

Volcanic Ashes Blanket Iceland Countryside



REYKJAVIK, Iceland, March 31.—(AP)—Huge clouds of smoke (pictured above) rise from erupting Mount Hekla and the volcanic ashes transformed a large grassing and meadow area of southern Iceland today into a black desert, covering three to four inches deep the surrounding countryside. It was feared that 17 farmsteads some 20 to 30 miles southwest of the 4,764-foot volcano faced devastation. A slight decrease of Mount Hekla's eruption was noted last midnight, but the volcano broke out with new force this morning. The mountain is in eruption for the first time since 1945. (AP Wirephoto to The Statesman).

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\$43 Million Public Welfare Legislation Passes to Senate

By Wendell Webb Managing Editor, The Statesman Major appropriation bills and the greater part of the proposed \$43,000,000 public welfare program for the next two years emerged battered but still intact from a hectic session of the house late Monday. The senate, meanwhile, after lengthy but less acrimonious debate, finished final legislative action on bills increasing the state's pari-mutuel take by \$500,000 a biennium; taxing coin-in-the-slot amusement devices by \$250,000 for the same period, and raising circuit court jurors' pay from \$3 to \$5 a day. Defeated in the senate were measures to acquire a \$50,000 home for the governor (vote 14 to 15), and to expend \$17,500 for statutes of Jason Lee and Dr. John McLoughlin for statutory hall in Washington (vote 15 to 12, but with 16 needed for a constitutionality majority). Re-referred to senate committee, probably to die, was the house-approved measure to tax timber for research and conservation, but appearing almost simultaneously in the house was a resolution seeking a constitutional amendment allowing bonds up to 1 per cent of the state's valuation (or around \$13,000,000) for a program of reforestation. Camp White Bill Approved It was veritable Southern Oregon day at the legislature, too, with the house writing final approval (46-10) to state-acquisition of Camp White near Medford for use as a hospital, and the joint ways and means committee voting 9 to 5 favor state acceptance of Klamath marine barracks as a vocational school. From the senate's assessment committee Monday came the expected do-pass recommendation on the sales tax, already approved by the house. Vote was 6 to 1, with Sen. Howard Belton dissenting. A proposal to lower the tax from 3 to 2 per cent and include foodstuffs is to be considered later. Under the bill, income tax exemptions would be raised if the sales tax becomes law, lowered if it is defeated. The welfare program which the house sent to the senate would require counties to levy up to 4 1/2 mills on property, or whatever was needed up to that amount for their share of welfare funds; appropriate \$2,000,000 in 1947 or revenue as the state's share; permit the state to recover from gifts or legacies whatever recipients had received in public aid, and void the transfer of property belonging to those on welfare rolls. Welfare Bill Sent Back Sent back to committee was the fifth public welfare measure prohibiting welfare recipients from transferring their property. It was assailed on constitutional grounds, and Rep. Frank Van Dyke would also ask reconsideration of the bill voiding transfers already in effect, for the same reasons. The public welfare program contemplates spending about \$10,000,000 more than was made available for the current biennium; the current rate of expenditure of \$9,000,000 for two years. Proponents of the county tax bill said it was essential to assure \$15,000,000 in federal funds starting July 1. An appropriation of \$2,143,000 to insure federal participation until then was signed by the governor Monday—the deadline set by the federal government to offset court decision that counties do not have to levy, whatever the welfare commission demands. Rep. Henry Semon estimated needed tax levies to include: Marion county \$344, Polk 2,94, Yamhill 2,76, Linn 1,69. Moves Affect Salem Area Moves directly affecting the Salem area Monday included senate approval of bills to permit construction of a \$750,000 highway commission office building here and Gov. Earl Snell's signing of enabling legislation regarding boundaries in connection with the proposed West Salem-Salem merger. Gov. Snell also vetoed Monday the bill to eliminate the requirements that mutual savings banks must maintain a 5 per cent cash reserve. The session's first move to override a ruling of Speaker John Hall failed when the house refused to support Rep. J. E. Bennett's appeal to consider a bill boosting the damage limit in death cases. Hall ruled the bill was similar to one already defeated, and therefore not subject to consideration. Legislature Cost Estimated Cost of the current legislature—now in its 79th day with prospects of reaching 83—was estimated Monday at \$345,000 to date. The previous record, both as to length and expense, was the 1945 session which went 69 days and cost \$232,500. Heavy calendars face both the house and senate today when they resume at 10 a.m. (Legis. actions page 4)

President Inks Two Measures

WASHINGTON, March 31.—(AP)—President Truman today signed "with reluctance" a law extending sugar rationing only until October 31. He also signed another rush bill passed by congress during the day preserving federal controls over a small group of scarce industrial and drug items until June 30. Both measures were hustled through senate and house and sent to the White House in a race against the midnight expiration of the second war powers act, basis of the wartime rationing, priority and allocation power. Truman Kaps Sugar Law The president, evidently more dissatisfied by the short life given sugar rationing than by the curtailment of his own broad executive powers of allocation, issued a sharp statement on the sugar legislation. October 31 "appears to be too early for the termination of sugar controls," he said. He added that this had been recognized by many congressmen "both in committee and in debate." The sugar act also extends price control on sugar through October. It otherwise would have expired June 30. The rationing and price control will be administered by the agriculture department instead of the dying OPA. Ration Is 20 Pounds The bill as signed by Mr. Truman provides that each person shall have a ration of at least 20 pounds of sugar in the next seven months. Mr. Truman had asked for a year's extension of sugar controls and an equal extension of major sections of the second war powers act. In the latter case, he sought authority to allocate any item in case of a national emergency. Few Other Items Restricted Instead, congress named these few, at the same time forbidding the allocation of any items not under control on March 24: Tin, antimony, railroad freight cars, the new drug streptomycin, cinchona bark (for quinine), manila and agave cordage and fibre, and tractors built for export. In addition, the act allows "materials and facilities" essential to meeting international obligations to be allocated if the secretaries of state and commerce certify control is essential.

King for Spain Possible Under Franco Decree

MADRID, March 31.—(AP)—Francisco Franco Y Bahamonde, Spain's revolution-born chief of state, sent a decree to the cortes (parliament) today which, declaring the nation still to be a monarchy, appeared destined to seat another king on the Spanish throne, vacant for the past 16 years. The bill was introduced in the Franco-dominated cortes on the eve of Spain's "Victory Day," eighth anniversary of the generalissimo's taking up the reins of government following the capitulation of the Spanish republican armies in 1939. Entailing Franco "chief of state," the bill would give the holder of that post the right to propose his own successor any time he desired and specified that a "council of the kingdom" would advise the chief of state on the succession. Regency Council Created Designed to provide a governmental head for Spain's 26,000,000 population in the event of the chief of state's death or incapacitation, the decree also provided for a council of regency to rule in the interim. The regency would summon the cortes to elect a successor. The cortes then would have to ratify the council's choice by a two-thirds majority vote. The chief of state, the decree stipulated, must be a king or, in the event there was no person of royal blood who qualified under the law, a regent. The king, under the decree, would have to be Spanish, a male, at least 30 years of age and a Roman Catholic. Spain's late king, Alfonso XIII, left Spain in 1931, although he never renounced the throne. He died in exile in 1941. Don Juan Chief Claimant The council of the kingdom would have to examine the qualifications of candidates for the Spanish throne. The chief claimant would be Don Juan, Alfonso's son and crown prince. Franco, whose regime has been castigated by and barred from participation in the United Nations, made a nation-wide, victory day radio address after sending the bill to the cortes and, defending his eight-year regime, declared that the rest of the world had finally joined him in fearing and shunning communism. The law of succession was the first admission ever made by Franco that the government would be a temporary one and that it might be replaced by another form of rule. However, it did not state the tenure of office of the chief of state and presumably would leave Franco in power for life if he so elected.

Plan Advanced For UN Check On Greek Aid

WASHINGTON, March 31.—(AP)—To meet criticism that the United States is bypassing the United Nations, Sen. Vandenberg (R-Mich.) proposed today to give the U.N. power to halt the American plan to bolster Greece and Turkey against communism. Under the plan, the U.N. could veto the American aid either by "procedural vote in the security council" or by "a majority vote in the general assembly of the United Nations." Seven of the 11 members of the security council are needed for a "procedural" decision. In effect, under the Vandenberg proposal, the United States would give up its power to veto any move to halt its Greek-Turkish program. Testifying before the senate foreign relations committee, Vandenberg also proposed that the president be "directed" to withdraw any or all aid to Greece and Turkey under two additional circumstances: "If requested by any government of Greece or Turkey representing a majority of the people of either such nation," and "if the president finds that the purposes of the act have been substantially accomplished or are incapable of satisfactory accomplishment."

Early Walkouts For 'Memorial' Close 89 Mines

WASHINGTON, March 31.—(AP)—Federal officials said tonight that about 20 per cent of the nation's soft coal miners stayed home from work during the day in advance of a six-day "memorial" stoppage called by John L. Lewis. The solid fuels administration said incomplete figures showed 34,619 soft coal miners quit work today, forcing 89 mines to close. The United Mine Workers chief set the six-day period to begin at midnight tonight, the hour he once fixed but later withdrew, for a new coal strike. Lewis set the "memorial" observance to mourn victims of the Centralia, Ill., mine disaster. The layout is scheduled to continue through Easter Sunday, but there was some conjecture that the miners might continue to stay home in tacit execution of Lewis' original order for a new stoppage. Lewis subsequently withdrew that order, yielding to a supreme court mandate. John D. Battle, executive secretary of the National Coal Association, meanwhile issued a statement in which he said reports that the stoppage would have little effect on coal production "are without foundation." He said that at least 8,000,000 tons of coal will be lost during the six-day period, and added that "in the last analysis, this is just another coal strike under another name."

British Plan to Exact Payment For Dock Fire

JERUSALEM, March 31.—(AP)—A government representative asserted tonight that Palestine Jews will be made to pay for the destruction of the Haifa oil docks where flames still crackled 18 hours after an explosion that set off the worst fire in the port city's history. An official information officer, who had spent hours in conference with high Palestine government leaders, told a news conference: "For this act of wanton destruction, the community involved will have to pay. This is terrorism pure and simple as we have known it before, but in this case the community is going to have to bear the cost." As the fires continued to burn, the last of 1,570 Jews taken off the refugee vessel San Filipo were placed on board two deportation ships in Haifa harbor and started on their trip to detention camps on Cyprus.

March Weather Above Normal: Bureau Notes

March temperatures ranged consistently above the normal, with 80 degrees registering on the 15th as tops. This is a new early spring high, the U. S. weather bureau at McNary field states in its month-end report. The normal mean temperature was 49 degrees in comparison with an average expectation of 46.5. The low was 31, recorded both on the first and sixth. The average maximum temperature was 59.5, compared with a normal 55.6. Average daily minimum was 38.8, compared with an expected 37.5 degrees normal. Rainfall rates were long, as 5.27 inches received surpassed the 3.02 expected normal. Most rain fell on March 9, when 1.44 inches were recorded. Total precipitation for the first three months of the year was 11.93 inches, which fell short of the 14.06 expectation.

Woodburn Boy Dies by Rope

Fourteen-year-old Harold Zurlinden of route 1, Woodburn, committed suicide by hanging himself with a haymow rope in his father's barn Monday evening, Deputy Coroner Virgil T. Golden said after he and Sheriff Denver Young investigated the incident. The body was found at 5:10 p. m. by the boy's father, W. A. Zurlinden, and was taken to the Ringo chapel at Woodburn. The father told authorities the boy apparently had been despondent over difficulty in school work.

Bond Rejected By Monmouth

MONMOUTH, March 31.—By a vote of 85 yes, 190 no, Monmouth school districts today disapproved a bond issue for \$400,000 to be used here. The proposal was to bond the district for the full amount allowed under the law, to acquire a site and buy Camp Adams buildings to construct an eight-room elementary school unit to relieve the local pupil overflow. Many felt the temporary buildings were not the answer to the problem. Meanwhile Oregon College of Education has arranged for more space for the training school as it now exists and it is believed this will take care of Monmouth's school housing problem for the current emergency. Consolidation with Independence district was voted down January 20.

Bids Opened for Detroit Dam Work

PORTLAND, March 31.—(AP)—Bids were opened today on three federal projects including the construction of dormitories, mess hall, shop utilities at the Detroit dam construction camp. Army engineers divided the Detroit work into two parts, one of the electrical work only. Low bidder on the construction job was J. C. Strudgson Construction Co., Portland, \$452,228, compared with the government estimate of \$377,453. Low bidder on the electrical part was W. H. Gracie Co., Portland, \$4584 compared with the government estimate of \$5350.

West Salem Man Buys Dallas Store

DALLAS, March 31.—Glenn Davenport, West Salem, has purchased the Serve-Rite grocery here and started operation. Cleo M. Bevan was the former owner. Davenport, who has lived in West Salem 15 years, is former superintendent of Blue Lake Cannery and recently has been with Kelly-Farguhar Co. John Howard, also of West Salem, will operate the meat department in the grocery. He has had considerable experience in the business. Maxine and Shirley Davenport, daughters of the new owners, will work in the store. The family has disposed of its property in West Salem. O. D. Rawlins of Salem handled the sales.

Marshall Protests Demands To Leave Reich 'Slum Area'

MOSCOW, March 31.—(AP)—Secretary of State Marshall blasted at Russia's uncompromising stand on German reparations tonight and warned that the United States opposes "policies which will continue Germany as a congested slum." In his blunt speech to the council of foreign ministers, Marshall said the four powers could never reach agreements "on the basis of an ultimatum." He added that the United States "categorically rejects" the Russian stand that "acceptance of reparations from current production is an absolute condition of economic unity." Russian Foreign Minister V. M. Molotov, whose proposals also were attacked by British Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin, made no concessions on reparations but expressed hope that differences among the four powers could be reconciled. In referring to the Potsdam agreement and discussions here on reparations, Marshall told Molotov: "It looks very much to us as though the Soviet union is trying to sell the same horse twice." Molotov replied: "We did not approach this problem of reparations from a point of view of merchants, but we do not want other merchants selling our horse at a low price without our consent." The American secretary said that France, too, had adopted an inflexible attitude and had insisted that her demands for German coal be recognized before the ministers proceeded to other important German questions. "While we realize that France was not a party to the Potsdam agreement, we cannot accept her request as a condition to our negotiations," Marshall said.

Selective Service Over, But No Immediate Discharge for Marion County Boards in Sight

By Winston H. Taylor Staff Writer, The Statesman The draft boards can't have their discharges yet, even though the selective service act died last midnight, Col. Elmer V. Wooton, state director, told Marion county local board chairmen at their final meeting here Monday. Their remaining task is that of assembling records for storage. With the end of the draft, Col. Wooton expressed high praise for the many volunteer workers who sent the well-known "greetings" to Oregon men, 73,791 of whom were inducted in the past 6 1/2 years. A total of 150,737 men from this state entered the service, by induction, enlistment and commission. Of these, 29,341 were listed as still in service last March 1, with 867 released during March. Wooton said a number of men have returned from whom no separation report has been received. County totals for men placed in service and those still in service include: Marion No. 1, 4178 and 291; Marion No. 2, 2652 and 675; Marion No. 3, 2658 and 1196; Linn, 4242 and 1023; Polk, 2305 and 515; Yamhill, 3296 and 706. Figures on rejections are not considered accurate, due to continuing lowered physical requirements. Army and navy casualty lists received here show 3715 Oregonians died while in service, including 222 from Marion county. Three hundred eleven men from the state entered civilian public service camps as conscientious objectors. The number of men entering service rose steadily from the start of the draft in October, 1940, to July, 1943, when the state quota was 4201. From then on the number fell, and no inductions have been made since June, 1946. Selective service employ lists followed the same trend, rising to a maximum of eight officers and 207 civilians in 1943 and falling to a present three officers and 60 civilians. Col. Wooton said this group would be steadily decreased and that some already have separation notices. With the signing Monday by President Truman of new legisla-



By Charles A. Stryker

The Oregon Chest, successor to the Oregon War Chest, has successfully "recovered" to peacetime operation. That was apparent at the annual meeting of the chest Monday at the Marion hotel. Not only did the executive director report that collections came within four per cent of the goal, but the spirit of the meeting indicated confidence and enthusiasm on the part of the chest leaders. Representatives were present from widely separated parts of the state, and plans were discussed for conducting campaigns of enlightenment so that all the people may know the work of agencies which the chest supports. People are quite familiar with the local agencies which are supported by local chests. They are chiefly character-building agencies that develop youth programs to help boys and girls grow up to be useful, honorable citizens. Too few people, however, know the agencies that take care of the neglected, the homeless children, the orphans, the girls who in common phrase have "gotten into trouble." These children or youth have to be cared for. In fact their cases are more urgent than those of children in comfortable, normal homes. A number of institutions serve the needs of children such as I have described. Some of them are operated by religious bodies; others by boards of trustees who are concerned with child welfare. They receive a certain amount of support from the state, but always this must be supplemented. (Continued on editorial page)

One Canby Youth Still Critical After Smashup CANBY, March 31.—Physician's reports today on the two Canby youths injured when their car left highway 99B and struck a power pole about one-fourth mile south of Canby late Saturday night show that Roy L. Poltratz, 20, driver of the car, is "out of danger," but that his passenger, Ray Price, 19, is still unconscious and in "critical" condition. Both incurred brain concussions, according to the doctor.

Animal Crackers



Weather

Table with columns for location (Salem, Portland, San Francisco, Chicago, New York) and weather data (Max, Min, Precip). Includes a forecast for the next 24 hours.