

ANNUITY RETIREMENT PLAN PROPOSED FOR AGED U. S. EMPLOYEES

Five Thousand Now Under Federal Civil Service Are 70 Years Old or Older. MANY PROVE INEFFICIENT. Original Cost Estimated About \$2,750,000, But Plan Is to Have System Become Self Supporting.

Washington, D. C., March 7.—(WASHINGTON BUREAU OF THE JOURNAL.)—Five thousand employees of the federal government under civil service are 70 years old or older. Many of them are not more than 50 per cent efficient, others 25 per cent, and some perhaps wholly inefficient, merely in the way of the workers.

Congress could refuse appropriations for old employees, of course, and administrative officials have power to remove those who may be charged with inefficiency. But congress will not refuse to appropriate pay for employees because age has in varying degrees detracted from the service they can give.

Administrative officers hesitate to turn out the old men and old women, many of them wholly dependent on what they receive, partly because of humanitarian feeling and partly because of political pressure and the criticism that would follow.

Annuity Plan Proposed. What is to be done? The senate committee on civil service and retirement, after a study of the problem, has given its answer in a bill reported by Chairman Pomeroy for a system of annuity retirement. The purpose is to make deductions from the pay of employees to provide them with half pay after they reach retirement age of 70 years.

The conditions this legislation is designed to meet are growing more aggravated each year. Civil service first gained headway in this country under the first administration of President Cleveland. Other presidents have added to the number of employees in the classified service, until now nearly all clerks and employees of lower grades are protected from removal except for cause.

Problem Grows With Years. The problem of the old employes has grown with the years and now the committee says the conditions due to superannuation "have become almost intolerable." While there will be some first cost to the government in starting the system of retirement, it is argued that improvement of service will compensate for the cost, while in later years the plan will be entirely self-sustaining.

The bill provides for monthly deduction from pay of all classified employees, except postmasters, of sums sufficient at compound interest to purchase from the United States a life annuity after retirement.

The amount deducted would vary with the rate of pay, not exceeding 8 per cent. The annuity would equal one-half the salary, but not more than \$600 a year.

Sums deducted would be kept to the separate account of each employe and invested in government bonds, farm loan bonds, or other interest-bearing securities of the nation, state or municipality.

Details of Proposed Plan. It is estimated that an employe entering at the age of 25 would pay 4 per cent into his annuity. At 40 he would pay 8 per cent and at 50, 15 per cent.

Retirement at 70 would be compulsory except upon certification of the head of the department that the employe is efficient and desires to remain, whereupon two years more may be allowed, with a further extension of two years under like conditions, making 74 the utmost limit for employment.

In case of death or resignation before reaching the age of retirement, a sum equal to payments and accrued interest would be paid.

Full annuities would be given only after an employe has served at least

CORVALLIS DEBATERS WIN FROM STATE UNIVERSITY



Members of the Oregon Agricultural college debating team, from left to right: Robert Reichart, V. L. Basler, Bernard Mainwaring and E. W. McMIndes.

Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis, March 7.—The Oregon Agricultural college debating team that last Friday evening won the first contest ever taken by that institution from the

University of Oregon, will represent the college in the debate with Washington State on the question of compulsory arbitration of disputes between railway companies and their employees. The teams will also divide to oppose

each other in an extension debate to be held in the Marshfield district. The members are: Bernard Mainwaring, Newberg; E. W. McMIndes, Loran; R. Reichart, Corvallis; and V. L. Basler, Grants Pass.

20 years, those reaching retirement age with less service to be paid in proportion. This system would become self-sustaining at the end of 50 years. The first cost to the government would be about \$2,750,000 the first year, increasing to over \$5,000,000 in 25 years, then decreasing to the vanishing point.

HAWLEY STATES HIS POSITION REGARDING FLOOD RESOLUTION

Washington, March 7.—The following statement was made by Representative W. C. Hawley of Oregon regarding the Flood resolution: "I understand that H. R. 21652, the Flood resolution, as reported by the committee, states the policy to be impartially pursued by the United States toward all nations, is declaratory of rights long recognized by international law, insisting that American citizens (in their lawful and peaceful pursuits on the high seas) shall not be unlawfully attacked. It applies only to American ships."

"I understand that it does not apply to contraband, or to attempts to run a blockade recognized by international law, or to any unlawful or illegitimate acts. It does not cover foreign or belligerent ships in any way. It does not establish a new policy."

"I have felt that this administration has not practiced an impartial neutrality, and if the pending bill does what it is stated it is intended to do, that is, to maintain our rights impartially, it will remove cause of complaint. It is not for one country or against another in a great war in Europe, but only for the United States and her people."

"In all probability the bill confers no power not already given the president by the constitution, but being before congress it must be voted on. It is not in my judgment an act of war, or will it reasonably lead to war, but rather will be of material aid in maintaining peace, for I cannot see how the nations can object to our pursuing our lawful and peaceful pursuits."

"I earnestly desire that we continue at peace with all the world, and am willing to join in any proper and patriotic means to prevent war. I intend to support the bill unless inconsistent amendments are added to it. I can see no reason why munitions, etc., if they are to be sent from the United States, should not be carried in foreign bottoms. I think congress should continue in session as long as any danger of foreign complications exists."

Klamath Lands to Be Opened. Washington, March 7.—Additional lands of the Klamath reclamation project, to be opened this spring, will be entered in accordance with the provisions of the reclamation extension act of 1914, under which five per cent of the estimated construction charges are to be paid in advance.

The Klamath commercial club has written to members of the Oregon delegation to the effect that opening

of these lands was expected under regular land drawing regulations, and to require an initial deposit of \$275 to \$300 an acre will place an undue burden on poor landseekers.

Director Davis of the reclamation service says he does not understand how these figures are worked out. The ordinary units for lands of the character involved are 40 and 80 acres. Taking the largest unit, with an estimated reclamation cost of \$45 an acre, the total cost will be \$3600, and five per cent of that, for the initial payment, is \$180. No other construction payments are required for five years.

The law fixes the requirement made in the notices of the reclamation service, and it has no discretion in the matter. There are 4200 acres in the new Klamath unit, made tillable by diverting the waters of Lost river into the Klamath river.

Dr. Plamondon Seeks Place.

Washington March 7.—Dr. J. Dillon Plamondon of Athena, Or. is an applicant for appointment as first lieutenant in the army medical reserve corps.

Eckley C. Guerin of Myrtle Point has been assigned for duty in Alaska with the coast and geodetic survey, and has just left Washington with his wife and baby. He will have headquarters at Juneau. He has for several years been engaged in government topographic work, most recently in connection with the Maine-Canadian boundary.

Reed Clause "Tinkles" Breweries.

Washington March 7.—Congressman McArthur made one of the comparatively small minority in the house which voted against accepting the Reed amendment on the postoffice appropriation bill, applying "bong cry" prohibition to all the dry states, even though under state law the importation of limited quantities of liquor for personal use is permitted.

McArthur says he is willing to apply the bone dry rule in federal law to all states that desire to stop all importations, but could not support the idea of forbidding shipments where the states themselves choose to permit it.

The big brewery interests appear to be "tinkled to death" over the adoption of the Reed amendment. They have sent in numerous congratulations, apparently in the belief that states permitting limited importations will hereafter go wet in order to shake off the "bone dry" effect of the Reed amendment.

Prohibition leaders are just as confident that their cause will go marching on, and that no dry territory will be lost because congress has voted to make it drier.

Facilities Report Not In.

Washington, March 7.—Renewal of assurances that the quartermaster-general's department of the army is not prejudiced against Portland as a port of supply is given in a letter from General Sharpe, the head of that department, to Senator Chamberlain, in which he says he expects early arrangements to be made whereby Port-

land can be considered as a point of delivery on army contracts. Information requested from the depot quartermaster, says General Sharpe, has not yet been received. Early in the month request was made for a report on what the local authorities can assure in the way of dockage facilities and other requirements.

Attention is called to the fact that on the recent contract for cement and lumber for fortifications in Hawaii, the lumber bids were open for any port, and the greater part of the award went to Bellingham, Wash. for delivery at lumber company docks.

Crater Lake Gets Increase.

Washington, March 7.—In the sundry civil bill this year the appropriation of \$15,000 for Crater Lake national park, aside from road construction, is an increase of \$8000 over last year.

The road appropriation for construction and related purposes, is \$50,000, less than half of the estimates submitted. The bill sets aside this money in the following language: "For continuation of a wagon road and the necessary bridges through the park, together with a system of tanks and water supply pipes for sprinkling; and for maintenance, repair and operation of two horse-drawn, passenger-carrying vehicles, to be expended under the direction of the secretary of war, \$50,000."

Mother's Light Was Kept Lighted in Vain

Son Returns After Twenty Years as Corpse—Light Had Burned During Every Hour of Darkness.

Kenosha, Wis., March 7.—(I. N. S.)—Mat Ernst is coming home today. But the light which for 20 years his mother, Mrs. Mary Ernst, has kept burning in an upper window every night, to welcome him, has been in vain, for Mat is dead. His body is en route from Sacramento, Cal. where it was found and identified by one of the infrequent letters he was in the habit of writing home from all parts of the world, and which he had not mailed when death overtook him.

Twenty years ago Mat went to seek his fortune. He promised to return, and the light set for him that night burned brightly during every hour of darkness thereafter. "I think Mat might drop in some night, and I don't want him to think his mother has forgotten him," Mrs. Ernst explained.

Navy in Market for Tools and Materials

Commerce Chamber Receives Specifications for Machine Supplies for Construction of Vessels.

Indicative of the work opening up at the Pacific coast navy yards, specifications have been received by the Chamber of Commerce calling for all sorts of tools and materials for construction of vessels and machine shop appointments.

Bids will be opened by the bureau of supplies and accounts of the navy department at Washington on March 27. For the Bremerton yard are required: 2000 pounds of white lead, 1500 pounds of sal ammoniac, 100 gallons of varnish, 1800 yards of bleached muslin, 1000 galley sacks, 18 chain blocks, 88 bit braces, 96 soldering copers, 66 steel rules, 600 boxwood rules, 365 folding rules, and 15 bench vises.

For Mare Island are required: 25,000 pounds dry asbestos, 1200 pounds putty, 12,560 pounds sheet lead of one variety and 7680 of another, 23,953 assorted bolts, 1000 stud bolts, 18 chain blocks, 72 twist drills, 180 padlocks, 550 tons steel rivets, 80 brass base safety treads, and 2900 pounds iron and steel washers.

President Wilson Is Upheld; Lane Is Not

Pendleton, Or., March 7.—The Pendleton Commercial club last evening strongly and unanimously indorsed the stand of President Wilson for armed neutrality. Telegrams were sent to the president expressing approval of his action, and pledging the loyal support of the community.

Another telegram was sent to Senator Lane expressing, in dignified and positive language, disapproval of his recent opposition to the president's measure, and assuring him that in his stand he did not represent his constituents.

Federal Dry Law Is Subject of Dispute

Aberdeen, Wash., March 7.—There is a wide difference of opinion among attorneys and officers of the county as to the application of the federal dry law to this state. Some claim that the federal law cuts out the issuance of permits for liquor, but the prosecuting attorney holds that he does not know, not having the law at his elbow, and that he will not stop the issuance of permits and will await the action of federal authorities. Meanwhile many

BUILDING OF ELEVATOR VERY FIRST ESSENTIAL, SAYS WHEAT GROWER

Central Oregonian Says Portland Must Have Public Elevator to Get Tonnage.

A prominent warehouseman and wheatgrower of central Oregon declares that it is Portland's next move.

In a letter to C. W. Myers, editor of Pacific Interstate, he takes Portland to task for its failure to make "proper inducements for the business to be done through your port." He decries this city's inertia and says that the only way Portland can get back the tonnage it has lost is to do "what other cities have done for shippers."

One of the first essentials is to build a public elevator. "There is no reason why there should not be twice as much grain shipped from your city as there is from the Sound cities," reads the letter. "Portland is almost directly west of the grain-raising district of the three northwest states, and Portland is not as far from the Pacific ocean as Seattle from Cape Flattery. All the railroads leading from the grain district into Portland are built on a water grade. A freight train turned loose anywhere in the wheat-growing district will move to Portland by its own momentum. Why do the railroads haul the wheat over the Cascade mountains to Puget sound, at so much bigger ex-

New Guard Arrests Officer Without an Identification Card

Rock Island, Ill., March 7.—After dinner last night Colonel George W. Burr, commandant at the Rock Island arsenal, started to walk around one of the big manufacturing shops.

A new guard halted him at the point of a gun and asked for his identification card. He had none. Despite the fact that the commandant endeavored to explain his identity he was placed under arrest and locked up in the cell house. It was some time before the guard's mistake was discovered and Colonel Burr released. He commended the act of the guard.

pense? That is up to Portland to answer.

"I am sure that if Portland will get busy and put up a system of grain elevators, there will not be the least bit of trouble in renting all the space available. The country elevators should be built with cleaners and smut machinery, so that all grain, when shipped to terminal buyers, may be sold and graded without being unloaded. Then it would not be difficult for the terminal buyers to get the best prices for the grade that the wheat represents."

"Our company has gone to big expense in installing facilities for handling grain in sacks. If bulk handling will benefit the farmer, we are ready to change our warehouse into an elevator and handle the grain in bulk for our customers, just as we have done in the past in sacks."

MACCABEE LADIES ENTERTAIN GUESTS



Mrs. Anna O. Holthe of Muskegon, Mich., past grand commander Ladies of the Maccabees.

The three hives of the Ladies of the Maccabees in this city were busy during the past week receiving and entertaining their past grand commander, Mrs. Anna O. Holthe. Mrs. Holthe was extended hospitality by the Commercial club and shown all the wonderful scenery Port-

land has to bestow on distinguished guests. She was delighted with her reception and has left many new friends among the L. O. M.

Cider With Too Much Kick Is Confiscated

Salem, Or., March 7.—F. A. Schubinger's cheese factory on the Asylum road was raided last night by Deputy Sheriff Bowers and Constable Varney and six barrels of apple cider which had a "kick" to it, equal to 7 1/2 per cent alcohol, were seized. Schubinger was arrested and later released on \$500 cash bail. His hearing will be held before Justice of the Peace Webster tomorrow morning on a charge of violating the prohibition law.

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