

Highway Board Boosts Budget To \$22.1 Million

New Bridges on Schedule

PORTLAND, Jan. 5 (AP)—The Oregon highway commission today set up a 1948 budget calling for \$6,114,000 more funds than were spent last year and estimated total expenses would be \$22,982,000.

The budget anticipates federal cooperative funds of \$7,000,000, half a million more than in 1947, and the commission said the larger state outlay would come from surplus funds carried over from war years when highway work was at a standstill.

Total 1947 expenditures were estimated at \$15,968,000, and the 1948 expenses were listed at only \$8,784,775.

The commission expects to spend \$16,000,000 in contract work.

Unexpended balances at the end of 1947 totaled \$16,755,000, and the balance at the end of this year is expected to be about \$10,438,000. There is \$4,000,000 reserved for distribution to cities and counties.

Earlier in the day the commission approved budget items totaling \$17,500,000 for work to be completed on some 18 projects.

The outlay was little more than half of the \$3,000,000 originally planned for the program, but the commission said it was the most that could be done this year.

Chairman T. H. Banfield said most of the projects are not on main highways, but are in areas where residents sorely need road improvements.

Among authorized projects, by highway divisions, are:

No. 2—Tidewater-Benton county line section of Alsea highway, widening, resurfacing and oiling, \$175,000; Sheridan section of Salmon River highway, pavement widening and resurfacing, \$60,000; mile post 12, east of Otis, Salmon River highway, construct half-mile third lane for truck passing on hill, \$25,000; Mill creek bridge, Silver Creek Falls secondary highway, including new bridge, \$50,000; replacement of Delake bridge on Coast highway, \$50,000; replacement for Noon bridge, Yaquina highway, \$55,000; replacement Little Nestucca bridge on Little Nestucca secondary highway, \$25,000.

Plane Search Plan Readied By State, CAP

PORTLAND, Jan. 5 (AP)—A master plan for air and ground search for missing airplanes in Oregon was announced tonight by the Oregon wing of the Civil Air Patrol.

Col. Harry K. Coffey, Oregon wing commander, said more than 200 civilian pilots and planes are available for action in 13 CAP squadrons throughout the state.

W. M. Bartlett, director of the state board, said CAP pilots would be reimbursed for gasoline and oil from the general aviation registration fee. State police, sheriff's offices, state and national forest and highway departments will be coordinated in the ground search work.

Carl W. Nelson, of Salem, was appointed director of the state search program. He will announce county aides shortly.

Col. Coffey said that once a plane is known to be missing, the county groups will be alerted to operate as well as navy and coast guard planes on the coastal area.

Army air search rescue service planes, Oregon National Guard units and air corps reserves out of Portland will continue to operate as well as navy and coast guard planes on the coastal area.

IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles F. Squire

Industrial production began to taper off in March of last year but in July the decline was stopped and the direction reversed. By late in the year new records for peacetime production were reached at levels of over 190 on the federal reserve index (base 100 the average for the years 1935-39). This is the measure of physical volume of goods, not of value in 50 cent dollars, hence it is dependable as an index of production and consumption. Agriculture and mining likewise recorded huge gains over production levels of the 1930s.

Yet it was only a decade ago that economist pundits were solemnly telling us that our economy had matured, that our plant was overbuilt, that savings would not be able to find profitable employment. It was sadly announced that the closing of the frontier with its new lands and opportunities doomed us to permanent unemployment.

One is reminded of the oft-quoted report of a commissioner of patents some three-quarters of a century ago who with equal assurance and equal gravity reported that everything important had been discovered and all that remained was to utilize what had been invented. Sorry analysis and worse prophets.

This newspaper can state with a degree of pride that it never succumbed to such pessimism, that it pointed out there were always frontiers.

(Continued on editorial page)

Groups Enter Initiative to Divert Taxes

Preliminary petitions were filed by Oregon farm and labor organizations Monday providing for an initiative ballot measure seeking to divert corporate excise tax funds to the state general fund.

Signing the preliminary petition were Stanley Earl, executive secretary of the CIO state industrial council; James T. Marr, executive secretary of the AFL state federation of labor; Morton Tompkins, state grange master, and R. E. Jones, Brooks, and Lyle Thomas, Dallas, officers of the state Farmers Union.

Corporate excise taxes, under existing state laws, can be used only for offsetting property taxes. Sponsors of the initiative measure estimate \$12,000,000 of corporate excise tax revenues would go into the general fund annually if the proposal is approved by the voters in next November's general election.

The signers said the proposal was "in fulfillment of promises to voters by sales tax opponents that if the sales tax bill were defeated, steps would be taken to make available for general fund use the huge existing surplus that is now frozen."

Rescuers Dig for Palestine Victims

JERUSALEM, Jan. 5 (AP)—Rescue squads dug hurriedly tonight into the bomb strewn debris of a Jerusalem hotel and a public square in Jaffa in an attempt to reach any persons still alive and trapped in the wreckage and to remove the broken bodies of the dead.

The two bombings, aimed at meeting places of Arab leaders, were known to have taken 23 lives. The toll may reach 30. Police said the bombings were carried out by Jews.

Weather

	Max.	Min.	Precip.
Salem	48	34	63
Portland	45	37	60
San Francisco	50	30	00
Chicago	35	27	trace
New York	38	33	00

Willamette river 15 feet, falling.

FORECAST (from U.S. weather bureau, McNary field, Salem): Cloudy today and tonight with intermittent light rain showers throughout the afternoon and evening. High today 45, low tonight 38.

Animal Crackers

By WARREN GOODRICH



"You and your shortcuts!"

Board Favors Clinic Zoning

A city-legislated zone change to make way for construction of a doctors' clinic building near Salem General hospital was recommended Tuesday night by the Salem planning and zoning commission.

The zone action requested by the hospital's board now goes to the city council for final action.

The building on Center street near 24th street would house the offices of Drs. F. K. Power, W. E. Buren, Vern Miller, S. M. Lancaster and A. T. King, which were destroyed in the Guardian building fire in downtown Salem last November.

TROOPS PULLING OUT

PANAMA, Jan. 5 (AP)—The United States embassy said today troop withdrawal from all except the two largest of the U. S. defense sites in Panama would be completed by January 14.

Christmas Ship Coal Distant as Deadline Nears

Salem's Christmas ship drive entered its final week Monday with \$2,003 in the bank (for dehydrated potatoes), old clothing and miscellaneous household food accumulating at fire stations and churches and a brand new donation of 100 cases of mushroom soup from the West Mushroom Co. here.

Chairman Harry B. Johnson of the local committee said hopes were dim for attaining the goal of a full carload of dehydrated potatoes, which are available at the Blue Lake cannery at a special price which would be about \$5,300 for a carload. The campaign was for spontaneous contributions, city by city, to a "Northwest Christmas Ship" which will carry 10,000 tons of emergency food to hungry Europe. The holiday season interrupted group meetings and no organized canvass of the city was contemplated by the committee.

Much of the money so far collected has come from church and service club memberships. Some of the Salem schools are assisting in the campaign this week. Deadline for donations is Saturday.

The mayor's committee reiterated yesterday that anyone may make a contribution to any Salem bank and pointed out that \$3.20 will buy one five-gallon can of dehydrated potatoes which will make 500 servings.

Among miscellaneous collections at fire stations was a 100-pound sack of wheat.

Blooming Pear Tree Defies the Calendar

Early-season blooms seem to be the rule in the Willamette valley this year but not everyone has a seedling pear in full flower.

The blooming pear was found Christmas week in the orchard of R. W. Clarke, route 4, box 421a (Orchard Heights district), and sprigs were brought to The Statesman office Monday to show the tree still was defying the climes.

Secretary of State Fred R. Zimmerman said he was sure the general message "meant he would perform any public service he was called upon by the people to perform." He quoted the message as saying "There can be no greater satisfaction than such as comes from the confidence reflected in the selection of one's neighbors for public service."

By Lillie L. Madsen

Farm Editor, The Statesman

Britons may be too hungry to have ambition, or it may be that no matter how much or long they work, they can only get so many ration points for which they can buy only so much goods. Dr. Curtis Mumford, speaker at the annual meeting of the Marion County livestock association Tuesday, advanced the thought but admitted he didn't know the answer and had not yet met anyone who did.

Dr. Mumford, head of the farm management department at Oregon State college, recently returned from England, where he was one of 20 men at an agricultural conference. He disclaimed being an authority on English conditions but stated that no one could be there even briefly without realizing that the English are not getting enough to eat.

He believed England is facing the worst crisis since the time of the black plague. He said its 1947 harvest, because of weather conditions, was the worst in 150 years. He added that the children were

being taken care of, "just as they would be here," by being fed an extra meal at school with additional milk and meat rations.

Laborers, including those on farms, he said, work but 40 hours a week to the Americans' 48 to 50 average, since they have no incentive to work overtime — 40 hours gives them all the ration points they can get, and they are too tired from lack of sufficient rations to work overtime anyway.

The lack of black markets in England surprised him, the speaker said. And prices, he found, were little higher than during the war. He also spoke briefly of the newly enacted agriculture act which guaranteed prices to farmers for the next few years. While its success is yet to be proved, Dr. Mumford said, he did believe it might assist in increased production.

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(Additional details on page 4)

Position of Hungry European Laborers Pictured at Meeting

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County's Road Hearing Opens

With 80 petitions from Marion county residents seeking road oiling projects aggregating some 300 miles and with the county planning only 25 miles of such work next summer, a three-day public hearing on residents' suggestions will open at 10 o'clock this morning in the courthouse here.

Petitions on roads lying north of a line between Silverton and Salem will be heard today. The court will hear requests Wednesday from residents south of the line and on Thursday from petitioners who live within a two-mile radius of Salem city limits.

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