

Weekly Letter From Washington, D. C. BY CONGRESSMAN HARRIS ELLSWORTH

Nurse Draft Bill. The House passed the bill to draft nurses for service in the armed forces, which was in effect requested by the President. Although the roll call vote on the bill was overwhelmingly in favor of its passage, I know that most members voted for it reluctantly. We were faced with the very compelling statement that nurses must be obtained immediately, and that the only sure and certain ways is to induct them into service.

The debate on the bill seemed to reveal that the situation had been badly handled in the past, but errors having been made, the only answer was to pass the bill. The armed forces must have nurses.

Legislation. During the first two months of this session of Congress, bills have been introduced at the rate of nearly 2500 a month. These bills cover a wide variety of subjects and range in size from single page amendments and private bills to complicated measures of more than 100 pages. Of all the bills that will be introduced during this session, only a small percentage will be enacted into law. Most bills will die in committee and many on the House and Senate Calendars.

During 1944, approximately 9,000 bills were introduced, a comparatively small number for a session of Congress. Of that number, 568 were enacted into public laws and 589 into private laws, the latter being claims against the government by particular individuals or firms. Recently, the greatest number of bills introduced in a single session was nearly 25,000. Before the turn of the century, the total was as high as 40,000.

The House and Senate Document Rooms act as clearing houses where each bill is carefully catalogued and copies may be obtained. A card file

has every bill indexed, giving the number, date, subject matter, committee to which it was assigned, name of the Member introducing the bill, committee report numbers, and action taken by the House or Senate. Elmer Lewis, for twenty-six years clerk of the House Document Room, has a memory almost as good as the card file and can instantly give the above information on every important bill and on many minor bills. In addition, he carries in his mind, the numbers and subject matter of numerous laws enacted in years past.

Here is a brief summary of the gist of legislation introduced in a single day, January 30. Bills were introduced having to do with the following subject:

Retirement of Spanish War officers; posthumous awards; two bills having to do with the rank of Naval officers; bills regarding land utilization; branch banking; four having to do with income tax; one to repeal the use tax on motor vehicles and boats; three regarding veterans; one to provide for certain property to be returned to original owners; one to increase the number of cadets in the Military Academy, and seventeen private bills.

This happens to be a summary of House bills introduced on a very light day, but it serves to give an example of the wide range of subjects in bills introduced by the 435 Members of the House.

Oregon Farm Production Goals. I have just received a letter from the Department of Agriculture which gives the production goals set for Oregon farmers and the production figures for last year. I note that production goals for 1945 are very nearly the same as those for 1944, and that goals were exceeded in most instances.

The report reveals that Oregon production of cover crop seeds is a major contribution. Goals for these crops have been revised with reductions in vetches, and increases for Austrian winter peas and common ryegrass. Goals for alfalfa, red and alsike clover have been doubled.

G. F. Geissler, Director of the Western Division of AAA, states that he attended a meeting of Oregon's farmer-committeemen in January. In commenting on this meeting, he said: "I was very impressed by the determination among farmers to battle their way through the production obstacles to attainment of the goals. These farmer-committeemen will be assisting farmers throughout the entire production period in meeting problems that would seem impossible if they were being faced at a time when the need was not so great. If courage, ingenuity and extra effort will get the job done, I am confident after meeting with your farmer-committeemen that Oregon will turn in another fine farm production job in 1945."

Assessor Forrest Has Increased Timber Assessments

Notice has been sent timber owners of Coos county by Assessor Chas. W. Forrest of the increase of timber assessments for the coming fiscal year. Due to the tremendous increase in timber values in the past few years, it has become necessary to increase timber assessments in order that these properties be assessed in a more equitable manner with other properties.

Forrest estimates that 95 per cent of the privately owned timber holdings in Coos county are held by three major timber holding corporations, the ownership being held directly by these corporations, or through a controlling interest in the stock of a branch organization. Very little timber is now owned by the private individual.

Relatively speaking, the increase will be approximately 100 per cent. In some instances wherein the assessment was not too much out of line the increase on a percentage basis will not be quite as great as the figure shown above, the outstanding example being the small amount of Port Orford White Cedar timber left standing in the county. This timber was previously increased substantially and therefore the present increase on this product is not as great as on the fir timber.

In 1943 the assessor's office equalized timber assessments according to timber areas and their accessibility to transportation and the factory. Through this readjustment, some timber was slightly increased in assessment value while other timber in more isolated areas was actually decreased.

The present readjustment is the first step toward the complete equalization of timber, with the assessment of other real property within the county. The State Law compels the assessor to assess all property on the same ratio. At the present time timber values have increased and the old assessment ratio has gradually decreased through the years until timber had enjoyed a ratio of about 25 per cent of actual value. All other property assessments are based on a 50 per cent ratio to actual value.

Consequently, in order that all taxpayers carry their correct proportion of the tax burden, the assessor is compelled by law to remedy the unequalized situation which had arisen through the gradual increase in timber stumpage value.

This equalization of timber values will increase the assessed valuation of the county by approximately \$4,000,000. It is estimated by Assessor Forrest, providing the levying board of the municipality of Coos county should levy a tax of approximately the same figure as last year, the increase in assessed valuation would decrease the county levy by two mills. The school levies of the districts in which there is standing timber, would be drastically reduced. The Port of Coos Bay would be reduced by approximately 1/4 mill due to increased valuation.

Townsend No. 2 Auxiliary Met Last Thursday

The Ladies Auxiliary of Townsend Club, No. 2, met at the home of Minnie Waterman last Thursday and

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Out-of-Doors Stuff

by LANS LENEVE

It won't be long until the trout season opens. When it does, just how many of you are going to be able to lay your hands directly upon your trout tackle? Now is a good time to wrap the tackle up, so to speak. In other words get it in working order. Oil the reels, rewrap the rod if it needs it or put on that extra guide that you bent or broke last season. Check your leaders, your flies, shine up your spinners. And above all, check on the strength of your line. You may find it necessary to cut four or five feet from the end of it, or better still reverse it on your reel.

The chances are great that you are not going to need flies at the start of the season but it is a good idea to check on your flies also. Have everything in readiness and it will save a lot of eleventh hour tearing about in search of fishing equipment that you figured you knew you could put your hand upon. That tackle may have been misplaced during the winter or become lost in the annual or semi-annual house cleaning. For you know a lot of wives who do not fish themselves haven't much respect for your tackle and you are liable as not to find some treasured bit of tackle stowed away in the basement, in the corner of the coal bin or in a dark recess of the attic.

It is hard to dope out just when we are going to be able to secure any more decent tackle so it behooves a fisherman to take care of what he now possesses. It will be many moons before reels again make their appearance on the market. Good lines are still available, as well as flies. But many brands of hooks appear to be made from the same sort of material that safety razor blades are manufactured from. In other words they are not much good. The war-time leaders are terrible. One of twenty-pound strength is not equal to a ten-pound test of pre-war make. You will evidently find it profitable, so far as successful fishing is concerned, to double the gut from which you make your leaders, otherwise you may lose the big one you have been dreaming of all during the past winter.

And just who is there amongst us fishermen who do not dream of the coming of the trout season, of the season that increases the limit over the three of winter months and also reduces the length? There is quite a lapse between the time that the steelhead tackle is stowed away and the opening of the trout season and it gives plenty of time for dreaming and, as I have reminded you before, of getting your light tackle in readiness for the opening date.

There is an allure to trout fishing that cannot be found in any other sort of casting. It is faster than steelhead and, although a couple of steelheads caught during the winter season's catch of trout, we never derive the thrill of catching the big fish that we do from the smaller trout of the clear waters from spring and summer streams. The murky, ideal steelhead water, the swollen appearance of the steelhead stream cannot compare to the beauty of crystal clear water, of the long sweep of sparkling riffle and the sombre, shadowy pools of a spring and summer stream.

It does not take much of an imagination to pick from the flowing, silvery water a song to match the beauty of the surroundings; to fill a man's soul with a deep feeling of contentment and a deep-rooted sense of gratitude just in knowing the fact that he is alive.

It does not take a full creel, nor any number near the limit, to give a man a day of downright pleasure along a laughing trout stream. There are a million things out there awaiting the man who appreciates, loves and understands Old Mother Nature. The water, the sun, the voice of the wind in the trees, the song of the rife, blooming flowers, green-clad hills, the song of birds — beauty, breath-taking beauty in evidence everywhere, from the time Old Sol shoves his face above the timbered hills until he sinks into the darkening blue of the west, leaving behind, in the retreating shadows, a golden afterglow that somehow seems reflected in the heart of an angler.

A trout fisherman has much, indeed, to feel thankful for, for to him has come many joys of life that have been denied his fellowman, who in the theme of things was never created a fisherman.

The usual business was conducted. It was voted that Mae Curtis should buy more material for the ladies to work on. Mary Keck received the prize for the penny drill and Mae Curtis the drawing prize.

The Auxiliary will meet March 15, with Mildred Miller and the ladies are asked to bring their pennies as their will be another penny drill.

Calling cards, 56 for \$1.00.

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