

STATE HIGHWAY JOB DECLINED BY HAUSER

Refusal Is Due to Frequent Absence, Says Telegram.

PORTLANDERS ARE NAMED

Governor Olcott Lauds Simon Benson for Service and Relates His Many Achievements.

SALEM, Or., Nov. 18.—(Special).—Because of his frequent and possibly almost continuous absence from the state during certain periods of the ensuing year, Eric Hauser today telegraphed Governor Olcott from St. Paul that he would be unable to accept the appointment of state highway commissioner to succeed S. Benson. Mr. Benson resigned yesterday. Following the receipt of Mr. Hauser's telegram here today it was rumored about the capitol that several men of prominence in Oregon had been mentioned for the place, although none of them had yet been considered seriously by the governor. These men include John B. Yeon, builder of the Columbia river highway; Ben Seiling, Portland merchant; W. B. Ayer, ex-food commissioner for Oregon; A. L. Mills of the First National bank, and Phil Metschan Jr., manager of the Imperial hotel. Under the law Mr. Benson's successor must be a resident of Multnomah county. "Oregon owes Simon Benson a heavy debt of gratitude for the invaluable services which he has rendered," said Governor Olcott, commenting on Mr. Benson's resignation today. "He is one of our greatest and best citizens and, as Oregonians know, his services to the state have by no means been confined to what he has done in the way of highway development. But his efforts along that line alone will make him forever remembered by the people of the state. He has been in a large measure one of the foremost pioneers in the movement to pull Oregon out of the mud. His own money, and his own services, all have been at the command of the people of the state in this enormous undertaking, and he has given of them unstintingly. Mr. Benson has reared for himself in the hearts of the people of the state an enduring monument, and every man, woman and child in the state has a just appreciation of his splendid services so freely given."

CHANGES WILL BE MADE

Three Plans Discussed; Much Highway Legislation Likely.

With the resignation of Simon Benson from the state highway commission come various rumors of what the legislature may do to the commission at the pending session. At least three plans are being discussed which will materially affect the state highway commission as it now exists and there is a promise of much highway legislation of secondary importance. One plan calls for a bill which will enlarge the commission, increasing the membership from three commissioners, as at present to five. Under this program it is the intention of the promoters to have one commissioner selected from a district in southern Oregon; another from central Oregon; one from the district of Multnomah; one from the Willamette valley and one from central Oregon. The explanation given for the proposed change is that the state is so large that the present membership of three men cannot adequately cover it and that they have to travel all the time to get over the ground. By carving the state into five districts, with a commissioner in charge of each, it is contended that each commissioner can then give personal attention to his own particular district. An argument raised against this plan is that each commissioner would be seeking to build roads in his own section, irrespective of any broad, statewide highway policy, and three such commissioners could, by forming an alliance, control the commission and improve their own roads while sacrificing development of the other two districts. Another measure being discussed would create a salaried commission. Those who have studied the highway department are opposed to a paid commission, arguing that the office would then be sought for the salary instead of being considered an opportunity to render a public service. It was pointed out in the 1919 session of the legislature, when Senator Walter M. Pierce proposed a salaried commission, that such a commission would degenerate into a political body and quickly destroy the road programme. A third suggestion is to have the present state highway commission abolished and in its stead to have one highway commissioner and to pay this commissioner a substantial salary, say about \$25,000 a year. A one-man commission would eliminate conflict of opinions in a larger commission and would place responsibility for mistakes with unerring accuracy. Such a commissioner would have to be a man of unusual qualifications, thoroughly conversant with road construction and a well-equipped executive. The present commission, of three members, has worked out the comprehensive state road programme and has enjoyed the confidence of the people. For this reason there will be vigorous opposition raised against any attempt to change the present system.

U. S. TIMBER NOT BURNED

SIUSLAW NATIONAL FOREST SPARED BY FIRES.

Report Shows 63 Blazes in Wooded Area During Past Season.

EUGENE, Or., Nov. 18.—(Special).—No timber on the Siuslaw national forest aside from that on private lands was destroyed by fire during the past season, according to the annual report on fires just completed by R. S. Shelley, supervisor of the forest. The report states that 15 fires originated on the forest during the summer, 16 originated on private lands inside the forest, and none originated outside the forest and entered the forest. The number originating outside, the forest contiguous to it and not entering it was 31, making a total of 63 reported during the entire season. The number of fires included in this report under one-fourth acre was 18, under 10 acres 25, and under 400 acres 26. There were eight incendiary fires, 25 caused by burning brush, and the number caused by campers leaving their fires burning was 29. The report shows that the area

burned over on the national forest was 22 1/2 acres, open area burned over 1260 acres, making a total of 1282 1/2 acres. The number of acres burned over on private lands inside the forest was 18 of timber and 231 1/2 of open land a total of 249 1/2 acres. The total number of acres of timber burned over was 40 1/2, and open lands 1491 1/2, making a grand total of 1532 1/2 acres. The amount of timber destroyed on private lands inside the forest was 45,000 feet, valued at \$7.50, but none on the forest was destroyed, says the supervisor in his report. Cost of fighting fires is given as follows: Of national forest—Temporary labor, \$292.42; guard and ranger labor, \$22.51; tools, supplies, etc., \$107.40; total, \$522.33. On private lands inside forest—Temporary labor, \$69.76; guard and ranger labor, \$40.87; tools, supplies, etc., \$23.20; total, \$133.83. Labor, \$1226.74; guard and ranger labor, \$80.72; tools, supplies, etc., \$522.41; total, \$1840.87. Total—Temporary labor, \$1687.94; guard and ranger labor, \$144.10; tools, supplies, etc., \$664.01; grand total, \$2496.04.

DEBATE TOPIC APPROVED

PRINCETON ACCEPTS SUBJECT TO DISCUSS WITH OREGON.

Eugene Takes Negative Side of Issue That Congress Pass Laws Against Industrial Strikes.

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON, Eugene, Nov. 17.—(Special).—Princeton university has accepted the question for the debate to be held with Oregon during the Christmas holidays in Portland, which is the anti-strike issue, according to a telegram received from Princeton, by W. M. Michael, coach of debate. Oregon chose the negative side of the question, which is "Resolved: That congress should pass laws prohibiting strikes in essential industries," and it was stipulated that the constitutionality of the question should be waived. The exact date of the contest has not been decided. C. Carl Meyers of Eugene and John Canoles of Lebanon compose the team which will meet Princeton. Both are new at the university, but have had debating experience. The teams as they now stand are Remy Cox of Portland and Ralph Hoerber of Portland, affirmative, to meet Reed college here, and Kenneth Armstrong of Portland and Boyd Iseninger of Eugene, negative, to meet Oregon Agricultural college at Corvallis. These debates are to be held in December and the speeches are in good shape, according to Professor Michael. Nearly all of the research work has been done and actual practice in the delivery will begin in the last of this week. Cox, Hoerber and Armstrong are all former university debaters.

THANKSGIVING IS URGED

GOVERNOR HART ASKS PUBLIC TO OBSERVE DAY.

Custom Handed Down From Pilgrim Times Recited as Worthy of Emulation.

OLYMPIA, Wash., Nov. 18.—(Special).—Governor Louis F. Hart today issued the following Thanksgiving proclamation: "The first day of Thanksgiving for beautiful harvests was celebrated by the pilgrims in 1621, they having brought to this country the custom which they had acquired during the 10 years of their residence in Holland. During the revolution, congress ordered observance of the custom, as did Madison in 1813. Since 1863, the day has been observed annually. Three hundred years ago, at Jamestown, in Virginia colony, was convened the first American legislative assembly, the only one a year prior to the first observance of Thanksgiving on American soil. Accordingly, I, Louis F. Hart, as acting governor of the state of Washington, by virtue of the authority me vested by law, hereby do designate and appoint Thursday, November 25, 1920, as a day of annual thanksgiving for the manifold blessings of plenty, health and happiness to the people of the state, and would invite the attention of each to these first principles which constitute him free-born, free-bred, and self-governed."

TAX BOARD IS APPOINTED

Governor Names Body to Find Indirect Revenue Sources.

SALEM, Or., Nov. 18.—(Special).—Cornelia Marvin, state librarian; C. C. Chapman, editor of the Oregon Voter, and L. Day, formerly a member of the state senate, have been asked by Governor Olcott to gather data relative to possible new sources for raising revenue from indirect taxation. The University of Oregon and Oregon Agricultural college have rendered the services of their faculties to give such assistance to this committee as the members may desire. Many members of the legislature have requested the governor to furnish all such data as is possible. The requests followed the action of the voters at the special election, last May, when they authorized the appropriation of large sums of money in excess of that provided by the 6 per cent limitation amendment. To meet these proposed expenses appropriations, members of the legislature have found it advisable to cast about in search of new sources for raising revenue by means of indirect taxation.

ELKS DEDICATE TEMPLE

Exercises at Centralia Attended by Many Visitors.

CENTRALIA, Wash., Nov. 18.—(Special).—Inclement weather conditions failed to mar the enthusiasm of scores of Elks who came to Centralia today to assist in the dedication of the new Elks temple. The dedicatory exercises, held this afternoon in the lodge hall, were presided over by Jesse K. Mills of Olympia, district deputy grand exalted ruler. C. D. Cunningham, Centralia attorney, delivered the dedicatory address. Early this evening a great parade was held, with hundreds of Elks in line, followed by two dances and open house at the temple.

BOOK EXHIBIT INTERESTS

Oregon Normal School Librarian Lectures on Children.

MONMOUTH, Or., Nov. 18.—(Special).—An interesting and instructive children's book exhibit has been arranged by Mabel West, head librarian at the Oregon Normal school, and is on display at the normal library. The exhibit has been examined by many parents and children. In connection with the display, Miss West is lecturing to the students taking the special primary courses. Miss Jesette Miller, children's librarian of the Portland Central library, will lecture here Monday to the parents and students. Her subject will be "Children's Books and Readings."



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Values to \$125, extra special \$48.95. None in this lot sold for less than \$68.00 to \$125.00. Extra special \$48⁹⁵

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MARKETING FRAUD FOUND

Commission Merchant Accused of Illegal Practice. HOOD RIVER, Or., Nov. 18.—(Special).—Earl Keys of the last side orchard district, just returned from Portland, where, he declares, he found evidence of fraudulent practices in the marketing of apples. Mr. Keys visited the market of William Ludwig, where he found Jonathan apples, marked extra fancy, which, he declared, were no better than cider grade. Mr. Ludwig had purchased the apples through a commission agent and did not know of the inferior quality of the fruit until he opened the box. The box bore the name of a reputable local grower, who Mr. Davenport declared, would not consider the marketing of such fruit in a commercial pack. Mr. Keys expressed belief that an unscrupulous commission man obtained empty boxes, carrying the rubber stamp impression of responsible growers, as well as the boxes with grades, and then filled the boxes with inferior fruit. He proposed to initiate an investigation that will break up the practice. Community Service Popular. ABERDEEN, Wash., Nov. 18.—(Special).—A new record for popularity of Aberdeen community service work and play was set during October. The report of Miss Rhea Rupert, director of the activities, for the month shows that 2166 persons, including boys and girls, men and women of all ages, participated in some phase of community service in the 30-day period. Read The Oregonian classified ads.