



THREE WEEKS MORE

Legislative operation is in high with Senate President Walsh and Speaker of the House Van Dyke sitting on the throttle. If the present spastic cram keeps up it will take five weeks to finish the 480 bills now in the hopper. Applying the history of past performances of Oregon legislature sessions, nerves will get jumpy and session machinery will commence stripping its gears in about three weeks—for adjournment around April 1.

OREGON ECONOMICS SOUND

Unemployment in Oregon was up for a post-war record during February. At the same time there were more people at work here than during any February since our labor statistics have been recorded.

The unemployment record was due to unusual weather that made most outdoor work impossible. February was not an on-the-job month but made up for much of its work-stoppage loss by the jobs created in repairing the damages done by its storms.

Weekly benefits to unemployed workers dropped slightly in '48 as payrolls, considering seasonable employment, showed steady increase. Heightened benefits of these post-war years have made little impression on the state's benefit reserves which made a new year-end high of \$84,639,655.

Wage payments in this state during 1948 were well over the billion mark, up approximately 10 per cent from record-breaking 1947 and nearly 20 per cent higher than any war-year total.

Last year was considered a poor year for farmers, however, Oregon farm income rose from \$370,847,000 in 1947 to \$400,026,000 in 1948.

PROSPERITY THIS YEAR
"Non-seasonal layoffs in con-

cerns which have caught up with their particular commodity and a reduction in agricultural employment are noted.

"The 'best minds' do not believe the situation forecasts a recession, but 'best minds' for three years predicted depressions each year, which did not materialize," says John W. Kelly, executive director of the state post war re-adjustment and development commission, in his recent report to Gov. McKay.

NO MYSTERY MURDER

Bills killed by a legislature are among the most interesting aspects of a session. This session is no exception. Some of the measures defeated may be on the ballot next election. The often advanced proposal that Oregon needs a lieutenant governor was endorsed at the annual young Republicans convention soon after the November election. Now democratic clubs are adopting this plank. Young GOPs are hollering "Stop Thief."

Highly controversial bills that got the legislative axe include a proposal to let cities and counties levy business and occupational taxes; a proposed constitutional amendment which would allow the legislature to prevent any tax bill from being referred to the people; repeal of the law prohibiting coloring of margarine; abolishment of present milk control; create an Oregon State school directors' association—opponents say they wanted no more school lobbies, and increase minimum auto insurance under the state responsibility act from \$5,000 to \$10,000.

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STATE POLICE RECORDS

Arrests and convictions for drunken driving in Oregon were down about 20 per cent for the past month as compared with the same period two years ago.

Liquor sales made a similar drop since Jan. 1, 1944.

Average fines and jail sentences in 1947 were \$125.73 and 15-days sentences. Last month fines averaged \$116 and 24-day sentences, according to state police records.

Arrests for not having motor vehicle licenses totaled 805 with fines of \$1857 collected in the 30-day period. For the same time in 1947 only 481 arrests were made for having no license. Nearly a thousand dollars in fines was collected for hauling without a permit from PUC.

INDIAN SCHOOL ENTERTAINS
Gov. McKay, state officials and many members of the legislature attended the 100th anniversary of

the federal department of the interior at Chemawa Indian training school last Friday. Colorful and impressive tribal dances were presented in elaborate native costumes.

A. P. Collins, regional forester, spoke on the history of the department and Supt. R. M. Kelly told of the history and achievements of the school which was established in 1880 at its present location five miles north of Salem.

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