

## New State Laws Will Reduce Cost of Elections

Salem — Important changes in the election laws simplifying the registration and election machinery and making material reductions in the expense were enacted at the recent session of the legislature. The new law providing for the election of delegates to party national conventions and Presidential electors will save the state about \$10,000 a year, for, under it, each person so honored must pay his own expenses. House bill 227, which provides for two judges of election instead of three, it is estimated, will save the state \$20,000 each election year.

Just what saving the permanent registration law will effect is difficult to estimate, but it should be a material one. This law, while not considered a perfect one, is regarded as a "step in the right direction." It provides that in registering the electors the county clerks shall use the card index system. The clerks shall register any unqualified elector who may request to be registered at any time after the first Monday in January, 1916, to within 30 days preceding any general or primary election.

As a result electors desiring to vote in the primary May, 1916, will have only about three and one-half months to register.

Electors absent from their county may register before any notary public or county clerk in the county where they may be. In such cases the notary public or county clerk shall mail the affidavit of the elector to the county clerk of the elector's county and may collect a fee not to exceed 25 cents from the elector.

It is declared that in cities and other growing communities precinct boundaries are changing constantly and as a result thousands of electors to vote will have to register at least every two

years. It also is pointed out that many voters may be disfranchised as a result of this provision through ignorance of changes in precinct boundaries. Election experts say the law should have been provided for the county clerks to make the changes necessary for recording the electors in the proper precincts when boundaries are changed without the necessity for re-registrations.

When an elector moves from one county to another the county clerk is authorized to send his registration blank to the clerk of the county where the elector resides.

House bill 228 is designed to facilitate voting. It dispenses with the poll book and substitutes precinct register lists. It will not be necessary for the clerk to write the names of the electors as they vote, but instead he will check the names off on his lists.

One of the most important laws passed by the legislature is that providing for the election of delegates to party conventions and Presidential electors. Under the law which it repeals, the voters could vote for only one delegate and one elector. Under the new law, with the present apportionment, each party will be entitled to two delegates from each congressional district and four from the state at large. Under it every elector of a political party will have the right to vote for two delegates from his congressional district and four from the state at large. Nomination of Presidential electors is from the state at large, and each voter will be entitled to cast his ballot for the number of electors allotted his party. The provisions under the present law which authorize the state to pay the expenses of the delegates is repealed and henceforth they will have to pay their own expenses, as they do in other states.

## Hood River Apple Growers' Association Votes to Secede

Hood River—The board of directors of the Hood River Apple Growers' association has recommended that the Hood River association withdraw from the North Pacific Fruit Distributors.

Final action, however, rests with the members of the local association, who will vote on the question at the annual meeting in April. The vote of the directors was unanimous. A series of meetings will be held throughout the valley to discuss the action of the directors.

Prominent growers who are acquainted with the sentiment throughout the community declare that the action of the board of directors will receive practically the unanimous support of the organization's membership.

"I know of a tonnage of at least 100,000 boxes of apples that will be immediately signed up with the association," says Oscar Vanderbilt, a member of the recently elected Growers' Council, "as soon as it is learned that the Apple Growers' association is no longer an affiliation of the Distributors."

While it was expected that the growers at the April meeting would in all probability take action to withdraw from the Distributors, this action on the part of the board of directors came as a great surprise. The haste with which the board acted probably comes as a direct result of the failure of Mr. Vanderbilt Saturday to accept a nomination to the board for the coming

year. After the meeting, when asked his motive in refusing the nomination, he explained that he preferred to be a free lance to being tied up with the Distributors. The board held a meeting Saturday night, with the result that the above announcement was made.

With relations with the North Pacific Fruit Distributors severed, the Hood River Valley will undoubtedly be the most strongly organized section in the Northwest, because many growers who now ship independently will join the association. It is estimated that 95 per cent of the Hood River apples will be shipped this year through the local association.

Many growers during the past two years have shipped independently on account of the affiliation. These will now join the local association, which will market its fruit direct.

While the local growers do not find fault with the basic principles of the Spokane agency, complaint has been heard because of the overhead expense, which, it is declared, is exorbitant. The financial management also has been criticized. While returns are received at the main office soon after sales are made, because of the complexity of pools the grower has to wait too long before receiving his money.

H. F. Davidson, president of the Distributors, is a member of the board of directors of the Apple Growers' association.

### Oregon Asked for Militia.

Salem — Governor Withycombe has made application to the Navy department for the assignment of the old battleship Oregon to Portland for use by the Naval Militia of the state. It would replace the cruiser Boston now in the Portland harbor. The governor acted upon the suggestion of Adjutant General White, who believes the assignment of the historic vessel to Oregon waters would give great impetus to the upbuilding of the militia.

In writing the Navy department the governor strongly urged that the loan of the Oregon be granted this state. He pointed out that the assignment of the battleship would aid materially in increasing the scope and efficiency of the Naval Militia and would have a great deal to do in popularizing and perpetuating the organization. He further dwelt upon the fitness, from a sentimental standpoint, of having the battleship transferred to its namesake state.

### Dyes Lacking for Cloths.

Pendleton—The shortage of dyestuffs caused by the war is being felt seriously by the textile industry of the nation, according to Manager C. M. Bishop, of the Pendleton Woolen Mills. According to advices received from the East, many Eastern mills did not succeed in laying in a big supply at the outset of the war. Practically all the dyes used in textile mills are made in Germany. While dyes have not been listed as contraband, the German government evidently has taken a stand against allowing export to America.

### City's Threats Cut Rates.

Baker—That the proposed municipal electric light plant would put his company out of business and that the company had been forced by threats of the municipal plant to lower its rates was the testimony of F. A. Harmon, general manager of the Eastern Oregon Light & Power company, before the State Railroad commission in its final hearing of the company's rates here.

### Brother Gets Insurance.

La Grande — Like a letter from the grave came word to Edward Bussey, a cabdriver of this city, from his brother, the late Major General Cyrus Bussey, who died in Washington and was buried in Arlington Cemetery recently. The La Grande man knew nothing of his brother's death until a letter came that had been written in 1913, to be held until death visited the old general. With the letter came notice that considerable life insurance had been left in the La Grande man's name. The epistle was a brotherly farewell.

### Hood River Growers Meet.

Hood River—Kenneth McKay, manager of the Fruit Growers' Exchange, the local affiliation of the Northwest Fruit Exchange, distributed \$2000 among its growers Thursday. To date the exchange has returned to the growers \$12,000, between 50 and 60 cents a box, owing to different varieties. With prominent officials of the Northwest Fruit Exchange, J. F. Sugrue, of Cashmere, and Dr. C. A. Macrum, of Mosier, here for addresses, the exchange is holding a series of meetings with growers this week.

### Two Claim County Bonds.

Ontario—The Malheur county bonds, issued at the fall election for the construction of a bridge across the Snake river at Big Bend, and sold at public sale on March 1 to Hall & Lewis, a bonding firm, of Portland, at a premium of \$1910, are now being held by Keeler Bros., of Denver, who claim the bonds by virtue of a sale on March 1, signed by the County clerk and certified by the county clerk, at a premium of \$750.

### Board Job Bars Sales.

Salem—Attorney General Brown, in response to a query by Frank Steiwer, district attorney of Umatilla county, held that it is unlawful for a school director, who is a merchant or a stockholder and manager of a corporation, to sell supplies to a school district.

## 62 MILLION WHEAT YIELD PREDICTED IN NORTHWEST

Portland — The Pacific Northwest this year will turn out one of the largest wheat crops it has ever produced, if the weather conditions between now and harvest time are favorable. Should the weather not be as good as the farmers wish, the crops will still be equal to last year's in size, according to well-informed grainmen, as there is enough new acreage planted in wheat to offset any probable deficiency in the old acreage.

In all parts of the Pacific Northwest farmers are putting spare land to wheat, and in some sections summer fallowing will be abandoned to increase this year's grain production.

The increased acreage runs as high as 20 per cent in a few localities, but in the Pacific Northwest as a whole it is probable that 10 per cent will be the maximum gain.

This would produce a wheat crop of about 62,000,000 bushels in Oregon, Washington and Idaho. Last year's crop was about 56,000,000 bushels. To have a full yield, however, the weather from now on must be satisfactory in every respect.

Taking the Pacific Northwest as a whole, grainmen say that wheat crop conditions are not quite as good as at this time last year. Some wheat-growing sections are suffering from a deficiency of moisture. This is particularly true of part of Eastern Oregon, but there is ample time for this defect to be remedied. One year ago growing conditions were pronounced ideal in the Northwest. At that time it was predicted the crop would be close to 70,000,000 bushels, but this result was not realized.

This year growers are equally hopeful and even with adverse conditions the yield of last year will be repeated, while the chances for a still larger crop are good.

Whether or not the crop is a bumper one, it is almost certain to bring the farmers more money than any crop they have raised before. According to wheat authorities all over the world, wheat prices are bound to be high this year whether the war continues or not. Wheat growing in Europe is being carried on this year under the greatest difficulties, and even though the neutral exporting countries have bumper yields, it is not likely they can make up for the deficiencies in belligerent countries, where wheat will be most needed.

## German Cruiser Is Sunk In South Seas by British

London — "The Dresden has been sunk."

The announcement of the sinking of the German cruiser Dresden came after nightfall Monday, but the news spread quickly through the theaters and restaurants and there was much rejoicing that this commerce raider, whose whereabouts have been a mystery since her escape after the Falkland Islands engagement in December, had at last been sent to the bottom. The fact that all the crew of the Dresden were saved sets a new record for rescue after an action at sea, and a naval battle of five minutes' duration probably is another record. The details furnished by the admiralty are scant, but apparently the British ships were not even hit, for no damage whatever is recorded.

The sinking of the Dresden leaves at large on the high seas, so far as is known, only two German war vessels—the cruiser Karlsruhe, last reported as operating in the West Indies, and the auxiliary cruiser Kronprinz Wilhelm, which is still raiding commerce in the South Atlantic.

The Dresden was a member of the German squadron which was defeated by the British off the Falkland Islands in December. She was the only one of five German warships to escape. The Dresden was said to have fled to the westward but there had been no definite reports as to her whereabouts since that time. She was reported unofficially to have been seen in the Straits of Magellan and later to be in hiding in one of the bays on the Chilean coast.

### Rich Folk Leave Germany.

Copenhagen, via London—The hotels and the better-class boarding houses here are crowded with well-to-do Germans, who are ineligible for military service. It is said that those people, responding to an appeal from their government, are leaving Germany in large numbers, in order that there will be fewer people to feed while the war lasts.

It is reported from Sweden and Norway that many other Germans of similar class have arrived in those countries.

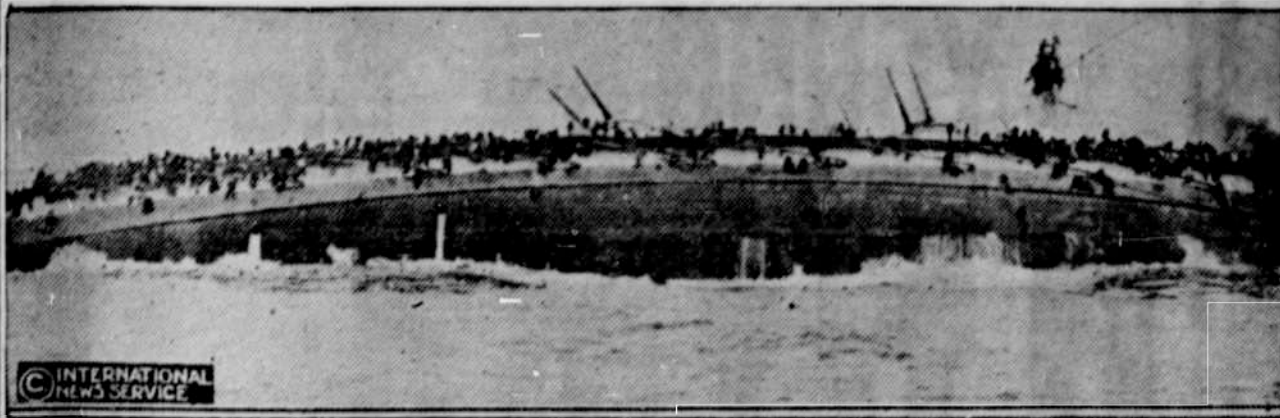
### Court Used for Services.

Berlin—In the main hall of the Criminal court building in Alt-Moabit the first divine services for refugees from the regions of East Prussia devastated by the Russians was held. Several young persons were confirmed and a number of children were baptized.

### Monument for Aviator Beachey.

San Francisco—The board of supervisors favored a plan to create a fund for the erection of a monument in Golden Gate Park to the memory of Lincoln Beachey. He is said to have left an estate of several hundred thousand dollars, much of which is government bonds.

## THE BLUECHER'S DEATH AGONY



This most dramatic and wonderful picture of the great war was made during the last moments of the doomed German cruiser Bluecher, just a few moments before she sank, following the first battle between dreadnaughts. The photograph was made by an officer from the deck of the British cruiser Arethusa. After floating for a brief time on her side the Bluecher turned deliberately over. For about ten minutes before taking her final plunge she floated keel up while several of her crew ran along the bottom of the vessel and then disappeared from sight.

## ADVANCE SCOUTS OF THE FRENCH



About three members of each regiment usually compose the advance scouts, whose duty it is to go about a quarter of a mile ahead of the main body of troops and to make sure that the territory is not in the hands of the enemy.

## TESTING THE AMERICAN COINAGE OF 1914



The assay commission, appointed to examine the 1914 coinage of all the United States mints, is here seen beginning its work in the Philadelphia mint. The coins are subjected to chemical analysis and filing.

## CLAUDE GRAHAM-WHITE

## NOT SUBDUED EVEN BY CAPTURE



Claude Graham-White, one of the foremost of English aviators, has been very active as a member of Great Britain's aviation corps.

## NEW FLAG OF EGYPT



The new flag of Egypt, three stars and crescents on a plain deep red background.



German officer captured by the French near Arras and manacled because of his violence toward his captors.