

STATE CAPITAL NEWS

- No New Taxes
- "Sit Downers"
- Game Protection

By A. L. LINDBECK

Salem—Although the legislative session still has at least another week or ten days to run, its program is now sufficiently developed as to make it fairly safe to predict that there will be no new taxes imposed upon the people of Oregon.

There are a number of tax and revenue measures in the legislative hopper, notably a sales tax, a gross income tax and a proposal to boost the price of liquor ten percent for the benefit of relief. None of these proposals, unless it is the liquor price increase, has attracted any appreciable support. Oregon has swatted the sales tax so hard and so often that the legislators do not take kindly to any proposal to submit another measure of this kind to the electorate, at least not just yet. Then, too, the attitude of Governor Sprague, who has turned thumbs down on new taxes, has not been conducive to any enthusiastic support of any tax program.

The only demand for more revenue has come from the better pension group whose spokesmen have agreed to support a gross income tax if the lawmakers will submit such a measure to the voters. The grange and organized labor, on the other hand, have warned that they will vigorously oppose such a measure as they have in the past, so these proposals will probably be permitted to die in committee.

Senator Ellis' proposal to increase the price of liquor has attracted considerable interest and has some chance of enactment although the state liquor commission is opposing it. If enacted the additional revenue from this source would go to the counties to help finance relief costs. Ellis estimates this to amount to something in the neighborhood of \$1,250,000 for the biennium.

Administration advisors, too, have abandoned their plan to sock the small income tax payer in order to make up losses from the intangibles tax levy which it is proposed to repeal. Instead it is now proposed to make up these losses from a surtax on intangibles incomes and increased levies against corporation incomes.

A sit-down strike by the legislature failed to materialize when members who had agreed to support a sine die resolution closing the session at midnight Friday got cold feet and refused to go through with the program. Senator Lyman Ross of Washington county who was promoting the move as a gesture of protest against the 40-day pay limit and the \$3 per diem, claims to have had the promise of 18 votes in the upper house, more than enough to insure passage of his resolution, while at least 25 representatives were said to be ready to vote to go home. Rumors of the threatened adjournment with all of the big legislation still untouched and none of the appropriations made brought a statement from Governor Sprague to the effect that he would not call a special session if the lawmakers quit and went home before finishing their job.

Hopes of the League of Oregon Cities for a "cut" of the highway revenues were dashed when the House voted 42 to 16 against the proposal when it came out of the House highways committee on a "do not pass" report.

It is now proposed to dissolve the capitol reconstruction commission as of April 1 and turn its functions over to the state board of control. It had originally been planned to continue this commission in effect until August. It is estimated that overhead expenses of the commission amounting to approximately \$1200 a month will be saved by its early dissolution.

If the House follows the lead of the Senate the State Bakery board will soon be a thing of the past. The senators voted 20 to 8 for the Ellis-Wiperman bill abolishing this board. Friends of the board charged that antagonism to the board was based

on a misunderstanding of the facts—that Al Rosser and his truck drivers and not the bakery board were responsible for the high price of bread in Oregon. Governor Sprague in his inaugural message recommended that the board be abolished.

Civil service for state employees is a dead issue so far as this legislative session is concerned. The measure proposing this governmental reform was killed in the senate with only eight votes in its favor.

The usual flood of salary increases are being approved by the lawmakers. A measure increasing the salary of the deputy state treasurer from \$3600 to \$4800 a year has already been signed by the governor. Bills still pending provide for better salaries for the deputy secretary of state, state labor commissioner, corporation commissioner and state printer. In addition there are numerous salary increases for county officials.

Sweeping changes in the state game protection set-up are proposed in a bill sponsored by Senator Wm. L. Dickson and Representatives Carter and Kimberling. The measure would turn all the functions and duties of the state game commission to a new wildlife conservation commission. In addition this commission would be vested with authority to make rules and regulations for the protection and propagation of all wildlife. These rules and regulations would have the force and effect of law and any existing law that might conflict with the mandates of the commission would be automatically repealed.

Public power advocates have apparently given up all hope of putting over their Bonneville-inspired program at this session and are now concentrating on a compromise measure which will permit the issuance of revenue bonds to finance development of peoples utility districts, these bonds to be sold on bid and to the highest bidder. Chief point of controversy now appears to be the matter of taxes to be paid by these power districts. The proposal that the districts contribute six per cent of their gross revenue toward the support of governmental activities is meeting with much opposition. Private utilities in Oregon now pay out more than 13 per cent of their gross revenues in taxes. A smaller contribution by the power districts, it is pointed out, will necessitate an increase in the levy against other property in the district.

A bill to change the date of primary elections from the third Monday in May to the first Wednesday in September has the backing of at least 20 senators and is believed to have enough support in the House to insure its passage. Governor Sprague has also endorsed the measure as one designed for the relief of office seekers as well as the voters inasmuch as it will materially shorten the time of political campaigns.

While there does not appear to be any likelihood that the lawmakers will attempt to wipe out the milk control board there is much sentiment for some changes in the milk control act. One measure which has already passed the House would confine the operation of the act to the larger cities of the state. Senators Mahoney and Chaney who are sponsoring a bill to abolish the board have announced that they will carry their fight to the people if the legislature turns them down.

Increasing Film Use Shown by Report

Educational motion picture films covering 702 different subjects were distributed last year by the department of visual instruction in the general extension service through the office maintained on the campus of Oregon State college, U. S. Burt, head of the department, has reported.

These were shown at 5557 different meetings or classes and were viewed by 1,640,787 persons. The department also distributed numerous charts and many sets of stereopticon slides from the 907 sets now available.

These visual materials are extensively used by the grade and high schools of the state, as well as by various community organizations.

Land, Forests Are "Meat and Potatoes" Say State Planners

Oregon's agricultural and forest products provide the "meat and potatoes" of the state's economical existence, and the substantial but variable income brought in by outdoor recreation seekers and tourists should be considered more as " gravy," it is pointed out in one of the latest reports of the Oregon state planning board, "Oregon Looks Ahead."

The state should continue to invite people from everywhere to come here to enjoy its unique recreational features such as matchless scenery, unequalled fishing and hunting grounds, beaches and other attractions, but should not make the mistake of depending on revenue from this "crop" to a large extent, the report says. Recreational habits and demands fluctuate with economic conditions and are relatively unpredictable. Economic structures founded on such a base may suddenly topple.

Although warning that agriculture and stable industry should be given first consideration in the state development, the report points out that public expenditures for conserving and developing recreational areas are sound investments. Preservation of native scenic beauty, especially along roadsides, is as important as development of recreational projects.

Conservation of game fish and wild life will bring substantial returns from tourists as well as be of great value to residents, the report points out.

The report especially urges that immediate action be taken to preserve timber along Oregon high-

ways. At present 250,000 acres of magnificent standing timber along 1,000 miles of highway is unprotected.

The report, "Oregon Looks Ahead" was edited by V. B. Stanbery, executive secretary of the board. Copies may be obtained at the planning board office in the Spalding building in Portland.

Famous Printer Publishes Book at U.O.

University of Oregon, Eugene, Feb. 22.—Publication of "Religio Medici" by Sir Thomas Browne, the first volume of major importance to be printed since he established his press here, was announced at the University of Oregon this week by John Henry Nash, internationally famous printer.

The book, which is expected to take its place with the foremost examples of modern printing, was published for the Limited Editions club, and its 1500 signed and numbered copies will be delivered only to members of this organization. For the first time a volume by the former San Francisco printer bears the designation, "Eugene: University of Oregon," thus making this institution one of the centers for the world's finest book printing, it is pointed out by Eric W. Allen, dean of the school of journalism.

Dr. Nash, who moved here last fall, set every line of the book by hand, and designed and executed borders and decorations for what he considers one of his best works. The paper, a light India in tone, is Broadcaster Text, one of the best made by Strathmore. Type is beautiful light face Cloister. Cover stock, in mottled dark India, blue and cream tones, came from Germany.

Weed Leaflet Series Issued by College

Eight illustrated leaflets, first in a series dealing with perennial weeds found in Oregon, have just been issued as extension bulletins at Oregon State college, and are now ready for free distribution.

Each leaflet carries an accurate reproduction of one weed in various stages, such as the mature plant, the root system, leaves, blossom, and seeds. A description of each weed and its distribution in the state is discussed, as well as the latest recommendations on control methods.

Weeds covered so far by the series are Canada thistle, white top, morning glory, quack grass, plantains, leafy spurge, Russian knapweed, and St. John's wort. All are written by Lawrence Jenkins and E. B. Jackman, extension specialists in farm crops.

FALL, WINTER TERMS EQUAL

Oregon State College—Registration at Oregon State college for the winter term has come within 25 of equalling the total for the fall term, according to reports issued by E. B. Lemon, registrar. Although enrollment for the winter term is usually smaller than the fall term, 4381 are now enrolled compared with a total of 4406 in the fall term. This represents an increase of 8½ per cent compared with a year ago.

EXAMINER COMING

C. M. Bentley, examiner of operators and chauffeurs, will be in Heppner Thursday, March 2, at the city hall between the hours of 1 and 4 p. m. All those wishing licenses or permits to drive cars are asked to get in touch with Mr. Bentley at that time.

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