

DOINGS IN THE LEGISLATURE

Legislature Passes \$6,000,000 Bonding Measure to Build State Roads.

Legislature Exceeds 40-Day Limit for Session—New Irrigation Code Passed—Six Per Cent Tax Limitation Observed—Appointments Confirmed—Delinquent Tax Law Amended—To Vote on Land Grant Tax—Anti-Cigarette Law Passed.

Salem.—Owing to the congestion of business in the senate, brought about largely by the fight over what is known as the paving bill, which would bond the state for \$6,000,000 for highway purposes, the legislature was unable to complete its work Saturday and in order to clear up unfinished business of importance both houses adjourned until Monday. When the senate adjourned Saturday night about 100 bills still remained on the calendar, but the house calendar was in better shape.

Monday was the 43d day of the present session, but really only the 33d actual working day. Members get no pay after the 40th day of the session.

While the \$6,000,000 bonding measure passed the house by a vote of 32 to 27 it did so only after a spectacular battle, during which it was asserted that Governor Withycombe would veto the measure if it carried an emergency clause. This threat of a veto was effective for the emergency clause was eliminated, as it passed the house, leaving an opportunity to invoke the referendum.

Measure Has Hard Time Passing.

When the house took up the bill for final action prospects were not bright for its passage. Several of the 38 members who had signed the measure when it was introduced were wavering. But after nearly two hours of argument and parliamentary maneuvering the bill went through substantially in the same form as originally introduced.

After blocking action on the \$6,000,000 road bond bill in the senate for several hours by voting down every motion to suspend the rules and bring it up for passage, senators opposing the bill agreed to let it come before the senate on its merits and refer it to the people for approval.

Features of Road Bond Bill.

Provides for a \$6,000,000 bond issue to construct a system of highways.

Bonds to carry 4 per cent interest and to be refunded by throwing all automobile license taxes into a fund for that purpose.

The highways will extend into and through every county of the state, giving Oregon one of the most comprehensive road systems of any of the states.

Administration of the funds and construction of the highways will be under the supervision of the state highway commission and state highway engineer, provided for in the new road code which has passed both houses of the legislature.

Adjournment until Monday not only gave plenty of time for consideration

of the road measure, but did away in a large part with the feverish and pell-mell rush usually incident to the final night of the session.

Few Important Measures Left.

Of the 100 or more bills on the calendar when adjournment was taken Saturday night, aside from the road bonding bill, few of them were of much importance, as the two houses had acted upon all the big measures.

Among the bills passed during the session perhaps a dozen may be regarded as constructive legislation of real interest to the people of the state at large, and these affected particular lines of business or moral issues.

The measures of benefit indirectly to the general public and directly to agriculture, insurance, education, lumbering, militia, public utilities, children and morals, are:

Irrigation aided with needed code amendments; the insurance code; the military code brought into conformity with federal enactments; the grain standard adopted; the bill to enforce the bone-dry law; rural school terms lengthened; streams opened to logging; needed revision in the highway commission law provided; cut-throat competition in public utilities prevented by passage of the certificate of public convenience bill; sterilization act passed and the anti-cigarette law strengthened.

Irrigation Code Enacted.

The irrigation district code passed the senate with a few minor amendments in which the house immediately concurred. This new code is one of the big pieces of legislation which the legislature was called upon to enact, and its sponsors claim that its enactment will mean the investment of millions of dollars in irrigation works and the reclamation of hundreds of thousands of acres of arid lands in eastern and central Oregon.

The code follows in most respects the existing law in reference to the organization and general management of the district, and the principal changes have been made in connection with those sections relating to the security and sale of bonds.

Appropriations Within Legal Limit.

The 6 per cent tax limitation amendment has been observed by the ways and means committees of the legislature, and the paring down of budgets and demands of various kinds has brought the total to be appropriated down to \$6,289,408.43. This is well within the limit, leaving a \$20,037.39 balance, which will be taken up by the appropriation for miscellaneous measures. There is on hand in the state treasury \$200,000 from unexpected balances appropriated two years ago which now has reverted to the general fund. This amount, the committee decided, will not be appropriated at this session, and will be available when the emergency board is called upon to assist in helping out where shortages occur in the next two years.

Senate Confirms Mullit and Gore.

The senate ratified Governor Withycombe's appointment of W. H. Gore, of Medford, and L. L. Mullit, of Portland, as members of the board of regents of the University of Oregon. Mr. Gore succeeds Roy Goodrich, de

In Multnomah county two papers are to receive the advertising on showing of a circulation of at least 10,000, and in outside counties the county courts are to select the papers.

Publishers of newspapers throughout the state have been attending the session and co-operating with Forbes and his committee in the effort to get the law changed. They were as eager as any member of the legislature to get enactments that would save money for the counties yet give due publicity to delinquencies.

Land Grant Tax up to People.

Every voter in Oregon will have a chance to express an opinion on the merits of Representative Bean's land grant bill, which passed both houses.

As amended by the senate the bill is automatically referred to the people for their approval or rejection at the general election in November next year.

The bill does not affect in any particular the status of the pending legislation between the federal government and the Southern Pacific railroad over the title and ownership of the Oregon & California grant lands.

It merely asserts the sovereign right of this state of Oregon for ever to tax the lands, regardless of who owns them.

Boys Prohibited to Use Cigarettes.

Without one dissenting vote, the Sweeney-Brand anti-cigarette bill for minors passed the senate. It was adopted without amendment from the form in which it came from the house.

The Sweeney-Brand law is even more drastic than the original Sweeney bill in safeguarding against the use of cigarettes by minors. It makes no attempt, however, as did the original bill, to prohibit the use of cigarettes by grown men.

Heavy penalties are provided in the law against any person who sells or gives away any cigarettes to minors.

Legislative Brevities.

Senator Cusick's bill repealing the law requiring a health certificate from male applicants for marriage licenses was defeated in the house.

After a brief skirmish, the house defeated the resolution proposing a change to the initiative law that would have required eight per cent of signatures in a majority of the counties.

The house passed the insurance code with only seven negative votes. It already had passed the senate. It codifies all the insurance laws of the state.

The drastic sterilization bill, passed by the house, and a bill putting up to the people the problem of whether the state shall support delinquent, dependent and defective children cared for by private institutions also passed the senate.

The house passed Representative Eaton's bill increasing the inheritance tax rates.

Among the important bills passed in the senate were the house measure doubling automobile licenses so as to provide a fund to match the Shackleford federal road fund, and the Bean-Barrett bill authorizing issuance of bonds up to \$1,800,000 necessary to match any portion of the federal fund not otherwise provided for.

One of the bills passed tightens up the bone-dry prohibition law. It requires peace officers having "reasonable information" that liquor is being transported in any vehicle except a railroad car, shall search it and seize any contraband liquor found. This bill already has passed the house.

ceased, and Mr. Mullit succeeds Collector of Customs M. A. Miller.

The senate also ratified the governor's appointment of Miss Cornelia Marvin, state librarian, and W. C. Bryant, of Moro, as members of the board of regents of the Oregon normal school. Both are reappointments.

Delinquent Tax Bill Passed.

The Forbes amendments to the delinquent tax list bill were adopted. Under the bill as amended the formal notice of delinquency will be mailed 90 days after the tax becomes delinquent, and 30 days later all unpaid taxes will be advertised in the papers.

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