

Flood Control Bill Debated

The Lane and Linn county delegations' bill to create water control districts in the Willamette valley for development of irrigation, drainage and flood control was discussed Wednesday at a hearing before the senate irrigation and drainage committee, with farmers from the two counties attending.

Charles Edwards, Eugene attorney working with the groups sponsoring the bill, said present laws are inadequate to cover the Willamette valley situation. He said so many changes would be involved in amending present laws that the sponsors felt it better to draft a new law and avoid interfering with the laws affecting eastern and southern Oregon.

He said lands in the valley are not uniform enough to fit existing laws.

The winter drainage problem peculiar to the Willamette valley areas, together with the supplemental irrigation problem in dry periods, make it essential to have a law specifically covering this section.

The bill would set up one organization or district covering the varied problems involved in the three-way program of irrigation, drainage and flood control. One board of directors would have general supervision over all phases. The bill also provides for petitions and elections to set up such water control districts, as well as for assessments to maintain and develop any projects.

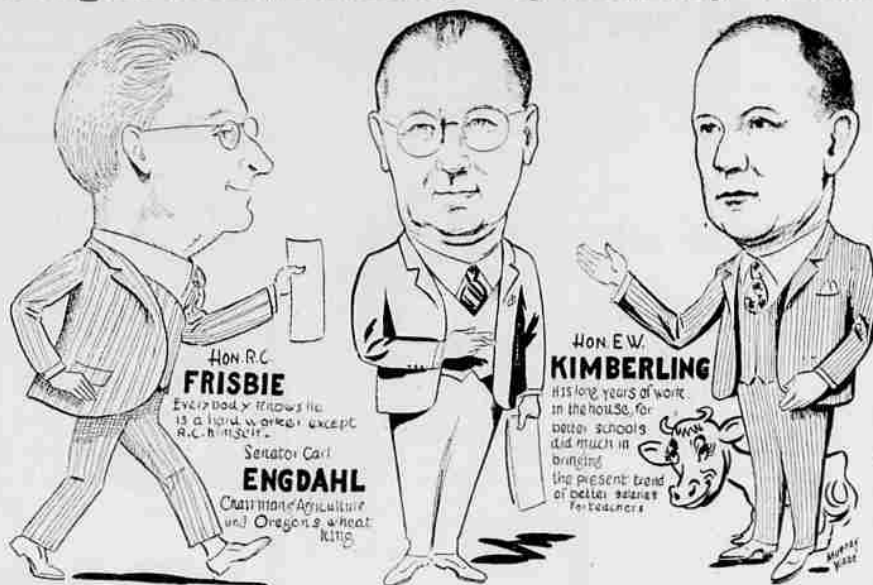
Sen. C. H. Zurcher, Enterprise, chairman of the committee, said the 49-page bill probably should be referred to the senate's judiciary committee before further action is taken.

Hendricks Asks for Interim Bonus Study

Study of the feasibility of a state bonus for Oregon veterans of World War II would be made by an interim committee provided in a resolution that is being prepared by Rep. Paul Hendricks of Salem. If adopted, the committee would report back at the 1949 legislature.

The plan is being urged by VFW Meadowlark post and the VFW state legislative committee.

Oregon's Lawmakers by Murray Wade



Jobless Compensation Shapes For Bitter Legislative Struggle

By Paul W. Harvey, Jr.

A bitter struggle over proposed increased unemployment compensation benefits began to shape up in the Oregon legislature today after employers served notice they would fight the AFL-CIO bills to raise maximum benefits from \$18 a week for 20 weeks in any one year to \$25 for 26 weeks.

James A. Cellars, Astoria fish packer representing employers, told the senate labor and industries committee late yesterday that increased benefits would only lead to more cases of workers who would prefer to draw benefits rather than work.

Cellars charged that the vast majority of workers now draw benefits when they could get jobs. "The thing that hurts employers," Cellars said, "is that when they need people to work, they can't get workers because they would rather loaf on unemployment compensation. No increase is justified. We are past the peak of high prices. This proposal amounts to a 170 per cent increase in benefits."

The labor representatives hotly denied there are many "chislers" among workers, Stanley Earl, CIO representative, asserting "99.9 per cent of the workers would rather work than draw unemployment benefits."

Earl and James T. Marr, state AFL president, said the increase is needed because of higher living costs, declaring a family could not survive on present benefits.

Both employers and labor agreed the proposed change would have little effect on the unemployment commission's \$70,000,000 trust fund.

Representatives of grocers and small retailers opposed the labor-sponsored bill to bring employers of one or more persons under the act, which now covers employers of four or more. They said it would mean added expense for them, while labor claimed that every worker has a right to be covered.

The senate judiciary committee introduced a bill to prohibit portal-to-portal pay suits unless filed within one year after the date of cause of action. It would not affect suits already filed.

The joint forestry committees will hold a hearing next week on the governor's \$12,000,000 10-year forestry program, which would be financed by a tax on

timber harvested of 20 cents a thousand feet.

Rep. Joseph E. Harvey, Portland, told the house judiciary committee that if the legislature refuses to pass his bill to ban horse and dog racing, then it will go on the ballot as an initiative.

Harvey said every church in Oregon and many businessmen are for the bill.

'Freeways' Hearing Feb. 20
The senate roads and highways committee will conduct a public hearing Feb. 20, at 7:30 p.m. to discuss the "freeways" bill, which would authorize the state highway commission to establish and construct limited access highways.

Half a million cattle and horses were being destroyed annually by wolves in the western states in the nineties.

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Merger Vote Thursday Night

Woodburn, Feb. 13—Eligible voters from seven school districts in addition to Woodburn will visit the polls between 8 and 9 o'clock tonight to vote upon the proposed merger of the outlying districts with Woodburn. Only property owners as shown on the 1946-47 tax rolls are eligible to vote, with residence of 30 days in the district and citizenship also necessary. In addition voters of the Woodburn district will decide upon the recommendation of the school board that \$5000 be transferred from the district school fund to the general fund to apply on purchase of the new school bus.

All voting will be at school house with the districts involved Belle Passi, Union, West Woodburn, Hall, Johnson, Grassy Pond and McKee. The Woodburn ballots will be cast at the Lincoln school building. If the merger is approved the new district would have 1215 pupils. The proposed consolidated district's valuation is placed at \$2,787,476, with the millage tax estimated at around 15 mills.

Scout Week Observed

Gervais—The local Boy Scout troop No. 54 observed Boy Scout week with a breakfast for the entire troop after which they went in a body to the Presbyterian church for morning worship. A display of their handiwork is in the windows of the Gervais hardware store. D. L. St. John is the troop master.

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Capital Journal, Salem, Oregon, Thursday, Feb. 13, 1947—9

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