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REVIEW OF WORK OF OREGON LEGISLATURE

Seven Bills Pass Both Houses;
Governor Signs Four
of Them.

Raises in Salaries of State Officers Recommended — State Loans to Home Owners Proposed—Ex-Service Men Sponsor Anti-Alien Law—Fight Impends Over Picketing Law—Soldier Bonus Uncertain—Dry Law Strengthened.

Salem.—The legislature began the third week of the session with all the big constructive legislation yet to receive attention. While a number of important measures have been introduced no bill of statewide importance has received the sanction of both houses.

At the conclusion of the second week of the session only seven bills had passed both houses. Four of the bills have been signed by the governor, the first bill introduced by the ways and means committee appropriating \$40,000 for expenses of the session. The governor also signed senate bills repealing the law creating the state board of automobile mechanics examiners, the act authorizing county indebtedness up to not exceeding 2 per cent of the assessed valuation for road purposes and a house bill appropriating \$237,766 to cover deficiency appropriations authorized by the state emergency board during the past year.

During the first two weeks of the session a total of 256 bills were introduced as against 271 bills during the same period of the 1919 session. The senate bills introduced numbered 185 and the house bills 121.

Salary Increases for State Officers.
Increases in the salaries of the state superintendent of schools from \$3000 to \$4000 per year, the attorney general from \$3600 to \$4000 per year, the corporation commissioner from \$3000 to \$3600 per year, and the clerk of the state land board from \$2500 to \$3000 per year, are recommended in the report of the special legislative committee on salaries of state and county officials.

General increases are also recommended for county superintendents of schools. Although making no direct recommendations for increases in salaries of county judges, assessors and county commissioners, who, the report states, were found in most cases to be capable men serving at inadequate pay, a warning is sounded to the effect that "the good citizens of the state should look well into the conduct and management of public affairs if they desire to protect themselves from waste and inefficiency and consequent higher taxes."

Home Owners' Fund Proposed.
One of the most important pieces of legislation proposed so far this session is a joint resolution by Senator Bruce Dennis of Union county which would create a home owners' fund. This proposal, if approved by the legislature, will require an amendment to the state constitution which will necessitate submitting it to the people.

The resolution provides that the credit of the state may be lent and indebtedness incurred to an amount not exceeding 2 per cent of the assessed valuation of the property of the state.

Under this grant the state land board which is to administer the "home owners' fund, has power to issue \$50,000,000 "Oregon owners' credit bond," these bonds to run 36 years and bear 4 per cent interest.

From the proceeds of these bonds the state land board can make loans on real estate from \$200 to \$5000, the loan not to exceed 50 per cent of the valuation of the property on which the loan is made.

Anti-Alien Land Law Appears.
An anti-Asiatic land law has been introduced, sponsored by representatives who are ex-service men, which would prohibit holding real property by any person not eligible to citizenship.

The bill prohibits the holding of real property by any company, association or corporation in which the majority stock is owned by aliens not entitled to citizenship, excepting such rights as are obtained through treaties existing between the United States and the nations of which the majority stockholders are citizens.

The bill provides drastic penalties for violations of the law, and further provides penalties for conspiracy which is construed to be an act of two or more persons to transfer real property or an interest therein to aliens affected by the bill.

Would Repeal Picketing Law.
A bill which is likely to precipitate a lively contest during this session is one introduced by Representative Hofer repealing the anti-injunction law passed after a bitter fight in 1919. The law sought to be repealed legalizes picketing and organized labor is lined up to put up a strenuous fight to re-

peal it.
Soldier bonus legislation is still at an uncertain stage and it is uncertain just what the outcome will be at the present session. Legislators seem to be a bit chary about committing themselves, although the undercurrent appears to be against any cash bonus.

One soldier compensation act introduced by Senator Dennis would make available the sum of \$80,000,000 as a loan fund.

The measures provide that the credit of the state may be lent and indebtedness incurred to an amount not exceeding 3 per cent of the assessed valuation of the state for the creation of the fund necessary to place the act in operation.

If approved by the legislature this measure will be referred to the voters at the next general election.

A bill having for its purpose the more stringent enforcement of the prohibition law was introduced in the senate by Senator Farrell of Multnomah county.

This bill provides for the creation of the office of prohibition commissioner, to be appointed by the governor, whose duty shall be to enforce the provisions of the prohibition act.

A companion bill relates to search and seizure. Under this bill officers having personal knowledge or reasonable information that intoxicating liquors are being unlawfully manufactured, held or kept in any building or premises or are being unlawfully carried or transported in any satchel, suitcase, grip, trunk, receptacle of any kind, or any wagon, truck, automobile, car, boat, airplane or other aircraft, or in any other vehicle, may search such containers or carriers without search warrant.

Legislature Asks Tariff on Poultry.

The legislature adopted a joint memorial urging congress to place a tariff on poultry and poultry products imported to American markets from foreign countries.

It was explained that approximately 60 carloads of Chinese eggs had arrived in Seattle in one week recently, at a cost not to exceed 7 cents a dozen. With a continuation of these importations it was suggested that the Oregon poultrymen would suffer serious financial loss, and that the industry eventually would be ruined.

New Emergency Board Created.

The governor, secretary of state, president of the senate and speaker of the house of representatives and state treasurer would be removed from membership on the state emergency board under the provisions of a bill introduced by Senator Bell. Bell's bill creates a new emergency board of seven members, including the chairmen of the house and senate ways and means committees, with five other members to be selected from the personnel of the joint ways and means committee. These five members would be elected by the ways and means committee in joint session, with the president of the senate presiding. The president of the board would be elected by the board, and the secretary of state would be constituted as the secretary of the board.

Church Schools Taxed.

Much of the church, schools and hospital and other property in the state which is now exempt from taxation will be made taxable if a measure introduced by Senators Jones, Strayer and Hume gets by both houses and is signed by the governor.

The bill confines entirely to houses of worship the buildings of church organization that shall be exempt, and adds church schools to the tax rolls. An added clause exempts from taxation all property of all honorably discharged Civil war veterans, sailors, and marines to the amount of \$600.

Legislative Brevities.

School teachers in Portland are maintaining a lobby in Salem to oppose any change in the tenure law.

Creation of a state board of aircraft examiners to regulate and control flying is provided in a bill introduced in the house.

A bill providing for the election of recorders in the counties of Clackamas, Linn, Benton, Marion, Washington, Yamhill and Umatilla was approved by the senate.

Additional powers to county boards of equalization, whereby such boards may require the attendance of witnesses, would be granted by a bill introduced by Representative Beals.

Any state bank may lend not to exceed 25 per cent of its capital, surplus and commercial deposits upon notes secured by mortgages or other form of real estate security, in case a bill introduced by Senator Hall becomes a law.

Following out the recommendations contained in the special message which Governor Olcott delivered last week Senator Patterson introduced a bill under the provisions of which \$300,000 would be appropriated for the construction of a training school for boys to replace the present Oregon State Training school.

Efforts to limit chaplain service in the state penitentiary and the boys' training school to members of the Salvation army failed by a single vote after a lively debate in which practically one-third of the house membership participated.

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