

THE SCIO TRIBUNE

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T. L. DUGGER, EDITOR AND PROP.

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THE LEGISLATURE

Our legislative session has now more than half expired, yet not one-half of the work which the people expected would be done, has been or is likely to be accomplished. Some of the leading features desired, have not yet been introduced. At the same time a large majority of the bills introduced in both houses, were never expected to become laws. In fact many members would not have introduced numerous bills which carry their names, if they had not expected the measures would go into the legislative discard.

Such procedure on the part of the membership is time wasted and almost wilful extravagance. Either the personnel of our legislative body are not of lawmaking caliber or they regard the forty days of the session as a sort of an outing in which much if not all of their time could be given up to fun and frolic, with an occasional bit of serious work given to appease their constituencies. This is not what the people expect or require of their lawmakers. It is this class of work which has destroyed the confidence of the people in the legislative body as being industrious and loyal to the interests and public welfare of Oregon.

The one great demand of the people at this session was the abolishment of useless and needless state commissions and the consolidation of others. Second but of almost equal importance was a general curtailing of expenses of state government and the scaling down of the demands for appropriations by our numerous state institutions, etc.

But two consolidation bills have been introduced in this first half of the session. These proposed laws are in the right direction, but there are many more consolidations which should be effected, for which bills have not yet been introduced.

When the constitutional limit of a forty-days session was adopted, there was not one-tenth of state business that there is now. We then had no eleemosynary institutions nor state colleges to look after. The legislature then provided for the expenditure of less than \$500,000 for the biennium period. Now ten times that amount is provided for. Evidently the forty-days session is too short to take careful and proper care of the greatly increased business, else our lawmakers should give more time to the work.

One of the measures proposed is to repeal the millage tax laws and require all institutions, associations, etc., to present their demands for state money in person. Only a few years ago a millage tax to support state schools and fairs, was adopted. It was then supposed the support for these institutions was finally removed from legislative action for

an indefinite time. The biennial appropriations for the state schools, particularly had become almost a scandal in our legislative halls. The lobbies, to secure such sums of money as the schools desired, dominated the legislature through the entire session. Other legislation was made subservient to the wishes of the school lobbies.

Now to repeal the millage tax law would bring back these old near scandal days, besides the large increase of legislative business. Also for the numerous agricultural societies to have to go to the state capital for the small appropriations the legislature might be persuaded to make, would involve an expense not now necessary.

For the amount of money the state appropriates for county fairs, more good is accomplished in the way of building up our state resources, than any other like amount expended for any purpose. The legislature will make a grave mistake if the millage tax law is repealed. But there are many other laws which should be repealed and laws the people want repealed. There is time yet for the legislature to accomplish quite a bit of good if it will simply drop insignificant and needless measures and get busy. Use the forty days, gentlemen to some purpose and then the people will give you more time if it is needed.

PARTISAN CARTOONS

Partisan Cartoons, which are intended to influence political action during a political campaign, may be condoned, even if they reflect upon the president or the party in control of the government. But when the campaign is over and the result becomes known, then the ban should be placed upon all cartoons which are calculated to ridicule or minimize the influence and standing of the president or government in the estimation of our own people or in the eyes of the world.

Reynold's cartoon in the Oregonian of Tuesday, could have no other purpose than that of mischief-making and to injure the influence of President Wilson. Now as President Wilson has been reelected and will be inaugurated for another four years term on March 4, the result can not be changed in any way by such ridiculous pictures. It can only cheapen the government and president in the minds of the thoughtless and, especially, in the eyes of other governments which are jealous of the prestige and prosperity of the United States.

During the Civil war days, such cartoons would have caused the suppression of the newspaper which had sufficient audacity to publish them. Certainly it causes every patriotic American citizen who saw the disgraceful picture, to blush with shame, that partisanship should cause a respectable newspaper to stoop so low.

Certainly a newspaper should have some respect for our government and our president. The Oregonian has none. This publication should call out a general rebuke from the people. As a matter of business it should be a veritable boomerang. The Oregonian should respect the office if it does not respect the man.

Oregon banks, exclusive of the smaller towns, have deposits of over \$132,000,000. Counting all of the banks not included in the above, deposits will easily reach \$150,000,000. But when the assessor comes around, watch these deposits shrink. Linn county has over \$2,000,000 in the four Albany banks. It is safe to say not \$200,000 will be returned to the assessor for purposes of taxation.

OREGON TROOPS MAY START IN TEN DAYS

General Funston Notifies Department
Relief Will Be Given as Soon
as Possible

(Continued from page 1)

who came to the border at Columbus, N. M., today, said the refugees were strung out along the communication trail for more than five miles behind the main column of General Pershing's troops and were enveloped in a great cloud of dust.

Mormons were riding in automobiles, covered wagons of the prairie schooner type, in farm wagons and on horses and mules, according to the cattlemen. They were driving their milk cows ahead of them while behind tramped hundreds of natives, Chinese and others who had no means of transportation in the long trek to the border.

Nothing that could be brought out was left behind, and many of the settlers in the beautiful valley of the Casas Grandes river carried all of their worldly possessions with them.

The head of the troop column was expected to reach Ojo Federico tonight and camp near the water holes there. This is approximately 40 miles from Colonia Dublan and is considered the easiest part of the journey out. From Ojo Federico to Tres Papeletes is considered the worst part of the journey to the border. There is no water in this stretch of 20 miles and the country resembles a desert, with sand, bear grass and cactus. Many of the refugees who are "hiking" on foot are expected to suffer on this part of the trip.

National guard encampments here which have been abandoned since the troops went home will be used to house the refugees until they can find homes. A large number of vacant tent-houses and mess-shacks at the camp of the Pennsylvania troops have been offered the Mormon leaders here and probably will be accepted for the refugees.

General Pershing with his 12,000 troops is on the march northward to relieve some of the national guard troops, who are to be sent home. General Pershing's punitive expedition into Mexico is regarded by many as needless. Perhaps it was. Yet it has caused the Mexican people and the warring factions to have a wholesome respect for U. S. troops. It has caused both Carranza and Villa to know and feel that Uncle Sam's boys have no fears whatever of the Mexican armies and factions and has taught the Mexican people the difference between an army amenable to discipline and which respects the rights of property, from their own armies of freebooters and bandits.

Congress has been in session more days during the first four years of the Wilson administration, than in any like period in the history of our country. We might add that the two congresses covering the period, more legislation which was of vital importance to the country, was enacted as well, if we exclude the Civil war period.

Unless congress makes greater headway during the next thirty days than so far in the short session, much important and almost necessary business will be left over for the next congress. President Wilson may be compelled to call a special session after all.

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