

The Santiam News.

Politically Independent.

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EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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WILL BE CONDEMNED

Last Saturday the legislative misfit that has been in session down at Salem for the past six weeks, adjourned sine die. No doubt everybody can now take a long, full breath of relief, knowing that this gang of legislative freebooters no longer has its hand in the people's pocket. Never, in the history of Oregon legislatures, has a legislative body so completely failed to do the things for which it was elected to do. Evidently the average member of the body just adjourned, considers a legislator's duty to be: To get the largest possible amount of money appropriated for his particular locality and object; and it matters not whether that object is meritorious and conducive to the benefit of the interests of the people of the entire state. This is a fact not taken into consideration by the average member of the Twenty-fourth Biennial Legislative Assembly. His one sole object seemed to be to effect combinations through which he could secure the largest possible appropriation of the people's money for his particular locality.

The fact of the business is this legislature was composed of narrow minded time servers. That is to say, a majority were of this class. All, or nearly all of the members were elected upon a platform, impliedly, of economy and reform. The people had a right to expect, that because of the fact these members were to compose the first legislative body nominated and elected by the people direct, that they would be truer and nearer to the people's interests. Well, the people have been fooled again, as usual. They have been outgeneraled, again, by the corporations.

We have known for many years that we could not trust the professional politicians, without being deceived occasionally. Is it possible that we are to find out that we cannot trust the judgement of the people? As before stated, the people selected legislators, last June in most cases, upon implied pledges of economy. The total of appropriations made at the session just closed were the most extravagant in the history of Oregon. Not content with looting the state treasury, officers salaries were raised wherever asked in districts and counties. Attempt was made, even, to raise the salaries of the legislators themselves from \$3 to \$10 per day.

Instead of doing what the people wanted done, this reform and economical(?) legislature, in several instances, did just the reverse; notably in its action relative to railway passes for officials. Last June the people would have enacted a law prohibiting the railroads from granting free passes, had not the enacting clause been omitted from the bill. The people showed by their votes that they were overwhelmingly in favor of an anti pass law. It was expected that the legislature would look upon this vote as mandatory from the people and enact, at once, an anti pass law. But, in response, this outfit of traitors, enact a compulsory pass law; thus showing complete disregard of the people's wishes.

When the Direct Primary law was enacted, it was thought that politics and legislation were as completely divorced as possible, and the taking away the selection of United States senator would place the legislature in a position that it would be unnecessary for political partyism to show its head. Yet because of the injecting of partyism into legislation, the usefulness of the most vitally necessary law enacted, was crippled. It was universally understood, also, among the people, that the Normal school matter was to be adjusted in a manner that would be satisfactory to the people; by the elimination of, at least, two of the schools. The legislature attempted to dodge the responsibility, by shifting the selection of the school or schools to be supported by the state, upon the governor. Here was where partyism was again the ruling spirit. They figured that the selection of two of the four schools to receive state support, would be a source of unpopularity to the party responsible for the selection. Hence, the attempt to shift a legislative duty upon the governor. Governor Chamberlain very properly vetoed the bill and sent it back to the House from whence it originated. The final result was the continuance of all the schools at state expense.

As an extravagant, nonproduction-of-what-the-

people wanted legislature, the twenty-fourth biennial-session, is the record.

AN INHUMAN MOTHER

The grilling that District Attorney Jerome is giving Mrs. Evelyn Nesbit Thaw, in the cross examination now going on in the Thaw trial, shows Evelyn to have been, if she is not now, a very bad woman. In fact, the whole inner rottenness of the New York "Smart Set" seems in danger of getting an airing. Bad as Evelyn has admitted herself to have been, upon the witness stand, another character in the drama, is being shown to be infinitely worse. Compared to her, Evelyn is a much abused, as well as a soiled angel. Allusion is here made to Mrs. Holman, the reputed mother of Evelyn. It would be difficult to depict a character more loathsome and vile than a mother who would willingly, furnish a life history of her daughter to a prosecutor, in order that it may be held up to be scorned and derided. Evelyn, no doubt, is bad in every social way; Thaw is worse, in that he encouraged and participated with Evelyn in her vices; White was a human fiend, in being responsible for Evelyn's entrance into the gilded life of the demi monde; but Mrs. Holman outclasses them all in blackness of character. A mother, who willingly surrenders a daughter of tender years to such a lecherous scoundrel as White and for a cash consideration, is too low and despicable to be allowed to breathe the same air with decent people, and her only reason for making her daughter's shame open to the world, is the animosity that she (Mrs. Holman) holds against Thaw.

Perhaps the washing of such lecherously soiled linen, ought not to be held up by the newspapers for depraved humanity to feed upon. Yet, as an object lesson of the depravity of character of the idle rich, the expose may be of value to the public.

Whether or not Thaw will be convicted and punished is yet to be demonstrated; but the evidence has already shown that he has rendered the world a meritorious service in ridding of the monster, Sanford White. Other girls, who live in the great metropolis can feel safer, because the monster, White no longer exists in human form to prey upon them.

Tax paying time is now on and Sheriff Smith, assisted by a number of office deputies, is taking in the sneekles rapidly. By the 15th of next month, there will be but few taxpayers who have not paid in full or in part, the demands of the county against them. As a rule, what the people have to pay, as compared with what they paid last year, the amount is considerably increased. This is especially true with the small taxpayer. Just why this should be the case, the county court can, probably, give the best explanation; yet the fact is painfully true, that most men have to dig down a little deeper into their pockets. There is some consolation in the opinion, that next year will see considerable reduction in the levy. There are two reasons why this is probable: There ought to be a surplus left over from the large amount collected this year, and as a majority of the court will be to elect, the levy will be held down for political reasons. This last is probably the cause of the levy being one or two mills higher than necessary this year. It wotnd do, Judge; that political trick is an old one. Anyway, the people's memories are improving.

The people, by means of the Direct Primary have done away with the political convention, chiefly for the reason that candidates nominated by the convention system were not satisfactory. Last year the people made the nominations by direct selection. Of this selection, the voters could elect the better man, or the one whom they deemed the better one. So far as the men elected to the present legislature are concerned, now that we have the acts of the session before us, it must be admitted that we, the people, have made a bad matter worse. But, as this is the first Assembly elected under our present law, perhaps the people will learn wisdom from past experience and so select legislative material in the future that a repetition of the 24th Biennial Legislative Assembly will be impossible.

THE NEWS receives every week from the Commercial Club, Portland, advertising matter booming Portland and Oregon. THE NEWS doubts the propriety or advisability of this "booming" business, so long as our rate of taxation keeps soaring upward. So long as taxes average from two to three per cent. on a cash property valuation, as is in most of our cities and towns, homeseekers are apt to be a little leary about investing in property in a tax-burdened state. If we would induce the homeseeker, to locate in our midst, a reduction in taxation would be the strongest argument possible.

The Normal School question, evidently, will have to be settled by the people. To that end, a number of questions should be submitted to the voters at the next general election, something as follows: Do you favor retaining the present schools: at Monmouth, yes or no; at Drain, yes or no; at Ashland, yes or no; at Weston, yes or no; or do you prefer that Normal training departments be added to the schools at Eugene and Corvallis. By this means the will of the voters can be ascertained and the vexed Normal school question be settled for all time.

FREE PASSES FOR OFFICIALS

The House carried the free pass bill for public officials over the Governor's veto. Mr. Freeman, the gentleman who was so surreptitiously, viciously and wrongfully accused of slipping a joker into the said laws that would have voided the said laws, properly led the fight for the bill as a virtuous measure.

Another member gallantly stated that public officials had in the past year, pocketed the state out of \$22,000 in mileage while riding on passes.

That was really a bill, he declared, in the largeness of his heart, against the wisest railroads, and to save the people from the corrupt influence and their in-ter-est-disrupt public officials, who could not be influenced a hair's breadth by a railroad pass.

It was claimed to be a bill to make officials honest and to relieve them from the imputation of being influenced by the corporations.

The argument of the Capital Journal, that the officials are best able to pay, was never met by any one.

The officials who get honors, salaries, mileage, clerical aid, office, light, heat, stationary and all kinds of perquisites that attach to office, are to be carried about the state free on top of all the rest. It is certainly not passing the stage of good-natured criticism to say that this is spreading it on a little too thick to ask free passes by right of law—the very thing the people have always complained against.

The people cry out against it as usual—then the legislature enacts it into law!

It was stated that three-fourths of the officials had passes in their pockets on the floor of the House.

The Hedges bill that was to make it a crime to take free passes was quickly killed on the floor of the Senate. If it had passed the Senate the House would have made short work of Mr. Hedges for presuming to entrench on one of its privileges.

But the days of official privileges are numbered. The people are going to exact the power of recall about the next ratification of the box. Then this promising the people one thing on the campaign and giving them exactly the opposite in the legislature will be done away with.

At the June election the people adopted an anti-free pass law. They adopted an amendment to put the state printer on a flat salary. This legislature has gone on record for giving the people just the opposite of what the people voted for. The Governor should veto the bill that passed the House fixing the state printer's salary at \$4000 and to go into effect in 1911.

Give the people a chance at both these promised reforms two years hence and see what they will do with them. They will put the printer on a salary and abolish free passes for public officials and they will not omit one existing clause next time from either bill.—Capital Journal.

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Notice of Final Settlement. Notice is hereby given that the undersigned administrator of the estate of Claude W. Shelton, deceased, has filed in the County Court of Linn County, State of Oregon, his final account as such administrator of said estate, and that Monday, the first day of April, A. D. 1907, at the hour of one o'clock in the afternoon has been fixed by said court as the time for hearing objections to said final account and for the settlement thereof. R. SHELTON, Administrator of the Estate of Claude W. Shelton, deceased. H. BRYANT & SON, Attorneys.

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