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NEWS FROM OUR NATIONAL CAPITAL

Senate Invites Suggestions Regarding the Regulation of Trusts.

Washington.—Winding up a week of consideration of the administration's anti-trust legislative programme, members of committees of the house and senate predicted that the bills suggested in President Wilson's message would be ready for congress before March 1.

Hearings before the house judiciary and interstate committees, it was announced, would be prolonged and the senate interstate commerce committee, with the approval of the president will receive suggestions by mail from men of affairs interested in the subject instead of conducting formal hearings.

Besides giving the trade commission authority to regulate the size of corporations, Senator Cummins has proposed amendments which would also empower it to determine whether any person or corporation is violating the law with respect to sales below actual cost for the purpose of inflicting injury upon a competitor, and whether any corporation is violating the law with respect to the amount of its capitalization as compared with the value of its property.

Monopoly of Wires Urged.

Government monopolization of telegraph, telephones and wireless communication, "and such other means of transmission of intelligence as may hereafter develop," is recommended in a report submitted to the senate by Postmaster-General Burleson.

Immediate government ownership of telephone lines is recommended, with a system of license for the other agencies of communication, establishing a government monopoly even where there is not actual ownership.

The report recommends immediate acquisition by purchase at appraised value of the "commercial telephone network," except the farmer lines.

Waiting Treaties Ready for Action

Responding to President Wilson's appeal, made at the white house conference last week, the senate committee on foreign relations ordered a favorable report on a large number of arbitration treaties between the United States and the leading countries of the world.

The far-reaching character of this group of treaties is shown by the long list of first-rate powers with which they are made, including most of the great powers of Europe, South America and the orient.

Aside from the importance of these treaties in the cause of arbitration some of them have a larger significance in affecting the political and industrial relations between the United States and other countries.

Women Disagree in Fight For Bill

Suffragist leaders are divided over the proper methods to pursue in their campaign for a universal suffrage amendment to the constitution. The National Suffrage association, led by Mrs. Medill McCormick, is opposed to militant tactics advocated by the congressional union under the leadership of Misses Lucy Burns and Alice Paul who trained under Mrs. Pankhurst in England. Some of those interested in the campaign are striving to make the suffrage question a partisan political issue, in the hope of forcing the democratic majority in congress to put through a bill granting the women the right to vote at congressional and senatorial elections in all states, or else to pass a resolution looking to an equal suffrage amendment to the federal constitution.

National Capital Brevities.

A total of \$305,000,000 is provided for in the record-breaking postoffice appropriation bill passed by the house. The house passed the annual fortifications bill, calling for \$5,175,200 for use in the country's defenses.

A bill in equity to dissolve the American Smelting & Refining company is being drawn by the department of justice according to reports.

Omission of Asiatic exclusion from the Burnett immigration bill precipitated lively discussion in the house.

The Chamberlain-Johnson bill authorizing the construction of the Port Land-Vancouver bridge across the Columbia river has passed the senate and now goes to the president for signature.

With assurance that the place will be accepted, President Wilson sent to the senate the formal nomination of Colonel Goethals to be governor of the canal zone.

The senate was much stirred by the charge of Senator Lane, of Oregon that report of the interstate commerce

commission has been "doctored" at the request of Senator Newlands. The vice-president ruled that Senator Lane's remarks were a reflection on the committee and the senator's exclusion from the floor, in a parliamentary sense, was prevented only by his withdrawing the remarks.

COUNTY GLEANINGS.

A meeting will be held at the Chamber of Commerce rooms in Bellingham on Friday of this week to consider the question of the state building a state powder factory in order to supply settlers with powder at a low cost price. This meeting is of importance to every resident of this section and should be well attended.

A meeting will be held at the court house in Bellingham on Saturday, February 14, for the purpose of organizing a bee keepers' association for the better care and protection of bees. Every man or woman owning one or more stands of bees is urged to attend the meeting.

The remnants of the G. O. P. in this county will gather at the banquet board at Bellingham on Lincoln's birthday, February 12.

According to the report of Superintendent King there are 55 inmates at the county farm, seven of whom are prisoners. The receipts of the farm last month were \$14.38 and expenditures, \$185.

County Commissioner Legoe has transferred 14 acres of land north of Ferndale to Ole Carlson for a consideration of \$2,200.

Attorney J. E. Sligh, of Everett, indicted by the grand jury on the charge of intimidating an officer of the court, has submitted a motion for a change of judges, and the motion is being heard by Judge Pemberton today. Sligh in support of his motion has filed an affidavit by Sheriff Thomas, which relates principally to the method in which the grand jury was drawn.

New bids for the construction of the Schneider ditch are to be opened by the county commissioners today.

A public meeting is being held at Deming today for the purpose of discussing plans whereby the land on both sides of the Nooksack river may be protected from floods.

It is stated that the financial difficulties of the American mill near Sumas will be speedily adjusted and that the mill will be in operation within six weeks.

Judge Hardin handed down his decision in the case of Thaddeus S. Scoulen vs. Attorney S. M. Bruce last Saturday. Bruce was the executor of the estate of Miller G. Scoulen, deceased. He was dismissed as executor, and ordered to return to the estate something like \$2000, which it is alleged he expended without authority.

Fearing an explosion, residents south of Ferndale have petitioned the county commissioners to remove a powder house on the Minnow farm. The powder house belongs to Gorseth Hardware Co., of Ferndale.

Harry F. Call has sold what is known as the Sterns farm, near the county farm, to D. Ebeling. The place comprises 40 acres and the consideration was \$8,900.

The annual report of the national forest supervisor shows that the damage from fire in this district for 1913 was \$3,022, there being 7 fires in the local district during the year. Four were caused by careless campers, two by lightning, and one by a logging engine.

Witness fees so far paid for appearances before the grand jury amount to \$579.60.

Whatcom county, through the county game commission, has taken over the trout hatchery at Lake Whatcom.

C. M. Mosher has been appointed superintendent of bridges by the county commissioners at a salary of \$110 per month.

The grand jury, which was empaneled by Judge Hardin on November 17, adjourned on Saturday, to meet again on March 28. The expense to the county of the investigating body amounts to over \$5000.

Prosecutor Bixby, claiming press of other duties, has caused the employment of Attorney Thos. R. Walters, to draw up the state's brief in the F. I. Sefrit contempt case.

A. E. Hardin, an Everett druggist, who was indicted by the grand jury for the illegal sale of liquor and for maintaining a nuisance, was taken before Judge Pemberton on Saturday for a hearing. Mr. Hardin requested that an outside judge be appointed, and his request was granted. He also entered a motion to quash both indictments on the ground that some of the grand jurors were not residents of Whatcom county, and that the grand jury was illegally drawn. The latter motion not being accompanied by affidavits, he was given time to file affidavits in support of his contention.

Judges Hardin and Pemberton of the superior court have changed offices in the courthouse. Since Monday Judge Pemberton has presided in Department No. 1, and has charge of criminal cases. Judge Hardin took Department No. 2, and is looking after probate, divorce and juvenile matters.

A. Campbell has acquired from W. H. Kirkman and wife 30 acres of land near Van Buren, in section 17, for a consideration of \$6,000.

The February term of the superior court is to commence next Monday.

Conspiracy Charged.

The five cases against Frank I. Sefrit, editor of the Bellingham daily papers, following indictments by the grand jury, were transferred on Thursday by Judge Hardin to Judge Pemberton's department of the superior court. An agreement was had between County Attorney Bixby and Mr. Sefrit's attorneys whereby the county attorney was given until today to file affidavits in answer to those filed by the defendant. No time was set for the hearing.

The motion to quash the indictments were based on the following points: That the indictments were not indorsed as true bills and were not signed by the foreman of the grand jury; that the names of the witnesses were not all indorsed on the indictments; that the indictments were not presented and marked "filed," as prescribed by law; that other than the grand jurors and the persons prescribed by law were present when the matters were being considered; that the grand jury was not selected in the manner prescribed by law, and that the indictments were the result of a conspiracy between certain county officials.

THE BONDING PROPOSITION

The bonding proposition will have some opposition, not because many people are opposed to building a high school, but because they think the amount asked for is greater than is required.

As the present high school building will be adequate to hold the grades for a number of years, the proposed new building will only be needed for the high school, and as the district owns the site, and no money is required for that, it would seem that half the amount asked for would be plenty to erect a building, ample in dimension, sanitary, and modern as to conveniences. And if it will, there is no good reason why an extra amount should be provided for unused space or useless ornament.

We should not be niggardly in providing for the schools but neither should we be wasteful or foolishly extravagant. It is useless to say that these bonds will not be an added burden, demanding increased taxation. It will add \$24,000 of principal, and an annual interest charge of about \$1440. However, we should not stop on that account if that much is really required. But Lynden wants some other things pretty badly. She wants to pave about half a mile of street; she wants to put down two or three miles of cement sidewalk; she wants to grade and drain nearly that length of street. These are improvements that ought to be made and to make them will pull pretty hard on every property owner in the town. Hence, while they are willing to provide liberally—all that is required—for school purposes, if they should fail to authorize an issue of bonds in that amount, it will be because they consider it unnecessary and excessive.

Which is the view, if yours truly, WALTER ELDER.

P. S. An added reason why we should not go to the limit of our credit now for more than is necessary is that the old building will not house the grades for the lifetime of the bonds. Another building will have to be supplied before our debts are paid.

Drastic Changes Proposed

A campaign for sweeping changes in existing Washington laws was formally launched last Friday when Miss Lucy R. Case of Seattle, executive secretary of the joint legislative committee representing the state federation of labor, the state grange, the farmers' unions and the direct legislation league, filed seven initiative bills, at the state capital.

The proposed measures, to be submitted at the election of next November if sufficient signatures are obtained in the meantime, would abolish the state tax commission, abolish the state bureau of inspection and supervision of public offices, add a "first aid clause" to the workmen's compensation act, change the entire system of expending money on state highways, and reduce the road levy \$500,000; provide a "blue sky" law, make radical changes in fees charged the fishing industry, and legislate out of existence private employment agencies.

TURN OUT ON NEXT WEDNESDAY!

There will be a Public Meeting held at the City Hall in Lynden at 11 o'clock Wednesday, February 11 for the purpose of discussing the Hannegan road proposition.

All those interested are urgently requested to attend.
A. H. FRASIER,
F. W. MIESCKE,
J. P. LAWRENCE,
G. DYKSTERHUIS,
Committee.

VOTE FOR THE BONDS

To the Editor of The Tribune: As many of the voters of the Lynden School District have asked me questions in regard to the real conditions existing in the school, and its financial condition, I take this opportunity to give a few comparisons and figures.

The Town of Lynden is past the experimental stage. This is shown by the fact that all its new business houses are now built in a modern fire-proof manner; its sidewalks are laid of cement; the paving of its streets is being contemplated; it has had a steady growth for the past ten years, and one of the richest dairy districts in the West has been developed in the surrounding territory, while fruit raising is solving the problem of what to do with its logged-off high land. These conditions existing, is it unreasonable to assume that its school population, which has increased 400 per cent. in the past ten years, will at least double in the next ten years.

I think all will agree with me that this is a fair estimate. The schools now have an enrollment of 442. If our estimate is correct, there will be at least 900 pupils enrolled ten years from now. The crowded condition at the present time in nearly all of the rooms means that we must more than double our present floor space to take care of the increased attendance. This extra floor space means that a vast amount of building must be done, either of temporary construction as in the past, of buildings that must soon be discarded as worthless; or, buildings modern, and fire-proof, that can be used for a hundred years or more. Again, I think all will agree that for school buildings nothing but fire-proof materials should be used and a permanent building constructed.

The voting on this bond question has been delayed so that the district might pay off the bonds that were levied in 1907 and 1907 and which were levied to construct buildings that are practically worthless now. Would it not be policy to vote a sufficient amount to build something permanent?

Some objection has been made to the small amount of the bond issue by those who think a building should be constructed to accommodate the whole school. Many however think the building on Eighth street will answer the purpose for some of the grades for some time to come, and that a permanent building can be constructed then to accommodate a portion of the school and thus have the smaller pupils separated from the larger ones.

The vital question now is: "Shall the Board be empowered to borrow a sufficient amount to construct buildings that will relieve the crowded conditions for several years to come, at a very low rate of interest, probably not more than 4 1/2 per cent. or shall they spend \$10,000 in the next few years, as will be absolutely necessary if the bonds are not voted, in building wooden shacks and pay 8 per cent. interest for the amount that has to be carried as warrant indebtedness? Again, I know you will agree with me if you understand the situation, in assuming that our taxes will be lowered by voting this bond issue.

During the past ten years \$10,000 has been spent by the district in building wooden shacks, and has paid \$3,000 of 8-per cent. warrant interest, and all they have to show for it is a bunch of unsightly fire-traps.

Personally, I am in favor of this bond issue, because it is a boost for education, which is the most important question that confronts us today, and also the most economical way of relieving the present crowded condition of the schools.

Come and vote on this question Saturday. You do not have to be registered.

H. E. STUART.

GRAND JURY REPORT.

In its second report, submitted last Saturday, the Whatcom County grand jury stated that its investigations are about concluded, but inasmuch as there are some matters that need attention, permanent adjournment was not taken. The grand jury recommends that the assessments on fish trap locations be raised from \$256,832 to \$2,010,991; that the office of county commissioner be done away with; that the county commissioners devote all their time to county work and not spend the greater part of it at private affairs; that an addition be built to the county court house; that on their visit to the county poor farm they found everything in first class shape and that Superintendent King's management

is highly commendable.

The grand jury further recommends that the municipalities of Lynden, Blaine, Ferndale and Sumas erect modern fireproof jails, which shall be heated, lighted, ventilated and provided with the necessary comforts. It finds that there is no foundation for the reports of illegal receipts and expenditures in the Bellingham armory; it finds that the people have not been taken into the confidence of those in authority; and that "our present form of government is getting too far away from the people."

It found that George Elder, while serving as clerk of the primary election board in Lynden township, 2nd precinct, drew a salary as such of \$4.20 and also on the same day drew \$4.45 as salary as foreman of the road machine gang, and that "such action is literal proof of the oft repeated saying that a public office is too frequently treated as a public snop rather than a public trust."

Regarding the matter of the members of the board of county commissioners drawing full pay while devoting only a part of their time to the county's business, the grand jury says: "Complaint has been made to the grand jury that although the county commissioners are drawing good salaries, that much of their time is spent in looking after their private affairs. We would call attention of the county commissioners to this complaint, and remind them that the county is entitled to their full time until the new statute putting them on a per diem basis takes effect."

The grand jury finds that the construction of the Northwest Disposal road is not as provided by the contract. It reports that: "Many complaints have been made to this grand jury of the incompetency of County Commissioner J. G. Kemper, by reason of the fact of his disposition to imbibe too freely of intoxicating liquors. After receiving much evidence in substantiation of these complaints the grand jury reluctantly reports that the drunken condition and actions of Commissioner J. G. Kemper, while on duty at the courthouse as commissioner, and while on the streets of Lynden and various parts of the county, is such as to receive the most severe condemnation by this grand jury."

Much space is devoted to a report of the fish-catching industry and it concludes by saying: "We are satisfied that the State of Washington has been continuously imposed upon in the past, and has practically lost one of its most valuable natural resources, and that as a result of this many individuals and corporations have grown arduously wealthy."

The grand jury especially commends Judge Ed E. Hardin for his inherent honesty and integrity, and says that "he has throughout its deliberations held himself aloof from any attempt to interfere with or in any way influence this jury in the matter of any of its findings."

\$118.50 More Expense.

Taxes in Whatcom County, now due and payable, are from 25 to 35 per cent. higher than last year, and yet the board of county commissioners, with Shagren and Legoe voting aye and Kemper voting no, have allowed the bill of \$118.50 presented by F. E. Wyman for services rendered the county attorney. The grand jury in its last report censured Commissioner Kemper for imbibing too freely, but he appears to be on the job when extravagant claims are presented for payment.

Preliminary organization of the Blue Mountain country club was effected at Walla Walla. The club plan to buy 80 acres of land in the Blue mountains, erect a log hotel, club house, chalet, headquarters and an open air sanitarium. A wagon road will be built from Walla Walla and the club will operate an auto truck line and later expects to have an electric line there. The plan has been under way for two years.

The joint committee, which presented Seattle's claims for a regional bank to the federal reserve board, has let it be known that efforts are being made to induce the state banks of Washington, Oregon, Montana and Idaho to subscribe the \$1,500,000 necessary capital needed to bring the total for the proposed Seattle bank to the required \$4,000,000 minimum. Figures show that if a fair majority of these banks subscribe, the desired capital will be obtained.

Senator Jones and Representative La Follette have had an interview with Secretary of the Interior Lane in regard to excluding a sufficient amount of land from the forest reserve in the state of Washington in such a way that the state may select the same in lieu of state lands that have been settled on and to which patent has issued. Messrs. Jones and La Follette urged that it was the duty of the government to protect the settlers and that as it had permitted these settlers to locate on lands it was up to the government to protect them from loss. The state is willing to accept other lands in the forest reserves.

WASHINGTON STATE NEWS OF INTEREST

Important Happenings of the Week From Towns in Our State.

Judge Humphries Loses.
Olympia.—Thomas W. Russell, ex-president of the United Mine Workers of America for the Pacific northwest; Emil Hendrickson, a carpenter, and Tohrwald Slegfried, an attorney, all of Seattle, who were denied changes of venue when cited for contempt of court last autumn by John E. Humphries, superior judge, obtained changes of venue by reason of an order of the state supreme court issued.

The decision, written by Chief Justice Herman D. Crow, says that the alleged offense took place outside the courtroom, and that on the showing made, the defendants clearly are entitled to a change of venue.

The cases grew out of the restraining order issued by Judge Humphries last summer forbidding street speaking in Seattle, and his imprisonment of persons who violated the injunction.

Washington Bankers to Act.

Olympia.—Under a ruling by State Bank Examiner Hanson that Washington state banks will be allowed to come under the regional bank plan, notwithstanding a law prohibiting their purchase of stocks of other banking corporations, the State Bankers' association plans a northwestern regional reserve bank.

All state banks will be circularized and asked to subscribe to the regional bank. Subscriptions of more than \$1,000,000 from state banks or the public will be necessary to provide the \$4,000,000 capital required for a regional bank.

Mute Board Cost is Low.

Vancouver.—Seeking a basis on which to estimate an appropriation for the state school for the deaf here, the state board of control has learned that board for the 120 deaf pupils and their instructors last year cost but 62-3 cents a meal, and that they lived on good and wholesome food, and plenty of it.

NEW BILLS ARE INITIATED

Seven Measures Filed at Olympia Proposing Changes in Laws.

Olympia.—The joint legislative committee of the state federation of labor, the state grange and the farmers' union took advantage of the new state initiative law by filing seven measures all proposing sweeping changes in the Washington laws. Three measures had been filed previously, this bringing the total number of initiative measures filed, excluding duplications to 10.

All the machinery of the three organizations, extending into practically every township in the state, will be brought to bear to obtain the requisite 33,000 signatures to insure each measure going before the voters next November 3.

The seven measures propose the addition of a first aid clause to the workmen's compensation act, a new good roads law, a "blue sky law," abolition of the state tax commission, abolition of the bureau of inspection and supervision of public offices, a new fisheries revenue law, and abolition of all private employment agencies.

The so-called "anti-pork barrel good roads bill," filed proposes to reduce the public highway levy, now 1 mill, to one-half mill, and to give the state highway board, instead of the legislature, the power to decide where the money shall be expended.

The measure further provides that all able bodied inmates of the penitentiary and state reformatory should be worked on the roads, except life-termers and in such cases as the board of control should decide to make exceptions.

Needy families of convicts working on the roads may be paid by the state at the rate of 50 cents a day, the bill provides, while every convict, upon completing his term, is to be given a chance to "make a stake" by a month's work, at a reasonable pay, at one of the free camps.

Believed That Cat Had Germs.

North Yakima.—The diphtheria infection from a tramp cat in this city, resulted in two new cases being reported. Two deaths have occurred in the last two weeks, and two other persons are ill. All six cases are in the same vicinity. The carcass of a cat, believed to have died from the disease, was found in the basement of the home of Howard Pennington, where one of the deaths occurred.

Take time to register!