

State Capitol News Letter

The resignation of Arthur K. McMahon, of Albany, as chairman of the state liquor control commission, is believed here to be the forerunner of the long expected shake-up in that organization. In acknowledging receipt of McMahon's letter of resignation Governor Sprague asked him to continue in office until he can find a suitable successor, lending weight to the report that the governor was desirous of continuing McMahon on the commission at least until the expiration of his term at the end of this year. In fact it has been intimated in official circles close to the throne that the governor may attempt to prevail upon the Albany attorney to continue with the commission in spite of his announced desire to retire.

It is regarded as a practical certainty that Otto J. Runte, state liquor administrator, will be replaced as the first step in the reorganization of the commission's set-up.

A "foreign" army will invade Oregon next month. A whole infantry regiment of the Washington national guard is scheduled to visit Camp Clatsop June 16 and 17, according to word received by Major General George A. White. The visit will not be a social call but will be resorted to in order to give the guardsmen training in motor movement and field bivouac.

The first detachment of the Oregon national guard will move into Camp Clatsop next week. This will be the camp supply team under command of Lieutenant Colonel Raymond F. Olson which will arrange for the supply and subsistence of the Oregon troops during their 15 days stay in camp.

While the opinion of the United States supreme court last week in the suit involving income taxes applied only to the right to tax salaries of federal judges, the ruling of Justice Frankfurter should serve to quiet the contention still maintained by many jurists on the state bench that their salaries are immune from taxation. All Oregon judges have been paying the state income tax in recent years

but the payments have been made in the form of voluntary contributions rather than legally imposed taxes.

The state forestry department will do its scouting this summer in a new Waco five-seater airplane, the purchase of which has just been approved by the forestry board. In addition to scouting work the plane will also be utilized in carrying food and supplies to men engaged in fire-fighting in isolated areas. Last summer several tons of supplies were taken in to the men fighting the Smith river fire by this method, parachutes being used in dropping the supplies from the plane to the ground. Of 23 cases of eggs delivered by this method, forestry officials said, only five eggs were broken.

Carl Cover, former assistant to the state budget director, is out of a job as a result of an order from the federal social security board abolishing the post of personnel director with the State Unemployment Compensation commission which he has held for the past two years. The federal board ordered the position discontinued as of April 30 but the unemployment compensation commission made an effort to have the order rescinded. In a telegram this week the board refused to reconsider its original order.

Population of Oregon's 10 state institutions is at an all-time high of 6979 inmates, an increase of 94 during the past year. This number includes 3964 insane, 1011 feeble minded, 1106 criminals, 516 tubercular patients, 114 delinquent boys, 59 delinquent girls, 132 deaf children and 96 blind children. The per capita cost of caring for these wards of the state ranges from a low of \$13.18 at the Fairview home for feeble minded to a high of \$51.37 at the eastern Oregon tuberculosis hospital where specialized care and medical attention accounts for the higher cost.

Discovery of the presence of quicksilver in paying quantities on a small tract of state land in Douglas county was announced this week by Lewis Griffith, clerk of the state land board. The small tract adjoins one on which a cinnabar mine has been operating at a handsome profit for several years.

Selection of the new state parole director is expected following a meeting of the parole board at Salem Thursday of this week. The board

met at the home of Paul R. Kelly, board chairman, at Lafayette last week to consider a number of applications for this post. A deputy parole officer and four field men are also to be employed by the new organization which will occupy quarters in the capitol building.

One hundred and three Oregon motorists lost their drivers' licenses through suspensions and revocations during April, according to Secretary of State Snell. Fifty-four operators' licenses were revoked during the month following convictions for drunken driving, reckless driving, hit-and-run driving and unsatisfied judgments arising out of traffic accidents. Twelve Oregon motorists had their licenses revoked for driving while drunk in other states. While there were 48 revocations for drunken driving in the rest of the state only two revocations for this charge were reported from the city of Portland.

Work of beautifying the sunken garden which forms the center piece in the landscaping of the capitol site is to be started soon. The state will spend approximately \$6000 on shrubs and plants for the garden, all the work on which will be supplied by the Works Progress administration.

The heaviest filings for water rights in the history of the state is reported by C. E. Stricklin, state engineer. The long drought this spring has served to make many farmers conscious of the need for irrigation even in the Willamette valley, according to Stricklin.

Residents of Oregon paid out a total of \$21,332,446 in premiums for life insurance during 1938, it was reported this week by Hugh C. Earle, state insurance commissioner. Losses paid by insurance companies on policies in Oregon during the year aggregated \$10,819,834.

Oregon spent a total of \$34,000,000 in construction and maintenance costs on its 23,000 miles of roads and highways during 1938, according to figures compiled by C. B. McCullough, assistant state highway engineer. These figures include city streets and county roads as well as state highways.

Ranking easily as the wildest political prognostication of the year was a news story published this week to the effect that Henry F. Cabell, chairman of the state highway commission, is soon to be retired from that

commission. The prognosticator not only scored a clean beat on all other political commentators but sprang a surprise on both Cabell and Governor Sprague both of whom explained that the report was "news" to them. All indications point to the retention of Cabell as a member of the commission during the present administration if he cares to remain and he seems to be enjoying his job and willing to continue.

The governor is now giving serious consideration to the selection of a real estate commissioner to fill the independent post created by the last legislature taking this position out from under the wing of the insurance commissioner. The job now filled by William Graham, a democrat, is expected to go to some deserving republican but just who will get this newly sweetened plum awaits announcement from the executive office.

Everybody except the governor has been expecting the political lightning to strike the state liquor commission most any day now. A rumored shake-up in the entire liquor control organization was believed to await only reorganization of the commission itself. The governor, however, does not appear to be in any big hurry to disturb the present commission. In fact he let it be known this week that, while a number of names had been presented to him for appointment to the commission, he had not seen fit as yet to give that problem any immediate consideration.

Although members of the new parole board have given no indication of their choice for the post of parole director, Ed. Wood of The Dalles, former special agent for the Union Pacific railroad, is believed to have the inside track for the \$4,000-a-year job. Among those being most prominently mentioned for one of the other jobs which the new board will have at its disposal is Fred Grager, veteran chief clerk of the house of representatives, and for many years employed as a guard at the state prison. Members of the parole board spent most of last week in the state of Washington conferring with parole officials of that state from whose experience the Oregon law was modeled.

Governor Sprague's address before the state dairy council in Portland last week was generally interpreted in Salem as a warning that the industry must revamp its control methods during the next two year or face the possibility of repeal of the control act by the next legislature. Sprague opposed repeal of the milk control act by the last legislature, explaining that he favored giving that board one more chance to make good at its job.

The state hydroelectric commission has set July 1 as the date on which the voters of Linn county will again go to the polls to vote on the organization of a peoples utility district. This will be the third election on that issue in Linn county, the district having been voted down on the two previous occasions. All of Linn county with the exception of the city of Albany is included within the proposed district.

Hope To Save \$13,000 A Year

In the hope of securing a bid on \$370,000 worth of road warrant funding bonds, issued in 1937, at a better rate than the 3½ and 4 per cent interest which they bear, the county court plans next week to call for bids on \$370,000 worth of refunding bonds. In the present condition of the bond market an interest rate of not higher than 2½ per cent is anticipated. These bonds were issued a couple of years ago to redeem general road fund warrants which were drawing six per cent.

If the new issue can be sold at 2½ per cent, it will mean an annual saving of nearly \$13,000 from what the indebtedness was costing in interest before the warrants were redeemed.

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Pedestrian Accidents

While April pedestrian deaths showed a sharp decrease from the March toll, total pedestrian deaths for the first quarter of 1939 were 17 per cent above the total for the first quarter of 1938, indicating the need for an intensive campaign to cut down these accidents in all parts of the state, Earl Snell, secretary of state, warned today.

Three pedestrians were killed in April of 1939, five less than the March total of eight, figures compiled by the safety division of Mr. Snell's office showed. Seventy-six pedestrians were injured last month, compared to 104 in March and 85 in April a year ago. Of the total pedestrian accidents during the first quarter of this year, 8.5 per cent resulted in fatalities compared to 6.8 per cent for the same period a year ago.

Twenty per cent of pedestrians involved in accidents in April this year were jaywalking, or crossing between intersections, the figures showed.

"The practice of jaywalking consistently takes the heaviest toll of pedestrians," Snell declared. "In

view of this fact all those interested in the safety movement should continue to stress the danger of crossing streets at points other than marked or unmarked cross walks where the person on foot has the right-of-way."

All told, 48 per cent of those pedestrians involved in accidents during the first quarter of this year were at fault, the figures revealed. Jaywalking, crossing streets against signals, walking with traffic on highways, walking into the sides of cars, crossing intersections diagonally, stepping from behind parked cars and working on their cars in the roadway constituted these faults.

Approval by PWA authorities of a \$75,000 grant for the state fair will provide funds for a number of major improvements at that institution. According to Director Leo Spitzbart, the money will be used in constructing a new six-line entrance to the main gate, completion of the livestock pavilion, remodeling of the administration and construction of a number of smaller buildings on the grounds, including a new fire station.

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The above quotation is from the brilliant pen of Dr. Phillip M. Lovell, one of the most famous doctors in western America. It appears in his Los Angeles Times Article on "The Care of the Body," under date of November 23, 1939.

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Motorlog Party Visits Indian Festival



Above—A Coquille Indian pulling his way to the fishing grounds on one of the cable cars. Three of these aerial trams run from rock to rock.

Right—Three of the leaders of the 200 Coquille Indians on hand to celebrate the opening of the Indian fishing season for salmon, April 14.



Various newspapers in Oregon are co-operating with the Oregon State Motor association and The Oregonian in sponsoring a series of motor cruises designed to stimulate travel throughout the Pacific northwest.

Following is a report on the first 1939 motor journey. It is condensed from a full-page article appearing in The Sunday Oregonian April 28.

CELLO INDIANS, whose methods of catching leaping salmon date back for generations and today halt thousands of tourists on the Columbia River highway, are complaining loudly of white men's progress that annually reduces their supply of fish for food and sale.

For centuries many northwest tribesmen have gathered at Cello falls, 13 miles east of the present site of The Dalles, conducted their ceremonies and smoked their salmon for winter stores. As the northwest grew, a treaty signed in 1855 gave them the right to continue fishing there, unobstructed by laws of encroaching civilization.

Recently, however, commerce and industry have hampered the Indians' activities, they declare. Large catches at the mouth of the Columbia, Bonneville dam and even intrusion of white fishermen at Cello are blamed for smaller spring and fall runs.

"Fish used to be so thick you could walk across the river on their backs," remark some of the tribesmen, whose grandfathers saw Lewis and Clark when they arrived downstream and camped at Cello for three days. "No more. We have to work for our fish now."

Most common method employed by the red men is the dip net. They sit on small wooden platforms, dip their long-handled nets in the white foaming water and wait for the Chinooks to strike. In good seasons four or five hundred families from throughout the northwest may be seen encamped on the banks of the river. Nearby is the Indian village of Cello, a group of warped wooden shacks and sheds for drying fish. White citizens of The Dalles have conducted numerous unsuccessful "cleanup campaigns."

According to the United States bureau of fisheries, as much as 14,000,000 pounds of fish may be taken from the river in one season. The Cello Indians submit largely on proceeds from sale to canneries. Cello falls is one of Oregon's most interesting historic spots. The Indian fishing scene has changed little since the days of Columbus. The spring run of salmon begins about April 15 and lasts for two months. The fall run, larger of the two, begins in August and lasts into October.

Participants in a war dance at the festival. Dressed in full regalia, the various Indians danced far into the night. The two-day festival included feasting and fishing.

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