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**WHAT NEWSPAPERS ARE TALKING ABOUT**

**Prefers His Job to Governor's.**  
(Mt. Vernon Herald.)  
Being governor of the state of Washington may be lots of fun but we much prefer our job to the one the legislature put up to Mr. Lister last week. The governor has been waist deep in bills for a week. Every one requires his careful perusal. By the time he weeds out the jokers and decides what is good and what is not he will be ready for another trip to Charley Gaches' farm and a visit to the Mount Vernon pow-wow.

**Says Lister Deserves Credit.**  
(Ellensburg Democrat.)  
The recent legislature was probably no better and no worse than former legislatures. That it was more partisan and subservient to party and special interests than some former legislatures is true, and the general trend of its actions was reactive. While the feeling is general that this state had gone most too far in the way of so-called progressive legislation, it was hardly to be expected that the legislation would swing so far to the other extreme. That the liquor question dominated all legislation to a certain extent seems a fact, and while the wets could not get the particular legislation wanted for themselves, they were able to influence other legislation. Governor Lister deserves great credit for his firm stand on different questions, and there is no question but what he had a great influence in preventing much more reactionary action by the legislature. To a Democratic governor and the fear of the referendum is due the escape from many other reactionary laws, and laws in the interests of special interests.

**Urges Farm Expert in Lewis County.**  
(Chehalis Bee-Nugget.)  
Chehalis county has employed a farm expert. Other counties in the state have also employed farm experts, and so far counties that have done this do not seem to feel that a poor investment has been made. Lewis county is one of the richest and most extensive farming districts in the state, but there is some opposition to a county agriculturist in this county. Perhaps in time our farmer friends will see the wisdom of the plan, and when that time comes, the farmers will realize that a farm expert will mean added wealth in their individual pockets, and individually better conditions for all of us. Other businesses from time to time like to have expert advice and experience, and we are of the opinion that the business of farming is not different from that of other lines in principle.

**Calls It an Ordinary Session.**  
(Lynden Tribune.)  
In the midst of all these huzzas from the Republican papers and groans from other publications in summing up the work of the 1915 legislature, it's pretty hard to get a calm view of the situation. An ordinary session it was. And we will get few better until a commission form of government is adopted, similar to that suggested in the governor's message at the opening of the session and which was promptly forgotten by all parties.

**Concerning Gwin Hicks.**  
(Ellensburg Democrat.)  
It would seem that Gwin Hicks, who had charge of the Washington exhibit at San Diego exposition, might have asked for an investigation by the governor who appointed him, rather than by a Republican legislature which was glad of the opportunity to send a bunch of Republican officials on a junketing trip at the expense of the state. That the investigation will be a farce and of a partisan nature goes without saying.

**Lister Not Discredited.**  
(Skagit Co. Times.)  
The Republican majority in the late legislature set about in the beginning of their deliberations to discredit the business-like administration of Governor Lister. Did they do it? Not much. Governor Lister is stronger with the people of this state than he was when those gentlemen got through with their steam roller debauch.

**The Initiative and Referendum.**  
(Clarke Co. Sun.)  
Fellows, we haven't given the initiative, referendum and recall a fair show. These were measures asked for, urged and really passed by the people. Of course some abuses have crept in. Some abuses have also crept into the legislature. Fraud in petitions have been practiced in a good many cases, but some violations are had in most all new laws. The people may feel that the legislature exercised undue haste in changing these people-made laws before they have had a good thorough test. The legislature could, at least, have referred these laws to the people, but

instead of that they passed these laws with an emergency clause attached so that they could not be referred to the people or taken up by them on a referendum. Only the supreme court knocked out the emergency clause. So the people themselves, by petition, may ask that these measures be referred to them for final passage or rejection.

**A Nice Thing to Know.**  
(Monroe Independent.)  
It is a nice thing to know that the legislature of Washington, just retired, is predominantly Republican and of the standpat and reactionary kind. Therefore, much could not be expected of them but what was in the special privilege class legislation. They should never meet again and it would have been better if they had never met. Governor Lister must have committed that beautiful little poem of Kipling's, entitled, "If," to memory, the way he succeeded in keeping his head when a reactionary Republican legislature made every effort to get his goat. The governor may not be a "star" performer but he certainly can saw wood when the emergency arises. He should worry, now that the wise men have gone.

**They Were Honest About It.**  
(Davenport Tribune.)  
The Republicans did all that was possible in the legislature to regain control of politics, do away with the intent of the primary elections and fix it so the bosses can control the naming of candidates. But then they were honest about it. Republican leaders have always been openly against the primaries. We have never been able to understand it, but it has seemed to be the principle of Republican leaders, some Democrats also, to go on the idea that the people are not competent to pick party leaders or make nominations for office.

**Let the People Decide.**  
(Colfax Commoner.)  
The initiative and referendum were adopted as a part of the constitution two years ago. There was an overwhelming vote cast in their favor two years ago. Without entering into the merits of the amendments in question it seems mighty poor policy for legislators to act on the presumption that they know what is best for us and the constitution itself offers no refuge for the people's rights. The changes may be advisable but the legislature is on poor moral ground when it refuses to submit such to the voters for approval or disapproval. On the face of the proposition it looks as if they were trying to put something over. Questions regarding elections are constitutional questions, and are morally subject to change only by popular vote. The people must protect their rights. They must insist upon a clear understanding of legislative issues, and not permit themselves to be defrauded by men who have an eye only for the main chance. Had their amendment been able to stand inspection they would have no hesitancy in submitting it at a referendum. The Democratic and Progressive parties, the labor unions, the Grange and Farmers' union are united in the movement to bring these laws before the people. Republicans who believe in popular rule should assist. Referendum petitions should be circulated, beginning at once. Let the people decide. This infringement on popular rights should not be suffered to pass unnoticed.

**Notes General Improvement.**  
Washington.—President Fahey of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, at the opening of the session of directors of that organization, said: "Resumption of business activity and improvement of conditions which began as soon as we could readjust ourselves after the outbreak of the war is continuing steadily, and the movement should quicken a little faster now. "The consensus of all expressions which come to me is that in almost every direction things are now mending rapidly. As a result of the war it is inevitable that there will be marked slowness in some lines, but more men are being put to work every week, and the industrial output is increasing."

**Sheep Industry Is Booming.**  
Kansas City.—A boom is on in the sheep industry of the Rocky mountain states. A heavy shortage of finished lambs and sheep, owing to reduced feeding operations has resulted in record prices at this and other markets. Besides, wool is already being contracted in the West on the sheep's back at prices up to 27½ cents a pound, or fully 10 cents a pound more than a year ago. This means an addition of about 75 cents to the value of each clip. On the 49,000,000 sheep in the United States the soaring wool market will mean millions for flockmasters.

**FOR 50 LOCOMOTIVES**  
CHICAGO.—Directors of the Burlington road in Chicago last Saturday signed a contract with the Baldwin Locomotive Works for 50 freight and passenger engines. The cost of the engines will average \$30,000 each or \$5,000,000 for the lot. Thirty-five of the locomotives will be for freight and 15 for passenger trains.

Well on to a quarter of a million dollars will be winnowed into the coffers of the state by the new fish code and the new auto code, the latter bringing in approximately \$100,000 and the former \$125,000. This auto revenue is an object lesson on how the general adoption of a new invention by the public can be made a source of magnificent income to the people.

A brand new feature that will hereafter affect the deliberations of the public service commission in reaching conclusions is, that under the new law passed by the legislature, "certificates of convenience and necessity" must be secured by an opposing interest before a competing company can enter a field of public service where another company is already operating. An Everett case was the first in which this new law became an element affecting the decision.

**"GOOD TIMES" NOTES.**  
20 Per Cent Increase in Wages.  
TACOMA, March 26.—Beginning April 1, a 20 per cent increase in wages will be given the 175 employees of the DuPont Powder Works at DuPont, I. J. Cox, acting superintendent, announced this week. The lowest wage now is \$2.50 a day, the highest \$5 and the average is about \$3.25. After April 1 the lowest wage will be \$3 and the highest for ordinary workers \$6 a day. This increase applies to all employees of the plant who have worked 15 days or longer.

**Build \$20,000 Logging Road.**  
MORTON, Wash., March 26.—One of the biggest improvements in the industrial line now being made in this vicinity is the \$20,000 logging road now being built by the West Fork Logging company, whose camps are located four miles north of Morton. The road, when completed, will take the company into some of the finest timber on the Pacific coast. The work in building the new road, which will be two and one-half miles long, will take about two months, and it is expected to be completed the middle of April. According to word brought here from Gray's Harbor, the French government has placed orders there that will take a year's steady operation to cut, so that the completion of this road will be due about the time when it is fully expected that business will warrant operations on a large scale.

**Various Lumber Mills Resume.**  
CENTRALIA, March 26.—The O'Connell Lumber company at Winlock has resumed operations after being shut down since the holidays. The Veness Lumber company is extending its logging track, a mile and a half of new track being under course of construction. A new shingle mill, being erected a few miles east of Pe Ell, is almost completed. The proprietors of the plant intend to employ a double crew, so as to have a continuous output. The big shingle mill at Helsing Junction has resumed after being shut down since the first of the year. It has a big pay roll. The Eastern & Western camp, near Kelso, which has also been shut down since the holidays, will reopen April 1. A small crew is now engaged in putting the machinery and track in shape. The J. N. Moore shingle mill at Kelso has started up again after a shut-down of a week.

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**Class Legislation and Unconstitutional, Says Attorney.**  
The jitney bus measure which met rocks and snags galore in the legislature before it was made into law over the governor's veto will have to stand the test of the courts on its constitutionality, according to word received here from Seattle and Tacoma. Three courses of action are being considered by the jitney interests, all of which will likely be adopted. The jitney busses of Seattle, Spokane and Tacoma will first be incorporated under a public utility company. The second move will be to circulate a referendum petition, and the third to take the law into the courts and keep it inoperative on technicalities.

Mrs. W. W. Parker, 50 years old, youngest sister of M. D. Abbott, proprietor of the Olympia Chronicle, died in Everett last Friday evening, leaving a husband, daughter and grandson.



**Protection for the Home**  
The strongest desire of husband and wife is the welfare of their children. The husband works hard to provide for them, and the wife works hard, too—in the home—and is equally interested with her husband in sound insurance protection, such as that offered by the

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