

SHERMAN COUNTY OBSERVER

Established 1887.

Moro, Sherman County, Oregon, Friday, January 20, 1911.

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WE CAN CROWD YOUR STORE IN THE SAME WAY

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OREGON LAWMAKERS WORK AS REVIEWED

Initial Week is Quiet and Little Accomplished Aside From Organization.

Salem.—Aside from organization and election of presiding officers very little was accomplished during the initial week of the session by the state's lawmakers. Scarcely the groundwork of legislation and policy was laid during the three days the session was in session.

Although not in years has the first week of lawmaking been marked by greater quietude with indications of a rather sedate session, before the session is over there may be some high grade politics played under the direction of Jay Bowerman. A peculiar situation exists in both houses, and before the session progresses very far complications may arise that will result in a few political sky rockets.

Progressive Republicans Control.—Although the so-called progressive Republicans are in the saddle in both branches, it is only through the assistance of a few Republicans whose sympathies in the past have not been wholly in accord with the "Oregon System." Ben Selling was elected president of the senate with the help of some four Republicans who have never accepted the entire Oregon system. In the house, Speaker Jerry Rusk was elected by the Republicans not classed as progressive.

The fun will begin when Senator Kellaker's resolution to endorse the Oregon system is up for consideration. The resolution will be the means of placing on record the members of the senate and show where each one stands regarding the direct primary, initiative and referendum, the recall, corrupt practices act and the rest of the system. This resolution is to be made the means for a general and specific attack on United States Senator Bourne and incidentally upon United States Senator Chamberlain. Despite the opposition it is believed there are enough progressive Republicans and Democrats to adopt the resolution.

Little is Accomplished.

As to actual accomplishments, there have been few in the first week. There appears to be a tendency to hold down the number of bills introduced, for there have been but 66 introduced, and of these only 30 have come from the house. Usually, the first week of the legislature sees about 100 or more bills introduced and the printing office congested. Of the 66 bills already presented, there are few of first importance. The big legislation, such as the new judicial system, the compensation act, reapportionment for the new congressional district, and the like, will not appear until the coming week.

Bowerman Plan for Districting State.

In his message to the legislature Mr. Bowerman recommended the districting of the state into districts equal in number to the membership of the house and the senate, one member to each branch of the legislature to be chosen from the districts so established. It is not known that the recommendations of Mr. Bowerman will be embodied in a bill, but, regardless of whether or not they are, it is incumbent on the legislature to redistrict the state into senatorial and representative districts. This duty is imposed on the legislature by a provision of the state constitution which directs the state's lawmaking body shall so redistrict the state following a state or federal census.

Want Public Service Commission.

Not fewer than two bills will be offered on the subject of a public service commission. One will propose such an organization for the control of corporations in Multnomah County alone. Another will be state-wide in its provisions. It is not improbable that a third bill on this subject will appear.

Would Ditch Voted Bills.

Senator Bowerman will probably be one of the leaders in an active opposition which will develop against the consideration of any of the 66 vetoed bills which have been returned from the governor after the last regular session. He declares that these bills are all dead, that a special session intervened between the last regular session and the present session, and that the bills should have been voted upon at the special session.

The constitution in Section 15 of Article V provides that the bills shall be acted upon at the "next session." There is no question of regular session, and it is the contention of Bowerman that "plainly the legislature should have voted upon them at that time. In the house bills vetoed by

Governor Chamberlain were principally relating to increases of salary for various county and district officers, Chamberlain exercising his prerogative in connection with all of these. Other votes of house bills were in relation to appointment of a board of trustees of the McLaughlin Home at Oregon City, a horticultural bill and other minor measures.

There were 23 senate bills vetoed. These included bills relating to examination before securing a marriage license; defining vagrancy; registration of voters; exemption of bonds from taxation; making it a misdemeanor to circulate false statements concerning the condition of a bank; publishing delinquent tax lists; defining the boundaries of Coos and Curry counties; relating to fishing near highways; providing for preparation of a syllabi of supreme court cases; Dr. Owens-Adair sterilization bill; providing for organization of new counties and a number of bills in reference to salaries for county officers.

Officers Against Emergency Clause.

Speaker Rusk of the house adds his voice to that of President Selling of the senate in emphatic declaration that emergency clauses will have hard slodging during the present session of the legislature. President for emergency clauses, which have the effect of putting laws into force without opportunity for use of the referendum, will be told to halt unless they can show absolute necessity.

The legislature is the sole judge as to the existence of the emergency. With President Selling and Speaker Rusk strongly opposed to sections "emergencies," the coming session may be made comparatively free from too frequent use of the harmless-looking clause which so often brings up the rear paragraph of bills when they are introduced.

Take Apportionments from Speaker.

In the house, under the leadership of Eaton, defeated candidate for speaker, strenuous efforts were made to take out of the hands of Speaker Rusk the appointment of the 42 standing committees.

It has been frankly charged by Eaton and his colleagues that in consideration of Thompson's retirement from the speakership contest and his support of Rusk, Rusk conceded to Thompson the naming of most of the house committees.

In the senate no effort was made to deprive President Selling, as presiding officer, of the privilege of composing his own committees.

May Simplify County Division.

Solution of the county division question, so that a deluge of plans for creating new counties will not go on the ballot at the next election, is being studied by all members of the legislature and several bills on the subject are to be introduced, besides consideration of a vetoed bill of last session bearing on the same subject.

Sterilization Bill Up Again.

Having assured herself that if her sterilization bill is passed by the legislature it will not meet with veto by the governor, as it did three years ago, Dr. Owens-Adair is busy lining up members of the legislature to pass the bill over the veto when it comes up.

State May Scrub Pupils.

Keep school children clean by a compulsory process, require that they carry no disease by dirt into the schools with them and that they be free from vermin, are ideas fostered by Senator Chase of Coos, who will offer introducing a bill to this effect. It will arrange to have it incorporated in a bill to be introduced by the legislative committee of the State Teachers' Association. He wishes certain powers of this kind to be more definitely delegated to city health officers.

Lorimer Scandal Eliminated.

Declaring that the preamble of Senator Miller's senate concurrent resolution, regarding the election of United States senators by the people, was "all rot," Senator Abraham of Douglas started a small tempest in the senate. Senator Miller admitted that the preamble might be "a little too strong" and agreed to amend the preamble. It was more than amended—it was eliminated entirely.

The resolution urged Congress to submit a constitutional amendment to the states that senators be elected by the people and Miller availed himself of the opportunity to take a sting in the preamble at the Lorimer scandal, intimating that the corporations control the United States senate and a few other strong things.

Rail Passes Wanted.

What promises to bring forth some lively clashes in both the senate and the house is a bill now being prepared by Representative Eggleston, which will make it mandatory for the railroads to furnish free transportation for all state officials when they are compelled to use the railroads in connection with their official duties.

ITEMS OF INTEREST THROUGHOUT OREGON

Chronicle of Important Events of Interest to Our Readers.

State May Get Lands.

Portland.—Oregon, instead of the United States may become the beneficiary of the suit brought by the United States to forfeit 114,000 acres of land valued at \$4,000,000, granted to the state and later passed on through several hands to the Southern Oregon Company, these lands lying between Coos Bay and Roseburg, and granted in aid of the military wagon road.

The state may regain title to the lands through a discovery made by Representative James Cole. After a careful examination of the law and the bill of complaint recently filed in the United States circuit court by B. D. Townsend, special assistant to the attorney-general, Mr. Cole, who was formerly a United States deputy district attorney, has become convinced that the state can intervene in the case and establish its title to the big timber land prize.

Holds Jury Has No Jurisdiction.

Salem.—Alleging that the grand jury had no jurisdiction when it sat at the state penitentiary a week and proceeded to take testimony from among the inmates of that institution relative to the stabbing there two weeks ago of Guard Jerry Simpson, Attorney William P. Lord, Jr., has filed a plea in abatement to the indictment of Thomas O'Rourke, the accused convict. Attorney Lord's plea in abatement is also a departure from the customary procedure, it being the first time that such a plea was ever filed in a criminal action in this state.

WAR ON COYOTES

New Cases of Hydrophobia in Walla Walla County.

Walla Walla.—New cases of hydrophobia are being reported almost daily and citizens of this county are awakening to the necessity of prompt action.

State Veterinarian Lytle will take personal charge of the 12 hunters who are in the employ of the forest service and also of a number of volunteer hunters.

Approved methods of hunting, trapping and poisoning will be used to exterminate the coyotes and the surplus of worthless dogs and cats. After a conference with the county commissioners, it was decided to police the entire county and enforce the quarantine rigidly.

It is probable that an increased bounty will be placed on coyotes. The bounty is now \$5 and the pelts are worth an average of \$2.50 for they are in prime condition. With the added bounty it is proposed to give, the value of a coyote to the hunter will be approximately \$7.50.

Bank Loss May Be Repaid.

Elgin.—Petitions are being circulated to ask the legislature to pass a bill authorizing the county court of Union County to make a levy sufficient to repay County Treasurer Frawley and Sheriff Childers the county money which they lost in the failure of the Farmers' and Traders' Bank of La Grande.

Meyers Trial Postponed.

Salem.—As a result of a conference held by the attorneys for George Meyers and District Attorney John H. McNary, the second trial of Meyers for murder in the second degree has been postponed by Judge Percy Kelly from Monday, January 16, to Monday, February 6. This was done in order to procure witnesses that are important both to the state and to the defense.

Douglas Builds Good Roads.

Roseburg.—Approximately \$175,000 will be spent on good roads in Douglas County this year. A general levy of 4 1/2 mills for that purpose has been made by the county court, providing for a fund of \$148,400. The court refused to grant the urgent request of a number of the heaviest taxpayers of Roseburg for a levy of 5 mills to defray one-half the cost of building a new armory in this city.

Farmers Save Millions.

La Grande.—More than \$600,000 with unknown profits probably bringing the figure to an even million dollars, have been saved by farmers of Union, Walla Walla and Baker counties in two years, through co-operation and organization under the Farmers' Co-operative Union. This was asserted at a meeting of the executive board of the Oregon State Farmers' Union.

NEWS PARAGRAPHS FROM OTHER CITIES IN OREGON

Walla Walla County tax levy is the lowest in the history of the county. The levy is only 6 1/2 mills.

The Oregon Retail Merchants' Association will hold its fifth annual convention at Salem, January 25, 26 and 27.

President Taft has sent to the senate the renomination of Philip S. Malcolm as collector of customs at Portland.

The grand jury will call J. W. Bailey, state dairy and food commissioner, to answer charges of graft and incompetency, made against him by three deputies who have resigned.

Representative Hawley, of Oregon, introduced a bill granting a pension of \$16 a month to all veterans who served 30 days or longer in any Indian war in the United States prior to 1890.

Diamonds and other jewels valued at \$500 were stolen in broad daylight from the Fred J. Holmes residence, one of the most fashionable homes of La Grande.

Under direction of the Newberg Commercial Club a determined effort is being made to secure an appropriation from Yamhill and Marion counties to bridge the Willamette River at this point.

The annual Farmers' Week at the Oregon Agricultural College will be held this year from February 13 to 17 inclusive, and the college authorities are planning for the largest gathering of agriculturists in the history of the state.

The Oregon tax commission goes on record as being heartily in favor of the proposed income tax amendment to the federation constitution to be considered by the legislature next week and its adoption is strongly urged.

Governor West sent a special message to the legislature Monday asking that Oregon go on record favoring the world's fair commemorating the opening of the Panama canal.

In his message to the legislature, Acting Governor Bowerman recommended that the Oregon Conservation Commission be abolished and that the money appropriated for the commission be devoted to "some useful purpose."

Senator Bourne has introduced a bill authorizing the construction of a lightship near Orford Reef, off Cape Blanco, Oregon, to cost not more than \$150,000. Bourne delivered an address Sunday at Jersey City on the Oregon system of laws reestablishing rule of the people.

Two convicts, Albert Ferris and Albert Murray, who were among the five that escaped from the guards while employed at the state institute for the feeble-minded a year ago last October were tried in the circuit court for Marion County before Judge Kelly and found guilty.

Because of the recent cold snap and the consequent covering up of their food supply, it is feared that all the Hungarian and China pheasants with which the Rogue River valley was recently stocked by the state will perish.

Governor Oswald West will be tendered a banquet soon by the members of the class of applicants that were admitted to practice law in Oregon with him by examination before the supreme court of this state in June, 1910.

The Sluslaw national forest has been closed to homesteaders who seek to take up land under the forest homestead act. The secretary of agriculture has sent word to Acting Supervisor Fitton of the reserve, that he has issued an order forbidding the listing of further applications for presentation.

Early in the session the legislature will be asked to request the United States government to send the cruiser Boston to Portland for use as a training ship for the Oregon naval militia. It is believed the legislature will pass a bill establishing the militia in official conformity with the regulations of the United States navy, the object being to secure a training ship for use by Oregon men.

With an emergency clause on the end of it, a bill was introduced in the senate by McCulloch, of Baker, asking for an appropriation of \$20,000, to be used jointly with a similar appropriation from the State of Idaho in the construction of a bridge across Snake River from some point near Roblinette, Oregon, on the Northwestern railroad, or some point near Brownlee, on the same railroad.

The first annual Pacific Northwest Live Stock Show will be held in Portland on March 20, 21 and 22 in the Union Stockyards. The show is to be in a class with those held in Kansas City, Omaha, Chicago, Fort Worth and Denver, and with the aid of both the Hill and Harriman systems of railroads will bring to Oregon some of the finest stock raised in the Northwest.

FOOD TRUST CORNER DEFEATS OWN END

Millions of Pounds Cold Storage Butter, Poultry and Eggs Held Five Years.

Chicago.—Millions of pounds of cold storage butter, eggs, cheese and poultry, some of it as much as five years old, according to estimates of dealers, are about to be thrown upon the market and sacrificed at whatever price they will bring as the result of the collapse within the last few days of the "food trust," which, by steady aggressions has piled prices of provisions up to their present figures.

Although the collapse of the "corner" is likely to be felt most keenly by the cold storage men of Chicago, the pinch will be felt in many of the Eastern and Middle West shipping centers. Chicago, New York, Philadelphia, Omaha, Kansas City, St. Louis and Minneapolis are spoken of as the points where most of the unloading probably would be done.

In putting up prices to the high figures attained during the last two years the cold storage men cut the ground from under their own feet. People who could not afford to pay 35 and 40 cents a dozen for eggs stopped eating them.

Just how much food is in storage in and around Chicago there is no means of ascertaining. Only the wholesalers know, and they will not tell. A few days ago one firm controlling 33 warehouses admitted it had in storage 44,000,000 pounds of butter that must be disposed of before May 1 at the latest.

ATTACK MRS. EDDY'S WILL

Opinion by Attorneys Declares the \$3,000,000 Bequest to Church Void.

Concord, N. H.—That the gift of \$3,000,000 by the late Mrs. Mary Baker G. Eddy to the Christian Science Church is invalid is the substance of an opinion signed by William E. Chandler and other attorneys. It is said to be the plan of the attorneys for Mrs. Eddy's sons, George W. Glover and Dr. E. J. Foster-Eddy, to attack this clause of the will. The opinion declares the residuary clause void because a statute in New Hampshire forbids the gift to a church of more than \$5,000 annually, and a similar Massachusetts law limits the amount to \$2,000 annually.

Opposes Deep Waterway Plan.

Chicago.—The commission appointed by President Taft to inquire into the practicability of digging the first section of the Lakes-to-the-Gulf deep waterway from Lockport to the Mississippi River, has prepared the draft of a report to be made to the President, and it is said the report will be that a governmental appropriation for the Lakes-to-the-Gulf waterway is impracticable at this time.

SHARPERS DUPE BANKERS

Whole Northwest is the Field of Operation.

Portland, Ore.—After carrying on for more than a year a successful bank swindling scheme through which bankers and business men in various cities on the Pacific Coast were fleeced of sums ranging from \$250 to \$2500, Roy R. Thorpe, alias George S. Simpson, was arrested by Pinkerton detectives at Hot Springs, Ark., Saturday night. Thorpe's two accomplices, J. O. Ross and Rose Correll, are being shadowed and, the detectives say, will be arrested soon.

Tacoma Will Try Recall.

Tacoma.—A movement for the recall of A. V. Fawcett, the first Mayor elected in Tacoma under the commission plan of government, adopted last year, was started when M. B. Stambaugh, a former city councilman, filed charges against Mr. Fawcett with the City Clerk and made formal request for blank forms of recall petitions.

Gill Invites War.

Seattle.—Mayor Gill has thrown the gage of battle down to the managers of the Welfare League, which has been conducting a hard fight against the Gill administration, and will fight his opponents at the polls February 7, the date assigned by the city council for an election to decide whether the present executive is to be recalled.

Rudkin Yields to Taft.

Olympia, Wash.—Upon receiving a second message from President Taft, urging him to accept the place, Frank H. Rudkin, of the Washington Supreme Court, announced that he would accede to the wishes of the President and become the successor of the late Edward Whitson on the Federal bench for the district of Eastern Washington.