

THE WEATHER HERE

CONSIDERABLE CLOUDINESS with occasional showers tonight, Sunday, slightly cooler. Lowest tonight, 30; highest Sunday, 40.

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State Highway Office Makes Record in '49

\$19,367,806 Cost of Jobless Aid for Year

Total Reaches \$34,303,000 for Year, Says Annual Report

Payments of \$2,742,374 for December Boosts 1949 Total

By JAMES D. OLSON A total of \$34,303,000 was expended by the state highway commission for highway construction and maintenance, capital investments, purchase of right of way and miscellaneous purposes during 1949, according to an annual review issued Saturday by the state highway department.

Record unemployment payments of \$2,742,374 for December brought the 1949 total to \$19,367,806 or 16 per cent above the previous high established during the post-war adjustment year of 1946, the state unemployment compensation commission reported Saturday.

Not only was this the largest amount of money expended in any one year by the highway department since its inception, but in addition, exceeded the year's income which totaled \$26,006,000. Disbursement of approximately \$8,300,000 above the department's income was made possible by use of surplus gathered during the war period when highway work was slowed to a minimum.

The December payments were 41.6 per cent higher than total payments last month and were higher than the combined totals for December, in 1946, 1947 and 1948. Only in March, 1946, when displaced war workers and other unemployed workers received \$2,855,118, was a higher monthly figure recorded.

Of the amount disbursed during 1949, \$12,034,000 was in maintenance of the 7,300 miles of highways comprising the state highway system, and of that amount, \$2,000,000 represented cost of unusual frost damage to state roads during the winter of 1948-49.

GI Totals Drop Although readjustment allowances to unemployed veterans under the G-I Bill of Rights declined greatly during the last four months of the year, dropping to \$69,807 for December—the year's disbursements reached \$7,021,982. This brought the combined total of payments to unemployed veterans and civilians in Oregon during 1949 to \$28,389,788, or more than a million dollars above the \$25,269,262 for 1948.

The department expended \$18,000,000 in highway construction during the year, including the cost of acquiring necessary rights of ways. Other expenditures included \$1,236,000 for capital investment items such as equipment, buildings and acquisition of parks; and \$2,953,500 was spent on administration costs, operation of state parks, conduct of the travel information service, debt service and operation of drawbridges and ferries.

Cold Weather For New Year's (By the Associated Press) The new year is coming to Oregon in a blast of cold weather.

That is the indication from the weather bureau, which said a cold air mass flowing down from the north should bring cold temperatures and snow to many areas by New Year's afternoon.

Gifts and the cooperating firms are two parts of milk delivered every other day for three months by Curly's Dairy; a bassinet by Miller's department store; play pen from the Gevurtz furniture store; a \$10 trade certificate for the mother and a \$3.50 Dorothy Gray baby box from the Capitol Drug store; a permanent wave for the mother by the Oregon School of Beauty Culture; an order for a full term of dancing lessons to be honored by the Paul Armstrong School of the Dance; a floral cradle from Olson Florists; a blocked blanket from the Lullaby Baby shop; a sterling silver cup by Brown's Jewelry and an 8x10 photo in gold-tone by the Kennel-Ellis studio.

The gross gasoline tax revenue totaled \$31,335,000 but of this amount, \$5,558,000 was in accordance with law, allotted to counties for use on county roads and \$4,108,000 to cities for use on city thoroughfares. In addition, \$1,035,000 was allotted to the state police department for payment of additional men to patrol the highways and \$1,128,000 loaned to counties for use in repairing of unusual frost damage suffered on county roads during the cold weather period of last winter.

Government Camp got a foot of snow during the night. Four inches of new snow fell at Santiam Pass, and the temperature dropped to 14 degrees. A snowstorm punctuated, oddly, by lightning struck the Astoria region yesterday. The storm drove the coast guard cutter Balsam, which was hunting a floating Japanese mine, back to harbor. The mine was seen drifting about 50 miles off Tillamook.

Snow Falling In Mountains

Snow was falling today in several Oregon areas, and the state highway department advised motorists traveling the higher routes to carry chains. All roads except McKenzie pass and the east and west Diamond lake highway remained open.

Portland got rain, too, after a brief dose of ice and snow early yesterday. The slick streets set off a flurry of traffic accidents and killed one man. Stephen G. Chambers, 65, Oregon City, was fatally injured yesterday when his car skidded on ice between Oregon City and Portland.

The road report, as of 9 a. m., included: Government Camp—Snowing hard and continuously. Packed snow. Plows operating. Chains required. Conditions getting worse. Twelve inches snow. Seventy inches roadside snow.

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He will be in charge of the government's "Voice of America" program, among other things. Barrett for the last four years has been editorial director of Newsweek magazine.

Buenos Aires Shy Of Water Supply

Buenos Aires, Dec. 31 (AP)—Another big city has its tongue hanging out. Buenos Aires, third largest in the western hemisphere, faces a water shortage as serious as New York's. Argentina's minister of public works threatened yesterday to put in individual water meters if the city's 3,150,000 residents didn't stop wasting water.

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He said about a third of the average 106 gallons a day each person uses in the city is wasted. (New York residents used a daily average of about 125 gallons each until current conservation measures cut it to around 80 gallons.)

Barrett Named As Allen's Successor

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First 1950 Babe To Win Awards

Parents of the first baby born within the city limits in 1950 will receive a widely diversified variety of gifts from Salem business firms through the cooperation of the Capital Journal.

New Home for Lowerys—Floyd French, Falls City grocer, delivers some building supplies at the house he has offered free from rent for two years "or longer if necessary" to the Homer Lowery family, burned out early Wednesday with the loss of life of two little girls. Assisting French in handling the brick is Ernest Ingram, Falls City restaurant owner and one of the volunteer assistants. Standing behind the truck and seen over the hood of the vehicle is Roy Lowery, a brother.

Rent-Free Home 2 Years For Lowerys, Falls City

Dallas, Ore., Dec. 31—The burned-out Lowery family of Falls City will have a rent-free home for two years and longer if necessary, through the generosity of Floyd French, of Falls City, who is using his grocery store as a depot for receiving aid.

Teamsters Lose Logging Grip Washington, Dec. 31 (AP)—In two new Washington state cases, the Teamsters' union (AFL) has lost its bid for a hand in the logging industry.

Foreign Policy To Be Bi-partisan Washington, Dec. 31 (AP)—Republicans had a promise today from Senator Lucas (D-Ill) that they will be cut in on the making of foreign policy—as far as he can arrange it.

Marriage Licenses Decreased in 1949 Marriage licenses issued in the county clerk's office here during 1949 took a drop to 883 from 1129 issued during 1948.

Russians Testing V Guns in Baltic Berlin, Dec. 31 (AP)—The American licensed newspaper, Der Abend, said today the Russians are testing V-weapons on former German air force proving grounds on a Baltic sea island.

Rural TCL Bus Patrons Urged to Present Data City Manager J. L. Franzen Saturday advised people living east of the city in the Fruitland, Swegle and Fisher road districts to petition the city council relative to what they want in the way of bus transportation.

Russia Keeps 370,000 Japs Tokyo, Dec. 31 (AP)—Japanese from remote parts of Japan are headed for Tokyo to try to learn what has become of their relatives captured four and a half years ago as war prisoners by the Russians.

Jap Users of Germs Guilty London, Dec. 31 (AP)—Moscow radio announced today that 12 former Japanese army officers who admitted trying to wage war with germs had been sentenced to prison terms ranging from two to 25 years.

Citizens' Committee for Hoover Report Picked Fourteen Marion county residents have been named to the citizens' committee for the Hoover report in this area, Mark O. Hatfield, county agent, announced Saturday.

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Moscow Stages Big New Year Celebration

Most Elaborate Parties Planned in History of Russia

Moscow, Dec. 31 (AP)—The world's biggest country, Soviet Russia, prepared for one of its biggest New Year celebrations tonight.

Not only do the Russians welcome in the New Year at midnight, they also give presents to their children and to one another around the tradition decorated tree.

Women Wear Finest Gowns Russian women will wear their finest gowns tonight at thousands of parties planned all over this nation that occupies one-sixth of the earth's surface.

More Relief Money Needed Portland, Dec. 31 (AP)—A sudden jump in the relief load led the state public welfare commission to appeal today for more funds.

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Last Day for 1949 License Plates on Autos

Motor car owners who have mail in applications for new license plates prior to midnight Saturday need not worry about being arrested provided they have evidence to show such applications have been made.

This announcement came from William E. Healy, assistant secretary of state Saturday. He added that motorists who had failed to make such application would be subject to arrest beginning Sunday.

Healy said that all mail applications now in the secretary's office will be processed and the plates in the mail at the end of the present weekend. A mailing crew will work throughout Saturday night and Sunday, Healy said, to accomplish this.

Registration of automobiles will increase approximately 100,000 for 1950, Healy said, including 40,000 new cars and the remainder new residents entering the state. The revenue from license fees, approximately \$4,000,000 in 1949, will be in excess of \$11,000,000 for 1950 due to increased automobile and truck fees, Healy said.

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Truman to Ask In Message for Excise Tax Cut

Also to Request Other New Levies to Make Up Deficiency

Washington, Dec. 31 (AP)—A top adviser said today President Truman will ask congress in a special message to cut some excise taxes, then enact new levies to get the government out of the red.

This presidential confidant, who asked not to be named, said Mr. Truman feels the time has come to eliminate at least some of the "luxury taxes" levied during the war on such items as jewelry, luggage, transportation tickets and telephone bills.

He said the state of the union message Mr. Truman will deliver in person to congress Wednesday will give a "picture" of the president's broad objectives in the field of taxation.

Special Tax Message He said that while he did not know the exact timing of the tax message, it probably will be along soon after congress opens its new session Tuesday.

Tentative plans call for the state of the union message to be followed by the economic message on Friday and the budget message the following Monday.

Adviser said, will express Mr. Truman's hope that congress will find ways to balance the budget for the 1951 fiscal year starting next July 1.

But the president was said to feel that the subject is too important to be covered adequately in messages mainly concerned with other phases of government operation.

Tax Yield Only \$38 billion Mr. Truman has promised to send congress a 1951 budget which it will have difficulty cutting.

Some of his associates say it will call for far less than the \$43,500,000,000 now estimated as the government's outlay for the current fiscal year.

The estimated tax yield for this fiscal year—including excise levies—is only \$38,000,000,000, leaving better than a \$5,000,000,000 gap between income and expenditures.

That indicates that the government may face another multi-billion dollar deficit next year, unless congress either trims spending sharply or votes new taxes.

The sentiment against new taxes is running strong on Capitol Hill, although any presidential recommendation for a cut in excise levies would be widely acclaimed.

Russians Testing V Guns in Baltic Berlin, Dec. 31 (AP)—The American licensed newspaper, Der Abend, said today the Russians are testing V-weapons on former German air force proving grounds on a Baltic sea island.

The paper claimed the Russians have been rebuilding for several months the former Luftwaffe installations at Peenemuende, on the islands of Usedom. They already had launched several rockets eastward, the paper said.

Der Abend said the whole area has been cordoned off by Russian troops and is under the command of Soviet General Kossow. It reported the majority of the personnel engaged in guided missiles research at Peenemuende is Russian, with only a few German specialists, under close supervision.

According to the newspaper, Russian Chemistry Professor Svobotov is in charge of the research work, assisted by 24 Russian scientists.