

State Capitol News Letter

Approximately 27,000 employees in Oregon will be affected by the compulsory retirement plan now being worked out by Governor Sprague's special committee if the legislature adopts the committee's recommendations and makes its acceptance mandatory upon all the state's political subdivisions.

Those who would include employees of all counties, cities, school, port and irrigation districts as well as state employees.

Tentative plans submitted to committee members this week for further study preliminary to another meeting to complete draft of the program call for compulsory retirement of all public employees upon reaching the age of 65 years with a "pension" or retirement annuity based upon length of service and the average salary received while in the public employ.

The maximum retirement pay in any case would be fixed at \$83 a month. This would be available to employees with 40 years of service to their credit at an average salary throughout that period of \$2000 a year. Employees with shorter service credits or lower salary averages would receive proportionately smaller "pensions" upon retirement. That is an employee with only 20 years of service to his or her credit upon reaching the retirement age of 65 years at a salary averaging \$2000 a year for the 20 years would be entitled to only one-half the maximum or approximately \$41 a month. Employees with only 20 years of service to their credit at a salary average of \$1000 a year would be entitled to only one-fourth the maximum or approximately \$20 a month and so on.

Employees leaving the public service before reaching the age of retirement either through dismissal or voluntary resignation would draw the amount of their contribution to the retirement fund plus interest earnings. In the event of the death of a public employee before reaching retirement age his or her beneficiary would receive the accumulated contributions of the employee plus interest earnings.

Should the plan as tentatively outlined be adopted beneficiaries would be protected in their interest in the retirement fund so long as they remained in the public service—except federal—within the state. That is a school teacher could transfer her sphere of activity from one district to another without losing any interest he or she might have built up in the retirement fund. Likewise a county employee might resign to accept employment with the state, or vice versa, and his or her social security account would follow into the new position.

In order to finance the proposed program it is estimated that male employees would be required to contribute four per cent of their earnings to the retirement fund, this contribution to be matched by the employing agency with an equal amount. Women employees having a longer life expectancy, according to tables compiled by insurance companies, would be required to contribute a proportionately larger per cent of their earnings to the retirement fund or content themselves with the prospect of a smaller "pension" upon retirement.

Administration of the proposed plan would be in the hands of an ex officio non-salaried board, authorized to employ the necessary clerical help with investment of the retirement fund to be a responsibility of the state treasurer.

Sigfrid Unander, research expert attached to the governor's staff and executive secretary to the retirement plan committee, declares that the proposed plan is actually sound in con-

trast to many of the retirement plans heretofore set up by states and municipalities for their employees. It's operation, he estimates, would cost the state approximately \$100,000 a year based upon the number of employees now on the state payroll.

Oregon's delegation to the republican national convention will be bound to support Thomas A. Dewey for vice-president under this state's preferential primary law. Dewey with 1842 votes to his credit topped the list of write-in candidates as running mate for Oregon's favorite son, Chas. L. McNary. McNary who received this state's endorsement for presidential honors was also given 1029 write-in votes for vice president. Other republican write-in candidates for vice president in the order of their standing were Sheridan Downey, Robert Taft, Herbert Hoover, Arthur Vandenberg, Robert M. LaFollette, Jr., and Wendell Wilkie.

Democratic voters bound their national delegates to support Robert M. LaFollette, Jr., for the vice-presidential nomination writing in 2416 votes for the Wisconsin senator. Louis Johnson, assistant secretary of war, was runner-up for vice presidential honors on the Democratic ticket with 2121 votes. Other candidates receiving support on the Democratic ticket for vice president included John N. Garner, James A. Farley, Cordell Hull, Sherman Downey, Paul V. McNutt, Burton K. Wheeler, and C. L. McNary.

No indictments were returned by the Marion county grand jury which concluded its investigation of the state forestry department this week but former state forester J. W. Ferguson came in for severe reproof for inefficiency and unbusinesslike procedure in the handling of certain of the funds under his care. While the grand jury found nothing illegal in the manner in which the funds were handled its report declared that the procedure under which the funds were administered "is conducive to waste and inefficiency."

Members of Oregon's 249th Coast Artillery regiment who went into intensive training at Camp Clatsop this week will be called upon to defend the mouth of the Columbia river from simulated attack by an enemy force, according to Major General George A. White. The newly organized anti-aircraft units will get their first opportunity to fire the new anti-aircraft guns in practice against targets towed behind army airplanes. The powerful searchlights with which these new units are equipped will also come into play in night practice when their powerful beams will stab the ether far above the earth in search of invading planes. The 4000 Oregon guardsmen in the infantry regiments and other units of the 41st division in this state will go to Fort Lewis, Washington, August 4, for 21 days of intensive training with troops from other states of the northwest.

The Salem Lions club which several years ago "adopted" the state school for blind as its particular project has already started a drive for a new fire-proof building to replace the frame building now used as a class room at that institution. Aid of other Lions clubs throughout the state will be sought in support of a measure providing for the improvement which will be presented to the next legislature.

Attorney General Van Winkle has ruled that a man who raises bees for a living is actually a farmer and as such is entitled to the use of an exempt farmer's license for his truck. The attorney general who several years ago ruled against apiarists as

farmers was convinced of the error of his way when J. D. Mickle, state director of agriculture produced records of the state college to show that bees are largely responsible for the pollination of farm crops valued at \$12,868,736 a year in this state.

Two From Coquille Graduate at U. of O.

The Sentinel did not have all the information it should have had a couple of weeks ago in publishing the list of those from Coquille who graduated from institutions of higher learning this year. There were two more who received their diplomas Sunday evening at Eugene, having completed their courses at the university. They were La Velle Walstrom who graduated from C. H. S. in June 1936 and Leo J. Cary who finished C. H. S. in 1935.

The following is sent the Sentinel by the publicity agency at the university.

A record number of University of Oregon students, 771 in all, of whom seven are from Coos county, received diplomas and certificates at an impressive ceremony Sunday evening, when the institution held its 63rd annual commencement exercises at McArthur Court.

The list included two doctor of education degrees, three doctor of jurisprudence, and 73 master of arts or science. Among the total are 49 doctors of medicine from the University of Oregon medical school in Portland, which this year for the first time held its own ceremony in the new auditorium.

Dr. Donald M. Erb, president of the university, delivered the commencement address on "The Price of Freedom," while Dr. James R. Branton, head of the university department of religion, delivered the baccalaureate sermon Sunday morning on "Education and Social Responsibility." Dr. Frederick M. Hunter, chancellor of higher education, represented the state system of higher education, and Edgar W. Smith, Portland member of the board of higher education represented that group.

The list of those who graduated from Coos county follows:

Joan Elizabeth Murphy, Scott Bennett McKeown, Ben R. Clabaugh and Roger K. Conrad, all of Marshfield, Ralph H. Boak, of Bandon.

Joan Elizabeth Murphy, Marshfield was awarded a bachelor of arts degree in English. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Murphy and a member of the coed co-operative. Miss Murphy was a member of the polyphonic choir. She was a member of several honoraries including Kwama, sophomore women's honorary; Phi Theta Upsilon, junior women's honorary; and Mortar Board, senior women.

A bachelor of arts degree in allied arts was awarded to Scott Bennett McKeown, of Marshfield.

Ben R. Clabaugh, son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Clabaugh, of Marshfield, received a bachelor of science degree

in business administration. He is a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity. A bachelor of science degree in business administration was awarded to Roger K. Conrad, of Marshfield.

Elizabeth Lavelle Walstrom, Coquille, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Almer E. Walstrom, received a bachelor of arts degree in English. She is a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority, Phi Beta, music and dramatics honorary for women, and Phi Theta Upsilon, junior women's service honorary.

A bachelor of arts degree in business administration was awarded Leo J. Cary, of Coquille. He is a member of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity.

Ralph H. Boak, Bandon, received a bachelor of science degree in business administration. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry E. Boak.

Asks "Dairy Month" Observance

Following is Mayor R. F. Milne's proclamation declaring June as Dairy Month:

Whereas, milk and its products constitute an important part of the diet of our entire population and according to nutrition authorities are essential to the health and well-being of our citizens, and

Whereas, farmers throughout the country are more dependent upon dairy products than any other agricultural commodity for their purchasing power, and

Whereas, dairymen in Coos county produce approximately four million pounds of butterfat annually which provides over one-half of the agricul-

tural income used by dairymen to maintain their families and pay their share of taxes and other overhead costs, now therefore

I, Ralph F. Milne, mayor of the City of Coquille, do hereby proclaim June 1st to 30th next inclusive, as DAIRY MONTH and ask the citizens of Coquille, Oregon, to give recognition through act and deed to this great industry, its workers within our city and its thousands of farmers who supply us with this vital food.

Given under my hand and the seal of the City of Coquille, this 1st day of June, one thousand nine hundred and forty.

Ralph F. Milne,
(Seal) Mayor of Coquille

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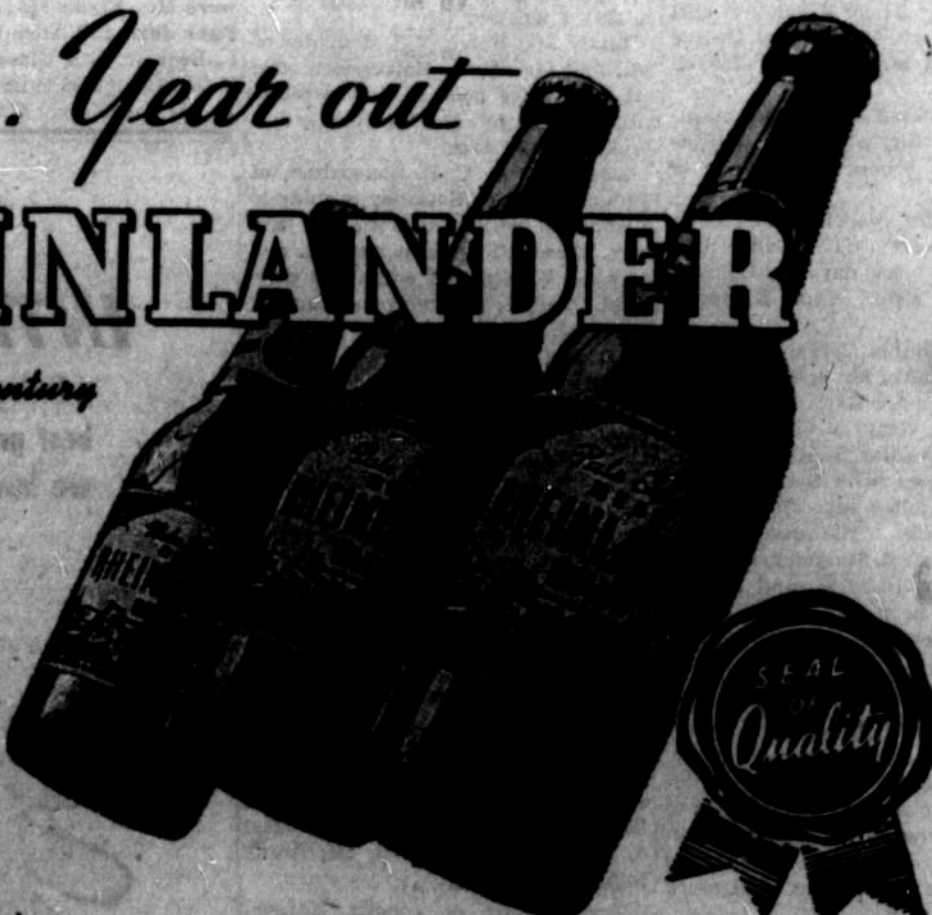
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