

# INITIATIVE BILL PASSED BY HOUSE

## Members Indulge in Much Horseplay and Little Real Fight Is Made.

### LEGISLATIVE RESUME.

#### The Senate—

Passed judiciary committee bill requiring that three judges be elected at each biennial election  
Passed Bryan bill requiring all prison made goods, except socks from Walla Walla, to be marked.  
Passed P. L. Allen bill requiring approval of state senate to changes in old university lands lease.

Passed Stewart, Silver lake fishing bill.  
Passed Falconer bill providing for a state mining commission.

Laid on the table Jackson bill for bi-weekly paydays for state, county and school district employees.

Referred Bellingham armory probe resolution to military committee.

#### The House—

Passed initiative and referendum bill.  
Legislative news on pages 1 and 4.

### (FROM A STAFF CORRESPONDENT.)

OLYMPIA, Feb. 14.—The house spent the entire afternoon today on H. B. 153, the initiative and referendum, and finally passed the measure by a vote of 79 to 12, although the members converted the chamber into a one-ring circus before the final vote was cast.

The men who voted against the bill were: Beach, Byerly, Drissler, Foster, Ghent, Groff, Martin, McArdle, McMillan, Sims, Stephens and Webster. None of the members from Pierce voted against the passage of the bill, but at the vote on the adoption of the minority report, the real test of strength, the county's representatives were divided as follows: For the bill, Dow, Jamieson, Laube, McQuesten, Shutt, Teats. Against the bill, Cameron, Davis, McNeeley and Thompson. On a viva voce vote the bill was immediately transmitted to the senate under a suspension of the rules.

Filibustering was the rule for two hours before the bill was passed by the house and the orators of the house took advantage of the well filled galleries to give their opinions, good and bad, of the bill. The spellbinding became too much for most of the members toward the last and Shutt, to end it all, secured the recognition of the chair, wildly waved his arms, and shook his head in imitation of the spellbinders and then sat down. The applause of the galleries prompted the other humorists of the house and French, a fruit grower of Clark county who had distributed samples of prunes to the members, suggested that the orators were filled with the fruit.

#### "Preaching to Packed Jury."

Groff raised his voice in final protest against the bill, prefacing his statement that he was preaching to a packed jury and that his "words of sweetness were wasted upon the desert air." Ghent scolded the house for proposing to pass the bill, but Faulkner saw the culmination of a struggle between the "blue-blooded patrician and the red corpuscle plebian," which was ending in favor of the proletariat. Foster made a long argument against the bill and Dr. Beach of Mason added his protest.

"That we are to have chaos, and then the red flag of anarchy," shouted the Mason county man. "Are we drifting to demagogy and are we to be in the same position as the ancient republic of Greece? The day is fast coming when brains will cease to be at a premium in this state. The organizations which are demanding pledges and freak laws of us don't want men with brains in these chairs. They are after the fellow who will jump like a jack-in-the-box when the string is pulled."

The house was primed for trouble when the clerk began the reading of the bill. On the one side to work for the bill were Representatives Denman of Spokane and Teats of Pierce. On the

(Continued on Page Four.)

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(Continued from page 1.)

other side were Foster and Ghent of King and Sims of Jefferson.

### Amendments Permitted.

The bill was reported with a majority and minority recommendations, the minority report being for the passing of the bill as it stood and a motion was made to exclude all amendments. Speaker Taylor, however, ruled that the bill could be amended, and then the bill opened with an amendment substituting the word "or" for a comma in the opening line of the bill. This would have destroyed the intent of the measure and Teats of Pierce opened the debate.

Sims of Jefferson was the most bitter opponent of the bill. He stated that the initiative is an altogether needless provision.

"I don't think," declared Sims, "that the people take enough interest in legislation to warrant the initiative, as at present they have the opportunity of enacting legislation through their legislators. It seems to me that with the referendum, the initiative is absolutely unnecessary, as the people have under the referendum the right to reject the laws passed by the legislature."

Foster of King spoke in favor of the amendments, declaring they were wholesome amendments. Hugh Todd of Whitman, one of the authors of the bill, implored its passage without the amendments, pointing out that the people desired both the initiative and referendum.

### First Test of Strength.

The question of the adoption of the amendment was voted upon and the first test vote recorded, showing that the house favored direct legislation. The vote stood 26 yeas, 61 nays and 9 absent or not voting.

At this juncture Denman, one of the authors of the bill and its consistent champion throughout, moved that the minority report be adopted without voting on the amendments. This immediately brought forth vigorous but useless protest from Sims of Jefferson.

"This is a very fine machine," remarked Sims. "It is well oiled and is on the tracks. And the gentleman from Spokane is a very generous character."

More speeches followed by Baird of Snohomish, Denman of Spokane, Beach of Mason, Teats of Pierce and Foster of King, all of which had little or no influence with the house members.

Following is the vote on the adoption of the minority report:

**Ayes**—Alexander, Appleman, Atchison, Boyle, Buchanan (H. D.), Buchanan (R. E.), Campbell, Chamberlin, Christensen (W. P.), Christensen (Walter E.), Denning, Denman, Dow, Farnsworth, Faulkner, Fontaine, French, Frits, Garrecht, Gillett, Halsey, Harlison, Hoff, Holmes, Morrison, Hubbell, Jamieson, Johnson, Kelly, Larue, Laube, LeSourd, McClure, McKenna, McQuesten, Moren, Phipps, Rudene, Shutt, Stevens, Spedden, Stone, Straub, Teats, Todd, Vollmer, Woolbridge, Wright and Zednick—49.

**Nays**—Beach, Bird, Byerly, Cameron, Carlyon, Conner, Davis, Dickson, Drissler, Fisher, Foster, Gandy, Ghent, Groff, Hastings, Hornbrook, Jones, Kennedy, Leonard, Locke, Martin, McArdle, McLean, McMillan, McNeely, Mexler, Mess, Miller (J. A.), Minard, Moody, Rich, Scales, Sims, Smith, Stephens, Thompson, Tonkin, Twitchell, Ward, Webster, Wray and Mr. Speaker—43.  
**Absent or not voting**—Ennis, Eshelman, Goss, McCoy and Miller (Clyde).

### Cannot Repeal Within Four Years.

Filibustering continued. Foster wanted to knock out the line which gives the initiative preference over all other bills except appropriations introduced in the legislature, seeing, he said, no reason for such a provision. Shutt answered that it was included in the bill because wire pulling politicians always had a mass of pet bills to slip through.

Bird put up another amendment which the house was divided over. The bill now provides that no initiative law may be amended or repealed by the legislature until after four years. Bird wanted to reduce the time for two years, but Denman answered that other states which had the law provided that the legislature never could change initiative measures. Gandy seconded the Bird amendment with a statement that he was not adverse to the will of the people, but that he had found that the legislature had passed defective bills and he thought that the people could make the same mistake.

Beach took exception to the Denman statement and read The Ledger account of the repeal of the Rogue river fishing law, an initiative measure, by the Oregon legislature. Most of the direct legislation men stood pat when the roll was called and the amendment lost by a vote of 44 yeas to 46 nays.

The printed bill provided that 8 per cent. of the voters might refer a bill and the original bill reads 5 per cent. Denman asked for the change to be made and was seconded by Beach, who sarcastically suggested that the petitioners be reduced to 1 per cent. Both sides demanded a roll call and Denman's request was passed by a vote of 50 yeas to 31 nays.

A long series of amendments to the section providing when the initiative laws shall go into effect was then begun. The bill says 30 days after initiative measures have passed, but Sims wanted to make it 90 days on the ground that the vote of such measures could not be canvassed in the time provided in the bill. The motion lost, as did a second amendment which proposed to change the time to 60 days. Sims then made a final appeal to the house.

"This provision is silly," he said. "The bill is going to pass, but let us make it as reasonable as we can. Why not make initiative bills laws 30 days after the vote is officially announced?"

Denman would not prohibit the change and Sims snapped back:

"Well, we may all go to jail some day for unconsciously violating some initiative law."

Denman smiled and quoted the constitution, which says that representatives are immune from the law while they are sitting in the legislature.

"Mr. Denman is right," said Speaker Taylor. "But," he added, ruefully, "I have found that it does not apply to the speaker." Mr. Taylor had had his memory refreshed by being arrested and caged Monday night as a part of his initiation in the Elks lodge.

Foster made the final amendment. He wanted to give the governor power to veto initiative laws, but was voted down. A call of the house was demanded, all but six members, who were unavoidably absent and excused by the speaker, responded and then speechmaking began, ending with the final roll call which passed the bill.