

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
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Federal Gas Tax

To Secretary of State Earl Newbry's urging that the federal government relinquish to the states the imposition of taxes on gasoline and lubricating oil the Bend Bulletin sagely comments:

From various persons, including, in particular, Secretary of State Newbry, have come proposals that various federal special automotive taxes should be repealed. All of us want lower taxes but in all fairness in the matter of these levies it must be remembered that Oregon highway officials, along with those from other states, are constantly at work seeking increases in federal aid for highways. We cannot well ask one day for more federal aid and the next for a repeal of the automotive taxes which supply the federal highway funds.

More to the point would be insistence that all such federal tax collections be devoted to aid to highway and bridge construction. According to our last information the federal treasury profited very considerably on these taxes after meeting the road appropriations.

We must admit though that if the government doesn't get the money one way it will have to another. Judging by the budget Uncle Sam doesn't have enough money to meet his Santa Claus bills.

Title to Offshore Oil Lands

Two bills before congress relate to the dispute over who has title to offshore lands which are oil-bearing. One would vest title in the several states; the other would confirm title in the federal government.

The bills are the aftermath of the California case in which the supreme court held for the government. President Truman, in spite of his friendship for Edwin Pauley, California oil operator, has steadfastly upheld the government claim. The republican platform favored return of title to the state—and of course Governor Warren has sturdily upheld California's claim. Meantime cases involving lands off Louisiana and Texas are in the courts; and with great interest attached to them because oil is being discovered in gulf coastal waters.

The public will feel better if the oil lands are administered by the federal government. Arrangement might be made to share income from royalties with the states; but since oil is a precious national resource it would seem better to have control left in the hands of one governing body. We need to conserve this underground supply against possible future war emergency.

One Greek Met Greeks . . . and Failed

One reason prompting old (87 years) Themistocles Sofoulis to resign as premier of Greece is his belief that the present government "will not be able to take proper measures against the economic and political oligarchy of the country." In short, the vested interests still run Greece and put their own interests ahead of their country's. The British couldn't budge them, the American mission hasn't cracked them. Old Sofoulis, himself desirous of reforms, hasn't been able to govern against the pressures of the oligarchs.

Dean Acheson is now credited with having had much to do with developing the original Truman policy with regard to Greece. As he returns to the state department he should review the situation there, and revise the program. We don't do the Greeks much good in propping up one set of rascals while we fend off a set of another color; and it surely is expensive for the United States.

Those State Reports

Governor McKay in his message said he thought economies could be effected in the printing of state reports. Mr. Ordinary Citizen who looks at the biennial shelf of pamphlets

24 Tax Bills Introduced in House

By Ralph Watson
Proposed tax legislation topped the list of new business introduced during the first week of the legislature, which ended Friday right after roll call in the senate and house.

It was about the first time in recent memory that the legislature had tardied in Salem as late as Friday morning. Usually it has been the custom of Ralph Watson Representative Harvey Wells to move for adjournment at the first opportunity on Thursday morning, grab his bag and head for home. This time the icy roads, and the insistence of the presiding officers of senate and house, kept them at it for an additional day, but in spite of the ice there was a long list of senators and representatives "excused" Thursday afternoon and on their way to their homes or to Portland while the roads were dry.

Back to tax bills.—The house calendar has 24 proposals introduced and ready for the committee to start working them over. Seventeen of the group have come over from the state tax commission, prepared by com-

missioner Wallace Wharton. They relate to the "mechanics" of the department and should not cause too many headaches for the committee when it starts to pick them to pieces. Incidentally commissioner Wharton, the democratic member of the commission, faces the end of his appointed term June 9, 1949, which may be one reason for his official activity at the commencement of the new administration.

The term of Earl Fisher, chairman and veteran member of the commission, also ends on June 9. Commissioner Fisher has confided his intention to retire after the current session is out of the way, a circumstance which will dump a major chore into the lap of Governor McKay in finding a replacement of equal ability.

Bad news is brewing for these members of the house bills committee which holds forth in the little niche on the second floor of the capitol. For session after session in the past they have shut up shop on Friday, and let the members of the house stew about getting their quota of bills and calendars until Monday morning. Yesterday the door to the bill room was dark; the printer couldn't deliver the house bills because there was no one on deck to receive them; the sergeant at arms was away for the weekend, and the young lady

who is charged with the distribution of the bills all confused and seeking aid from the senate committee at the other end of the capitol, which always has kept open until noon on Saturday. House members who were hungry for their bills made separate announcements that it will be different next Saturday.

By and large the first week of the session got away to a fast start so far as the number of bills introduced was concerned, but what happens to them is another matter yet to be determined. There is the Mussa bill, SB 7, which repeals the personal income tax. There is senate bill 6, which is to be the "civil rights" bill of the session. There is House bill 47, to levy a privilege dividend tax on income out of which to pay old age pensions. There is a group of forestry bills, road bills, a couple of early bird liquor control amendments, and a flock of school bills still lurking in the office.

When the senators and representatives return from their weekend intermissions, and the committees all have bills referred to them into which they can commence to dig the assembly will be ready to commence to burn the midnight oil in the major job of ironing out the wrinkles in the measures submitted and get them tied up and ready for passage. The legislature resumes at 11 a.m. tomorrow.

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page 1)

the installment plan. Meeting the monthly payments may make such inroads on the family budget that savings are necessary, with food a shining target for quick economy.

The truth is that the American people have been eating well, very well, in fact; better than at any time before in their history; better than most any other people on earth. It is no longer true that a third of the population is ill-fed, though too large a proportion is still ill-housed.

The abundance of grains insures increased supplies of meat for next year. So the outlook for high level consumption of foodstuffs is excellent in the USA. Given regularity of employment, demand will remain strong because the American workman wants and needs good food, including lots of beef and pork. The housewives' strike on high meat prices will wear off and per capita consumption will rise as supplies increase and prices reach reasonable parity with other commodities.

Once again however purveyors of provisions learn the truth of the slogan: "Never under estimate the power of a woman."

Payroll to Set Record Despite Recent Decline

Oregon's 1948 payrolls will hit a new high approximately \$75,000,000 above the 1947 record, despite a slowdown in fourth quarter activity, the state unemployment compensation commission has reported to the state legislature. Last year's payrolls are expected to exceed \$940,000,000.

Despite seasonal letdowns and lumbering slowdowns, covered employment remained above the 300,000 mark as the year ended. Covered employment during the late summer months established an all-time high of close to 340,000 while farmers, self-employed, small business and others exempted from the law included at least 300,000 more. The total was much higher than the working force of from 290,000 to 440,000 counted during the census year of 1940.

Payrolls were reported by nearly 17,000 employers as compared with between 8,000 and 10,000 before and during the war. They attained a new mark of \$712,000,000 for the first nine months of the year.

Uncertainty Created

Claims from all insured workers (veterans and civilians) reached 38,500 during the final week of 1948, while payments under the state program were 17,147 higher than the corresponding week for any previous year but below mid-December, 1945, and much lower than many other weekly periods during the winter months. December's total of \$1,113,109 in benefits for covered workers and \$562,677 for unemployed veterans' allowances more than doubled the previous month's figures and created uncertainty as to the amount of payments at the height of the winter.

Even with the late upsurge of claims, the number of checks under both state and federal programs were lower in 1948 than in either of the two previous post-war years. Oregon's unemployed civilians and veterans received \$12,878,908 as against \$13,734,877 in 1947.

Reserves Pile Up

Reserves piled up in the state's benefit fund before and during the war against increased materially. The reserve fund reached a new high of \$84,624,264, a gain of \$8,096,778 since Dec. 31, 1947. Though experience rating that brought taxes of many firms down one-half and one per cent, employers' savings increased from \$6,779,336 in 1947 to practically \$8,000,000 last year.

Cash Stolen at Stayton Store

Only \$22 was stolen from the Western Auto Supply store at Stayton when it was entered early Saturday morning, the Marion county sheriff's office reported.

A quantity of other items valued at over \$200 was also removed from the store but recovered later abandoned in an alley one block away from the store. Deputy Sheriff William DeVall said.

The articles recovered included \$200 worth of tools, and a cooker, toaster, tool kit and two electric grills. Entry was gained through a forced rear sliding door. Store owners are Dale T. Crabtree and Francis N. Forrette.

Gov. McKay, Staff Work Extra Day

All members of the secretarial staff of Gov. Douglas McKay, along with the governor, put in a full day in the executive department Saturday.

"We have a lot of work to get out of the way and there is only one way to do it," Governor McKay said. "This is by working Saturday when most state employees are off duty."

Lights in the executive department were dimmed because of the demand to conserve electricity.

Public Records

MUNICIPAL COURT

Melford Earl Lowry, 2349 Lee st., charged with driving while intoxicated, fined \$150, 30-day sentence suspended and driver's license revoke for one year.

CIRCUIT COURT

Steve J. and Mary Schmidt vs John J. and Christine E. Fitzsimmons. Notice of appeal to state supreme court filed by plaintiffs in a suit involving real property transaction.

Carl Hammonds vs Louis R. Harvey. Defendant files answer of complete denial.

Bessie G. Service vs Charles D. Service. Suit for divorce charging cruel and inhuman treatment asks for custody of a minor child.

Russell and George Hallowell vs George Byrd, Gall Zysset and A. W. Gardner. Suit seeks to collect damages of \$5,327 for alleged false

representations on sale of a tractor.

Robbie Lee vs John M. Dobbs. Order dismisses complaint of plaintiff and finds for costs in favor of defendant.

PROBATE COURT

Anton J. Steinkamp estate: Estate appraised at \$5,000. Louis Ditter named executor and Henry Steinkamp, Tony Leverman and Felix Steinkamp as appraisers.

Catherine, Agnes, Joseph, Frances and Eleanor Steinkamp guardianship estate: Lena J. Steinkamp appointed guardian.

Katherine D. Springer estate: Fourth accounting filed.

Arthur Goffin estate: Order appoints Eva M. Goffin as administratrix and Fred Goffin, Clarence Goffin and Zoe McCormick as appraisers.

George J. Lambrecht guardianship estate: Frank Etzel appointed as guardian.

Board to Study High School Building Plans

TURNER, Jan. 15 — A district-wide planning board to consider plans for a new Turner-Aumsville union high school building has been named by the board of union high school district 5.

Members of the planning board were named to represent each of the seven districts included in the union. John Mickey, Turner; Fred Bates, Aumsville; Sam Drager, Cloverdale; Ivan Royce, Crawford; E. B. Clidewell, North Santiam; K. H. Smith, Marion, and Minnie Hickman, West Stayton.

Ideas of all persons in the various districts are desired and should be given to the district representatives, members of the board announced following the appointments.

District 5 was formed last year and school is being conducted in the two high schools which had previously operated at Turner and Aumsville.

AID SOCIETY MEETS

HUBBARD—The Ladies Aid of the Hubbard Community church (Congregational) met all day Wednesday with Mrs. Riley Mains. No-hostess dinner was served, and Mrs. Levi Miller was co-hostess.

Lard Suffers Price Decline

CHICAGO, Jan. 15 — (AP) — Lard sank to another series of new lows on the board of trade today. Soybeans accompanied lard on the downward trail, although only the July bean contract got into new seasonal low territory.

Action of these commodities, largely tied in with a general weakness of fats and oils, had an unsettling influence on grains. All cereals weakened at one time, but new crop wheat deliveries staged a good rally to end with small gains shortly before the close.

Wheat ended 1/4 lower to 3/4 higher, corn was 1/4 to 1 cent lower, oats were unchanged to 1 cent lower, rye was 1 1/4 lower, soybeans were 1 3/4-2 1/4 lower, and lard was 13 to 23 cents a hundred pounds lower.

Mock Trials At Willamette To Continue

A series of 10 mock trials conducted by students at Willamette university law college will continue this week, with local judges and attorneys presiding. The trials will be at 7 p.m. Monday, Wed-

nesday, Thursday and Friday in the law building on the campus.

Among those presiding are Associate Justice James T. Brand of the state supreme court; Judge Joseph B. Felton of Marion county district court and attorneys Charles W. Creighton, Charles A. Jens, Thomas B. Gabriel and Stephen Fouchek.

Senior law students will act as counselors for the cases, which are based on such problems as the liability of a father for the negligent operation of an airplane by his high school age son, the criminal responsibility of a man who kills another while sleep-walking, the liability of a pharmacist for negligently filling a prescription causing a death.

Prof. Quintin Johnstone is director of the class on trials.

Unemployment Aid Sought by Record Total

More persons are seeking unemployment benefits in the Marion-Polk county areas this winter than in any other winter since the war, the state unemployment compensation commission reported.

A total of 4,803 claims were filed last week—about 48 per cent more than for this time last year, the commission said. Estimates place the number of unemployed actively seeking work now in this area at about 6,500.

Payments to unemployed veterans and civilians have steadily increased week by week from the 5,400 checks mailed out in one week early in October to the 34,000 checks prepared for mailing this week at the commission.

Meanwhile the Salem office of the state employment service reported that several logging and sawmill concerns were awaiting more temperate weather to begin operations in the Silverton and Dallas areas.

This, it was estimated, would place about 1,000 jobless back to work. The office again appealed for odd jobs to keep these workers, many of them skilled in various crafts, working during the lean weeks.

The local situation was reflected over the state, the unemployment commission said, with 46,000 claims filed last week as compared with only 33,458 at this time in 1948. The peak of unemployment is usually reached around the end of February or

the first of March, the commission noted.

Oysters were a delicacy in ancient Rome.

Diary of A Sidewalk Superintendent



January 16

Got an eyeful today. I mean the glass doors have all been swung down at the new Stevens & Son store. There's a pair in the vestibule entrance and then a pair on the State Street entrance. Humble as I am, I've got to admit that Sid Stevens will always be in my debt for THIS job.

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