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OREGON NEWSPAPERS AND THE LEGISLATURE.

The newspapers of Oregon are expecting something of the present legislature. They are not expecting so much legislation for their own pecuniary benefit, as they are awakening on the true relations and policy of a state towards its newspapers. The first step towards a more progressive policy on the part of Oregon, should embrace a more generous treatment of the newspapers. In no state in the Union is there so little business for a newspaper that is ordered officially by county or state. In no state do the newspapers get so little revenue from publications of official matters to spread intelligence among voters and taxpayers. New laws only reach the people through gratuitous publications. Orders of county courts and bills paid are not made public as in nearly all other states. The Australian ballot law, which in all other states requires publishing, of calls for primaries, conventions and the finally completed official ballot, here have no provision for publication.

The result of this system is that all through Oregon newspapers are crippled and weakened, as compared with other states, and the people have only one large newspaper at Portland, in the two chief Sound cities there are four large papers in each, and strong journals all through Washington where a more liberal policy towards the press prevails. Until the present policy in Oregon is changed there will be a congestion of power in one paper and a corresponding attenuation of newspaper strength in all the rest of the state. The progress and welfare of Oregon demand a change.

If Oregon wishes to enter upon an era of progressive prosperity let this legislature not adjourn without encouraging a more just and liberal policy toward the press. The bills of the state press association are criticized only by those satisfied with the present monopolistic order of things, and because those bills aim to strengthen the country press and increase its revenues, while at the same time they aim at greater economy of county expenditures and greater intelligence among the masses as to the new laws they are to conform to.

The printing committee of the house had a meeting Wednesday night and heard arguments in favor of these bills. Other bills relating to publishing county court proceedings and claims allowed and for circulating the state laws in pamphlet form are before the house. Mr. Train, of the Albany Herald, Secy. Pentland, of the Independence West Side, and Mr. Nickell, of the Jacksonville Courier, have been at the capitol laboring faithfully in these matters. We want the state press to know these faithful workers and to know that the interests of the press are nearest their hearts.

A more liberal treatment of the press in Oregon must precede all other efforts at a progressive policy. To illustrate this, a committee of fifteen newspaper men were invited to meet at Portland and discuss a plan for securing a World's Fair. They met the state board of trade, which body had already adopted a plan, and while ignoring the labors of the press, asked them to circulate an address to the people. Of course the press of Oregon has not exerted itself for the World's Fair movement as headed and sought to be carried out by the handful of Portland managers. The press plan was to have the movement come more from the people of each county. That was ignored and the World's Fair appropriation is among the subjects that are practically suspended. A fairer, more liberal and generous policy on the part of the state towards the press of Oregon can do no harm and will be the first sure sign that the representatives of the people wish to avert a relapse into the mire of monopolism.

WILL THE HOUSE ADOPT SIMON'S AMENDMENT?

The Australian ballot bill passed the senate yesterday, with several amendments, only Willis voting against it. When it came back to the house those who are especially interested in it said one of the amendments, in regard to providing tickets for precincts where the official tickets fall to arrive in time, was one agreed to by its "friends," but that the others, in regard to purity of primary elections (Simon's amendments) were not proposed by its "friends." But there can be no serious objections to any of the amendments, and the amendments will be agreed to—Statesman.

"The amendments will be agreed to!" Who has the right to forecast the action of the house? The amendment to Sec. 59 allows other than the official ballot to be printed and used, thus opening the door to fraudulent ballots, and defeating the

whole purpose of the law. This is called an amendment by its "friends." "There can be no serious objections to Simon's amendment!" says the Statesman. Let us see: Those amendments propose that if there is a belief that a citizen is trying to vote at the primaries whose standing in the party is not what party manipulators imagine it should be, he may be arrested without warrant by the police. Is this not a tremendous power of the citizen when its execution is lodged in the hands of a possibly corrupt and venal police? Is it not destructive of all political independence, and virtually placing a premium upon slavish devotion to the machine in politics? We believe it is and many men will seriously object. It only applies to cities of 5000, but they are the only places having police.

THE TRAIL OF THE SERPENT IN POLITICS.

The serpentine methods of bossism and the appalling power of self in politics are the most alarming features of modern public life. Legislation is poisoned at its fountains by these curses of politics and the people seem powerless to even protest, say nothing of protecting themselves. A political boss is placed in the chair of the upper house of legislature. He casts his sinister eye about the halls of legislation. He selects the subjects that present the broadest field for attack upon pecuniary interests. By a few bold dashes he unites his scheming designs with the demands of state institutions, the necessities of members from the rural regions, whose business and political existence depend upon a road or bridge bill, and thus seeks to cause public measures of the utmost importance to revolve about his selfish schemes. Thus is all important legislation sought to be forced into the channels of bossism. It is the trail of the serpent in politics.

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW.

JOURNAL Editorial Headquarters, Legislative Assembly.

Some of the members of the house awake to the necessity of doing something for open rivers, Wednesday. There should be a general awakening.

Unless members who are in favor of open rivers make it a political issue, that will force legislators to face their constituents upon their responsibility, they may as well hang their harps on the willow tree.

No insurance legislation has yet been introduced.

Rep. Minto says he was an active Oregon horticulturist and a member of the American pomological society before some of the present legislators were born.

The first senate amendment to Sec. 59 opens the door for fraudulent ballots, as it allows a court to order tickets other than those officially prepared. The Australian ballot law should not be tampered with.

The bill to appropriate \$94,000 to complete the capitol passed the senate, Tuesday morning by a vote of 21 to 4. The provisions of the bill are very plain; \$38,000 for the erection of porches at north and south end of building, and the remainder for appropriation for heating apparatus. The tax necessary to raise this will be less than 1 of a mill per year for two years, at the present rate of assessment. Carson and Hatch were the main supporters of the bill. Senator Veach made a strong plea for economy in the matter of appropriating the people's money.

The people of Oregon will sustain the manly fight of the Multnomah delegation for a police control of that city not contaminated by political bossism.

The bill to destroy an everlasting police dictatorship at Portland passed the house by a unanimous vote.

The bill providing for the Australian ballot passed the house Tuesday and occupied the greater part of the morning's session in the senate. Fullerton offered the Simon amendment which was amended by Tongue so as to include only cities of more than 5000 inhabitants. Tongue made a very able argument in favor of his amendment to the amendment. The vote on Tongue's amendment stood 14 for and 10 against, Tongue immediately offered a second amendment to the amendment providing that no police officer should make arrests under the provision of the amendment except on a warrant issued from an authorized court of justice. This amendment was lost, the entire Simon faction voting against the amendment. The bill as amended will be of no effect so far as the large cities are concerned unless it should be to aid in the perpetration rather than the repression of fraud. The Simon amendment will leave the police in control of elections in all the principal cities of Oregon. Corrupt persons can order the arrest of individuals for political independence.

THE LEGISLATURE.

HOUSE AFTERNOON. Salem, Jan. 28th, 1891.

Rep. Merritt submitted petitions containing 800 names, referred to Com. on Roads.

Rep. Hall of Judiciary Com. reported bill looking to holding of a constitutional convention. To second reading.

BILLS PASSED.

No 111—By McCracken, to establish State Board of Charities and Corrections. Ayes, 49; noes 6.

No 127—By Holmes, to amend charter of Salem, providing for trials by jury before Recorder's court. Passed.

No 211—By Paquet, to prevent putting any deleterious substance or throwing dead animals into wells, springs and running water, used for domestic use or used by stock. Passed.

No 40—By Thomas, authorizing the building of a bridge at Pertland in place of Stark street ferry.

JOINT RESOLUTION.

By Killain, directing inquiry by mail or telegraph to ascertain if Union Pacific railroad will sell its portage railway at the rates of the Columbia.

Rep Miller inquired if this road was not in Washington? Rep Minto favored the resolution and amended to read "buy or lease."

Rep Paquet moved reference to Com on railways. Lost.

Rep Barnes urged that practical work be done, or the members of this house would regret that they had not done something to open the rivers.

Rep Miller moved reference to a select Com. of three. Rep Armstrong called for ayes and noes. In explanation he said the Com on federal relations had concluded that a joint expenditure by the two states on the Columbia was among the impossibilities. Ayes, 31; noes 23. Com Miller, Welch and Killain.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES.

By Multnomah delegation, in favor of house bill No 212. To 3d reading.

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 32, reciting the various extra appropriations as aggregating more than the total revenue of the state, that therefore the various wagon road bills should be so proportionately scaled down as to bring the aggregate appropriation for that purpose to \$100,000 or less; that all appropriations for agricultural fairs be suspended until 1894; that the law providing for stenographic reporters for the courts of the state, and that for the state board of agriculture be repealed; that no more money be appropriated to the use of the state agricultural college until the management of that institution gives evidence that it is answering the purpose of its endowment in the education of youth for the farm and machine shop.

Rep Thomas moved to strike that part relating to court reporters. Rep Minto spoke strongly in favor of this resolution, urging the necessity of economy, retrenchment and reform, and protesting against unnecessary piling up of state taxes.

Rep Moore argued that this was too much of an omnibus resolution. It should be separated and matters of great importance should not be so crowded together as to be unfair to any of them.

On motion to indefinitely postpone, the result was yeas 46, nays 13.

On motion of Rep Holmes, the state printer was instructed to print 150 copies of the Simon senate amendments to the house Australian ballot law.

No 123—The Australian ballot law, with senate amendments, was referred to Com on elections.

Rep Armstrong moved reconsideration of vote by which bill was referred. Lost.

SENATE—AFTERNOON.

THIRD READING OF BILLS. No 3—By Myer. Improvement of 85da Springs, Linn county. Failed to pass.

No 48—By Watkins. Times, places and terms of Supreme court. Passed.

NEW BILLS.

No 142—By Hirsch (by request.) Establish Rogues' gallery at penitentiary.

No 148—By Blackman. Incorporate Burns. Read 1st and 2d times by title.

CORPORATIONS. No 149—By Mackay. Completion of Portland city hall. Read 1st and 2d time by title. Referred to Multnomah delegation.

No 150—Raley. Destruction of certain wild animals. Read 1st and 2d time. Agriculture.

No 151—By Mackay. Purchase of land in city of Portland for erection of a U. S. government building. S J R 4—Wait. Allowing \$300 to W W Page attorney fees. Referred to committee on ways and means.

S J R 5—Weatherford. Provide special supervision of expenditure of money appropriated by congress for improvement of rivers. Ordered printed and referred to judiciary.

FIRST READING HOUSE BILLS.

No 68—By Durban, expenses of legislature. (Continued on second page.)

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