

OREGON LEGISLATION FAIRLY UNDER WAY

Many Bills Offered in House;
Motor License Considered
Very Important.

Tax Equalization First Object—\$12,000,000 Bonds for Highways Proposed—State Departments to be Self-Supporting—State Library Flourishing—Annual Fish War is On Again.

Salem, Or.—First steps toward the big program to be considered by this session of the legislature were taken the first of last week, when the roads and highways committees of the senate and house met to consider readjustment of motor license fees, and when the house committee on taxation and revenue decided to lead out the first two measures of the list recommended by the property tax relief commission.

There are eight main subjects in the tax program, but the committee concluded the best policy is to feed out the measures a little at a time so that they can be absorbed and understood, rather than dump the entire complicated series of bills into the hopper at once.

Equalization First Object.

Equalization, regarded as the fundamental principle of the program, will be the lead-off, represented by two bills, the first on centralized control and assessment and the second calling for a full-time state tax commission, which will supplant the present commission consisting of the governor, secretary of state, state treasurer and state tax commissioner.

Under centralized control of assessment it is hoped to obtain the true value and the equalization of assessments of property, but to attain this end the state tax commission must be empowered to exercise general supervision over the entire administration of the assessment and taxation laws. This would enable the commission to step in and adjust the glaring inequalities which exist in the same class of property in different counties.

With the exception of the proposed excise tax on banks and an individual income tax, all of the recommendations of the property tax relief commission were spread before the legislature Monday, when the session resumed.

Not before most of the taxation measures are well on their way will the controversial bill for a personal income tax be offered.

All things considered, the heavy business of the session is now fairly under way. How many, if any, of these taxation measures will manage to pass the house and senate and be enacted into laws is unknown. There appears to be little, if any, opposition to the tax relief program in the house, but one can never tell.

\$12,000,000 Highway Bonds Wanted.

Both Eddy and Upton, as well as President Norblad and Senator Hall, are interested in trying to force through a mandate to the highway commission to sell bonds up to the constitutional limit—about \$12,000,000—and "pottatch" this on a basis of 40 per cent for eastern Oregon and 60 per cent for western Oregon. Involved in this measure is an abundance of politics for personal and home consumption.

It has the aspect of being excellent material for log-rolling. And it is no secret that the governor does not want more bonds sold, for he wants to see the bonded debt decreased rather than increased. Of course, if money was needed to match federal aid, a sufficient amount of bonds may be sold for that purpose and this can be done without materially increasing the load.

During the first two weeks of the 1929 session of the house 253 bills were introduced, 47 passed and four indefinitely postponed. Of these 137, or more than one-half, were repeal bills offered by the interim committee appointed at the 1927 session to eliminate dead timber in the Oregon code. Many of the other repeal bills have been reported back by committees with the recommendation that they be passed.

Total disbursement plus cash on hand, of private institutions for dependent and delinquent children under the jurisdiction of the child welfare commission, aggregated \$963,865.08 during the past biennium, according to the report of the commission filed with the legislature last week.

Self-Supporting Departments is Aim.

Placing a number of state departments, now supported by public funds, on a self-supporting basis through the adoption of a fee system, is the problem that is now being considered seriously by the joint ways and means committee of the legislature. At a recent meeting of the committee it was decided to confer with C. H. Gram, state labor commissioner, in regard to placing his department on a self-supporting basis. Mr. Gram offered his co-operation, and amendments have been prepared proposing adoption of an equitable fee schedule

One proposed amendment provides for increasing the fees for electrical inspections, while another would increase the fees charged for plumbing inspections. A new bill authorizes the collection of fees for boiler inspection.

Among the important bills affecting labor introduced in the house during the past week is one that gives the labor commissioner authority to take assignment of and force the collection of wage claims when such action becomes necessary. It is known as house bill No. 174.

The general laws for 1925 make it a criminal offense for an employer in certain industries to fail to establish a monthly payday and to pay in full on that date; employers must post notices in conspicuous places designating what date of the month will be the regular payday.

In event the employer fails to meet his payday, then the employe can file criminal proceedings against him, or the labor commissioner can act as the employe's agent. Some district attorneys insist that complaints be taken before the grand jury, which means that in many cases hearing of the complaints has been delayed for a month. It was found. In the meantime the workers have left without obtaining the wages due them.

Library System Flourishing.

The library system of Oregon is made up of 82 independent free public libraries, 706 traveling library stations and 28,816 mail-order patrons, accord-

ing to the biennial report of Mrs. Walter M. Pierce, nee Cornelia Marvin, state librarian until January 1 of this year. The report was filed with the legislature recently.

The usual stations showed 48,782 shipments containing 276,356 volumes during the biennium. In addition to these activities the state library, as purchasing agent, bought annually with the county school library funds and distributed to the school districts \$20,000 worth of books.

By unanimous vote, house joint memorial No. 2, by the committee on horticulture, was adopted, memorializing congress to place a duty on bananas in order to protect fruits harvested and marketed in this country. Weatherspoon of Union and Johnson of Benton, speaking for the adoption of the memorial, pointed out that by the importation of bananas duty free the market for domestic fruits has been greatly affected. They urged that the fruit industry of the country be placed on the same base of protection against foreign products as lumber, wheat and other commodities.

Bancorporations May be Regulated.

Rumors that something would be done in the way of regulation of bancorporations at this session began to materialize the past week, when a measure was peddled around to senators which was so drastic that no one has yet been found to introduce it. The tentative bill would have the effect of preventing present bancor-

porations from increasing their growth from their current status. To quote: "Any corporation now or hereafter doing business in this state shall not control, vote, hold, own or purchase more than 10 per centum of the number of shares of capital stock of any bank or trust company or national bank, now or hereafter doing business in this state."

Steelheads swam into the legislature again this session and the biennial wrangling over fish legislation started. One of the most important developments was a promise made to Governor Patterson that illegal fishing would be stopped in the Clackamas and Willamette rivers, now closed commercially, if these streams were opened from November 15 to April 1. This promise was made by a delegation of fishermen from Oregon City.

The steelhead is a game fish, legislatively, in the Rogue, Nestucca, Willamette, Clackamas, Necanicum and Wabana. Only with hook and line can this variety of fish be taken in these streams. The sportsmen want included the waters of New river, Pistol river, Sixes, Chetco and a couple of other small streams in Coos and Curry counties.

Basketball—Adams vs. Hermiston at the Hermiston auditorium Saturday night, February 16.

Quotations Today

Butterfat	50c
Heavy Hens, over 4 1-2 lbs	21c
Light Hens	15c
Springs	18c

SWIFT & CO., Hermiston

F. B. BARKER, OPERATOR

Waverly Motor Oils

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(Continued on page four)

2459 Oregon People Serve Your Telephone

*They are your neighbors, and their task is to
bring all your neighbors closer to you*

A SMALL ARMY—one Oregon resident to every 58 telephones, or in all 2459 Oregon people—are in the ranks of the telephone company, engaged in serving you.

That you may better understand what these telephone people are doing, we cordially invite you to visit any of our central offices.

The switchboards, with their miles of wiring, will fascinate you. You will be surprised to find that the familiar telephone on your desk, which is one of the 143,000 in the Oregon exchanges, amounts to but **three per cent** of the total equipment needed to carry your voice over the state.

The first Oregon telephone exchange opened in Portland in 1878 with 12 subscribers, just two years after the invention of the telephone itself.

Oregon men and women have not only used the telephone from the beginning, but have helped develop the very art of telephony. J. H. Thatcher of this company has been here continuously since the advent of the telephone. Patrick Bacon, now Portland manager, began as a boy operator more than 40 years ago.

Good telephone service requires the mutual co-operation of the public and the telephone company. Pay a visit to any central office—it is an interesting sight. Individuals and organizations are welcome.

THE PACIFIC TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY

Announcement The Domestic Dry Cleaning Co.

Is open for business at their new home at 810 Thompson Street. We are ready to serve you with the most modern equipment in all departments of Dry Cleaning. George D. Fell, Pendleton's Pioneer Cleaner is at the helm, assuring you of the best technical knowledge in the field.

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