

Sherman County Journal

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Official County Paper

State Affairs

By
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Approval of senate bill 43 of the 1935 special session by the voters at the November election would, in the opinion of state officials who are familiar with its provisions, completely demoralize the state's old age pension set-up. The measure is on the ballot by reason of the referendum invoked shortly after the session adjourned.

Among other things the measure diverts the \$1,000,000 appropriation for old age pensions—or such portion as remains unexpended—to general relief purposes. At the same time it diverts county tax levies for old age pensions to general relief purposes. The effect of these provisions, it is pointed out, would be to leave both the state and counties without any money for old age pension payments. As a consequence the state would be unable to match federal funds which would also be withheld until this lack was remedied either by the forthcoming regular session or at a special session of the legislature. These provisions are generally regarded as having been written into the measure by sales tax advocates with a view of forcing adoption of this tax in order to finance old age pensions.

Other provisions in the measure such as the reduction of the age of pension beneficiaries to 65 years and provisions necessary to make the state law conform to the federal act, it is explained, can be enacted by the legislative session which meets in January without exposing the present set-up to the danger involved in stripping the old age pension fund bare of all available finances.

The cash float in the state treasury as of September 30 exceeded \$12,500,000 according to a statement made by State Treasurer Rufus Holman. The amount included approximately \$6,250,000 in the general fund and approximately \$1,500,000 of highway funds. The "cash float" reached a peak on May 1 when there was approximately \$14,500,000 to the credit of the several state funds.

The World War Veterans State Aid commission sold 89 properties during September for prices aggregating \$201,476.22 to set a new high record, according to Jerald Owen, secretary to the commission. During the nine-month period to September 30 the commission sold 897 properties for a total of \$2,223,534.56, netting the state a profit of \$47,955.97 above its investment, Owen reports. Demand for Oregon property—both city and farm—has shown a steady increase since February according to Owen, purchasers including many ex-service men who are investing their bonus money in real estate.

Governor Martin has issued a call for a wild life conference to be held at the state college in Corvallis November 19 and 20. All individuals and organizations interested in "husbanding and developing Oregon's wild life resources," are urged by the governor to attend or send a representative.

Harriet C. Long, state librarian, rushed to the aid of stricken Bandon with an emergency library, selecting 500 volumes from the state library and carting them to Bandon at her own expense. Temporary quarters have been set up in a tent. Prior to the fire Bandon had a library of 5400 volumes with an annual circulation of 23,000 loans, one of the highest per capita circulations in the state.

Motorists who plaster their windshields with political stickers are violating the law according to Secretary of State Snell who calls attention to the fact that stickers of any kind are prohibited. Not only on the windshield but on the side and rear windows of automobiles.

Tentative budget requirements of the state's numerous departments, institutions, boards and commissions for the biennium of 1937-38 as reported to Budget Director Wharton exceed \$21,300,000 it was revealed by Governor Martin this week.

Major items in the budget include \$3,600,000 for the state's share of assistance to the poor; \$2,381,400 as the state's share of old age pensions; \$6,054,420.92 for the 11 state institutions; \$5,218,850 for higher education of which \$1,000,000 is for the state's share of the federal aid to education.

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Meteorological Demands Made By Chas. Smith

Charles W. Smith, secretary of the Eastern Oregon Wheat League and one of the extension men from the state college, was here Monday to meet with the county court regarding the county agent appropriation. Charley says he is still undecided about his vote for president as he is waiting to see which one of the candidates will promise to send the largest supply of rain during the next four years.

4-H Club Boys Receive P. I. Checks

Checks are being sent out this week from the county agent's office to the club children who won prizes and sold animals at the Pacific International. In several cases the total of prize money and returns from sales made a considerable sum and will well repay the boys for their efforts during the year, even if the educational aspects of the work were not considered.

Jack von Borstel received \$80.04; Frank Sayrs, \$51.00; Bobby King, \$301.18; Henry Richelderfer \$63.24; David Richelderfer, 74.48; Donald von Borstel, \$91.44; Frank von Borstel, \$105.58.

State Has Not Borrowed For More Than Year

Citizens generally will be pardoned their astonishment when they learn, on authority of Rufus C. Holman, state treasurer, that the state has done no borrowing whatever in more than a year; also that, as the state's funds are now administered by the state treasurer's office, interest is earned from investments in short term securities as well as from money on deposit in banks.

The last occasion on which money was borrowed by the state, according to Mr. Holman, was in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1935. During that year moneys were borrowed on Oregon state unemployment certificates of indebtedness, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 95, Oregon Laws, 1933, second special session. The highest and lowest rates of interest upon money so borrowed were 2 per cent and 3 per cent respectively.

The total amount of interest paid on these loans in this fiscal year was \$1,425.69, while interest earned on deposits in state depositories alone during the same fiscal year amounted to \$79,221.79. The cash difference between interest paid and interest received by the state was \$77,796.10 in favor of the taxpayers.

Interest Earned

Mr. Holman's figures show that for the last fiscal year ending June 30, 1936, interest earned on the part of the state money deposited in state depositories amounted to \$18,004.89. The largest aggregate amount of state funds on deposit at any one time was the sum of \$10,931,250.60 on May 31, 1936. The following comment is added by Mr. Holman:

"Most of the Oregon state unemployment relief certificates which in their entirety totaled \$1,765,000.00, were purchased with state funds, and the interest accrued to the general fund of the state under an act prepared by my office and enacted by the 1935 legislative assembly. . . . In addition to the interest earned upon bonds of the state has been considerable sums through the investment of idle funds in short term U. S. Government and state of Oregon bonds, and in the unemployment relief certificates above mentioned."

Thus it will be seen that the state now can and does invest its idle funds in sound securities just as it would if it operated a bank with a large and high salaried staff of political appointees. Under existing laws, however, state officials are not permitted to make "loans" to their political friends and henchmen. This possibly is why a state owned bank is so fervently desired by some individuals. Certainly the present method of handling state funds offer no excuse for exposing Oregon to the hazards of state-owned banking with its history of universal failure.

Soil Conservation Rules Changed Again Here

Four Thousand Acres of Crested Wheat Grass Sown For 1937 Crop In Sherman County; Dry Weather Hampers Seeding

The soil conservation plan being operated through the extension service has made another change in rulings. Heretofore it was possible for a farmer to plant a nurse crop along with his Crested Wheat grass; now that is held to be impossible.

The desire and need for a nurse crop has been expressed in this county among farmers in the north end of the county who have an erosion problem, especially wind erosion. It was felt that if a nurse crop could be grown the stubble left from it would protect the small grass plants from being blown out until they had become rooted. A recent ruling states that in all probability no payment will be given to those who use a nurse crop.

Prompt Payments Promised

No payment under this plan will be held up it is stated but will be made as soon as an application for a grant is filled out and filed at the state office. Compliance, however, must be made.

County agent, Leroy Wright, states that "contrary to what some farmers think there is a chance for a payment on trashy fallow without having a soil conserving crop such as Crested Wheat grass or a soil conserving practice such as plowing under a green manure crop."

Seven hundred additional pounds of Crested Wheat grass seed has been ordered from Condon and between 5 and 600 pounds has been bought locally and all orders so far received have been filled. While Mr. Wright has been in the county he has ordered and made ready for delivery 6000 pounds of the seed. This is in addition to the 3000 pounds ordered by Perry Johnston during his regime as county agent.

Huge Acreage Sown

This indicates that at least 4000 acres of Crested Wheat grass will be sown in Sherman county this year. The conditions for sowing the small seed has not been at all favorable this fall but it is reported that a large majority of it has been seeded. November first is the dead line for sowing for those who wish to receive the payment.

T. H. Fraser, Jr. Is 1st Lieutenant

T. H. Fraser, Jr., senior in agriculture at Oregon State College, was given a commission as a cadet first lieutenant in the field artillery unit of the R. O. T. C.

These officers are chosen from those seniors taking advanced military who have demonstrated their ability to lead others and who have obtained a high grade in their college work. As a part of their regular duties they assist in the training of the freshmen enrolled in military.

Winifred Fortner Is Photography Editor

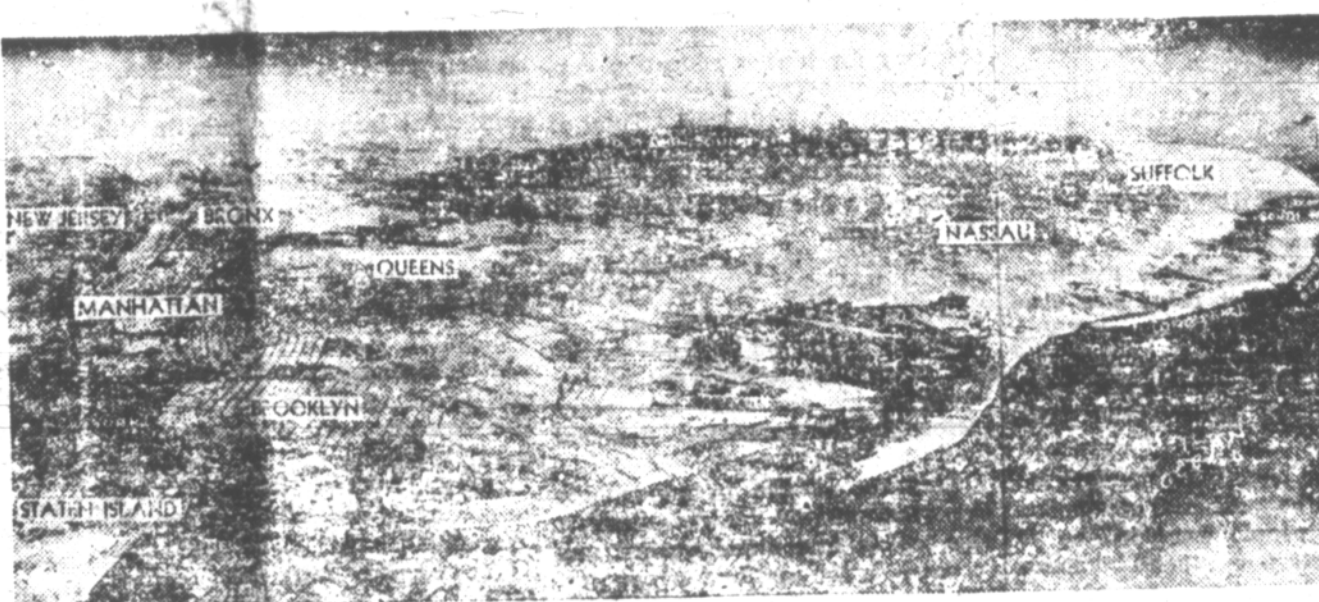
Pacific University, Forest Grove, Oregon, Oct. 23.—Winifred Fortner, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Fortner of Wasco, has been selected as photography editor of the Heart of Oak, annual publication of the Pacific University students.

The selection of Miss Fortner was announced this week by the editor of the publication. The post carries with it considerable responsibility, as photography will be perhaps the most outstanding characteristic of this year's book.

WEATHER FOR THE WEEK

DATE	MAX.	MIN.	PRECIP.
Oct. 15	65	45	.00
" 16	65	36	.00
" 17	70	38	.00
" 18	73	43	.00
" 19	66	49	.00
" 20	60	41	.00
" 21	55	29	.00
Total for week			.00

Air View of Father Knickerbocker's Domain



Here, from an altitude 22,000 feet above land, one looks down on New York city and its environs where more than seven million people live. Manhattan, Brooklyn, Jersey City, the reaches of Long Island are all plainly seen.

CCC Crews Come Home From Fire

The two crews of CCC boys that have been fighting the forest fires in Coos county returned Wednesday afternoon after a three weeks tour of duty. Lt. Dahlin, who was in charge of the men stated that from 60 to 70% of the forest acreage in Coos and Curry county had been burned over since the holocaust started last month.

He also reported that 90% of the fires were started by residents who wished to have the brush and trash burned so grass would grow. At one of the camps he had 500 men in his charge for food and rations.

Foreman Barr and Overholt handled the men while they were on the fire lines. A crew was sent from Siskiyou camp as well as from this one. Both were released Tuesday being the only ones allowed to go home out of the many groups of fire fighters on duty there.

Chinese Car Licensed In Oregon

Earl Snell, secretary of state, had an interesting and unusual experience this week when he registered a car with the license plates of the Chinese Republic. The owner from Shanghai, is visiting in the state and is the first motorist from far-off China to register his car in Oregon during the last two years.

In contacting the owner, who was driving a car in the medium price range, Mr. Snell learned that the license plates issued in China remain permanently in the possession of the owner, thus, the same style of plate is always used. The black and white plate consists of a many pointed star, like the emblem on the national flag of that country. The license number and some Chinese characters appear on its face.

National Campaign Overshadows Local

As far as local candidates are concerned this has been a rather quiet election year. This is probably due to the fact that it is presidential year and the major interest in such cases is with the national race. The sample ballots show that there are five candidates for president in Oregon, and a like number for senator.

Three are in the race for state treasurer and three lawyers would be attorney general. This is because of the organization of a group in the valley who filed candidates as independents when it became apparent that Wm. Lenke and Norman Thomas would not have their names on the ballot under the names of their party. Candidates for other offices were named at the same time.

84 Trucks Licensed

Eighty four diesel operated trucks are listed in Oregon this year, the first time that special registration has been required for such vehicles. Total fees from such registrations for the first nine months of the year reached \$16,281.95, state department records reveal.

Walter Pierce Talks To Crowd At Legion Hall

U. S. Burt and Alfred Dobson Speak for Own Candidacies

The Democratic rally held last Friday night at the Legion hall was attended by over a hundred persons who were attracted by the reputation of Walter Pierce as a platform speaker.

The meeting was presided over by T. Lester Johnson, recently arrived Democratic attorney, who introduced the speakers. First to take the platform was U. S. Burt, who is a candidate for state treasurer. Mr. Burt criticized the administration of Rufus Holman, state treasurer and spoke for the Democratic cause.

Dobson Critiques Van Winkle

Alfred Dobson, candidate for attorney general was the second speaker. He told of many alleged irregular transactions of the attorney general. I. D. Gray, candidate for representative was introduced. Walter Pierce began his talk with several of his stories and gave a brief history of his stewardship in Washington giving praise to his party's spokesmen in congress.

He upheld the AAA and the change in the gold standard. He claimed that the national debt has been raised by but \$50 per capita since the previous administration. In opening his argument on the social security plan he gave the Townsend movement credit for hastening the passage of that law. The Supreme court again came in for criticism for its decision holding some parts of the security law unconstitutional. One of the most important reasons he gave for the re-election of Roosevelt was that he would put liberal men on the court.

Liberty Unappreciated Until European Countries are Visited

Meiringen, Switzerland.—Every American ought to have the experience we have just had, of passing from a land of whispers and spies into a country of ancient and unquestioned freedom. The Fourth of July is a good day for the trip.

In the early days in the west a certain kind of whiskey was said to be capable of making a rabbit spit in a bulldog's face, and similarly it was interesting to notice that a somewhat extended stay in the unfree land of Italy made the wickedly effective defenses with which the Swiss pass look mighty good to the pacifist lady in our party.

A great deal of hokum has been written about Mussolini. Well-made hokum is nothing but the truth seen a little out of focus and with a little false emphasis. The hasty American tourist is, the writer is inclined to believe, a far from shrewd observer. Why does he think the dictator has seized control of the press and has spread a net work of spies to control even private conversation? One of the purposes of the clever manipulator at Rome is to make tourists think and talk in a certain way, and like guinea pigs in a laboratory they do just what they were intended to do.

Is the miracle-man talk that the

Auxiliary And Legion Install New Officers

Officers of the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary posts and units of Sherman county, and of Antelope were installed formally into office at Kent Saturday evening with an impressive ceremony in which R. A. Frye, district commander, and Mrs. Donald Knighten, district president, read the charges.

Newly installed officers of the Auxiliaries were presented with small bouquets of flowers upon their being seated in their proper stations.

In addition to post and unit members from Sherman and Wasco counties several were present from Hood River, having come up with Mr. Frye. The Kent post and unit were hosts for the occasion.

Mr. Frye, in addition to installing the post officers, spoke briefly of Legion matters, giving special attention to the fight for compulsory military training in the schools.

re-election of Roosevelt was that he would put liberal men on the court.

He claimed that the present administration had reduced the interest paid by farmers and others since the early days of the depression and quoted figures to show the savings made.

Interest Held Reduced

In a discussion of the taxes levied here and abroad he was interrupted by John Gavin of The Dalles who told of an estate he was handling in which the taxes in Ireland were 2 and a half times the total estate taxes levied in this country.

Mr. Pierce discussed the relief situation merely by saying that some changes would have to be made in that matter as soon as possible. He praised the development of the Columbia river at Bonneville.

County Budget Set Slightly Higher By Committee

More Extensive Road Program Made Possible By Higher Appropriations; One Deputy Expected To Handle Two Offices

The county budget committee met Monday with the county court and made the preliminary levy for the county for the coming year. O. L. Belshe, C. W. Johnson and Amandus von Borstel were the members chosen.

The budget is printed in another column in this issue along with comparisons of the appropriations that have been made in the past two years so that the tax payer can tell how the money is being spent.

Deputies Reduced

Changes this year are an additional \$100 for the sheriff and the assessor because of the expiration of the salary law passed by the 1935 legislature. The treasurer's salary will drop to \$400 instead of \$900 for the same reason. The appropriation for the county clerk's deputy will be \$750 instead of \$1080 and for the sheriff's deputy will be \$750 instead of \$1500. This is expected to make it necessary that one person do the deputy work for both offices.

The appropriation for the retirement of the non-high school war veterans was raised from \$3000 to \$4500 this year because only two years more are permitted in which to pay them off and this sum was adjudged necessary.

Road Program Increased

The road program will be aided by \$5000 more this year, of which \$3000 will be used for machinery and \$2000 for market roads. The \$11,000 levied for hire of laborers, etc., will remain as it has been and there was no increase in the bridge fund.

The board felt that \$30,000 should be levied for the retirement of bonds as the interest fund was dropped by \$3000. At present 138 of the bonds have been retired and 20 have been ordered purchased leaving 142 still out. This represents \$142,000 still left of the original \$300,000 road bonds.

Several Reductions Made

Reduced were the per capita tax for schools which was set at \$6280 this year which represents 628 pupils of school age in the county, a drop of about ten percent in the past year.

An even thousand dollars was taken off the levy for the care of the poor as the money appropriated last year was not used. As no elections are expected next year the major part of the levy for that purpose was dropped.

The heating plant has been paid for out of this year's income and no levy was made for that purpose for 1937.

As a total the budget for next year will be \$1249,80 higher than it was for 1936. The total valuation has been set at \$7,318,940. It is probable that the consolidated levy for 1937 will be very close to the 1936 levy.

The county fair appropriation was retained at \$1500 and the county agent's appropriation of \$1600 was left in the budget.

The date for final hearing has been set for November 14, a Saturday, and taxpayers are invited to come and be heard for or against the budget or any item of it.

All AAA Contracts Cleared By Knock

E. Barnett Knock, who has been in eastern Oregon for several weeks trying to straighten out some of the held up contracts made under the AAA, has finished his work and return to Washington. His last trip to this county was last week.

All of the contracts have been cleared up and Mr. Knock said, "I am of the opinion that all would receive payment as far as the wheat section was concerned. All will be paid after certain points have been cleared up." The local county agents and the allotment committees will be in charge of caring for the detail work of the postponed payments.

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