

State Constitution Amendment Tough Under Proposals

Salem (UPI)—The Oregon Constitutional Revision Commission has voted 10-4 to make it tougher to amend the state constitution, and get a law passed by the legislature referred by petition to the ballot.

After a long discussion, the commission approved the motion of Mrs. Esther Lewis, Portland, that sets up a new

formula for figuring out the number of signatures required on initiative and referendum petitions.

At present, the number of signatures required is a certain percentage of the total vote cast for State Supreme Court Justice. If more than one justice race is on the ballot, the highest number of yes and no votes in one race

are chosen, and the total and percentages pertain to the number of signatures needed on petitions at the next election.

Present Situation Explained

As it works under the present constitution, the whole vote cast for justice in November, 1960, was 530,367. Since 10 per cent of that is taken, 53,037 signatures are needed this year on a petition to put a constitutional amendment on the November, 1962 ballot. Lesser signature totals are needed to get laws re-

ferred and measures dealing with non-constitutional material on the ballot.

The reason the commission wants to require more signatures to get a measure on the ballot is that often a special interest group faced with a hostile legislature gets a petition, rounds up the signatures from voters, and gets its pet project on the ballot, and sometimes in the constitution.

At a previous meeting the commission voted to change the base for computing signatures needed from the vote for justice to the vote for governor.

This is because the total votes cast for governor is always higher than that for justice.

Percentage Set

The motion, made by Mrs. Lewis, augmented the earlier plan, setting percentages of 8, 6 and 4 of the total vote for governor. The 8 per cent pertains to petitions for constitutional amendments.

The commission is making the proposal because it wants

Small Worlds Around Us

By LYNN M. WATKINS

(Register and Tribune Syndicate 1962)

Pitch Pretty Important To Pioneer Woodsmen

Years ago the man, alone in the woods, injured by an ax or a gun, had to treat himself, or be treated by someone who knew little more about it than did he. So remedies had to be secured from the woods and fields. Serious injuries had to be doctored quickly or the victim bled to death, or died later from infection.

But either by accident or application most of the pioneers, as well as the early Indians, found that the pitch from fir, balsam or pine trees seemed to be helpful; the pitch from some trees was more beneficial than others. In the more serious wounds, the pitch from the fir trees was frequently used.

Housewife Too

The pioneer housewife, also dependent on what remedies she could gather from the forests, knew the value of pitch. She, or some member of her family, gathered the globules of gummy material and stored it for future use.

Many years after the pioneers, the small boy found a use for the pitch of fir, balsam and spruce trees. He gathered the blisters, popped them into his mouth and chewed them like gum. The pitch had a strong, piny taste and was gummy enough to tire small jaws in only a few moments of chewing.

Some of the youngsters, familiar to woodland ways, even used a pitch-blisters for an application on a stubbed toe. It was sticky enough to adhere and was impervious to water.

The pitch the woodsman gathered from the nearest fir tree to seal or to sterilize a wound was in reality a result of a minor injury to the tree itself. Actually the tree bled a little.

As the sap oozed from the tree-body it solidified on contact with the air, forming a blister or a translucent bubble. From the "bleeding" tree, the material had a tendency to stop the bleeding in an animal body.

Gummy and Sticky

The pitch-blisters, in the form of a globule, was usually of a dark yellowish color, gummy and very sticky. The

globule looked very much like a glob of plastic looks today. The blister was squeezed to break the outer, slightly hardened skin that formed when the pitch dried, the softer, gummy material spread over the wound, and like turpentine which, of course, it is in its crudest form, tended to prevent infection, and was expected to seal the wound and stop the bleeding.

There are many folks, even in this day of the miracle drugs, who use refined turpentine in the treatment of wounds of a minor nature.

The use of pitch is, of course, in disuse today but at one time it served a purpose. Even if it lacked the curative qualities of modern drugs, the pitch did seal off the wound from outside contamination. At least that was "the pitch."

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By Jimmy Hatlo

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Student Council Acts on Agenda During SGD Here

The Medford student city council met Thursday in the council chambers in city hall and acted on a one-page agenda of items connected with city government.

The meeting was presided over by student Mayor Doug Robertson, and all eight student councilmen were present.

Among other items on the agenda, the council voted to reverse a planning recommendation and granted a variance to Siskiyow Memorial park to allow the construction of an illuminated sign at the entrance to the park.

A proposal by the student administration to establish a department of planning in city hall received the nearly unanimous endorsement of the group.

Vote Down Proposal

After voting down a proposed air pollution control ordinance, the council ordered the installation of a number of traffic signs at various intersections in the city.

The meeting was concluded with a discussion of ways and means by which new industry might be attracted to Medford.

Council members included Bill Dames and Kathie Fitzpatrick, Ward 1; Jim Burke and Wally Huffman, Ward 2; Dave Elmgren and Bruce Niedermeyer, Ward 3; and Paul Bauer and DeEtta Lawson, Ward 4.

Carl Washburn served as city manager, Dorelyn Huson as recorder-treasurer, and Pat Meeker as city attorney at the meeting.

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