

VERNONIA EAGLE

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PAUL S. ROBINSON.
Editor and Owner.

VERNONIA

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IMPORTANT MEASURES EXPECTED TO APPEAR

Consolidation and Income Tax Bills Occupy Attention of Legislature.

Salem.—The legislature began the third week of the session with all the big constructive legislation yet to receive attention. However, it is expected a start will be made this week in shaping important measures of state-wide interest, inasmuch as two consolidation and several income tax bills have been offered. These two subjects promise to engross the attention of the legislature during the ensuing weeks of the session.

Two bills providing for the consolidation of state departments and commissions are now before the senate. One offered by Senator Hall provides for four departments of the state government, while the other, sponsored by Senator Johnson and Representative Carlin, would segregate the state's activities into six departments. The merits of these measures will be discussed at public hearings this week by the committee on county and state officers.

Income Tax Favored.

Four measures providing for a state income tax have been prepared for consideration by the lawmakers. While in past sessions income tax bills have received scant consideration, there seems to be a strong sentiment among members of the present legislature in favor of adopting this method of raising revenue. If no income tax measure is passed it will be due to the fact that senators and representatives were unable to agree on details.

The income tax bills at present in evidence are:

The state grant bill, introduced by Representatives Bennett and Wheeler.

The administration bill, introduced by Representative McMahan of Linn.

The flat rate bill, prepared by the state tax investigating committee which probably will be offered as a bill from the committee on assessment and taxation.

The Kubli bill, which offsets the income tax with property tax. The Kubli measure may not be introduced.

While Governor Pierce admits he had Representative McMahan of Linn introduced his bill, the governor said he is not so closely wedded to it that he will not consider changes.

Would Consult Governor.

Representative McMahan of Marion county, just before the week-end adjournment, introduced a resolution providing for appointment of three members of the house to visit Governor Pierce and confer with him on specific measures which he wishes introduced and considered as means for relieving the financial burdens of the taxpayers of Oregon. The resolution sets forth that although many days of the session have passed away, but little real effort on this line has been made so far.

The senate, when it adjourned over Sunday, had 48 bills upon its calendar, the house 115, a record for both so far as the number of their offerings is concerned.

This week will probably see the introduction of the severance tax bill, sponsored by Governor Pierce, which will furnish undoubtedly plenty of oratory and excitement before it is finally disposed of.

The roads and highways program has not yet been determined, but reports indicate that there will be a large number of bills in this connection. These bills will strike at the present motor vehicle laws and may provide for increasing the motor vehicle tax. Limits of loads on the state highways also will be the subject of considerable legislation, it was said.

The senate, by an unanimous vote and without debate, adopted the Ellis senate memorial to the interstate commerce commission asking for the construction of railroads through Central and Southwestern Oregon, including the Natron cut-off.

Bill Hits Armed Bootleggers.

It is made a felony punishable by imprisonment in the penitentiary for a person to have a dangerous or deadly weapon on or about his person when engaged in making or when possessing intoxicating liquor by a bill passed by the senate.

The Moser bill providing for a thorough teaching of the Constitution of the United States and its history, in public and private schools of the state from the eighth grade on, was enthusiastically approved by the senate.

Senator Zimmerman's concurrent resolution which would require all bills for introduction in the legislature to be filed with the secretary of state at least thirty days before the legislature meets, except budget bills, has aroused considerable interest.

The anti-sectarianism bill, designed to prevent the wearing of costumes of religious orders by teachers in the public schools, which passed the house, caused a split in the senate education committee. A majority of four members favoring enactment of the bill by striking out the penalty of fine and imprisonment and the minority, three, favoring allowing the penalty to remain.

Oregon Trail Bill Passed.

The first senate bill to pass the house was Senator Strayer's measure

conquering the east and west highway from the Pacific ocean to the Idaho line as the Oregon trail. This was recommended by both Governor Pierce and Governor Olcott, so there is no doubt as to its becoming a law.

Two of Representative Woodward's defeated in the house. One provided for dental inspection in schools and the other to extend the right of suffrage at school elections to all registered voters.

The agricultural bloc formed the nucleus for the opposition to the bills. No religious rancor entered into the discussion, but they were voted down primarily because they would increase expenses.

Representative Lewis' bill to prohibit the importation or transportation of wines for sacramental purposes was crushed by an overwhelming negative vote when the house indefinitely postponed it.

Legislative Brevities.

The legislature visited the Oregon Agricultural college at Corvallis in a body Wednesday.

Representative Schulerich's bill to make jury duty for women mandatory was indefinitely postponed on adverse committee report.

Payment of bounties on coyotes would be stopped entirely under the terms of a bill introduced into the senate under the sponsorship of Senator Ellis and Representative Lackey.

Representative Sherman Miles of Columbia county has introduced a bill requiring the licensing by the state of all hotels and restaurants.

Representative Ezell of Crook, Deschutes, Klamath, Jefferson and Lake counties, sponsored a bill requiring residence on irrigation projects as a prerequisite to participation in the district election.

Prohibiting by federal statute the issuance of tax-exempt securities is proposed in a memorial which received the unanimous support of the members of the senate.

Representatives of the legislatures of Washington, Idaho and California are invited to Salem to confer with Oregon legislators relative to income tax and gasoline tax legislation by a senate concurrent resolution which has been adopted in both houses.

Mr. Hale was in town from the Oregon American camp on business Wednesday.

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