

Withycombe Urges Economy to Solons

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are responsible for their subsequent conduct.

In other words, the governor, more than anyone else, is directly concerned in the details of prison administration.

Budget Reductions The state budget calls for appropriations totaling \$715,382 more than can be raised under the provisions of the recent constitutional amendment.

The situation can be met only by pruning the budget estimates in conjunction with the creation of new revenue. Both these are subjects which should be approached cautiously, considered with painstaking care, and acted upon with out bias.

The total amount that might be eliminated is \$461,000. To reinforce this saving I further propose legislation which will increase the state's revenue some \$260,000, making a total expenditure eliminated and new funds created during the biennium of \$721,000.

I have ventured to suggest a decrease in expenditures of this legislation. It should not be difficult to accomplish this, and certainly economy may well begin at home.

New Revenue In my opinion there are two feasible sources for new state revenue. The inheritance tax may well be readjusted so that direct descendants would pay one per cent on amounts over the \$5,000 exemption, and up to \$20,000, and two per cent upon funds above that amount; collateral heirs, two per cent on all amounts from \$2,000 to \$20,000, and above that, four per cent; all other beneficiaries should be required to pay four per cent of whatever money they receive.

In the state insurance department it is suggested that the tax of two per cent on the net premium of insurance companies be changed to two per cent on gross premiums.

It is calculated that the suggested changes under these two heads will bring to the state an additional revenue of \$150,000 annually.

Highways State road work embraces some of the most important problems confronting us. The policy of trunk highway construction already under way should not be abandoned. Especially, sufficient funds must be forthcoming so that the state can meet the requirements of the Shackelford bill, and thus secure this federal financial aid, which, during the next five years will amount to \$1,819,250.

Having ascertained that many auto-

mobiles escape the property tax, it was thought that this tax might be combined with the license. However, such a procedure might be unconstitutional, so I propose a moderate increase in automobile licenses and that the total revenue obtained therefrom be devoted to state road work. It is estimated that an average of at least 2250,000 a year would be available during the next five years, making a total amount available for roads after 1917 of approximately \$500,000 a year.

It is further recommended that a commission of three unsalaried members be placed in charge of the highway department. The members of the present highway commission agree, I believe, that their other duties are too multitudinous to permit giving proper attention to this important subject.

The commissioners should be appointed by the governor, and one might well be selected from each of the congressional districts. This commission should be empowered to employ a highway engineer, with the exclusive duty of supervising state road work.

Prohibition The people of Oregon have decisively approved the so-called "bone-dry" prohibition measure, and this legislature is in duty bound to make absolutely effective the provisions and absolute intentions of that measure. That it will fulfill its obligations to the letter, I am confident.

So far as the governor's office is concerned, it may be stated that during the past diennium I have actively cooperated with local officers toward the adequate enforcement of the prohibition law, and have found the officers of the various counties and cities deserve high praise for the sincere spirit and marked efficiency with which they have administered the act.

Supreme Court The supreme court is constantly burdened with minor cases from which, it seems to me, it should be relieved. Existing conditions encourage litigation over matters comparatively trivial and result in an unnecessary expense to the state, while impairing the efficiency of the court through overburdening the time and attention of its members. I recommend legislation to the end that no appeal may be taken to the supreme court unless it appears in the judgment appealed from that the amount of money thereby required to be paid, exclusive of interest thereon, costs or disbursements, exceeds \$500, or unless it appears from the judgment roll that there is directly drawn in question the title to real property, the personal liberty or marital relation of a party to the litigation, the constitutionality of an act of the legislative assembly of the validity of a municipal charter or ordinance or of the ruling of some board or commission established by law.

Military The establishment of facilities for military training in our state university and in Oregon high schools is recommended. This need not be compulsory, but it should be available for Oregon boys, and participation in it should count in their school credits.

Sterilization The prevalence and increase of feeble mindedness and mental disease is one of the greatest problems confronting modern society. It is estimated, for instance, that probably two per cent of Oregon children are mentally deficient. There are hundreds of adults of course, who are mentally incompetent, and whose unrestricted propagation simply means the creation of more human wrecks. I am more and more convinced that the reproduction of the mentally unfit is absolutely wrong. Through our shortsighted inaction we are populating our state with imbeciles and criminals, insuring ever-increasing public expense and opening the way for disease, sorrow and tragedy for generations yet unborn.

To mend this situation, I earnestly urge the passage of a sane sterilization

act. Its application should be zealously safeguarded. The feeble-minded, the incurably insane and the criminal insane should be operated upon. Each case, it seems to me, should be considered by a commission, or jury, composed of the state board of health, the superintendents of the two state hospitals and the superintendent of the feeble minded institution.

Fish and Game The workings of the fish and game commission, under the provisions of the bill passed by the last legislature, have been most gratifying. The commission has conducted its affairs efficiently, and, I believe, given satisfaction. Certainly the public spirited attention to their duties shown by the commissioners deserves commendation.

The commission itself is submitting a report and recommendations to you. Without going into details covered elsewhere, it seems desirable to mention two important points which should be covered by legislation this session: A new fish ladder is vitally needed at Oregon City, and a moderate appropriation to meet this requirement would be a wise investment.

It is believed that the angler's license fee, which is now \$1, should be increased to \$1.50. There has been a decrease in licenses paid during the last few years, and, on the other hand, there is a rapidly increasing need for restocking of our fishing streams upon a generous scale. It is my expectation that the increased revenue from this source would be devoted almost exclusively to the propagation of trout for the upbuilding of our angling resources.

Local Economy The growing desire to keep down taxes is to be commended, especially because it surely indicates an increased public interest in community affairs. The very best way to get efficiency in public administration, whether it be district, municipal, county or state, is for the citizens affected to take an active hand in what is going on.

This is no apology for state extravagance. Such as exists should be eradicated. But it does mean that by far the largest and most fruitful field for economies lies nearer home. No doubt this Legislature will devote serious attention to economical reforms in some of the laws affecting expenditure of this nine-tenths of our taxes.

Pioneers Among items of deserving legislation which perhaps cannot receive action now because of financial restrictions, but which merit future realization, I commend to your attention the following:

The pioneers who founded Oregon deserve recognition. A practical and useful monument to their accomplishments would be the erection of a State Historical Building to accommodate the valuable records and souvenirs of the state's early days, which now are poorly housed and in danger of loss by fire.

At Champeog on May 2, 1843, was held a gathering of unique significance in the western history of the United States, making the official birth of Oregon. The anniversary of this occasion is celebrated each year. It seems eminently fitting that the state should recognize the significance of these annual meetings and the event they commemorate, by giving financial aid to the erection of a modest building at Champeog.

With these suggestions for the present and future, I close this message, which marks the completion of half of my official journey as Governor of Oregon. During the two years of my administration I have given the best I have to the service of the citizens who honored me with this office, and during the coming biennium, if Providence permits, I pledge them a continuance of earnest effort for sane, constructive administration. And I assure you, gentlemen of the Twenty-ninth Legislature, that you will find me ever ready to cooperate with you for the betterment of our beloved commonwealth.

from the stomach, liver, kidneys and bowels the previous day's indigestible material, poisons, sour bile and toxins; thus cleansing, sweetening and purifying the entire alimentary canal before putting more food into the stomach.

Just as soap and hot water cleanse and freshen the skin, so hot water and limestone phosphate act on the eliminative organs.

Those who wake up with bad breath, coated tongue, nasty taste or a dull, aching head, sallow complexion, acid stomach; others who are subject to bilious attacks or constipation, should obtain a quarter pound of limestone phosphate at the drug store. This will cost very little but is sufficient to demonstrate the value of inside bathing. Those who continue it each morning are assured of pronounced results, both in regard to health and appearance.—adv

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