

A column of news
About Government,
Politics and People
with especial emphasis
on the Northwest

After holding in reserve for nearly a quarter of a century what is estimated to be largest potential oil field on the North American continent, the navy department has finally decided to investigate the possibilities of the Point Barrow area in the northernmost tip of Alaska. This naval reserve covers an area of 35,000 square miles and in portions of it oil has been seeping from the ground for years. So far not a single hole has been drilled in the field and no effort has ever been made toward a study of its resources. Even when the army found it advisable to undertake development of the Fort Norman field in Canada, known as the Canol project, the navy offered no suggestion for exploration of its own reserve.

Not until after full publicity had been given the agreement with Canada for the Fort Norman development and a flood criticism was voiced in congress did the navy department propose steps to disclose the possibilities of its far north holdings. Now, however, the navy announces that an engineering corps has been sent to Alaska "to determine the ultimate usefulness of navy petroleum reserve. No. 4 at Point Barrow." This reconnaissance work will be undertaken at once and a report will be made on problems of transportation, housing, provisioning and general working conditions. It is expected that drill-in crews will be sent into the field later in the spring and summer and an appropriation for this work is now being sought from congress.

Excuse for the army's agreement with the Canadian government for exploration of the Fort Norman field was that oil was urgently and immediately needed for the defense of Alaska against an anticipated attack by Japan, that the output of United States fields was already being utilized to capacity, and that in any event the transportation of oil and high octane gasoline from the United States to Alaska presented all face of the Japanese menace on most insuperable difficulties in the Pacific. For these reasons the small Fort Norman field was taken over, pipeline is being laid and a small refinery is being operated. Altogether, the project will revert to Canada after the war unless the terms of the existing agreement are modified in the meantime.

Delay in bringing renewal of the price control act to a vote is due to political maneuvering and not because there is congressional opposition to the continuance of OPA, which expires by statutory limitation June 30 unless given new life by vote of house and senate. Administration forces want authorization for the paying of subsidies incorporated in the bill to extend the life of OPA and are endeavoring to delay action on the measure until the last minute to avoid organized opposition to the subsidy plan. Opponents of subsidies are trying to force action on the bill at an early date in order that they may have time to override a presidential veto, which is expected if the bill carries a clause forbidding subsidy payments. OPA is no longer in dispute with congress, but opposition to subsidies is gathering new strength and the fight will be continued to the bitter end.

Desperate criticism by members of the California delegation, there seems to be little opposition in

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Red Cross Nears President Buys Button

130 percent of Big Quota

Gordon Harper, secretary of the Sherman chapter, American Red Cross, announced this week that the total collections in the drive had been \$5280 up to that time and some small sums were still coming in each day.

The county quota was \$4100 and this report indicates that the county had already reached 128.8 percent in the drive with every prospect that it would reach 130 percent before the books are closed.

Registration Must Be Done By April 18

Those who wish to vote in the Oregon primary which will be held May 19, must be registered by April 18 or the election board will refuse their request for a ballot. If an elector has voted at the last election he or she is eligible to vote in May as the poll book will contain his name. Otherwise it is best to confer with the county clerk to be sure he is able to vote.

Only members of the Republican and Democratic parties can vote at primary elections in Oregon, as members of other parties do not have enough members to provide a ticket in this state.

PUC Commissioner Makes Argument

On behalf of the wheat interests of Oregon, Public Utilities Commissioner George H. Flagg has provided the Interstate Commerce Commission with a brief, showing the justice of the claim that Mountain-Pacific wheat shippers should have a much lower rate to the market available in the southeastern states of the Union than now exists. Commissioner Flagg urges that rates from the Pacific Northwest territory should equalize the longer haul, as compared with Missouri River points.

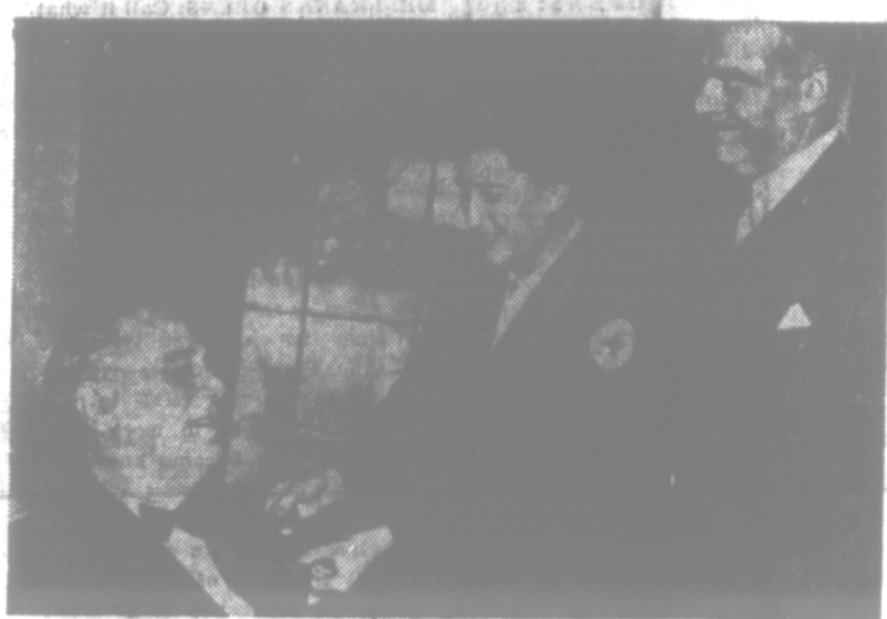
The brief was prepared as a follow up on action taken by a meeting of wheat interests at Pendleton last October. At that time it was demonstrated that under present conditions three fourths of the annual 80,000,000 bushel wheat crop in the Northwest states must be marketed at the end of long rail hauls. With foreign markets closed because of war, and with the Panama canal unusable for like reasons, the Commissioner urges that a fair adjustment of rates will provide the southern and eastern people of America with ample breadstuffs for their needs, and make way for coming harvests in the Northwest.

Howard Latourette Files For Committee

Howard Latourette, Democratic National Committeeman for Oregon announces that he will seek reelection.

Latourette was a member of the house of representatives at the 1935 regular session and served as speaker of the house at the special session in the fall of that year. He was born in Oregon City, and graduated from the University of Oregon Law School in 1905. He has practiced law in Oregon since 1906, being associated with his brother, John R. Latourette.

Latourette was elected national committeeman in 1936, following his service as speaker of the house. He was reelected Democratic National Committeeman in 1940. Latourette believes that the American people will regard the leadership of President Roosevelt essential during the National emergency, and he should have the full support of all the members of the Democratic Committee.



President Roosevelt is shown receiving the first contributor's lapel button or tab in the 1944 Red Cross war fund campaign for \$200,000,000, which opened officially March 1. Shown are, the President, Miss Mary Brown of Cleveland, recently returned from the Pacific where she did Red Cross work, and Leon Fraser, national chairman of the Red Cross.

About Candidates for Judge and Short Term Senator at Primary

For the first time in twelve years voters of Gilliam, Sherman and Wheeler counties are to have a contest for the circuit judgeship. Judge Updegraff is not a candidate and D. N. McKay of Condon and Fred Finsley of Posi, both district attorneys, both war bond chairmen, are after the position.

Mr. McKay was born in Scotland, came to the United States in 1907 and became a lawyer in 1913, moving in 1916 to Condon where he has lived continuously. He has been city councilman, mayor, city attorney and district attorney for two terms. He was director of the Federal Land bank and farm credit administration for over five years.

Mr. McKay has a fine sense of humor, many friends and is a stable and solid citizen as befits one with so rich a Scottish brogue.

Fred Finsley is 38, graduated from the University law school in 1931, became district attorney of Wheeler county in 1932. At the end of his term he moved to The Dalles where he practiced for three years when he was appointed parole officer for the state, a post he retained until he resigned early this year to return to Wheeler county to again become district attorney.

His training has given him considerable knowledge of parole work and convicts. For the four year term as United States senator, the remainder of the McNary term, there are two Republican candidates and one Democratic.

Appointed by Governor Snell and present holder of the office is Guy Cordon, 53 year old Roseburg attorney, who has spent a part of the last twelve years in Washington aiding in tax legislation and obtaining refunds for the Oregon land grant counties from the federal government. He knows Washington.

Mr. Cordon is a partner of Frank Sever in law practice and both are taxation authorities of prominence. Cordon is affable, informed, easy to meet, friendly and willing to work. He has obtained a large part of his education by his own reading. He fishes, hunts, rides for relaxation.

First to file for the office is

Weather Warmer; Wheat Doing Well

Winter has apparently given up its attempt to linger through the spring. At least this week has been blessed with fine days and the nights have not been very frosty, some of them, in fact, have been comparatively warm.

Crops are beginning to grow although no field is covered with wheat so far and the rows cap still be plainly seen. Wheat thrives on cool weather and there is no concern about the wheat as far as the weather is concerned. Gardens are late and it is probable that smaller gardens will be planted this year because of the late season and the shortage of moisture.

Cricket Campaign Will Have Aid Of Federal Planes

Ground Baiting and Plane Baiting Will Require Four Carloads Bait Material

LeRoy Wright, county agent, received word Wednesday that the federal bureau of entomology would provide two planes to be used for baiting crickets in Gilliam and Sherman counties.

The planes will arrive between the 10 and 16th of May. It is expected that a good deal of the ground baiting that has been planned will be done by that time. The planes may remain for 15 days if that much time is necessary to complete the job.

Four car loads of bait will be shipped into Wasco and the crews of ground baiters will work from there. Also the trucks that will haul the bait to the planes will operate from there and from Arlington when Gilliam county lands are being baited.

This makes more definite and certain the procedure in regard to cricket control for this year and gives promise of leading to the eventual eradication of the insects.

In Gilliam county where baiting has been tried for two years the farmers most concerned pay \$1 and the county provides seventy five cents to partially match that sum and make the fund from which expenses are drawn. The arrangement eventually decided upon in Sherman county will probably cost about the same respectively although not determined on so simple a basis.

Farm Labor Head To Have Information

Fred M. Shideler, head of the journalism department here, who has been on leave for several months with the office of war information in Washington, D. C., is returning to Oregon early in April at the request of the extension service to assist with the informational work throughout the state in connection with farm labor and war food production and conservation programs.

Shideler will serve as emergency information assistant, spending considerable time in the counties working with the county agents and local newspapers. He will return to his old position in the department when normal enrollment warrants.

Back on the Job



The 2,500 striking employees of the Los Angeles water and power department, taken over by the army on President Roosevelt's order, as they began returning to work. This soundphoto shows linemen back on the job repairing power circuits.

Wasco Bakery Sold To Hal Shelton

Lewis and Martha Hastings announced the sale of the confectionery part of the Wasco Bakery to Hal Shelton.

Lewis has joined the seabees and expects to leave in April for a position as electrician for the navy engineer group. The sale of the confectionery will make it possible for Martha to give more time to the bread route through Sherman county, which they retain.

Hal Shelton is well known in the county, having been an oil company agent in Wasco before his marriage to Margaret McKee, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. D. McKee.

OSC Will Have All Farm Labor Matters

The OSC extension service will handle both farm labor recruitment and replacement in the counties this year without contracting with the U. S. Employment service for handling the placement work in certain counties as was done last year. William A. Schoenfeld, director of extension announced.

For the second year congress has placed the responsibility upon the extension service for handling both the recruiting and placing, but the latter phase was subcontracted last year, partly because of the late beginning of the program and because of the excellent relationships that had existed between the USES and extension service. After considering all phases of a possible similar arrangement this year, it was agreed by L. C. Stoll, state manpower director, and Dean Schoenfeld that the extension service would undertake the entire program.

In each county the farm labor program will be handled under the direction of the county agent, either through his office or through a farm labor employment office established at the most convenient place using the peak seasons. The responsibility for recruiting and placing processing labor in canneries and similar plants is continued this year as a function of the U. S. Employment service.

4-H Clubbers Spend Money Wisely

What do Four-H club members do with the money which they receive for their livestock? This is a question often asked following auction sales. John Hansen and W. K. Farrell, county club agents of Linn and Benton counties, decided to find out the answer this past year.

With total sales in the two counties amounting to \$5834.05, the club members invested \$2719.50 in war bonds, \$1229.80 in the next year's projects, set aside \$996.49 for college education and savings accounts, and paid \$500 on farm purchases. This left only \$385.26 unaccounted for.

Rubber Situation Still Stringent

Although the nation is now producing synthetic rubber faster than raw rubber was consumed in this country any time prior to 1941, military and civilian demands still exceed the supply, the Office of Rubber Director discloses. Low speed limits must be enforced and all tires recapped if essential driving is to be maintained during the critical months ahead, the director warns. He reminds motorists that the life of a tire at 35 miles per hour is 50 percent longer than at 50 miles per hour and three times longer than at 60 miles per hour.

Filing For Office Nearly Ended; Few Contests

Statewide Campaigns May Get Warm Before May 19, Date of Election

Developments on the local political front have been numerous this week.

George Updegraff circuit judge since November 1942, when he was appointed in place of Carl Hendricks, deceased, has decided that he will not be a candidate for the office. He is going to get into the service if at all possible.

Since he made his decision known D. N. McKay, district attorney of Gilliam county, and a long time resident of that county, has filed for the office and Fred Finsley, acting district attorney of Wheeler county, has also filed. The office is non-partisan.

E. M. Alley is a candidate for county coroner and both parties are getting out a fairly complete list of precinct committeemen, a movement that will please election boards.

Charles Wilson has filed for re-nomination as sheriff. There have been no other filings for county office and the books close April 4, the clerk's office ends the day at five o'clock.

T. Lester Johnson announced Wednesday that he will file for the nomination as district attorney to succeed himself.

On the state front Guy Cordon, Roseburg attorney, who was appointed by Governor Snell, to fill the term of the late Senator McNary, announced that he will be a candidate for the Republican nomination for that office May 19. He is opposed by Charles A. Sprague who completed his filing for the office early this month.

For the six year senatorial term Rufus Holman, incumbent, and Wayne Morse, former dean of the University law school, are contesting for the Republican nomination. E. W. Smith, is the only avowed Democratic candidate.

For state senator it is considered likely that Senator William Steiwer will not run and that Ernest Fatland of Condon will try for the nomination in May and election this fall.

For state representative Henry Peterson and Giles French have filed with the secretary of state on the Republican ticket.

DEFERMENTS TO BE MORE EXACT

Occupational deferments must be more exacting, particularly with registrants under the age of 28, in order to meet calls of the Armed Forces, the Director of Selective Service has notified local boards. The combined strength of our Armed Forces has been fixed at 11,300,000 by July 1, 1944 and as of February 1, some 9,352,000 had entered military service.

More Fruit, More Demand Expected

Probably there will be more fruit this season and more demand for fruit also, with gross returns limited somewhat by wartime regulations and net returns by higher costs. Such is the general outlook for fruits for the season ahead, as summarized in a circular just issued by the agricultural Extension service at OSC and available from county agents.

Apple production last year was 31 percent smaller than in 1942, pears 23 percent down, peaches 37 percent, apricots 53 percent, and cherries 37 percent, all below 1942. The plum and prune crop, however, was 10 percent above 1942, and grapes up 16 percent. More citrus is expected, especially oranges. The total citrus crop may be around 4 percent larger.

Mrs. Willy Knighton drove to The Dalles Thursday to visit her mother who came for a visit here.