

The IONE INDEPENDENT

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LEGISLATURE SHOULD END GRIND THIS WEEK

Tired Lawmakers Will Probably
Start Home Soon; Session
Most Unusual One.

Business Men Protest Intangibles Tax
—Session is Unusual — Power Re-
turned to Governor — New Traffic
Rules — Public Service Commission
Out—State Police Organized.

Salem, Ore.—The Oregon lawmakers convened Monday morning for the eighth, and probably the last week of the 36th legislative assembly with most of the important measures passed both houses and in the hands of the governor. The taxation program has been outlined in full detail and will furnish the major arguments for the rest of the session.

The tax relief program adopted by legislative leaders and approved by Governor Meier seemed likely to "stick" despite a series of last minute assaults on the program to reduce the property tax by means of a larger levy on intangibles.

The state, it has now been decided by the house of representatives, will not return the 1929 intangibles tax funds, and is committed to a program which means the eventual elimination of the farm from state taxation.

An attack was made by Portland business men who called at the office of Governor Meier to endeavor to win his support to the plan to reduce the excise tax, and if possible to cut the intangibles levy and effect the return of the 1929 money.

The business men protested to the governor that the excise tax as increased under the new law would tend to keep industries from coming to the state. Governor Meier, however, had seen a protest of another sort a few days previous and gave the business men only the satisfaction of knowing that he approved of tax reductions.

Business Men Protest.

The governor, however, was emphatic in declaring that the tax program as mapped out by the legislature seemed the only thing that could prevent the state from being thrown into "a chaotic state, and a tax rebellion by real property owners."

The governor was referring to the many mass meetings being held throughout the state in which the heavy burden of the small property owners has been protested. Recently a committee of 50 farmers, representing associations with a membership of thousands, called on the governor and assured him that the only answer to the present problem were either a drastic property tax reduction or the abandonment of the farms by inability to pay the taxes.

Governor Meier, at the meeting of the Portland business men said:

"We have here a state where 60 per cent of the area is owned by the federal government. Out of the 40 per cent we are attempting to maintain a government. The farmers of this state are at a point where if we do not come to their rescue we will face a tax burden twice as heavy as anything that could come out of these proposed laws."

Session Most Unusual.

The last of this week will hear the legislative gavel fall for the last time and when the clocks are stopped for another two years the session will

stand out in memory probably as the most unusual legislative assembly this state so far ever has seen.

The present economic situation in the state, particularly with reference to taxation, has created problems of great magnitude and mutual study of these questions has created a confidence on the part of the legislators in the ability, sincerity and good intentions of the governor to reduce the cost of government.

In view of the present emergency, both houses have about reached the frame of mind that they are willing to write Mr. Meier a blank check for any legislation that he may deem proper to better conditions. In no other session has the incoming governor been handed so much of his demands.

Governor Meier asked for power legislation, the scope and future effect of which no man now may guess. He got it.

Governor Receives Power.

He asked for the enactment of a state police measure which would give him control of a mobile and consolidated police unit. He got that.

He asked for the creation of a department of agriculture, merging a flock of existing departments and commissions under one centralized head. That was given him.

He asked for the repeal of the 1-mill market road levy, and that was handed to him.

He asked for the passage of the much discussed tunnel bill and that, changed in its original terms but still capable of administration, was laid in his lap.

He asked for the enactment of a definite program of tax reform and relief, and that request is sure to be granted.

The passage of these bills restores to the chief executive practically all of the power taken away from the governor's office when the legislature rose in revolt against the regime of Walter M. Pierce. The enactments go farther and border closely on the establishment of the concentration which is the principal feature of the cabinet system of government, and further consolidations are contemplated.

A brief resume of the major highway legislation follows:

For one thing there has been no change in license fees or gas taxes. They will remain where they have been for the past two years. The super-road district law has been blocked by the provision that after June 1, of this year, no further super-highway districts may be created under it.

Chauffeurs and operators of for-hire cars must pass examinations before being granted licenses to drive. Their licenses also will carry a stub upon which will be marked any conviction for violations of the road or traffic laws.

Road Laws Changed.

All licenses may be called in every three years by the secretary of state, and new ones issued. There will be no examination required for the drivers of private cars, though traffic convictions and reckless driving can be taken into consideration in the reissuance of a license.

The speed limit for passenger cars has been raised to 45 miles, busses have the same limitation, while trucks have a maximum speed of 35 miles fixed for them. To exceed the speed limit will be no crime, but faster driving than it specifies will be taken into consideration in case of accident

as evidence of recklessness.

Drunken driving carries increasing severity of jail sentence, together with a fine or both.

The old arm signals, up for a right-hand turn, horizontal for the left and down for a stop have been reinstated. Freight trucks may not be operated with less than 300 feet between them on the highway. Slow drivers must hold to the right or be subject to fine for failure to do so.

The public service commission of Oregon was abolished and Charles M. Thomas, Medford attorney, enthroned as head of utility regulation in the state at the stroke of a pen by Governor Julius L. Meier.

Public Service Commission Out.

With the signing of the public utilities commissioner act, around the purpose and terms of which a maelstrom of political activity had swirled for the past 12 months, the chief executive put into effect his practical interpretation of a cardinal plank of the Joseph platform. The measure carried the emergency clause, and the new system of utility regulation went into force immediately on receiving the governor's signature.

Mr. Thomas was a close political friend of the late George W. Joseph, and was one of a group of four state senators at the 1919 session of the legislature which fought the so-called "paving trust."

Formation of a state police system, centralizing all state law enforcement agencies directly under the governor, was authorized by the legislature when the house of representatives passed the state police bill by the commanding vote of 49 to 9. The bill, having already passed the senate, went to Governor Meier and received prompt approval, inasmuch as it was one of the governor's principal recommendations.

State Police Organized.

Consequently, Oregon will operate under a new police system after 90 days, probably beginning June 1. The state police department will be known as the "Oregon state police," an organization formed and directed along semi-military lines, with captains, lieutenants, sergeants, corporals and privates, mounted on horse and motor and supplemented by a detective force and an identification bureau. This set-up will make the Oregon state police resemble the New York state troopers and Pennsylvania state constabulary.

The use of "stink" bombs, which have caused considerable annoyance to Portland theater owners, is made a criminal offense under a bill approved by the senate recently. The bill originally was introduced by Senator Burke, but later was amended and revised by the revision of laws committee.

"This bill is directed at the racketeers," declared Senator Booth, "and is in the interest of the public."

The senate passed a bill introduced by Senator Hall under which the governor has authority to close the forests during certain seasons of the year. Senator Hall said the measure was important for the reason that it would give protection to timber.

These are some of the high lights of the session's results. It will not be until after the final adjournment has come and the mass may be more clearly and patiently analyzed that its full scope may be worked out.

Your Chance at Hand

The chance you are always seeking invariably lies close to hand. You don't have to look far afield for it. The man who makes a better job out of the job he has, instead of always looking for a better job, is the one who gets along best in this world.—Grit

OREGON LEGISLATORS IN SEVENTH WEEK

Lawmakers Start Grind "Sans Pay"; Majority of Major Bills Still Unpassed.

Power Program Bills Have Clear Sailing—Tax Program Outlined—Brief Resume of Accomplishments—Free Textbooks—Uniform Road Laws—Proposed Wage Reductions.

Salem, Ore.—The end of the 40th day of the 1931 legislative assembly, last Friday, the last day for the legislators' salary of \$3 a day, found both the house of representatives and the senate unprepared to adjourn and the house unwilling to fix a date for adjournment. It was moved by Representative Gordon, Multnomah, that adjournment sine die be set for Thursday, February 26, which would make six days overtime without pay, but the motion was voted down.

In the senate the reading clerk read a joint resolution introduced by Senators Jay H. Upton and L. L. Mann, asking the governor to call immediately a special session of the legislature, but it was killed by indefinite postponement by a vote of 14 to 11.

The seventh week of the lawmaking session opened Monday morning with a majority of the major legislation still to be enacted. In fact few of the important bills have passed both houses and gone to the governor for final consideration, but rest either in committee, or at the half-way point between the house of their origin and the other branch of the assembly.

The legislature started its overtime session with 70 proposals awaiting action in both houses. The senate, among its 41 bills on third reading, will have for consideration the Tualatin tunnel bill following its report after having been rewritten several times, and after an attempt had been made to relieve the state of responsibility in this proposed \$5,000,000 highway project.

The new "tunnel bill" as it now is framed provides for the creation of a tunnel commission of three members, appointed by the governor, who can finance and construct tunnels anywhere within the state. It is intended, of course, to apply specifically to the projected tunnel under Council Crest in Portland.

Power Bills Complete.

It looks as though the "power program" bills of the administration are practically out of the way, with clear sailing ahead of them, for their enactment by both houses of the legislature, and their approval by the governor, is a foregone conclusion as part of the administration power program, under the spur of the "mandate of the people."

The senate changed the name of the Roosevelt highway to the Oregon Coast highway and defeated the Portland policemen's and firemen's pension bill after four hours of debate on the three measures. The Coast highway bill and the Portland pension bill had previously passed the lower house.

The senate consistently adhered to the policies of Governor Meier by passing by the decisive vote of 21 to 9 the senate bill providing for the creation of a state department of agriculture. The measure was also advocated, however, by ex-Governor Norblad in his retiring message and was not strictly an administration bill.

Taxation presents a complex situation, but with the taxation committees virtually in agreement with the governor on a program for this legislation it is believed that the matter will be disposed of with less than the usual bickering. Under the agreed plan the state will proceed virtually as follows:

Tax Program Outlined.

Appeal the intangibles tax case to the United States supreme court, hold up a refund of the \$900,000 paid in under the invalidated intangibles tax on 1929 incomes, re-enact an intangibles tax at an 8 per cent rate effective in 1931 on 1930 incomes, increase the rate on the excise tax from 5 to 8 per cent, submit the new intangibles tax to the voters at a special election together with the question of increasing the tax base for one year to make the law effective without running afoul of the 6 per cent limitation.

These changes are designed to hasten relief of taxes on real property. The Kiddle one-mill market road tax repeal, as amended to provide for the state highway commission to create a secondary system of roads and relieve the counties of the expense, is aimed at the same thing and is likely to pass. Tobacco sales tax and other so-called nuisance taxes are not likely to receive consideration. The increase in rates of the intangibles and excise taxes is certain to meet opposition.

Brief Resume.

The senate killed the game cod bill. A brief summary of what has been done may be of interest in showing what ground the legislature has covered up to the end of the sixth week.

The so-called "horse racing bill" is up for consideration in the house early in the week. It provides for pari-mutuel betting at county fairs and the state fair, with a percentage of the betting fund to be given to the fair board for premium payments.

The house killed the measure, which would have provided a four-year course for normal school training, instead of the present two-year course. The bill was indefinitely postponed.

The bill of Scott of Umatilla, to reduce the salaries of circuit judges, was killed by the house.

Old-age pensions were rejected by the house, which also refused to reconsider its negative stand.

The senate passed the butter standards bill by a vote of 21 to 7. It now joins its companion measure, the cream grading bill in the house.

Mott's resolution was rejected, providing for the submission of a constitutional amendment which, if enacted would have prohibited direct taxes for state purpose to be levied on real property.

Free Textbooks.

A resolution providing for consolidation of city and county government between Portland and Multnomah county was passed by the house and now is in the senate. It would submit a constitutional amendment authorizing such consolidation.

The house passed the Anderson bill, providing that workmen unable to collect their wages from employers could sue through the state labor commissioner.

The so-called "free textbook" bill has passed both houses and is in the hands of the governor for his consideration.

The 70-car train bill sponsored by the railroad brotherhood organizations was killed in the senate after two bitter fights.

The tobacco tax bill is dead, while the proposed measure putting a tax on malt and another doing the same thing on billboards, is in the ways and means committees.

The senate refused to follow Senator Woodward in his desire to repeal the provision of the corrupt practices act limiting the expenditures that lawfully may be made by candidates for office.

Senator Edley's administration bill creating a state police force, or state constabulary, is resting quietly in the lap of the senate committee on revision of laws. General belief is that it will continue to sleep its life away, unless the administration puts force enough behind it to drive it through.

Uniform Road Laws.

Oregon moved to join Washington and California in establishing uniform traffic regulations and "rules of the road" on the Pacific slope, the first formal step being taken by the lower house of the legislature in passing house bill No. 355. The uniform traffic bill, handled by Representative Andrews, Multnomah, passed the house with only three dissenting votes and adverse comment by Representative Mott of Marion county.

Probably the most interesting feature of the uniform traffic bill is that it removes the 35-mile speed limit on the open highway, and, moreover, regulates the slow or "pokeny" driver. Under this provision, Mr. Andrews explained, every vehicle must keep pace with the average speed of vehicles.

The new provision on speed is that the motorist must operate his car in a safe and prudent manner, being subject to arrest for violation of the basic rule of safety, whether driving at five miles or 50 miles an hour. Three speeds are designated as dividing points between minimum and maximum penalties. These speeds are: Open road, 45 miles; residential districts, 25 miles; schools and railroad crossings, 15 miles.

The bill provides uniform arm signals throughout the state and sets up a higher standard for brake efficiency.

Propose Wage Reduction.

Senator Burke has introduced a bill which, if approved by both branches of the legislature, would reduce the salaries and wages of a large number of public employes 10 per cent.

The proposed salary and wage reductions would affect all state, county, municipal, port and school districts, boards and commissions, with the exception of persons who receive \$125 or less a month, and those whose offices are created by the state constitution.

The reductions would become effective July 1, 1931, and continue until July 1, 1933.

The grand legislative melee started Monday and the "big push" of the session was well under way by Monday night.

The houses are meeting early and adjourning late. Debate has been restricted to five minutes, for each member, but it has proved a weak expedient so far since some one is nearly always willing to yield his time to those who desire to talk. This privilege will be more frequently denied as the session continues and the previous question will be moved to cut off prolonged oratory.

Lexington News

Miss AMABEL STRODTMAN

Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Bull departed on Thursday for Wallowa, Oregon, where they will reside in the future. Mr. Bull has been manager local office of Kerr, Gifford and Company for the past two years and has been sent to the new location by that company.

A social evening was enjoyed by members of the Lexington Parent-Teachers Association in the school auditorium on Wednesday evening last. A handsome birthday occupied the center of the stage and was lighted by Amabel Strodtman in honor of Founders Day. A short business session followed after which refreshments of cake and coffee were served.

R. H. Lane went to Portland on a short business trip Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. S. S. Strodtman were business visitors in Heppner, Monday.

A dance was given in Leach Memorial hall on Saturday evening by the Echo orchestra.

The Lexington girls grade school team defeated Heppner on the latter's floor last Thursday by a score of 4-2.

Several friends gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Burckell on Friday evening to wish their daughter Grace a happy birthday. Those present were Naomi McMillan, Amabel Strodtman, Winford Duvall, Sam McMillan, and Vernon Scott.

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Slocum are moving from the Sadie Lewis residence to the Congregational parsonage.

A farewell party was given for Harvey and Lucile Wigglesworth at their Blackhorse home, Saturday evening by a number of their friends. Harley and Lucile plan to leave on Sunday for Boardman where they will finish this term of school.

The boys basketball team of Lexington High School journeyed to Arlington on Friday to play in the tournament. They lost to Umatilla, 24-17 and were defeated by Arlington 20-22. The boys who made the trip were Kenneth Warner, center; Emmett Kuns and Lewellyn Evans, guards; Archie Munkers and Dale Lane forwards with Jim Valentine, Vester Thornburg and Buck Rhule as substitutes.

Mr and Mrs. W. F. Barnett accompanied by Mrs. Sarah White were visitors at the home of Mr. Mrs. Gerald White, in Hermiston, on Sunday.

Women's Topic Club

Ruth Rietmann, Sec.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Smouse were hosts to the Woman's Topic Club Friday evening at their ranch home. Bridge was the diversion of the evening. Present were Mr. and Mrs. Earl Blake, Mr. and Mrs. Victor Petesson, Omar Rietmann, Mrs. Inez Freeland, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Swanson, Miss Eva Swanson, Mr. and Mrs. Victor Rietmann, and Carl Troedson. High awards were made to Mrs. Victor Peterson and Earl Blake. Low scores were made by Mrs. Victor Rietman and Victor Peterson. Refreshments consisting of salads, cheese straws, ice cream, cake and coffee were served.

Weather Report

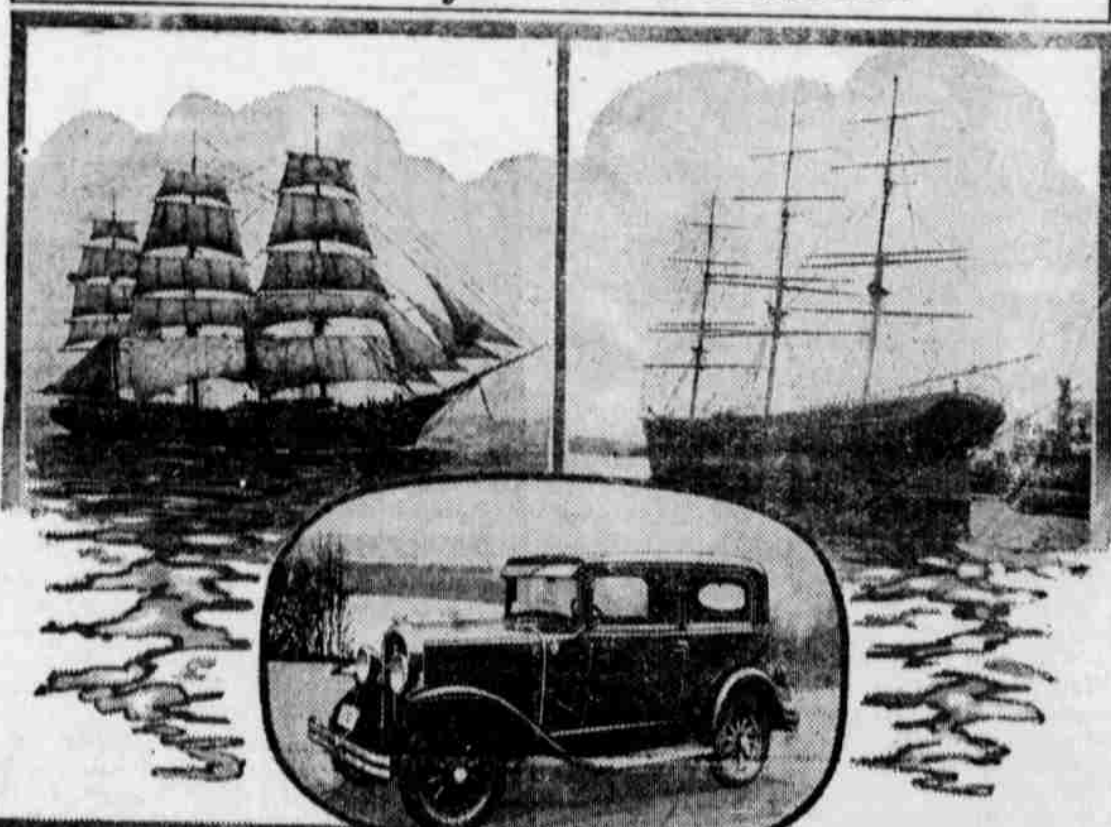
For February

MORGAN STATION

No of Clear Days	11.00
No partly cloudy days	8.00
No cloudy days	9.00
Sleet on th 2nd	
Total precipitation	0.34
Total precipitation since September 1	3.78
For same period last year	5.96
Direction of prevailing wind	N.E.

R. E. Harbison,
Co operative Observer.

Old Windjammer a Museum



The full-rigged ship St. Paul will soon become a museum, and is anchored in Lake Washington, Seattle, where all will be able to visit her without cost. The old ship, under full sail, is shown. She was built in 1874. The car is a Pontiac sedan, which was used to carry a party of visitors to the ancient vessel.