

REVIEW OF WORK OF OREGON LEGISLATURE

Senate Holds Governor's Financial Measures For Action.

Last Week of Session is Entered—House Adopts Raise in Legislators' Pay—Soldiers' Bonus Time Extended—Repeal of Motor Vehicle Law Extended—Senate Approves Wilson River Road.

Salem.—When the legislature convened Monday for the last week of the session attention was focused on the senate, where the governor's financial bills were held for action. Governor Patterson's financial measures passed the house last week with little opposition, but it was believed that considerable opposition would develop in the senate.

In addition to passing the tithing bill, so-called, which takes 5 per cent of the gross earnings of all state boards and commissions for the general fund, the house passed the governor's income tax bill. The income bill passed the house after brisk debate, with 49 voting for, nine against and two absent.

Shortly after word of the passage of the income bill by the house reached him Governor Patterson issued a statement, regarded as a warning to the senate, in which he said that "it would in my opinion prove unfortunate if the bill should be mutilated by indiscriminate amendment before its final passage."

While this should be the last week of the session, it is generally believed that it will be impossible to clear up the calendars within the prescribed 40 day limit and the session may extend into the following week.

House Passes Textbook Bill

The house passed the so-called free textbook bill after considerable argument, the vote being 35 to 21, with four members absent.

The bill provides for the vote of citizens who may levy a special tax by school districts, and those who elect may purchase texts for school pupils, the cost to be borne by the special levy, not to exceed \$1.50 for each pupil of elementary schools, each year.

Districts of the first class, which means Portland alone, may choose the texts for school children to use in their studies. Other districts of the state will follow recommendations of the state text book commission as to the books chosen. One district or more may take advantage of the new law and other districts may still elect to have books bought by individuals as at present. There is no compulsion in the measure for any district to use the new method if it does not desire it.

With only two dissenting votes, Senator Eddy's educational bill, providing for a state board of education of seven laymen, passed the senate.

The measure would give the board of laymen authority to prepare the course of study. It differs from bills introduced in 1923 and 1925 by Senator Eddy in that the former measures prescribed the course of study.

Rustling Bill Defeated

Encountering strong objection from western Oregon representatives, a house bill, desired by eastern Oregon interests to combat cattle rustling, was defeated in the house. The measure would have provided that a vendor of livestock or hides would have to furnish a vendee with a bill of sale, for each animal or hide.

Construction of 100 miles of the central Oregon highway, between Burns and Ontario, asked for in senate concurrent resolution 5, was approved by the house.

A senate joint resolution providing for a constitutional amendment to raise the pay of legislators from \$3 to \$10 a day, was adopted by the house. The matter will be referred to the people at the next election.

The house also adopted a senate joint resolution calling for the adoption of "Oregon, My Oregon," as the official state song.

By indefinite postponement the senate killed the bill providing for old age pensions under a state commission administration.

The senate postponed indefinitely a bill authorizing an appropriation of \$50,000 for a woman's building at the old soldiers home. This bill was sponsored by the Women's Relief corps.

Motor Regulations Opposed

Strenuous opposition to additional regulations affecting motor vehicle owners was voiced in the senate when a bill providing for inspection of tourist camp grounds was defeated.

Sixteen senators voted against a bill to provide for distribution of automobile license plates by the sheriffs of the various counties instead of through a centralized office as now handled.

The legislature of Washington has refused to appoint a committee to confer with a committee from the Oregon legislature with relation to fishing

legislation on the Columbia river, according to a letter received by the chief clerk of the senate.

A bill extending the time for obtaining the state soldiers' bonus or loan, was passed without opposition by the house. It provides that one may apply for cash benefits up to June 30, 1930, and for the loan to June 30, 1945.

Representative Pierce's bill permitting dancing after midnight and until 3 A. M. in counties of the state of lesser population, failed to pass.

Repeal of the motor vehicle certificate of title law which was sought in a bill introduced by Senator Upton, was defeated in the senate after a lengthy and somewhat heated debate. Twelve senators voted for the repeal of the certificate of title law, while 15 senators voted against the repeal.

Voters to Pass on Salaries

Voters at the next general election will pass on a proposed constitutional amendment prohibiting salary increases for both state and county officers during the terms for which they were elected, under a resolution introduced by Senator Brown and approved by 22 of the 39 senators.

By 31 votes, the house passed Representative Graham's bill, which does away with the personal liability of automobile owners or drivers for injuries to their guests. The bill carries an emergency clause. It was opposed by most of the lawyers of the house, who urged it was throwing down the bars for negligence and that it would be declared unconstitutional.

A bill introduced in the house by Cramer, to prohibit livestock from running at large in precincts through which a state highway runs came in for a severe roasting in the senate, and failed to pass.

The senate reconsidered and approved a bill repealing the present law making it incumbent on men desiring to obtain a marriage license to first submit to a medical examination.

This senate indefinitely postponed a resolution providing for a constitutional amendment creating the office of lieutenant governor.

Governor May Be Budget Officer

The senate approved a measure sponsored by Governor Patterson providing that he shall be the state budget officer. Twenty-one senators voted for the bill and nine opposed. It previously was passed by the house.

The budget bill gives the governor power to appoint a budget master, and appropriates \$25,000 for the administration of the budget department.

It was one of the principles set out in the Patterson platform when he sought nomination and election to office, and the senate vote grants to him the power which he told the voters he would seek of the legislators and would use, if given to him, to reduce state expenditures.

The senate, by a vote of 19 to 9, with two members absent, approved a house bill introduced by the Tillamook and Washington county delegations authorizing construction during the state highway department of what will be known as the Wilson river toll road.

Senate Opposes Phone Investigation

Twenty-four members of the senate recorded their votes as opposed to adoption of a memorial introduced by Senator Dunne requesting a federal investigation of the telephone rates now effective in the state. The memorial was indefinitely postponed.

Senator Upton has introduced a bill abolishing the state fish commission and placing the duties of the department under the state board of control.

Creating of the office of superintendent of the Oregon state penitentiary was provided in a bill introduced by Senator Moser. The superintendent would have authority to appoint a warden and deputy warden.

This bill is part of the administration program to place the various prison industries on a profitable basis. Members of the board of control said the superintendent would act as executive officer of the institution and would be held responsible for the management of the penitentiary industries. He also would have general supervision over the entire prison plant.

Salesmen Exempt as Peddlers

The senate passed a road and highway committee bill eliminating commercial salesmen from the operation of the so-called peddlers motor vehicle license tax. Under this law commercial travelers were compelled to pay a motor vehicle license fee 50 per cent in excess of the license fee assessed against other vehicles.

The new bill in addition to repealing the peddlers' license tax, fixes the last half of the year for securing motor vehicle licenses as of June 1. Under the present law the last half of the year begins July 1. The last half license fee under the new act would be based on 60 per cent of the total license fee.

Senator Bailey has introduced a joint resolution referring to the voters of the state a constitutional amendment making the provisions of the workmen's compensation act compulsory as affecting all hazardous occupations. Under provisions of the proposed amendment, all employers and employes engaged in hazardous occupations would be brought under the act without any opportunity for election or rejection.

Poultry Supplies

Custom Cleaning and Grinding

Nyssa Grain & Seed Co.

NYSSA

OREGON.

Did you say
MEAT?

sure, we've got meat
COME AND GET IT

Nyssa Packing Co.

BURBIDGE & RAY, Prop.

Phone 6 - Nyssa, Or.

Custom Grinding and Chopping

Flour, Feed and Recleaning
Coal and Wood and Black
Bear Roof Paint

This business is for sale. A good business for the right man. Inquire at the Nyssa Flour Mill.

P. M. WARREN.

HOTEL WESTERN

J. W. SPENCER, Prop

Good Meals--Good Beds
Good Service

RATES THAT WILL SUIT YOU

Nyssa

Oregon

The Brake That Holds

Oldsmobile 4-Wheel

No danger of your brake giving away on a steep hill and letting you crash to the bottom. ABSOLUTELY SAFE.

We Carry Cars in Stock

Come and look them over

Powell Service Station

NYSSA

OREGON

SESSION AT SALEM RUNS OVER 40 DAYS

Lawmakers Unable to Complete Labors Within the Constitutional Limit.

Tithing Bill Opposed in Senate—Wilson River Toll Road Bill Vetoes—Increase in Property Assessment Proposed—Old Age Pension Law Fails.

Salem.—The legislature was unable to complete its work within the 49-day constitutional limit, so it was necessary to extend the session over into this week. The most important piece of legislation left for consideration when adjournment was taken over the week end was the so-called tithing bill, which would divert to the general fund a percentage of all special funds except trust funds such as school and funds of the state accident commission.

The tithing bill passed the house with little or no opposition, but there was strong opposition in the senate, very largely due to the fact that it was believed it would affect the state highway program because of the very considerable sum it would divert from road funds.

Only three votes were cast against the administration state income tax bill in the senate. There were 27 votes in favor of the measure, which had previously passed the house of representatives.

Special Election in June

In the latter part of June, probably on Tuesday, the 28th, the people of Oregon will be called to the polls to say through the ballot box whether they approve, or disapprove, the income tax bill put through the senate Wednesday by so decisive a vote.

Secretary of State Kozer, through whose official hands the election machinery operates, is checking up the time that necessarily must elapse between the end of the legislature and a convenient date for a special election.

The Wilson river toll road bill was vetoed by Governor Patterson. In giving his reasons for returning the bill without his approval the governor says that he fully appreciates the value and convenience of the proposed road, but that it is a local road and "its construction at this time would constitute a radical departure from the program of economy which is of such vital present necessity."

Owing to the financial condition of the state, the governor says he does not believe that a new and expensive project in any department of the state should be instituted at this time.

Bills carrying appropriations aggregating \$1,285,250 in connection with the state's building program during the current biennium were approved by both houses.

Shortage Almost \$4,000,000

Official figures furnished by the clerk of the joint ways and means committee show the state's financial shortage to be \$3,882,206.41 if the legislature approves and the governor signs all bills from the committee. The total of the recommended appropriations and continuing appropriations is \$12,097,478.41 and estimated receipts for the two years are \$8,215,272.

Governor Patterson signed a bill which provides that the heads of the various state institutions shall be known as superintendents. The board of control is authorized to fix the salaries of these officials. It also is provided that the board may fix the salary of its secretary.

The senate, after adopting a report recommending passage of a bill extending until December 31 of this year the time for making operative the initiative measure approved at the last general election eliminating fish wheels from the upper Columbia river, defeated the bill by the narrow majority of one vote.

Dead Laws Repealed

One thing this legislature is notable for above other sessions is the effort made with considerable success to wipe out the law books a lot of dead timber in outworn, obsolete and overlapping laws. No fewer than 85 bills were introduced by the committee on repeal of laws, each aimed at some musty statute believed by the committee to have outlived its usefulness.

The senate, by a vote of 27 to 2, approved a bill providing for the abolishment of the state emergency board.

Overriding the adverse report of its committee on labor and industries, the house passed a senate bill which would strike from the law the section providing for a biennial appropriation of a sum sufficient to cover half the administrative expenses of the industrial accident commission for the two year period.

Increase of the property assessment in the state by approximately \$250,000,000 is proposed in a bill introduced by Representative Hamilton, which was approved by the senate.

The bill gives the state tax commission supervisory control over the assessment and tax laws of the state.

county assessors and county boards of equalization. The commission also would have authority to fix the valuations of any property in the state. The purpose of the bill is to obtain uniformity of assessments and taxation. As a safeguard to taxpayers under this bill, the senate approved a measure introduced by the committee on assessment and taxation which provides for limiting the amount of revenue that can be raised under fixed millage taxes. Under the latter bill, these revenues cannot be increased more than 3 per cent annually based on the millage returns for the preceding year.

The old-age pension law failed to pass the house by a vote of 22 to 19.

The house refused to join with the senate in repealing the present law requiring medical certificates of physical fitness from male applicants for marriage licenses, and voted down a senate bill which would have brought that about.

"For Hire" Carriers to Pay More

"Anywhere for hire" trucks, and passenger automobiles not designated as common carriers will be required to pay an additional amount of 50 per cent over their regular license fees under the terms of senate bill passed by the house. The bill also removes the owners of commercial travelers' cars from the class of machines having to pay this extra amount. Heretofore, "anywhere for hire" machines paid on a capacity and mileage basis, as have common carriers operating between fixed points.

The house killed a bill which would have provided that the state highway commission have jurisdiction over all highway signs erected in the state. Opponents held that it might prohibit communities from erecting signs tending to draw traffic in their direction.

Following a vigorous attack by representatives from many corners of the state, a house bill providing for preliminary party conventions went down to defeat in the house.

Compulsory liability insurance for automobile owners was voted down in the house.

A bill proposing to change the method of appropriating school money by basing it on the number of elementary school teachers employed instead of on the basis of school census, was defeated in the house.

State to Build Grade Crossings

The house, by a vote of 31 to 27, passed a senate bill which would place the cost of grade crossings on the state highways entirely on the state highway fund, whereas at present it is borne jointly by this fund and the individual county in which the crossings are constructed.

The house, after voting against a senate bill providing for the licensing of persons to practice and teach "cosmetic therapy," reconsidered and passed the measure.

The senate refused to approve a bill introduced by the house committee on legislation authorizing institution heads with the sanction of the state board of control to transfer funds from one budget classification to another.

A senate bill making insanity grounds for divorce went down to defeat in the senate. Sixteen senators voted to sustain an adverse report on the measure.

Automobile license fees are to be made the subject for a study by a committee of five senators during the next two years with a view to recommending to the next legislative session a schedule of fees providing for a more equitable distribution of the license tax, particularly as between new and old cars.

The free text book bill was indefinitely postponed in the senate when an adverse report of the committee on education was adopted. The bill provided for purchase of books by the school districts if so voted by the people.

Sheriff's Salary Bill Killed

Senator Upton's general salary bill for sheriffs was indefinitely postponed and killed in the senate on adoption of an adverse committee report. It provided that the sheriffs be placed in six classes with salaries ranging from \$2760 to \$6000.

By practically unanimous vote, the senate passed the bill providing that members of the public service commission should be appointive instead of elective as they now are. The appointments would be made by the governor.

A bill providing that tax levies in Oregon be made as of January 1, instead of March 1, one of the measures presented by the special committee that studied taxation during the last two years, was killed by indefinite postponement in the senate on adoption of an adverse committee report.

A bill introduced by Senator Moser authorizing the appointment of a superintendent of the state penitentiary also was approved. Under this bill the superintendent of the prison would appoint a warden and deputy warden subject to confirmation by the state board of control.

A resolution referring to the voters the question of repealing the interest guarantee law as it affects irrigator and drainage districts was indefinitely postponed.