

Old Man Oregon's Far From Being Strapped

By A. L. LINDBECK

Salem.—Old Man Oregon may not be as flush as he was a few years back when he was strutting around with more than \$40 million in spare change in his pockets, but he is still a long way from being broke.

This, too, in spite of oft repeated predictions of possible deficits in the state's general fund.

The state tax levy for this year makes no provision for a tax on property. Neither is there any likelihood of a property levy for state purposes next year.

In fact it is entirely possible that the state will escape a property levy for another year or two beyond the current biennium unless the national economy takes a sudden nose dive, carrying Oregon's economy down with it.

The tax levy for this year shows that the state had an uncommitted cash balance of \$44,357,622 on July 1. That's the beginning of the new fiscal year. More than \$40 million of this "actual balance" was accounted for by income and excise tax monies.

The research division of the tax commission estimates that the state will end the fiscal year with a balance of slightly under \$25 billion.

If that estimate holds up it will mean that the state is living way beyond its means—spending nearly \$30 million a year more than it is taking in.

But it will be remembered that two years ago it was reported that the state was spending at the rate of 10 million dollars a year more than its income, yet its cash balance increased by nearly 9 million in 1952 over 1951.

Again, the tax levy for 1951-52 estimated that the balance at the end of that fiscal year would be \$35,600,000. But the actual cash balance when the end of the year rolled around was \$44,300,000, up nearly 10 million over the estimate.

Furthermore, in computing anticipated revenues for this year the Tax Commission has estimated collections from the income and corporation excise levy at only 48 million. That is 14 million under actual collections last year.

Understandably the commission, having once burned its fingers with a too optimistic estimate, much to the financial embarrassment of the state, has ever since been very conservative in its guesses as to how much money the state is going to take in from its various sources. So that, if past experience can be taken as a criterion for what may be expected, the state could well end the current year with considerably more than the presently estimated \$25 million balance.

But even this amount will be more than enough to carry the state through 1954-55 without a levy against property and leave a sizeable balance on which to start the next year.

There are, however, some straws in the economic wind that might indicate that Oregon, along with the nation as a whole, has reached a prosperity peak and is now on the way down.

Personal income and corporation excise tax collections last year totaling \$82,200,000 were nearly \$2,700,000 under the previous year's total.

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Storm Halts Bean Canning

Albany—While the rain of the past few days has been welcomed by livestock growers bean growers have been hard hit in this area.

Rainfall of Monday and Tuesday drove bean pickers from the fields in such numbers that receipts at the two local food processing plants so dwindled that operations have been halted.

The PictSweet plant was idle Wednesday, but expected to resume operations late in the day as pickers were returning to the picking during the day between showers.

The Albany Food Products Plant ran out of beans Wednesday and expected to resume operations Thursday.

The plant, however, operated Tuesday, on beans and blackberry processing.

The rainstorm raised to .78 of an inch the total precipitation here for the last three days and brought the month's total rainfall to date up to 1.15.

While this is not an August record it is the heaviest August precipitation in five years.

WOMAN FATALLY HURT
Oregon City (AP)—Mrs. Alma E. Christensen, 76, died here Wednesday from injuries suffered when hit by a car while crossing a street Tuesday night.

The closed period is required to allow maintenance repairs to be made near the upstream entrance. He said that it is expected that the locks will be open to through traffic by about September 15.

East Salem

East Salem—A late summer vacation trip is planned by Mr. and Mrs. Richard T. Wicklander of Park Ave., and Miss Amanda Wicklander of Salem.

They plan to leave Salem Saturday morning for a trip east that will take them into northern Michigan to Marquette on the shores of Lake Superior and to Escanaba, where they all were reared.

Mr. Wicklander has not been back for 40 years. They plan to go through both Glacier and Yellowstone parks and will drive south through Detroit and home over the south central route.

They will be accompanied by Miss Wicklander's guest, Miss Doris Cochran, a government nurse from Panama. They plan on a month's trip.

Guests at the Leonard Harms home on Sunnyview Ave. Friday night were Mr. and Mrs. Willard Classen from Newton, Kap. Guests from Saturday until Tuesday were Mr. and Mrs. Pete Reimer, their son and family, Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Reimer and children, Lynne Reimelle and Keith, from Beatrice, Neb. Wednesday dinner guests were Mrs. Harms' cousins, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Nuefeldt from Oklahoma, and Mrs. John Ediger, Mrs. Tom Dalke and Mrs. John Freisen. All out-of-state guests have been attending the western district conference of the Mennonite churches held at Jennings Lodge.

Guests the past week at the Ralph Hein home on Lancaster Dr. were her uncle and family, Charles Hubbard, Mr. and Mrs. George Hubbard and their son, Jerry from Union City, Mich. and Mrs. Herbert Crisy and her son, Mark from Burlington, Mich. Trips were taken to

Albany 4-H'ers Given Awards

Albany—Linn county 4-Hers undaunted by the downpour this week during their three-day annual Fall Fair, went through their paces and in high spirits received the grand championship awards which were presented on both open days.

Frank Ellis, RFD 1, Jefferson, showed the best beef animal in the show. The 1100-pound Hereford steer won out over some of the finest beef animals in this territory.

Annabelle Edwards of the Riverside community walked away with both of the top honors in the sheep events. She won the showman championship and also showed the outstanding animal, a purebred Southdown.

In beef showmanship, Ellwood Miller, Brownsville, was named grand champion, winning over 14 competitors. Reserve champion is Doug Gatchell, RFD 2, Lebanon, who is also owner of the champion lightweight beef animal.

The beef reserve championship was awarded to Mike Layman, RFD 4, Albany, whose animal also placed second in the heavyweight division.

In contests Tuesday, three teams were chosen to compete at the State Fair. Winners of the canning judging contest were three Shedd girls, Ginny Perkins, Sharon McCormick,

visit relatives in central Oregon.

Another Swegle community home being remodeled this summer is the Quarry home on Lancaster Dr.

and Becky Cannell, and in addition the dairy and livestock demonstrations resulted in chances at State Fair for Viola and Ray Ruby, RFD 3, Scio, and Minnie Swanson and Doug Gatchell, RFD 2, Lebanon.

In the swine division a Spotted Poland China hog shown by Darlene Wirth, Tangent, took the grand championship, and a Yorkshire owned by Viola Ruby, Scio, winning the reserve championship. In showmanship events Lloyd Jochimsen, Oakville, was junior champion, and Don Bradshaw, pion, and Don Bradshaw, Shedd, was senior winner, with Lloyd capturing the grand championship.

The show ended with the annual fat animal auction at the 4-H club pavilion Wednesday night.

Estate Probates Filed at Albany

Albany—Probate proceedings have been launched in Linn county to dispose of an estate valued at approximately \$55,000 left by Josefa S. Roberts on her death, Oct. 7, 1951 at New Hartford, N. Y. According to the probate petition filed by the First National Bank of Portland, named executor in the will annexed, the estate includes \$51,000 in personal and \$4000 in real property.

Another large estate is that of the late Charles Sager, who died June 14, 1953, leaving an

estimated \$43,933.85 including about \$17,293.85 in personal property and \$26,640 in real estate. Mary Larson has been named executor of the will.

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O. C. Locks to Be Closed for 3 Weeks

The Willamette Falls locks at Oregon City will be closed to through navigation between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, for a period of three weeks which began Wednesday.

This announcement was made by Col. T. H. Lipscomb, Portland district engineer for the Corps of Engineers, who

said the closed period is required to allow maintenance repairs to be made near the upstream entrance. He said that it is expected that the locks will be open to through traffic by about September 15.

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