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RAILROAD COMMISSION

(Continued from page one.)

By the railroads. I cite you to my record in the legislature the past few years and I defy my maligners to put their finger upon a single instance of where any of my actions or movements are clouded with the slightest sign of suspicion. (Here he named over the different members composing the house railroad committee, including a farmer, merchant and other classes of business men). There is your committee. I don't know what Mr. Coffey got, nor Mr. Edwards either, they are not of the selling out kind.

"The majority of this committee rebelled when it came to bowing down to the god of democracy. They made every concession that was within reason, even to allowing one of the gubernatorial appointees to hold office for four years, but when it was demanded that two of the three appointees hold over for four years the majority stood pat and when they came and consulted with me in the matter I told them to go ahead and I would stand with them. I reiterate that I am opposed to placing the sole power of appointing this commission in the hands of the chief executive and hope the report of the minority upon this section will not be adopted."

Mr. Jones Declares Himself.
"I will refer you back to a month or two ago," said Mr. Jones, of Polk and Lincoln, who succeeded Mr. Davey on the floor. "Originally this bill, which was then known as the Teal bill, had no reciprocal demurrage feature but the people were clamoring for it and the lumbermen demanded it and forced the reciprocal demurrage section into the bill."

"Shippers conventions even held at Eugene and Albany to demand that we enact this bill. When the committee concluded its meeting last Saturday everything except section I, upon which we could not agree, was decided upon amicably, it being by common consent that this disagreement not be allowed to enter into the consideration of any other feature of the bill but when we came back on Monday everything was in a topsy-turvy condition and the committee has been at variance ever since. I am in favor of the measure, I am in favor of the state board appointing. I agreed on the compromise that the governor appoint one to hold over four years and the other two to be succeeded by election in 1907. We had all agreed to that until Thursday when it was decided otherwise. I have been in close touch with the people and believe that I know what they want. The people know how I stand on railroad legislation and I will stand on my past record before my constituency."

Chairman Coffey Explains.
"I believe the gentlemen are sincere in their contentions. The amendments, as stated by the gentlemen who have just preceded me are quite numerous but they are principally typographical errors corrected. While I am a Republican, and have been actively such for a longer period of time than my friend Mr. Davey, I am an American citizen first. All of the meetings held have been in favor of the governor making the appointments. If we had a Republican governor there would have been no trouble. We have spent many days and many hours of hard work in endeavoring to arrive at an agreement. I am not for nor against the railroads. All interests

were given full and considerate hearing and I hope the house will adopt the report of the minority which represents the majority report of the general committee of the house and senate; the senate committee being solidly in favor of it."

Mr. Campbell, of Clackamas, then took the floor and voiced the opinions as expressed by Mr. Davey and Mr. Jones, in substance. Mr. Edwards, of Lane made a strong appeal in favor of the adoption of the minority report and closed with "it should be business first and politics second with us. Let us put on our business suits, throw off our political robes of partisanship now, and give the people what they want, the Chapin bill."

Republicans Elected Chamberlain.
"It was Republican votes that elected Chamberlain governor," chimed in McCue, of Clatsop, at this point.

"Did you help it?" inquired Rodgers, of Marion.

"No, I lifted my voice against him," replied Mr. McCue.

"The people of my county are not concerned in the bill," said Barrett, of Washington. "When I was over this week I made some inquiries among the most prominent Republicans in my town and they all asked for a commission appointed by the state board."

"I am placed in a very peculiar position in this matter," said Mr. Freeman as he mentally and telephatically recalled his recent titles with his colleagues. "If I vote for one I am voting with Davey and if I vote for the other I am voting with Coffey but I believe that Mr. Coffey is right in this case. The people demand the Chapin bill and I think we ought to enact it without all of this row."

Northrup Hits Hard Blows.

"The minority report, as I understand it, is a compromise of the joint committee. I believe it is the majority report of the general committee. Fix the responsibility upon the governor. We all know that the railroads, which traverse the state in all directions, have a great deal of influence and wield it in politics. Can they influence the votes of the legislators? They have a powerful advantage over the election of ordinary candidates for office but the governor's office is not subject to these conditions. It is more free from the influence of the railroads. There would be no fixing responsibility with three members of the board. The railroads are against having the governor make the appointments; it is a question of three chances to one and they are taking the course that is held least in check. Let us vote the way the railroads don't want us to." Here he read a telegram from Olympia stating that the Washington legislature was unanimously in favor of appointment of the commission by the governor and that there would be no change.

"The governor of Washington is a Republican is he not?" inquired Mr. Settlemier.

"Yes," said Mr. Northrup, "and that is the whole trouble. We would all be in favor of the governor appointing the commission in Oregon if the governor was a Republican. We are not legislating for the Republican party alone but for the whole people."

A Business Proposition.

"It is a matter of business, purely," said Mr. Chapin. "Politics in no shape or form should be permitted to enter into this controversy. I have in my desk letters from many Republicans asking that the appointive power be placed with the governor. It is simply a business proposition. If you were going to engage a manager for your business you would not hire three men to manage it. You would have one man and if he did not get the results you would get a new manager. The governor is the business manager of the state and he is responsible for everything that he does. In selecting a text book commission Mr. Davey demanded the governor act. Why not the governor in this case?"

"If you are in favor of appointment by the governor why do you provide for an elective board?" inquired Mr. Campbell.

"That was agreed to as a compromise," replied Mr. Coffey.

Jackson Discusses Principles.

Mr. Jackson, of Douglas, then took the floor and made a long plea for the report of the minority and launched out upon a general and bitter attack upon the Chapin bill as amended. He contended that many vital changes had been made in the amendments and challenged any member of the house to rise and say that he understood what the bill provided for in its present shape. He and Mr. Coffey and Mr. Chapin engaged in cross fire at one another and when Mr. Jackson, who occupied the floor longer than any previous speaker concluded, Mr. Washburne, of Lane, was given a hearing.

Democrats Were to Blame.

"Everything was getting along smoothly," he said after reciting over

again what had occurred in the committee, "and if the Democrats had kept their hands off the committee would have agreed and the house would not have been plunged into this political squabble. If there be no railroad legislation this session the people can lay the blame to the powers of democracy and not the Republicans."

Davey Defends Republicans.

"I am glad to see the Multnomah delegation stand together for once," said Mr. Davey as he took the floor for the closing speech, "but I am very much surprised and grieved to hear the slurring remarks cast upon the Republican party by a young man whose father bore arms in defense of the country for so many years and endured so many hardships on the field of battle for the country's cause. There was no better soldier nor Republican ever breathed than the father of Mr. Northrup, of Multnomah and I am surprised to hear him cast such insulting insinuations against our two Republican state officers, the state treasurer and secretary of state."

Did Not Attack Republicans.
"I did not speak in that light," said Mr. Northrup, "I was speaking of conditions in other states."

"Yes, but you did refer to the Oregon officials and even mentioned the governor's name as being out upon the canvass," Mr. Davey replied warmly. "There was no politics in this railroad bill until it was formed on us. Not a single man has ever asked me to vote the Chapin bill giving the governor the power of appointment but one and he was a Democrat. There has not been a plaudit from this gallery this afternoon to such argument but comes from a Democrat or a Democratic appointee. There is no politics in any of the state institutions but the penitentiary and the soldiers' home. The governor was elected by a plurality of 2400 votes; Secretary Benson by 30,000 and Treasurer Steele by 29,000. Should these officials who received such a grand compliment at the hands of the people suffer to be kicked aside for the little fellow who only received the small margin of 2400 votes and assumes to be the dictator to the Republican legislature? The governor's appointee makes it the center shop for railroad interference and that is why the commission should become elective."

These remarks closed the debate and the question was immediately put to an aye and nay vote with the result as above stated.

Swamped.

A resolution from the house resolutions committee, adopted authorizes Chairman Huntley, of the engrossed bills committee, to employ more expert typewriters to assist in keeping up with the work in that department or legislation. With scores of bills piling in with innumerable amendments to be inserted this committee is buried chin deep in work at the present time.

On the other hand there is scarce anything for the committee on enrolled bills to do and it has been suggested that the four or five clerks upon that committee, who have been practically idle the greater part of the time, should be transferred and put to work with the engrossed bills committee until the rush in that department has subsided and then, when the enrolled bills committee gets into the approaching rush that is inevitable, the then idle engrossed bills clerks could be utilized to advantage in rushing that work out, thus obviating the necessity of employing more help and keeping all hands busy during the balance of the session.

Speaker Davey says he does not understand why the enrolled bills committee has not been more busily engaged since numerous house and senate bills have passed both branches and are up for enrollment.

In checking up the house calendar for the past week it develops that over one hundred bills have been disposed of definitely, either by passage or indefinite postponement, and it is estimated that fully one hundred more will never again see the light of day. This is the last in which the lower branch of the assembly can work upon house measures, except to concur in such amendment as the senate finds necessary to incorporate, and with over 300 yet to consider it becomes apparent that the house has an immense pile of work before it the coming week. Next week the house can act upon senate bills only and no bills of whatever nature, can be introduced in either house without suspension of the rule which provides that no new bills can be presented during the last five days of the session.

Bill to Create Fat Job.

House bill No. 23, by Settlemier, when returned from the committee on assessment and taxation, in substitute form, with recommendation that it do pass, is but a shadow of its former self yet it contains provisions that lays open the way for the making of a miniature tortoise for somebody who chances to stand in favor of the county courts of the several counties and has a passing knowledge of conditions. It is drawn, however, in a manner that will prove a regular bonanza for some attorney or group of attorneys who are thoroughly familiar with conditions and understand the tax laws perfectly. The same bill was killed two years ago.

Mr. Settlemier's bill, is originally drafted and presented provides for the assessment and collection of taxes upon real property in the state dating back for a period of sixteen years, effecting all of the old railroad and wagon road grants, government patents to corporate interests, etc., representing several hundred thousand dollars, and it placed the duty of the collection of these taxes in the hands of the attorney general with power to employ such assistant or assistants to help him in collating the data and listing the property to be assessed.

The new draft goes back for only a period of five years from date of enactment and places the duty of collecting the taxes within the duties and jurisdiction of the county courts, which will have authority to employ any person it sees fit for an indeterminate period. This would create a

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nice job for some person who would be paid for his services out of the money collected in taxes on omitted property and such compensation shall not exceed 20 per cent of the amount collected. Twenty per cent of the amount that would be due the state under the provisions of this bill would be a handsome nest egg for some attorney or other person who has the situation already well in hand and in a position to offer his services for the collection of the taxes for all counties. The favorable report upon this bill was adopted last Wednesday and the bill will come up for third reading and final passage Monday or Tuesday.

Railroad Bill Passed.

When the house convened in the evening, Speaker Davey announced that, inasmuch as there was no contention upon the amendments submitted by the minority report, a motion would be in order for a motion to abolish these amendments. The motion was made and adopted, and, upon motion, the bill was considered engrossed and placed on final passage. The house then resolved into committee of the whole for consideration of the bill by sections. Speaker Davey called Mr. Campbell, of Clackamas, to the chair. The bill was read a third time, when, upon motion of Rodgers, of Marion, the committee arose and reported the bill back favorable with amendments, and upon being placed upon final passage was passed with only one dissenting vote, that of Adams, of Multnomah, who, however, changed his vote to the affirmative and the bill was declared passed unanimously. In voting aye upon the bill Barrett, of Washington; Douglas, of Clackamas, and Jackson, of

Douglas, explained that they had little confidence in the efficiency of the measure, but would vote for it because the people wanted some relief, and this seemed all that could be obtained.

Pleasant and Most Effective.

T. J. Chambers, Ed. Vindicator, Liberty, Texas, writes Dec. 25, 1902: "With pleasure and unsolicited by you, I bear testimony to the curative power of Ballard's Horehound Syrup. I have used it in my family and can cheerfully affirm it is the most effective and best remedy for coughs and colds I have ever used." Sold by D. J. Fry.

House Routine Tuesday.

H. B. 201, Vawter, to create board of regents for normal schools. Consideration postponed until 8 p. m. tomorrow evening, to be taken up in connection with H. B. 175 and other normal school bills made special order for this hour.

H. B. 5, Barrett, Washington, restricting the taking of wild fowl to certain seasons; extending open season for ducks from February 1st to March 1st. Amends wrong law, referred.

H. B. 15, Simmons, to abolish hunters' license law. Withdrawn.

H. B. 143, Gray, to make game law uniform in Southern Oregon counties. Passed.

H. B. 19, Beveridge, in relation to hunters' licenses. Withdrawn.

H. B. 223, Merryman, for the relief of Klamath Water Users' Association. Exempting from corporate

tax and refunding money paid in. Motion to re-read. Passed.

H. B. 271, Freeman, to amend dogs personal property. Passed.

H. B. 222, Freeman, relating judgments in actions where party has been attached. Providing judgment against defendant surety in one action. Passed.

H. B. 221, Freeman, providing judgment debtor to appear and answer under oath concerning what he may claim. Corrected on line and half in the code. Passed.

A Valuable Lesson.

"Six years ago I learned a valuable lesson," writes John P. of Magnolia, Ind. "I then bought Dr. King's New Life Pills the longer I take them the better they find them." They please every body. Guaranteed at J. C. Perry's, 25c.

Life in the Big Cities.

The Ladies' Aid Society of Leslie M. E. church have been doing some needed improvements to their church, and to help them have secured a lecture from Dr. Hofer, on "What He Saw in Four Largest American Cities." Mission, 10 cents. Concert 8 o'clock.

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