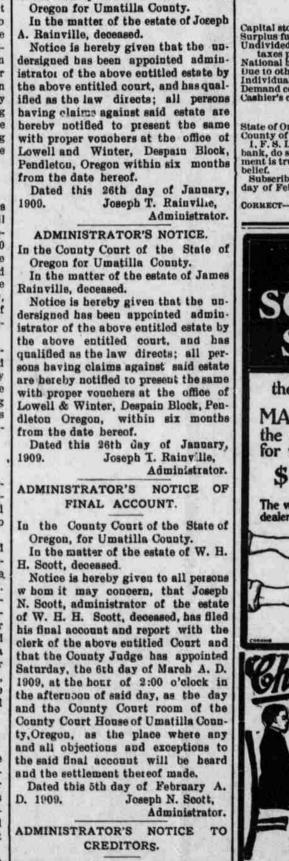
Flat Salary for State Printer.

Threatened punishment of State Printer Duniway by the anti-Statement forces in the legislature for his Statement One activity, made its appearance in the house when Representative Bean introduced a bill placing the state printer on a flat salary.

The bill provides that a state printing board shall be created, consisting of the governor, state treasurer and chief justice of the supreme court, which shall serve without additional compensation.

Provision is made in the bill by which the present incumbent of this office shall, after July 1, next, receive a salary of \$4000 per annum in full payment of his services during the remainder of the term to which he has been elected.

After a spirited debate the bill was referred to the judiciary committee, the revision of laws committee and the printing committee, sitting jointly, with instructions to present a report to the house.



In the County Court of the State of Oregon for Umatilla County. In the Matter of the estate of Adele

St. Dennis, deceased.

Notice is hereby given, that the undersigued has been appointed administrator of the above entitled estate by the above entitled court, and bas qualified as the law directs. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified and required to present them with proper vouchers as required by law at the law office of Peterson & Wilson at Athena, Oregon, within six months from the date here

Dated this 5th day of February A. F. S. Legrow D, 1909. Administrator.