

STATE CAPITAL NEWS

- Millions from Land
- Speaker Boivin
- 77 Percent Vote

By A. L. LINDBECK

SALEM.—Property owners will be asked to contribute only \$1,032,323.86 toward the support of state government in Oregon during 1937, it was revealed in the annual levy just released by the state tax commission. This entire amount is accounted for by special levies approved by the voters outside the six percent constitutional limitation for support of higher education and payment of principal and interest on irrigation district interest bonds. The entire state levy within the constitutional limit will be raised through income taxes, inheritance and gift taxes and miscellaneous revenues including fees and licenses paid by corporations and insurance companies.

This is the second time in the history of Oregon that property owners have been relieved of any contribution toward the ordinary expenses of state government. In 1932 the entire property levy, both inside and outside the six percent limit, was waived but experience proved that the tax commission's estimate of income tax revenues was too optimistic, resulting in a material increase in the general fund deficit. For the current year property owners are contributing \$884,640 toward the support of state government within the six percent limit. Not only has this levy been waived in the 1937 levy but the customary one half mill levy for the World War Veterans State Aid commission, has also been eliminated, at the request of the commission, affording additional tax relief to property owners in the amount of approximately \$450,000.

The 1937 levy includes \$458,333 as the second installment of the state's contribution toward the cost of the new capitol. Levies for state institutions are slightly increased over those for 1936 due to higher commodity costs and increased wages. The state relief committee is provided for to the extent of \$1,200,000 for old age assistance and \$33,000 for aid of the blind, direct relief funds depending entirely on profits of the state liquor control board. The levy for old age pensions, incidentally, is based upon the present set-up limiting assistance to needy persons 70 years of age or over.

Total appropriations for 1937 to be financed by taxes and miscellaneous revenues, are estimated in the levy at \$7,206,242.31. Revenues from income taxes alone are estimated at \$4,000,000, an increase of \$500,000 over the estimate for the current year. Receipts from miscellaneous sources are estimated at \$2,050,000 including \$275,000 from corporation fees, \$225,000 from gift taxes, \$250,000 from inheritance taxes, \$700,000 from insurance company fees. Unexpended balances to revert to the general fund at the end of the biennium are estimated at \$350,000.

Repeal of the state law imposing double liability on stockholders in state banks will be urged at the forthcoming legislative session, according to Theodore Cramer, secretary of the Oregon Bankers' association who was in Salem for a conference with Mark Skinner, state superintendent of banks, this week.

Farm sales totalling \$359,605 during the past 12 months are reported by the state land board. During the same period the board has taken over \$193,375 in new farms through mortgage foreclosures. Louis Griffith, clerk of the land board, reports an unusually brisk demand for farm lands.

Members of the state parole board who have recently visited penal institutions in Washington and California returned home with an increased respect for the Oregon penitentiary and its warden. The Oregon officials, however, gathered a lot of new ideas about sentences and paroles which will be used in recommending changes in the laws of this state. Especially were the Oregon men impressed with California's indeterminate sentence law under

which the terms of prisoners are fixed by a sentencing board. The system is said to eliminate the rank discrimination so common under the Oregon system. Those making the trip included W. L. Gosslin, secretary to Governor Martin; Floyd L. Utter, member of the state parole board, and E. M. Duffy, state parole officer.

The House Speakership now appears to be definitely "in the bag" and in the possession of Harry D. Boivin, Klamath Falls democrat. A Democratic caucus called by Representative J. F. Hosch of Deschutes county ostensibly to "Beat Boivin" has been declared off following a conference between Hosch and Representative Ellis Barnes of Multnomah.

"What's the use," opined Barnes on a visit to Salem Monday. "Boivin has the votes. That seems to settle it."

Simultaneously with the announcement calling off the caucus Boivin announced that the number of recruits in his camp had increased to 40 or nine more than the requisite constitutional majority. It is understood that this number includes 19 of the 21 House Republicans and 21 of the 38 Democrats.

Chief concern of Boivin's opponents for the Speakership seems to have been summed up in the statement by Hosch who charged the Klamath county candidate with selling out the Democrats in exchange for Republican votes. Close friends of Boivin declare that this charge is entirely unfounded and that Boivin if elected Speaker, as now seems certain, can be expected to deal fairly with all House members in the appointment of committee assignments.

With Franciscovich of Clatsop assured of election to the senate presidency and the House Speakership fight out of the way the stage is practically all set for prompt organization of both branches of the legislative assembly when it convenes on the morning of January 11. The lawmakers should be ready to meet in joint session to hear Governor Martin's message by noon of the opening day.

Temporary peace has descended over the state trade school for adult blind in Portland. Orville Gamble, superintendent of the institution, has agreed to cooperate with his advisory board and the board of control has agreed to retain Gamble as head of the school. Truce in the long drawn out warfare between Gamble and his advisers followed a "showdown" conference at the Portland institution with the board of control sitting in as referees. Close observers of the situation, however, predict an early recurrence of the warfare and the removal either of Gamble or his board of advisers.

Abolition of the state trade school for adult blind is recommended by the American Foundation for the blind with headquarters in New York. The recommendation is based upon a survey of the situation by a representative of the foundation a few months ago. The foundation urges the creation of a state department for the blind with vocational training of employable blind under the direction of trained workers in their home communities. Such a program, it is claimed, would serve many more blind persons than does the present school and with no increase in the cost to the state.

A total of 420,752 of Oregon's 546,034 registered voters went to the polls at the recent election. This was an increase of 42,820 votes over the number cast at the presidential election in November, 1932, and sets a new high record although the ratio of votes to registration—slightly over 77 percent—was not quite up to the ratio in the 1932 election when nearly 78 percent of the registered voters cast their ballots.

Henry L. Bean, veteran member of the state supreme court, will again become chief justice on January 1. Justice Bean has held this honor on three previous occasions, and has been a member of the state's highest tribunal since 1911. He recently celebrated his eighty-third birthday.

Although H. L. Corbett of Multnomah county ceased to be a state senator the day after election, hav-

ing failed of re-election, he continues in his office as president of the senate until that body meets either in regular or special session and selects a successor. By the same token Howard Latourette, who presided over the House during the last special session continues as Speaker, although no longer a member of the House, until his successor is elected. The status of those two officials, raised in recent speculation as to the acting-governorship, was clearly set out in an opinion by Attorney General prior to the convening of the special session of 1934.

Mr. and Mrs. William Wattenburger of Echo, old-time Heppner residents, enjoyed greeting friends while in the city Monday.

ENTERTAIN AT DINNER.

Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Swift were hosts on Thanksgiving day to a large assemblage of relatives and friends at their Lexington home. A bountiful and typically Thanksgiving feast was the chief interest of the day. Accentuating the air of Thanksgiving were the table decorations of large paper covered wishbones placed in a mass of dried leaves, fruits and nuts in a clever way. Present were Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Swift, Mrs. Lorena Isom, Mr. and Mrs. Esie Walker and daughter Betty, Mr. and Mrs. Clair Doherty and baby son, Cloy Thornburg, Boyd Copenhaver, all of Lexington; Herman Neilson, Mr. and Mrs. Blaine Chapel, Mrs. Walter Farrens and daughters Misses Lucille and Dolly and son Ro-

land, Mr. and Mrs. James Burnside, Mr. and Mrs. Ted Burnside and daughter Beverly Ann, of Hardman, and Mr. and Mrs. Guy Huston and sons Miran and Milo of Eight Mile.

REMODELING FOR OFFICES.

Upstairs of the local branch of First National Bank of Portland building is undergoing extensive remodeling to convert former living apartments into modern offices. N. D. Bailey, local carpenter, is in charge of the work.

MISSIONARY MEET SET.

Womens Foreign Missionary society of the Methodist church will meet next Tuesday afternoon, Dec. 8, at the home of Mrs. Wm. T. Campbell.



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