

The Aurora Observer

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Geo. E. Knapp, Editor and Publisher



EDITORIAL
Opinions of the
Observer.

How Much Can Public Pay

How far should the public treasury in these days of high taxes, be loaded with further burdens by extending the scope and expense of the national government? The desire of the sorely tried taxpayer, and of business in general, is for a radical lessening of the tax load. But two great obstacles intervene.

First, about two-thirds of the total government tax goes to meet items that are fixed charges over which there is no administration control. Interest on the public debt is nearly a billion dollars a year.

The second obstacle is the tendency to widen, at large cost, the scope of government through so-called "improvements" and "reforms." The more federal appropriations demanded for bureaus, educational, maternity, hygiene and other innumerable "progressive" projects, the less chance for retrenchment.

Conditions faced by the national government are faced by virtually every state government and, to a large extent by lesser political subdivisions. The remedy rests with the people; if they constantly demand more and more from their government, they must expect to pay higher and higher taxes.

It will be interesting to watch the coming sessions of western states' legislatures to see what attitude our representatives of the people manifest toward retrenchment in public affairs. If they adopt every new measure proposed, the people have nothing to expect but greatly increased tax burdens over those about which they now complain.—Ind. News Bureau.

Radio Set On Train

In order to see what results could be obtained with radio on railroad trains, the Southern Pacific Company installed a high powered radio receiving set on its fast limited train. John McGuire, radio expert of San Francisco, who accompanied the train east and had charge of the experiment, states that the experiment worked even better than was anticipated and that passengers were able, by means of the radio set, to listen to music, speech, weather report, news items, stock market quotations and other matter broadcasted by radio stations throughout the entire country.

Evidence of the success of the radio experiment is shown by the fact that while enroute the train picked up radio programs from stations at San Francisco, Los Angeles, Sacramento, Portland, Seattle, Honolulu, Salt Lake City, Denver, Ogden, Kansas City, St. Louis, Chicago, Vancouver and various eastern points.

Aurora: 50 minutes from Salem; 60 minutes from Portland; 30 minutes from Oregon City.

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HUGHES WILL NOT RESIGN

Ambassador Harvey Sends Radio Denying Rumor Untrue.

Washington, D. C.—Taking cognizance of published reports that he might resign from the cabinet, Secretary Hughes last night authorized the statement that he had no intention of doing so.

Secretary Hughes has received a copy of a radiogram sent by Ambassador Harvey to the North American Review, denying published reports that he and the secretary are not in accord on important questions of foreign policy. The message, sent in response to a query, was transmitted from the steamer on which Harvey is returning to his post.

To Contest Oregon School Law.

New York.—A legal fight to question the validity of the Oregon Anti-Parochial school law, was decided upon here following a conference between Most Rev. Alexander Christie, archbishop of the diocese of Oregon City and the supreme board of directors of the Knights of Columbus. The law recently was adopted by the voters of the state.

Flag to Be Lowered on Rhine.

Coblentz.—The American flag, which has been floating since December, 1918, over the fortress of Ehrenbreitstein, will be lowered and the French flag hoisted in its place early in the morning of January 25, with the traditional ceremonial and salutes.

Debt Commission Conference Ends.

Washington, D. C.—Discussions between the American and British debt commissions have been adjourned but with an understanding that negotiations for funding the British war debt to the United States would be continued through the British embassy here.

Jury Frees 5 Herrin Miners.

Marion, Ill.—All five defendants in the Herrin riots trial were found not guilty by a jury of twelve Williamson county farmers.

450 Yanks Wed on Rhine.

Coblentz.—Upward of 450 men of the American forces in Germany have been married with permission since January, 1922.

A total of 14,621 square yards of paving was laid in Pendleton in 1922, according to Street Commissioner Crabtree.

The tax levy for Wheeler county for 1923 will be 18.2 mills, a reduction of a little more than a mill from last year's rate.

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IMPORTANT MEASURES EXPECTED TO APPEAR

Consolidation and Income Tax
Bills Occupy Attention
of Legislature.

Salem.—The legislature began the third week of the session with all the big constructive legislation yet to receive attention. However, it is expected a start will be made this week in shaping important measures of state-wide interest, inasmuch as two consolidation and several income tax bills have been offered. These two subjects promise to engross the attention of the legislature during the ensuing weeks of the session.

Two bills providing for the consolidation of state departments and commissions are now before the senate. One offered by Senator Hall provides for four departments of the state government, while the other, sponsored by Senator Johnson and Representative Carlin, would segregate the state's activities into six departments. The merits of these measures will be discussed at public hearings this week by the committee on county and state officers.

Income Tax Favored.

Four measures providing for a state income tax have been prepared for consideration by the lawmakers. While in past sessions income tax bills have received scant consideration, there seems to be a strong sentiment among members of the present legislature in favor of adopting this method of raising revenue. If no income tax measure is passed it will be due to the fact that senators and representatives were unable to agree on details.

The income tax bills at present in evidence are:

The state grange bill, introduced by Representatives Bennett and Wheeler. The administration bill, introduced by Representative McMahan of Linn. The flat rate bill, prepared by the state tax investigating committee which probably will be offered as a bill from the committee on assessment and taxation.

The Kuhl bill, which offsets the income tax with property tax. The Kuhl measure may not be introduced. While Governor Pierce admits he had Representative McMahan of Linn introduced his bill, the governor said he is not so closely wedded to it that he will not consider changes.

Would Consult Governor.

Representative McMahan of Marion county, just before the week-end adjournment, introduced a resolution providing for appointment of three members of the house to visit Governor Pierce and confer with him on specific measures which he wishes introduced and considered as means for relieving the financial burdens of the taxpayers of Oregon. The resolution sets forth that although many days of the session have passed away, but little real effort on this line has been made so far.

The senate, when it adjourned over Sunday, had 48 bills upon its calendar, the house 115, a record for both so far as the number of their offerings is concerned.

This week will probably see the introduction of the severance tax bill, sponsored by Governor Pierce, which will furnish undoubtedly plenty of oratory and excitement before it is finally disposed of.

The roads and highways program has not yet been determined, but reports indicate that there will be a large number of bills in this connection. These bills will strike at the present motor vehicle laws and may provide for increasing the motor vehicle tax. Limits of loads on the state highways also will be the subject of considerable legislation, it was said.

The senate, by an unanimous vote and without debate, adopted the Ellis senate memorial to the interstate commerce commission asking for the construction of railroads through Central and Southwestern Oregon, including the Natron cut-off.

Bill Hits Armed Bootleggers.

It is made a felony punishable by imprisonment in the penitentiary for a person to have a dangerous or deadly weapon on or about his person when engaged in making or when possessing intoxicating liquor by a bill passed by the senate.

The Moser bill providing for a thorough teaching of the Constitution of the United States and its history, in public and private schools of the state from the eighth grade on, was enthusiastically approved by the senate.

Senator Zimmerman's concurrent resolution which would require all bills for introduction in the legislature to be filed with the secretary of state at least thirty days before the legislature meets, except budget bills, has aroused considerable interest.

The anti-sectarian garb bill, designed to prevent the wearing of costumes of religious orders by teachers in the public schools, which passed the house,

caused a split in the senate education committee. A majority of four members favoring enactment of the bill by striking out the penalty of fine and imprisonment and the minority, three, favoring allowing the penalty to remain.

Oregon Trail Bill Passed.

The first senate bill to pass the house was Senator Strayer's measure designating the east and west highway from the Pacific ocean to the Idaho line as the Oregon trail. This was recommended by both Governor Pierce and Governor Olcott, so there is no doubt as to its becoming a law.

Two of Representative Woodward's defeated in the house. One provided for dental inspection in schools and the other to extend the right of suffrage at school elections to all registered voters.

The agricultural bloc formed the nucleus for the opposition to the bills. No religious rancor entered into the discussion, but they were voted down primarily because they would increase expenses.

Representative Lewis' bill to prohibit the importation or transportation of wines for sacramental purposes was crushed by an overwhelming negative vote when the house indefinitely postponed it.

Party Change Regulated.

A bill by Representative Kuehn to prevent changes in registration from one party to another within 30 days of a primary election, passed the house with only slight opposition. Among the eight democrats in the house only two voted against the measure and there was but a scattering of republicans in opposition to it. The house also passed the bill introduced by Representative Hesse of Washington county, doing away with all the sections of the Oregon laws which provide for the taxation of all dogs within the state.

The speed cop who brings disrepute upon his community by making arrests simply in order that his own income may be increased through getting a percentage of the fines assessed, may become a thing of the past, if the senate approves a bill passed by the house. The measure prohibits the splitting of fines or payment of fees out of fines to officers making arrests for violation of the speed laws. It covers officers of any city or county and the state itself.

Under a joint house resolution introduced by Representatives Blowers and Jackson, a constitutional amendment would be submitted to the voters providing for the election of a lieutenant governor at the general state election at which a governor is elected, and meeting the same qualifications.

Medical Examination For Both Sexes.

Men and women applicants for marriage certificates would be required to pass both a physical and mental test under the terms of a bill introduced by Mrs. C. B. Simmons of Multnomah county. Failure to pass this examination would preclude the issuance of a marriage license unless one or both parties submitted to sterilization. The bill would require the mentality of at least a 12 year old child to permit granting of a certificate.

A proposed law that will have the support of the farm bloc in both houses has been introduced by Senator Brown of Marion county. This bill provides that producers of farm and agricultural products shall be exempted from the authority of any so-called peddlers' license law that may be imposed by any incorporated town or city in the state.

Election pamphlets would be done away with completely and newspaper publicity substituted in their place for the advertising of measures, amendments or candidates going before the people at an election through a bill introduced in the senate by Senator Tooez of Clackamas county.

Legislative Brevities.

The legislature visited the Oregon Agricultural college at Corvallis in a body Wednesday.

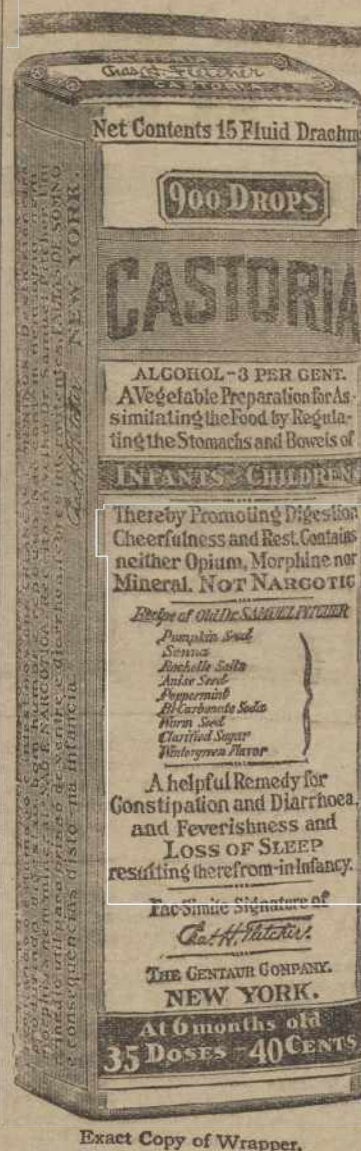
Representative Behulmerich's bill to make jury duty for women mandatory was indefinitely postponed on adverse committee report.

Payment of bounties on coyotes would be stopped entirely under the terms of a bill introduced into the senate under the sponsorship of Senator Ellis and Representative Lackey. Representative Sherman Miles of Columbia county has introduced a bill requiring the licensing by the state of all hotels and restaurants.

Representative Ezell of Crook, Deschutes, Klamath, Jefferson and Lake counties, sponsored a bill requiring residence on irrigation projects as a prerequisite to participation in the district election.

Prohibiting by federal statute the issuance of tax-exempt securities is proposed in a memorial which received the unanimous support of the members of the senate.

Representatives of the legislatures of Washington, Idaho and California are invited to Salem to confer with Oregon legislators relative to income tax and gasoline tax legislation by a senate concurrent resolution which has been adopted in both houses.



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No. 24 (Stop) 8:18 p. m.
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