

WEST PLEADS BUSINESS SESSION IN MESSAGE TO LEGISLATURE

Governor Makes Recommendations to Abolish Boards, Consolidate Departments and Increase Efficiency of State Administration.

Dwells Upon Prison Policy and Favors Law Enforcing Sterilization for Degenerates and Criminals.



single board of control and to avoid creating new officials and expense the said board should consist of the governor, secretary of state and state treasurer.

The Oregon State Penitentiary This institution had its birth about forty years ago. Added years and population brought it added fifth and added rubbish.

The State's Finances The state's finances are in a splendid condition. We have no debts, bonded or otherwise, to worry us and there are ample funds on hand to meet all current expenses.

The State Institutions You were promised two years ago that the maintenance appropriations made by you for the support of our state institutions would answer the purpose and that you would not be called upon to make deficiencies good.

Our state penal and almshouse institutions have an approximate population of 2700 inmates. Their care has necessitated the hire of 370 employees and an average annual expenditure during the past two years of about \$1,000,000.

Too often these institutions have been used as political footballs, so that their affairs and needs have many times failed to receive at the hands of the legislature the sober, sincere and unbiased consideration which they merited.

The last legislature treated the institutions with fair liberality, and the board, through close attention to their affairs and the hearty cooperation of officers and employees, offers them today for your inspection in a far superior condition than has ever before existed.

The State Purchasing Board The Purchasing Board has proved its usefulness not only in simplifying the purchase of supplies for state institutions and at most satisfactory prices, but in pointing out the advantages which would accrue to the state from a further consolidation in the management of all state institutions.

A Single Board of Control All state penal and almshouse institutions should be placed under a

and the manufacture of articles for state institutions only, the prison can within a few years be made self-supporting. Industries can be gradually installed and paid for out of the institution's earnings if such a course is authorized, but if not authorized then an appropriation of at least 25,000 should be made for the use of the management in procuring needed machinery.

Educational Institutions Our institutions of higher education are either needed or are not needed. If needed they should receive liberal support; otherwise they should be abolished.

Other Proposed Institutions Drunkard's Home Our jails and state institutions are crowded with victims of the drink habit. These unfortunates are a continual expense to the taxpayers.

A Reformatory Necessary Some day, and in the no distant future, this state must have a reformatory where the better class of prisoners may be placed and thus avoid their being thrown in contact with the confirmed criminals at the penitentiary.

Home for the Aged Figures obtained for the year 1911 show \$236,272.23 to have been spent by the several counties in this state in the support of their poor. It is estimated that there are about 600 of these unfortunates now being cared for by the counties.

Home for Wayward Girls There is a crying need for a home for wayward girls and a request which will be made at this session for the establishment of such an institution merits your earnest consideration.

Good Roads We still need good roads legislation. The people indicated through their votes at the last election that they were opposed to any but conservative action along these lines.

Useless Offices The taxpayers are bearing the burdens of many useless officials and appropriations and should be given relief. The Code contains many out-of-date and useless laws which should be repealed.

Appropriation Bills The practice of the past of submitting for your consideration blank appropriation bills should be avoided. These bills should be reduced to the smallest practical units in order that the members may have a better opportunity for considering the merits of each.

Taxation Three tax amendments approved by the legislature were submitted to the people at the last election. Of these two were defeated and by a very small vote. Their defeat was not due to any particular opposition, but because of the great number of tax measures upon the ballot and the inability of many voters to dis-

tinguish them from others which they were anxious to defeat.

Most important among the questions which affect the interests of the laboring classes in this state is the proposed compensation act. Just compensation to an injured workman or his family is right in principle. The measure proposed was drafted only after painstaking investigation by representatives of the different interests involved. These different interests each had to give and take a little in order to construct a measure which would work for the common good.

A minimum wage bill will also be presented for your consideration. The bill is aimed primarily to protect the working girls in this state in a living wage. Such a law would fill a long-felt want and would go far to remove conditions which often drive deserving, but helpless, girls to lives of shame.

It appears that the eight-hour law passed at the last election was without an enacting clause and will therefore be of no effect. I would, therefore, suggest that a new bill covering the eight-hour feature of the said bill be passed at this session.

The labor commissioner in his report has called your attention to the needs of labor in this state and I hope you may find time to look carefully into his recommendations.

Widow's Pension Bill A measure providing for the pensioning of widows will be presented at this session. The bill appears to possess much merit and deserves your earnest consideration.

Auditor of Municipal Accounts This state needs an auditor of public accounts. A good man in this position would each year save the cost of his office many times over. As matters stand today millions of dollars are being expended annually by public officials and practically without supervision. This failure on our part to throw proper safeguards around such expenditures opens the way for waste and graft. Legislation providing for a uniform system of accounts throughout the several counties should be passed and measures along these lines will be offered for your consideration.

Aided by the state land board I have been negotiating with the Federal government for the exchange of all scattered school sections within the boundaries of the Federal forests in this state for a compact body of timber. Should the trade now under negotiation be carried through, it will result in the state securing title to some very desirable lands, and will go far in making our state school of forestry rank with the best of the nation.

Sanitation Degenerates and the feeble-minded should not be allowed to reproduce their kind. Society should be protected from this curse. Our asylums and our prisons are being populated afresh through such parentage. We confine the vicious and the irresponsible for a while, only to send them forth to blight the future by

the creation of defective children that grow into the criminal or the imbecile.

Society is crying for protection and this protection should be given. False modesty, in the past, has caused us to speak softly and to handle this subject with gloved hands. Recent disclosures have emphasized the fact that the time has come to speak aloud.

The state has been shocked by the recent exposures as to degenerate practices. But this is an old story to those who deal with our jails and our asylums. Should you gentlemen desire to investigate this subject I would refer you to the superintendents of the penitentiary and the asylum.

But do not delude yourselves with the idea that these conditions are confined within the walls of our prisons or asylums. These degenerates sink in all their infamy, through every city, contaminating the young, debauching the innocent, cursing the state.

Two remedies are needed—one of preventions, another of cure. We have from session to session been considering the first. We should now act upon the two.

Sterilization and emasculation offer an effective remedy. I would recommend, therefore, that a statute be enacted making it the duty of our state penal and eleemosynary institutions to report all apparent cases of degeneracy to the state board of health. It should be made the duty of the said board to cause investigation to be made and, if the findings warrant, to cause such operations to be performed as will give society the protection it deserves.

Fire Arms The passage of a law throwing restrictions around the carrying of concealed weapons would do much to prevent crime in this state.

The man who carries a revolver usually does so because he expects to have occasion to use it and if he continues to carry one it is only a question of time until he does use it. To reduce the number of revolvers carried means to reduce murders and hold-ups.

Appropriation of Property For Public The constitution says that private property shall not be taken for public use without just compensation. By just compensation is meant the value of the property. The law also says that such property shall be assessed at its full cash value. Yet we find the state and municipalities called upon in condemnation proceedings to pay for a needed piece of property many times its assessed value.

This condition of affairs should not be allowed to exist. The assessed value should be more of a guide to the price which the public should pay. It should not under any circumstances be obliged to pay more than double the assessed value and the passage of a law to this effect would result in a great saving for the taxpayers of the state.

Panama Exposition The committee appointed in accordance with an act of the last legislature to select a site for Oregon's buildings at the coming San Francisco Exposition met with kindly treatment at the hands of the good people of California. Oregon was especially favored in that she was given the first choice of the offered sites and it is to be hoped that there will be erected thereon a building which will be admired by all.

PAPER RAILROAD FROM BLUE LEDGE TO GRANTS PASS

PORTLAND, Jan. 14.—Articles of incorporation have been filed for the Portland & San Francisco Railroad company, the expressed purpose of which is to build a stretch of railroad from Marshfield, Ore., to Trinidad, California, connection to be made there with the San Francisco & Northwestern Railroad company. The incorporators are C. N. Chester, Portland, representing eastern interests; H. N. Tinker, president First Trust company, Portland; J. G. Riggs, banker, Grants Pass, Oregon; Henry A. Davis, attorney, First Trust company, Portland. The new company is capitalized at \$2,000,000, stock being divided into 20,000 shares, of the par value of \$100.

Incorporation articles also provide for a branch line road from Grants Pass up Applegate river to the Blue Ledge mining district. "The Portland & San Francisco Railroad company contemplates the expenditure of about \$14,000,000 in construction work," said Mr. Chester this morning. "I am not at liberty just now to say who is backing the proposition, though it is largely eastern capital. An order has been placed already for a spring delivery of steel, and preliminary surveying and clearing for the new road is under way. There are billions of feet of standing timber tributary to the company's right of way, and the hauling of this product will be made a feature of the road's operations."

The branch line into the Blue Ledge mining country is also planned because of the apparent returns which would follow the opening and development of that country when transportation facilities are offered it."

Mr. Chester says that the San Francisco & Northwestern line running from Trinidad south, is within 80 miles of San Francisco, so that completion of the proposed Portland line and its connection with the San Francisco & Northwestern road will give practically direct coast line connections between Portland and San Francisco.

Mr. Chester said that the proposition is being undertaken independent of any of the large railroad corporations.

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