

RESUME OF WORK OF STATE LEGISLATURE

Last Week of Session Begins With Large Amount of Work Remaining to Be Done.

Appropriation Bills Total \$5,653,307—Primary Election Laws Amended—House Passes State Insurance Bill—Sheriffs Get Old Jobs Back—Schoolhouses for Social Centers—Senate Votes Dry on Test—Regulate Dairy Corporations.

Salem.—The legislature started on the last week of the 28th session with the usual congestion of business and as in past sessions confusion promises to mark the closing hours. All the really important measures remain to be passed, few of them having gone through both houses. No measures of statewide interest have reached the governor's desk.

Prohibition legislation remained unsettled. Tax measures are incomplete. Irrigation codes are not yet revised, fish and game legislation is in a tangle, and complications are threatened on consolidation.

The workmen's compensation act amendments are up to the senate. Election and road law revision, in a few particulars, are badly needed, but neither house has got anywhere on those questions. Night sessions will be necessary all week and by proper attention to business it may be possible to clean up the work of the session, but there is some doubt as to whether the "orators" can be held down without a repressive rule in the house. The senate has already adopted a rule of this kind.

The legislature has approved the lease of Summer and Abert lakes by the state land board to an eastern syndicate, headed by Jason Moore. The large appropriation bills are in but have not been passed.

\$5,653,307 Provided for in Live Bills. Although the joint ways and means committee has consigned to the legislative cemetery bills appropriating a total of \$1,545,190 and cut requests for appropriations to the bone, there were still pending in the legislature measures appropriating the huge sum of \$5,653,307, to be disposed of during the closing week of the session.

Bills appropriating a total of \$107,935 are pending in the senate, and bills appropriating a total of \$1,127,246 are pending in the house. Committees have passed on appropriation measures aggregating \$1,543,098 and there are pending before the committees measures calling for appropriations in the sum of \$1,486,702.

The house has passed bills appropriating \$1,388,416, and the senate bills appropriating \$23,100. One bill making an appropriation for the partial payment of the expenses of the legislators and their clerks has passed both houses, and been signed by the governor.

Petition Change Passed. A remedial enactment was the passage of Representative Olson's bill providing certain changes in the primary election laws to eliminate petition-peddling and enable aspirants for primary nominations to become candidates by paying flat fees instead of obtaining the signatures of voters. The petition system is not eliminated entirely, however, as the candidate is given the option of the two methods.

Representative Allen's bill to enable rural communities to form organizations to obtain a low rate of interest was passed by the house and is heralded by the upstate members as the first step in the establishment of a rural credit system for the state.

It does not attempt to place the state in the business of extending credit to the farmers, but empowers the farmers, themselves, to organize along lines similar to those that have been followed successfully in European countries for many years.

State Insurance Provided. The Hinkle bill passed by the house is a departure in the way of state aid in industrial development. The measure proposes a system of annuities similar to those in effect by many countries of Europe and by some of the Canadian provinces. It is not unlike state life insurance, only the payments are to be made on an annuity basis instead of in lump sums. In the event that the insured person dies before the date of the first annuity becomes due his estate is to receive all the money that has been paid in, with interest at the rate of 3 per cent.

Sheriffs Win Back Tax-Collecting Job. Sheriffs of the state won a victory when the house passed Representative Kelly's bill, providing that hereafter all taxes shall be collected by the sheriffs instead of the county treasurers, and it means that all bills increasing the salaries of the latter officials will be withdrawn, provided this last measure passes the senate.

The last legislature passed a law providing that the county treasurers should collect all taxes except those which were delinquent. Because of the extra work, appeals were made to

this legislature by the county treasurers for an increase of salaries. The committee on assessment and taxation found itself confronted with the problem of reducing the salaries of the sheriffs if they increased the salaries of the county treasurers.

Social Center Bill Passes. Senator Moser's bill, providing that public schoolhouses may be used as social and civic centers, was passed by the house.

This measure legalizes a practice that has been in vogue in Portland and other cities of the state for the last few years. Under the present law the school directors are required to give formal permission for the use of the school buildings for these purposes, and a fee must be charged to cover the cost of light, heat and janitor service. Under the Moser bill these costs will be paid for out of the special county school district funds. The use of the buildings, however, is not to interfere with the regular school service.

Senate Test Vote is "Extra Dry." The first test in the state senate on the prohibition bill was a victory for the advocates of a strict law. The minority report of Senator Dominick of the committee on alcoholic traffic, which was favorable to the bill as passed by the house with no important amendments, was adopted by a vote of 15 to 13.

It retained the sentence, "It shall be unlawful for any one person or family within this state to receive from any common carrier more than two quarts of spirituous or vinous liquors or more than 24 quarts of malt liquors within a period of four successive weeks."

The majority report, by Senators Farrell, Bishop, J. C. Smith and Strayer, eliminated the words "or family" making it possible for each adult member of a family to purchase the stipulated amount.

Absent Voter Wins in Bill. The senate passed a bill providing that persons away from home election day may vote wherever they may be for presidential electors, state officers and constitutional amendments by identifying themselves and producing a certificate by the judges of election in their home precincts that they are qualified voters.

The bill provides that an elector who expects to be away from home on election day may apply to the judges in the election district in which he lives for a certificate as to his qualifications. Upon the presentation of the certificate to the judges of election where he may be election day and identification by two qualified resident voters, he may exercise the right of suffrage.

Pro-Farmer Act is Passed. A measure intended to prevent big dairy and creamery corporations from freezing out the small co-operative concerns of the farmers went through the house. All the representatives from the rural districts voted for it and most of the urban legislators also were for it.

The bill was introduced by Representative Hunt, of Clackamas county. It requires creamery companies and others, who purchase dairy products from farmers, to file a schedule of their rates with the state authorities and prohibits them from paying more for the same commodity in one community than they pay in others, freight rates and other costs being considered.

Governor Signs Teachers' Bill. In the presence of a large delegation of school teachers from Portland, who are members of the Grade Teachers' association, other educators, Senator Moser and others, Governor Withycombe signed Senator Moser's bill, which provides that there shall be no discrimination in the payment of salaries between male and female teachers.

Governor Withycombe used two pens, and one was presented to the Portland Grade Teachers' association and the other to Miss Galloway, of the Albany schools, where the movement toward the passage of the measure originated.

Legislative Brevities. The house passed the tax committee's bill to remit all penalties on delinquent taxes under the 1913 tax law. Inanity shall not be made a cause for divorce in this state, according to a decision of the senate.

By a unanimous vote the senate passed a bill which provides a preferential of 5 per cent for Oregon products in letting contracts for public work.

By a vote of 21 to 8 the senate voted an appropriation of \$50,000 for erecting a building for training work at the Oregon state normal school in Monmouth.

The house passed the measure providing for an appropriation of \$49,200 for the industrial school for girls. This includes \$15,000 for a new cottage.

Road work for the coming biennium is to be continued on the one fourth of 1 mill tax levy of 1913, according to decision of the house.

A substantial saving in the expenses of state and local elections will be possible through the operation of Representative Childs' bill which the house has passed. It provides for only two election judges instead of three, as under the present law.

WHY SO MUCH FUSS?

It seems silly for a steamer of the Lusitania's size to try and disguise her nationality, yet it is rather hard for an American who is not a flag-waving patriot to work himself into a state of indignation over that flying of the Stars and Stripes by a vessel which carried Americans among her passengers. A sensible man will wonder why if it was right in the view of international law for the Emden to steam into the harbor of Penang and with the British flag flying at her peak and afterward sink the helpless Russian cruiser Jemtechug at anchor it was wrong in the view of international law for the Lusitania, a merchant steamship, to break out a neutral flag as she coursed up the Irish sea to "deceive" German submarines and land her passengers safely at Liverpool. It is true that the Lusitania was not a combatant and theoretically was immune from attack, but the fact must be taken into consideration, as accounting for Captain Patrick Dow's act, that more than one British merchant ship had been sunk by German submarines without the preliminary of boarding and examination of the ship's papers, which international law requires.

The incident may not be altogether pleasing to Americans who are sensitive about the misuse of their flag even for the purpose that is pleaded in justification, but if the Lusitania had proceeded under her own colors and been sent to the bottom by a German torpedo, together with ex-Senator Lafayette Young and other Americans, would there not now be incalculably more indignation in the United States than the misuse of the flag by the Lusitania to reach her pier unscathed has provoked? We should judge from the comment in London that the incident is not altogether agreeable to Englishmen. They do not seem to be proud of it. They would be better pleased if the "meteor flag of England" had been kept flying as the Lusitania under forced draft sped on her way to Liverpool, taking her chances of being held up or torpedoed.—New York Sun.

Christian Church Notes.

Next Sunday morning will see a solid line-up of the Reds and Blues in the Sunday School contest. If you are not yet enrolled, get into the fight.

At 11 a. m. the minister's subject will be: "The Good Samaritan."

Christian Endeavor 6:45 p. m. Hear Mrs. Ellis at the evening hour. Subject: "In His Steps."

J. K. Starr of Fossil, county attorney of Wheeler county, was in Heppner a couple of days this week attending the sessions of Heppner Chapter No. 26 R. A. M.

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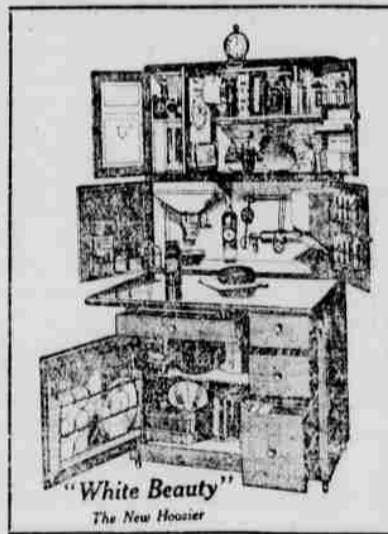
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