

Municipal Affairs Discussed by League

TAXES, NON-CITY FIRES INCLUDED

Conference Held Here Also Deals With Beer Trade, Stream Pollution.

Matters of city finance, foreclosures of delinquent liens, liquor regulations, and other municipal problems, were thoroughly discussed here yesterday at a district conference sponsored by the League of Oregon Cities.

The conference was conducted by R. S. Bryson, attorney and field consultant of the league, and Herman Kehrl, league's executive secretary and director of the department of municipal research at the University of Oregon. Mayor Charles W. Clark of Roseburg presided over the meeting, which opened with a luncheon at the Umpqua hotel.

In addition to the members of the Roseburg city council, city attorney, engineer and heads of the various departments, there were present at the meeting representatives from Cottage Grove, Oakland, Myrtle Creek, Sutherlin, Canyonville and Drain.

Among those from out of town were H. V. Lombard, attorney and L. W. Kolner, recorder, Cottage Grove; F. Fortin, mayor, and E. L. Settle, councilman, Oakland; H. P. Rice, mayor, Myrtle Creek; Horton Thompson, mayor and C. H. Barber, marshal, Sutherlin; H. J. Haas, mayor, and Mark E. Elliott, councilman, Canyonville; P. J. Varley, treasurer, and Robert Miller, recorder, Drain.

Fire Fighting Discussed.
An interesting discussion was held regarding the matter of taking fire apparatus outside of limits of municipalities. City officers declared that it is difficult to stand by at city limits and watch property burn immediately outside the boundaries and questions were raised regarding liabilities of cities in going outside municipal boundaries to fight fires.

It was pointed out that the matter of workmen's compensation enters into the problem, should firemen be injured while employed in fire fighting outside the city, while the question was also raised whether insurance companies could recover from cities in the event of a fire within town, while the apparatus was in use outside the city limits.

The league officers pointed out that the state law permits property outside of city limits to organize fire districts and to purchase and maintain equipment which can be manned by members of a municipal department, and it was urged that more effort be made to organize such districts. The league, however, will make a study of legal questions involved in the matter of taking municipal equipment outside of city boundaries.

Easing Delinquencies.
A great deal of discussion centered around the question of foreclosure of delinquent assessments. The league officers called attention to the activities of the city of Medford in this connection. The council there, it was reported, personally contacted owners of property upon which assessment and liens were delinquent. Where owners did not care to pay the charges and preferred to surrender the land, the city secured quit claim deeds, thereby saving the cost of foreclosure suits. Where the owners desired to retain their property, arrangements were made whereby the delinquency could be paid in small amounts. Under this plan, it was stated, the city has already made collections amounting to \$25,000.

This city officers present were of the opinion that interest should not be rebated on delinquencies.

Refund Suggestion.
Mayor H. P. Rice of Myrtle Creek made an interesting suggestion, when he proposed that states make an effort to secure refunded processing taxes on agricultural products for the irrefusable school fund.

The processing tax was paid by consumers, he said, but is being paid by the federal government to manufacturers. The manufacturers, wholesalers nor retailers have a right to retain this tax, which should by rights be returned to the individual consumer. It is obviously impossible, he said, to restore the tax to the consumers, and, therefore, the states could claim the money for the irrefutable school fund, which according to precedent receives all moneys which cannot be otherwise equitably distributed.

Beer Licenses.
Considerable discussion centered around beer licenses. Towns which limit the number of beer retailers have had little difficulty it was reported, while towns which have not imposed a limitation on number of businesses have reported considerable trouble in maintaining desirable conditions.

Some cities which had attempted to limit the number of licenses reported that beer retailers had set up businesses just outside of city limits, and the league officers suggested that where a city desires to impose limitations, that arrangements be made with county courts whereby licenses will be denied within certain distances from the city limits.

Stream pollution, prospective legislation, city financing, WPA activities, and numerous other topics were also given consideration.

The meeting was one of a series of six sponsored by the League of Oregon Cities in various parts of Oregon. The league is an association

tion of Oregon municipalities organized for the purpose of cooperative study of municipal problems and legislation and municipal research.

NEW STATUS MADE KNOWN BY GRIFFITH

(Continued from page 1)

are left at the institution, and of this number only 10 are listed as able-bodied.

As only able-bodied men may be employed in a transient camp under present rules, plans are being made to transfer the 11 men now in hospital to other care. Some are to be placed in the care of relatives, while others will be sent to the counties where they last had legal residence.

The able-bodied men are now employed in cleanup work following the recent evacuation of the major portion of the members at the institution. All of the barracks buildings have been closed, and only the hospital and administration buildings are now being occupied. The men left at the home are today washing 1200 blankets, taking care of the animals at the facility, doing the culinary work, etc.

It is reported that there are now approximately 100 men at Portland awaiting assignment to work camps, and it is expected that the majority of these will be sent to Roseburg soon. It is believed the home will be filled to capacity of approximately 250 men within ten days or two weeks.

The projects listed for work here include landscaping of the grounds at the veterans facility, and grading and landscaping the grounds at Roseburg senior high school. It is also expected that the men will be used in enlarging runways at the municipal airport, and probably in developing parks and playgrounds, provided local sponsorship is obtained.

The projects listed for the transient home are in addition to those outlined to take care of the needs of unemployed residents of the county, C. D. Fies, WPA engineer for the county, reporting that ample work has been outlined to care for all local needs for the remainder of the fiscal year.

The Roosevelt Transient home was originally established as a relief measure, to provide for the care of single, homeless men. It was maintained on this status until the relief administration was changed to cooperation with the counties, and all able-bodied, certified unemployed transferred to the WPA. Under this arrangement all transient camps in the state were transferred to the WPA except the local institution. The latter transfer was delayed while an appropriation of \$125,000 for continuing the activity was under consideration at Washington, D. C. The appropriation, which includes not only money to maintain the home, but also to pay salaries to laborers, with some money provided for materials, was approved at Washington and referred to the state administrator for final action.

PROCESSING TAX REFUND DOUBTFUL, WALLACE THINKS

(Continued from page 1)

prevent erosion.

Five major farm organizations, meeting as the national agricultural conference, went on record last night as endorsing the program to obtain production control through a system of subsidized soil conservation.

Two Questions Debated.
Discussion revolved today around two questions:

Will the new program survive a supreme court test if it is ever brought before that tribunal?

What means will be used to finance it?

As for the first point, it was learned today that Senator Norris (R., Neb.) and Senator Pope (D., Idaho) have joined hands in conducting a survey to see what sentiment there is in congress to build farm relief and other legislation against blows from the courts.

On the second question, L. J. Teller, master of the National Grange, advanced the idea of impounding all tariff receipts to obtain neces-

sary funds without new taxation.

Senator Pope said the proposed plan to pay benefits to farmers to diversify crops in such a way as to prevent erosion, improve fertility and keep production of major crops at a desired level probably was unconstitutional in the light of the supreme court's ruling on AAA.

The senator, expressing personal approval of controlled production, took the position that all possibility of the new farm program meeting AAA's fate should be removed by a law limiting the power of the courts.

He and Senator Norris conferred yesterday on a proposed bill by Pope, and the Idaho senator said he "expected to interview half a dozen senators today." He has a temporary draft which may be amended later.

Court O. K. Needed.

As the bill stood today no act of congress could be declared unconstitutional except by more than two-thirds vote of the supreme court. Pope suggested at least a seven-to-two division of the nine members. AAA was invalidated by a six to three vote.

Senator Norris had expressed views somewhat similar to those of Pope a few days before.

Pope said: "The farm legislation now proposed by the government universally is considered necessary to the immediate emergency but it is extremely doubtful that it or any permanent farm program to actually benefit agriculture through regulation of production after the manner in which industry gauges supply and demand can be promulgated unless prohibitory sections of the constitution are removed or the opportunity to test the constitutionality of such an act definitely circumscribed."

SENATE NEARING BONUS BILL VOTE

(Continued on page 6)

number one," he added. "Printing press order number two is to print bonds to raise cash to buy up the baby bonds."

A third bond issue, he said, would be necessary to raise funds to pay the \$500,000,000 debt owed the United States life insurance fund for bonus loans.

Thomas calculated the bill eventually would require the printing of "over 100,000,000 pieces of paper."

BRYAN SCORED BY CLARK IN SENATE

(By guest no penman)

les on public figures.

"More than 20 years ago I heard a prominent member of the house say on the floor while Glass was a member of that body that Glass was one man who never speaks except in terms of intense indignation," he added.

Glass sat slumped in his chair. One of his hands, injured yesterday when he pounded his desk vehemently to emphasize his attack against Nye, was bandaged.

"I regret that the Senator from Virginia saw fit to use his unrivaled power of vituperation, invective and abuse on a member of the committee for pursuing its course," Clark said.

"It is no reflection on President Wilson, on Secretary of State Lansing or upon any member of this congress who voted to take this country into war to soberly and dispassionately examine the facts of the web of circumstances that dragged us into the war that was followed by calamity."

Tracing the course of United States neutrality early in the war, he said Wilson had delivered an "inspired" proclamation of neutrality.

Bryan as Barrier.

Turning to the appearance before the committee of J. P. Morgan and his partners in the great banking house, he said evidence disclosed they were denied the right to lend money to the allies by William Jennings Bryan, who preceded Robert Lansing as Wilson's secretary of state.

Yet while America was striving to remain neutral, Clark continued, "from the beginning of the

struggle the rules of freedom of the seas were flagrantly and repeatedly violated by Great Britain."

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