

OREGON STUDIES LAW

(By La Follette's Weekly.)

The voters of Oregon will pass on thirty-two laws at the next election. Some may think this too many to be mastered by the voters of the state in four months; but the Oregonians say they suspect that they can become as intelligent as to the merits of thirty-two laws in four months as is the average legislator concerning those he votes upon. The legislature passes on an average of 500 laws in 40 days, or at the rate of 20 a day. The voters have a chance to put in their leisure time for 120 days on the 1910 batch—or about four days to a law.

Anyhow, they feel like making their own guesses at their own laws, with such light upon them as the campaign documents printed and furnished by the state may shed, rather than take the guesses of the legislators who often see by the garish glare of the illumination from the corporate lighting plants. And up to date the Oregonians have legislated very intelligently.

Really their problems this fall are not as complex as the reactionary press would have one think. Many of the bills are referendums on such things as the establishment of normal schools at certain points, merger of counties, creation of new counties, fishery rights in rivers, and salaries of public officers—which may be regarded as formal matters such as new and growing states always have to settle. There are thirteen of these, and therefore only nineteen of the measures are such as we usually have in mind when we speak of really public laws.

And these nineteen are not so many quite separate measures. Several are merely the "yea" and "nay" forms of the same questions, and therefore when the voter passes on one he decides on the other. For instance, organized labor has before the people an employers' liability law, while the employers have pending a bill for a commission to draft an employers' liability law. The one is designed to kill the other. The

voter who accepts one will reject the other. One will say "I believe the law proposed is a good one," and he will vote for the labor bill; while another will say "I think this law should go to a commission for drafting," and will vote on the opposing measure. There are other measures which will be disposed of by this system of opposing opinions. Organized labor has a bill for abolishing poll taxes and requiring a vote of the people on all proposed laws which tax the people. The People's Power league has four measures on the ballot: one for proportional representation, increase in the scope of the initiative and referendum, legislative reform in the legislature, and local elections in such local affairs as creating new counties; one for inspection of public offices and the publication of a voters' magazine to be sent to every registered voter; one to reform the legal procedure by enabling three-fourths of the jury in civil cases to find a verdict, and generally to simplify procedure and practice; and one for the extension of direct primary nominations to presidential campaign candidates, including delegates to national conventions.

These are all drawn on the line of extending the principle of control by the masses. The voters who favor one will in the main make up their minds favorably to the others by the same process of thinking.

On the other hand, and standing against all these, is the bill of the standpatters of both political parties to call a convention to revise the Oregon constitution. The "revision" hoped for is the elimination of the new and radical provisions from the constitution, especially the initiative, referendum and the recall. It is opposed by the grange, the trade unions and the progressive forces generally. Its supporters seem to be frankly reactionary. Voters supporting this law are sure to be against the progressive measures for the same reason that the end of the magnetic needle which does not point to the north points south.

There is a law proposed permit-

ting railroad building by the state—a tremendously important law. Interesting, but not easily gauged in importance by the outsiders, are proposals for the separate districts for each legislator, or removing restrictions as to bonding of municipal corporations and establishing home rule in road building, one establishing a hospital for the insane one permitting the legislature to pass laws exempting from taxation classes of property recommended to be so freed by the Tax Commission, and also allowing such laws to be enacted by popular vote, an amendment allowing the interested districts to settle local questions—and the like. Some of them are doubtless very important. There are a pair of measures pending on the ever-present liquor question, one providing for local option, the other for state-wide prohibition. And it is a proposal allowing woman-suffrage confined to tax-payers.

Rather a large order for the people. But literature on each question necessary to an intelligent understanding of it is furnished by the state free of charge. Of course some study is required. In order that the average knowledge possessed by the voter be equal to that of the ordinary legislator, he should perhaps do as much study as is required of an eight-grade pupil making up a lost semester in history.

Certain voters will be at a disadvantage in Oregon this fall—the illiterate, the careless, and the imbecile. Perhaps this will be the only election in the nation where the bad citizens will be to some extent automatically disfranchised by his own bad citizenship.

And the average good, honest conscientious voter will come out of the campaign with increased knowledge of public affairs and strengthened by the exercise of his powers as a voter.

Exercise is the cure for atrophied organs.

Oregon exercises her people in civil government.

They will soon be the strongest voting people in America, morally and intelligently.

PEOPLE FIGHT FOR THEMSELVES

Senator Bourne Back From Washington Says Oregon Fared Well in Appropriations—Discusses Political Situation.

United States Senator Jonathan Bourne has returned to Oregon from Washington filled with enthusiasm for the Oregon system of government by the people, declaring that the success of the assembly ticket is the resurrection of ring rule and bossism, and saying that Oregon was well taken care of in the way of federal appropriations during the recent congress.

The senator is enthused on the Oregon system and the widespread interest being taken in the direct primary, initiative and referendum, recall and Oregon method of electing senators. In view of the Oregon system being taken up by other states, the attempt to elect an assembly ticket here he considers as an indication that the people, or some of them, have lost confidence in their ability to govern themselves.

In an interview, Senator Bourne said:

"This is not any individual's fight, but is a fight of the people, by the people, and for themselves. It is a struggle between general welfare and selfishness. The people of Oregon are again on trial. Success for the assembly movement means that the people of Oregon, after demonstrating themselves the most advanced and progressive electorate in the world, have suddenly lost confidence in themselves, and prefer to

be ruled by the political boss and campaign contributors rather than to rule themselves.

"Such community paresis is inconceivable. Every assembly nominee should, and in my opinion will, be defeated. Principle is greater than any individual. Oregon's demonstration of popular government is attracting the attention of the whole nation. Other states are rapidly following her leadership. Her initiative and referendum, direct primary, including Statement No. 1, corrupt practices act and recall have brought more people and more money to this state than all the publicity bureaus in Oregon. People like to go where they will enjoy the greatest personal liberty and invest their money where it will receive the greatest protection. In Oregon the individual voter enjoys the full sovereignty of his citizenship, and his property interests are absolutely free from legislative blackmail or selfish legislation.

"Over 1,500,000 copies of my speech on the Oregon system have been distributed. California asked for 100,000, and as many more went to Kansas, while every state has been supplied. There have been requests from England, and the thousands of copies have gone to Canada and the Canal zone. The Oregon system is to be adopted in its entirety by Kansas and by a number of other states."

Life on Panama Canal

has had one frightful drawback, malarial trouble that has brought suffering and death to thousands. The germs cause chills, fever and ague, biliousness, jaundice, lassitude, weakness and general debility. But Electric Bitters never fail to destroy them and cure malaria troubles. "Three bottles completely cured me of a very severe attack of malaria," writes Wm. A. Fretwell, of Laeana, N. C., "and I've had good health ever since." Cure Stomach, Liver and Kidney troubles, and prevent Typhoid. 50c. Guaranteed by all druggists.

SAVES DROWNING GIRL; "THANK YOU," SAYS SHE

WILDWOOD, N. J., Aug. 18.—At the outer end of the ocean pier a young man from Philadelphia saved from drowning, Miss Florence B. Towe, of Lansdowne, Pa., who had been carried out by the undertow to a point beyond the life guard's line. The undercurrent was running heavy and Miss Towe, who had been bathing with a party of friends, ventured out beyond the end of the pier. She is an expert swimmer, but a heavy sea taxed her energy and she was seen to throw up her hands and sink.

Raymond Conkin, 25 years old, was bathing near by and went to Miss Towe's aid. After a struggle he dragged her to the shore. "I thank you," said the young woman who is a pretty blonde, to her rescuer, as she hurried to her cottage on the avenue.

NOTICE.

Rev. J. L. Grata of Grants Pass a minister of "The Church of God," has just completed arrangements for holding a three weeks' meeting in the tabernacle, same to begin on September 3. Rev. W. W. Crist of Baker City will be the evangelist, with Rev. C. H. Hale as musical director.

A store should be advertised as regularly as it is opened for business. A merchant who wouldn't close up for a while now and then "to save running expenses" shouldn't stop advertising now and then to "save expense."

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NEW RULES FOR FISHING

Master Fish Warden Clanton Raises Regulations Regarding Fishing in Oregon Streams—Nets Cannot be Stretched but Third Across Channel

Master Fish Warden R. E. Clanton has drafted a new form of rules governing net fishing in the streams of this state which are controlled by law. Under the new regulations each and every net in operation must be covered by a separate and distinct license. No stationary nets, including all drift or gill nets, must be stretched more than one-third across any stream at any stage of the water. This rule eliminates the holding back of salmon traveling upstream in several of the small rivers. Set-net operators must place and maintain on a substantial post or monument on the bank of the stream or channel, or upon a buoy securely anchored on the location claimed for fishing purposes, the number of their licenses, preceded by an "O" in black figures on a white foreground. The number of the license must also be branded on the cork of each end of each net, as well as on the cork nearest the center thereof, with figures not less than one-half inch in length. These same requirements are made of the gillnet or driftnet operators, in addition to which the boats belonging to the net owners must carry the license number in plain sight.

By so arranging the rules governing net fishing, Warden Clanton believes his deputies will have less difficulty in recognizing the licensed fishermen, and those who violate the fish laws. It often occurs that a deputy becomes stranded while out on his regular tour of inspection and is compelled to complete his trip on land, and under the present system of marking licensed fishermen, it is impossible to ascertain from the shore whether or not a net is licensed or whether a boatman carrying nets is a fisherman within the law.

Struck a Rich Mine.
S. W. Bends, of Coal City, Ala., says he struck a perfect mine of health in Dr. King's New Life Pills for they cured him of Liver and Kidney trouble after 12 years of suffering. They are the best pills on earth for Constipation, Malaria, Headache, Dyspepsia, Debility. 25c at all druggists.

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ADVERTISED LETTER LIST

The following letters remain uncalled for at the Medford, Oregon, postoffice, August 17, 1910:

- Angelo Babin, Mrs. C. A. Bohney, Mr. Raeltz, Mrs. Emma Baker, Rena Boardman, D. C. Benedict, Maud Bisner, N. E. Blake, Nina Burton, Ray Buffington, P. O. Burg, M. Brevilly, M. L. Carpenter, J. C. Carter, T. J. Cahill, J. L. Sasey, Mrs. Ida H. Clark, Vina Conklin, Pastor Congregational Church, Dave Crockett, Geol Detrick, Jenn Daw., Sam DeLoang, R. H. Dorland, Tommy Dunn, Dave Duncan, Harry Egbert, Ruby Emerson, W. C. Fairbury, H. Fetterly, Thos. Gitzgerald, Antonion Geat-geopolon, Wm. Gerwolf, W. S. Gray, Mrs. Lizzie Hamilton, Wm. W. Hamilton, G. W. Hamilton, E. A. Hamilton, Marie Hammond, Mrs. W. H. Hogan, Mrs. S. James Harvey, William Herbert, William H. Jebe (2), D. S. Johnson, F. S. Johnston, Henry Karkmeier, Nick Kagelario (2), Max Kenyon, J. F. Kennedy, T. F. Kingery, Thom Lasari, C. J. Lear, F. J. Lucid (2), William Light, H. L. Leach, Al Major, W. A. Marvin, W. P. Meredith, David Nash, O. C. Nelson, Charles Neal, Martens Neal, Jered Phillips, Mr. Petri, Mrs. Roberts, Maria M. Rozerto, Geo. Russell, J. C. Savage, Jack D. Sundin, Geo. Scull, F. E. Scott, J. M. Stephenson, George E. Stocking, Nye Turpin, Wallace Upham, W. W. Warren, Chas Willson, W. Williams, Packages—B. B. Youmans. Parties calling for the above letters will please say advertised. A charge of one cent will be made upon delivery.

A. M. WOODFORD, P. M.

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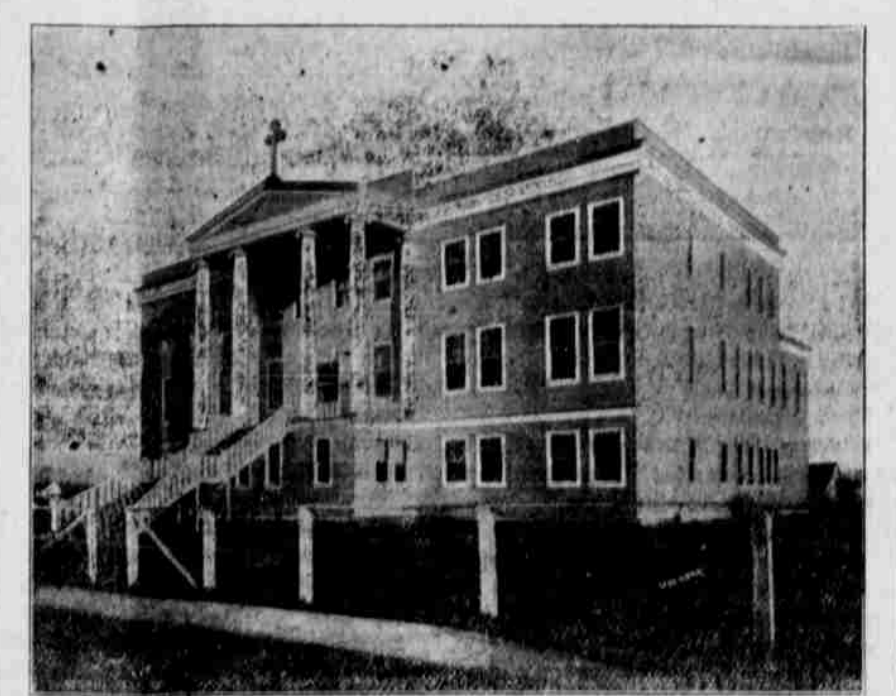
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