



A side light on the tax question is developing in the legislative session now on at Salem in opposition to the bill for aid to the sufferers at Astoria. The opposition comes most strongly from the east side counties who maintain that, while they appreciate and most sincerely sympathize with the sufferings of the Astorians in their dire calamity, nevertheless the question is strictly financial and from a financial point of view the Eastern Oregonians are in just as bad plight themselves. In many cases, indeed in most instances the farmers, as the case stands, are likely to lose their farms because they can not make enough to pay their taxes.

In view of the serious condition prevailing all over the state it behooves the members of the legislature to watch their P's and Q's and cut out unnecessary expenditures. Let us have a genuine cut in taxes, fewer commissions and commissioners with big salaries attached, fewer bills introduced to provide jobs for deserving henchmen who have been instrumental in helping roll the chariot of political party along the path of victory. Law-makers should remember that there is such a thing as a boomerang and they are not elected for life.

The situation in Europe induced by France's action in taking possession of the Ruhr Basin has reached a critical period. The United States has already withdrawn her troops from the Rhine and England wishes she could do likewise without entirely imperiling her possible influence among the nations. The result so far as England and America are concerned has been to cement the friendship existing between the two. Candid public opinion in this country will endorse the step already taken by the president. In the great world war the United States felt it her duty to step in and help her sister states who were fighting for an existence and to suppress a danger which threatened the whole world. But things are different now. There is in reason no sense in mixing further in the broils in Europe nor any good judgment in the eyes of the average American, in letting Uncle Sam be made the goat.

Drainage Course at O. A. C.

A course in soil darinage will be held at the Oregon Agricultural College Feb. 19 to 24. Various soil types will be examined and discussed with reference to the manner and extent of drainage required to place them in proper condition for the crop. Use of survey and drainage equipment, levels, soil augurs, weirs and water meters will be taught for both laboratory and field use. The soil of this country, while of a different character and texture from that of western Washington, but is farmed under similar conditions as to moistures and rainfall. In Western Washington tile drainage has been found to greatly surpass open ditches for results. The natural clay deposits of this district now in use for the manufacture of brick and tile will offer first class opportunity for experimental work along these lines.

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JUDGE HURLEY



Judge T. D. Hurley of Chicago, who has declared war on "love pirates" who figure in divorce cases, and is going after them with injunctions.

SENATE VOTES TO RECALL TROOPS

Washington, D. C.—A resolution favoring immediate withdrawal of the American forces on the Rhine was adopted by the senate.

The troop resolution, approved by a vote of 57 to 6 after a day of debate and private consultation regarding American relationship to the crisis in Europe, was supported on the final rollcall by the republican leaders despite an earlier effort by them to ward off action.

There was no indication that the senate's action would effect any change in the present policy of the administration or that any plans were being made for return to the United States of the small American force still in Germany.

The resolution for withdrawal of American troops was pressed largely on the ground that the French reparations policy, contemplating military occupation of the Ruhr, might entangle America by involving the American troops. Its adoption was preceded by futile efforts to stave off a vote by a motion to refer the matter to the foreign relations committee for investigation. This motion was defeated, 39 to 22.

Senators voting against the resolution were:

Myers, Nelson, New, Reed (Pennsylvania), Starling and Williams.

BRIEF GENERAL NEWS

Charles W. Bryan of Lincoln, brother of William Jennings Bryan, has been inaugurated governor of Nebraska.

Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell, widow of the famous inventor, died in Washington, D. C., after a long illness. She was 63 years of age.

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REVIEW OF WORK OF OREGON LEGISLATURE

First Week Sees Little Work Done Outside of Organization of the Two Houses.

Salem. — Aside from organization little of importance was accomplished during the first week's session of the state legislature. This is not unusual, however, for it is the habit of legislatures the country over to do very little real work during the first week.

While there is said to be an undercurrent of resentment in certain quarters over the committee appointments of President Upton of the senate and Speaker Kubll of the house, it is not believed it will result in upsetting the organization plans in either house. Every session finds a number of members displeased with their committee assignments, but usually their resentment disappears when the session gets down to business.

A clash between the senate and house ways and means committees marked the first days of the session. The differences seemed to be largely over the appointment of a chief clerk of the joint ways and means committee. Pressure has been brought to bear on both committees by a large element in both houses and harmony is looked for this week.

Few Bills Introduced.

One remarkable feature of the initial week of the present session was the small number of bills introduced, as compared with recent sessions. It is hoped by some members of both houses that this record will be maintained during the session, so that the 1923 session will make its record on the importance of the bills passed and not on the number of measures introduced.

During the first week twenty bills were introduced in the senate and 43 in the house. Four joint resolutions were also offered in the house.

The first measure of major importance introduced was offered by Senator Hall of Coos county, proposing the abolishment of 64 boards and commissions and merging all other state departments under four general heads.

The four departments proposed in the Hall bill would be known as the department of business control, department of labor, industry and public welfare, department of agriculture and natural resources and the department of public works and utilities.

The secretary of state and the state treasurer would each be constituted a commissioner in charge of one of these departments, with two other commissioners to be appointed by the governor with consent of the senate at salaries of \$4500 each per year, except that the commissioner of public works and utilities should receive \$6000 per year.

Governor Names Department Heads. The governor would designate the department to be headed by each commissioner and would be authorized to shift the commissioners about at any time the good of the service demanded such a shift.

Fifty-nine of the 64 abolished commissions would be resurrected in the reorganization under the super-commissioner plan.

The only agencies actually abolished under the proposed reorganization would be the state audit committee, legislative service and reference bureau, securities committee, committee of tax investigation and the state emergency board.

The bill provides for the appointment of sub-commissioners to head the various activities in each department, similar to the commissionerships in effect under the present organization and at the same salaries now obtaining except that the salary of the tax commissioner would be increased from \$3000 to \$4000. Instead of three highway commissioners, three industrial accident commissioners and three public service commissioners as a present, however, there would be only one commissioner for each of these sub-departments.

Astoria Asks Relief.

The question of state relief for the stricken city of Astoria will receive attention this week. A bill introduced in the house provides for an appropriation of \$500,000 to aid in rehabilitating the city. Proponents of the bill are anxious for prompt passage of the measure, as they feel that aid from the federal government depends largely upon the action of the state legislature.

Indications are that the measure will not get through without considerable opposition. Many members from Eastern Oregon, as well as from other parts of the state are said to be opposed to the appropriation.

During the week a measure proposing an income tax is likely to be placed in the legislative hopper. The income tax law outlined by Speaker Kubll is the only one in sight. No other member has indicated that he has in preparation an income tax

bill. Most members believe that passage of an income tax at this session is inevitable. The only debatable questions are how to avoid double taxation and too much administrative overhead.

Budget Commission Reports. The recommendations of the state budget commission were ready for the legislature when it convened Monday. They call for appropriations aggregating \$6,416,832.23 for the biennium of 1923 and 1924.

The \$6,416,832.23 is the amount recommended for actual appropriation by the legislature. Requirements for the biennium for those state activities supported by fixed levies or continuing appropriations are estimated at \$13,388,696.78, and requirements of self maintaining boards, commissions and departments are placed at \$27,363,809.23.

The free text book bill fathered by Representative Woodward of Multnomah county is likely to arouse considerable controversy. The opponents of the free text book bill will base their fight largely on the ground that it will increase taxes, while those who favor the bill claim they have figures showing that in other states free text books have not materially increased taxes.

Representative Woodward has also sponsored a bill extending suffrage to all qualified voters in school elections and another to prohibit the wearing of sectarian garb in any public school.

While a similar sectarian garb bill was defeated in the 1921 session, indications are that there will be little, if any, opposition to the bill in this session.

A farm bloc and an anti-log-rolling bloc have been organized in the house.

The farm bloc will vote as a unit against measures which do not seem to be a good thing from the farmers' viewpoint, while the anti-log-rolling bloc is going to insist that every measure be considered on its merits and not traded or log-rolled through the house.

Allen Land Bill Introduced. All aliens not eligible to citizenship in the United States would be barred from ownership of real property or control of corporations in Oregon under the terms of a bill introduced in the house by Representatives Bailey and Huston.

The bill is modeled closely after the California anti-alien land law and is similar to a bill introduced in the 1921 session of the Oregon legislature and defeated because of the federal opposition to the measure at that time.

Better Ice Cream Wanted. Two bills directed at ice cream manufacturers were introduced in the house, one by Overturf and the other by Cary.

The Overturf bill would increase the amount of milk fat in ice cream from 8 to 12 per cent; from 6 to 9 per cent in fruit ice cream and from 6 to 9 per cent in nut ice cream.

The Cary bill would increase the percentage in plain ice cream from 8 to 10 per cent; in fruit ice cream from 6 to 8 per cent and in nut ice cream from 6 to 8 per cent.

Only natural-born or naturalized American citizens could be employed by contractors on public works being done either by the state or any municipality in it, if a bill introduced by Representative Hurlburt becomes a law. Violation of the proposed law would be penalized by a fine of from \$50 to \$500 or jail imprisonment of from 30 to 90 days.

House Commends Highway Body.

Expressions of warmest commendation for the present state highway commission and its work were contained in a resolution introduced in the house by Graham and adopted without a dissenting vote. Not only did the resolution express confidence in and gratitude to the members, but it also declared that the rapid development of the state during the last five years had amply demonstrated the wisdom of the road program.

An effort to prevent the change of party registration and keep democrats from voting in republican primaries or republicans from voting in democratic primaries is made in a bill introduced in the house by Representative Kuehn.

Legislative Brevities.

The appointment of T. H. Crawford of La Grande as a member of the board of regents of Oregon agricultural college was ratified by the senate. Mr. Crawford succeeds Governor Walter M. Pierce.

The first bill to receive favorable consideration in the senate was introduced by Senator Strayer of Baker, and provides for the designation of the east and west road through the state as the Old Oregon Trail.

The first county salary increase bill bobbed up in the house when Representative Miles introduced a measure having for its purpose an increase in salary for the treasurer of Columbia county from \$1000 to \$1200 a year.

Changing the date for paying the first half of all taxes from April 5 to June 1 is the purpose of an amendment to the tax laws introduced in the senate by Senator Johnson of Benton county.

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