

STATE CAPITAL NEWS

- Legislature Monday
- Liquor Business
- Money for Schools

By A. L. LINDBECK

SALEM.—The stage is all set for the biennial session of the legislature which is scheduled to get under way next Monday for a run of 40 days or longer. The same arrangement will prevail as for the special session of 1935 with the House meeting in the Salem armory and the Senate in the dining room of the Marion hotel just across the alley. An enclosed passage way will connect the two buildings to permit the members and employees to go back and forth without danger of drowning in one of the frequent downpours that visit the Willamette valley at this time of year, or of freezing.

Organization of the two branches will probably be agreed upon at pre-session conferences to be held here some time Sunday. Already the choicest plums of the two organizations are definitely "in the bag" with Frank Franciscovich of Astoria slated to preside over the Senate and Harry Boivin of Klamath Falls the majority choice as gavel wielder in the House. Fred Drager, veteran chief clerk of the House, is understood to be assured of a return to his old post in spite of the fact that he is a republican and the House is overwhelmingly democratic again. In the Senate John Hunt of Woodburn will again be at the chief clerk's desk with Mrs. Elizabeth Glatt of Woodburn as his assistant. Joe Singer, for many years—until 1935—sergeant at arms in the House, is understood to be slated for a similar post in the Senate at the forthcoming session.

Harry Boivin came up from Klamath Falls Saturday and has been spending the entire week in Salem and Portland putting the finishing touches to the House organization, preliminary to announcement of his committee assignments promptly after the session gets under way. Franciscovich has also been devoting much time the past week to getting his senate organization rounded out although his problem is much simpler than that confronting Boivin inasmuch as most of the senate members are veterans who will, for the most part, fit right back into their old committee jobs while the House organization must be re-built from the ground up.

Governor Martin has his opening message all ready for delivery. Advance information is that it will be brief and deal principally with the big improvement of the state's financial condition with a plea to the legislators to keep the state on an even keel and not upset the nicely balanced budget by an orgy of wild spending.

Predictions are that the session will run well over the 40 days for which the lawmakers are allowed to draw pay and that it will rank well up the list in the point of legislative volume if not in legislative quality. Outstanding among the problems to come before the session will be proposals to amend the Knox liquor control act and the milk control act, demands on the part of the counties and cities for a reallocation of highway revenues, labor legislation looking to compulsory arbitration of disputes between employers and employees when the public interest becomes involved, amendments to the several social security acts including an attempt to increase old age pensions and extend the pension act to include needy persons 65 years of age and over, a proposal to repeal the certificate of necessity clause in the truck and bus act, an attempt to reorganize certain departments of the state government along the same lines as those proposed and defeated in the 1935 session and a program of state buildings including a new library and office building with purchase of additional land on which to locate the new buildings.

From an original investment of \$107,000 the state liquor commission in less than two years has built up a business grossing more than \$7,000,000 annually, returning a profit

in excess of \$2,250,000 a year. The \$107,000, borrowed from the general fund in 1934, was repaid this week together with \$14,710 interest. State Treasurer Holman has seized upon the state's experience in financing this venture as an example of what could be done by way of saving interest payments to the taxpayers if all public fund surpluses—state, city, county and school district—were pooled under a plan similar to that in effect in West Virginia and invested, under proper safeguards, in bonds issued by state departments and the various political subdivisions. Under such a plan, Holman argues, the \$10,000,000 a year now being paid by Oregon taxpayers to holders of public bonds could be kept in the public treasury.

The state board of higher education is asking for a legislative appropriation of \$1,332,048 for support of the university, college and three normal schools. This is in addition to the revenues from the special millage levies estimated to raise \$3,570,000 during the biennium. Even if the entire request is granted, the board points out, state support of higher education—appropriation and millage—will still be \$778,089, or 13 percent, under that for 1929-30. At the same time student enrollment has shown a substantial increase in the past six years with an attendant increase in the cost of operating the five institutions. For the past six years higher education in Oregon has been financed entirely within the special millage revenues. The legislative session of 1931 approved an appropriation of \$1,018,000 for higher education but this was rejected by the voters after Governor Meier had vetoed the emergency clause and laid the appropriation open to attack through the referendum. Then in 1933 the legislature dipped into the millage revenues of the board of higher education to divert \$508,000 to general state purposes. The session of 1935 restored all of the millage revenues with the exception of approximately \$75,000. Budget Director Wharton has recommended an appropriation of \$661,688 for higher education but it is understood that the board will carry its case to the legislature in a fight for the entire \$1,332,048 which it claims to be necessary to keep the five institutions up to their present standards.

Repeal of the present drivers' license law requiring periodic renewal of driving permits would be a serious mistake and a backward step in the opinion of Secretary of State Snell. Representative Hyde of Lane county has announced his intention of seeking a return to the old system of perpetual licenses. Even if the fees are not needed for the highway fund Snell urges the need of a periodic check-up on drivers in order to weed out the incompetent operators and instead of repealing the law would strengthen several of its features.

Frank C. McCulloch has resigned as public utilities commissioner to become a senior partner in the law firm of Day, Hampson and Nelson in Portland. Prior to becoming utilities commissioner early in 1935 McCulloch practiced law in Baker. His successor, N. G. Wallace of Bend, was a member of the state senate at the 1935 session filling out the unexpired term of Jay Upton of Bend.

Five new buildings erected at state institutions during the past biennium represent an investment of approximately \$395,000 with the state paying 55 percent of the cost and the federal government 45 percent through its Public Works administration. A new two-story and basement concrete dormitory at the state hospital for insane provides accommodations for 218 additional patients at that institution. Cost of this building was \$180,000. Two new buildings have been erected at the tuberculosis hospital at Salem. One of these, a three-story brick structure, provides accommodations for members of the nursing staff and releases space in the old hospital building for ten more patients. The other is a one-story concrete hospital of 40-bed capacity. Cost of the two buildings was approximately \$102,000. At the blind school a new two-story-and-basement brick dormitory costing approximately \$82,000 provides sleeping quarters for 50

Morrow Pomona Has Profitable New Year's Meet

Boardman Host to Grangers; Talks, Program, Feature.

Morrow County Pomona grange met Saturday, January 2nd, with Greenfield grange at Boardman in all day session. A brief business session in the morning was followed by a chicken dinner. Following dinner the meeting was turned over to the worthy lecturer for the following program:

Song, "America," by the audience; talk, "New Year's Resolutions," Worthy Lecturer, Vida Heliker; talk "Weed Control," Claud Hanscom, master Umatilla Pomona; play, "Socks and Social Engagements," Mrs. Lindsay and Helen Lindsay; poem, "New Year's Musings," by the author, Mrs. Ella Shell; talk, "Aims and Accomplishments of Eastern Oregon Wheat League," Harvey Miller; accordion solo, C. W. Kruse; reading, "Mein Herman," Naomi Black; talk, "Ready," Mrs. Minnie McFarland, master Morrow Pomona; closing song, "Silent Night," by the audience.

Talks during the day were many and interesting. Mr. Hanscom, master of Umatilla Pomona and member of the State grange agricultural committee, spoke on the grange program for the coming year, covering co-operative buying and selling, weed control and rodent control.

Harvey Miller of the Eastern Oregon Wheat league outlined the history of the league and the influence it now has throughout the state. The league has secured the elimination of the tax on grain bags, premiums on protein wheat, establishment of experiment stations, and a crop control program. They are interested in the problem of taxation and the lowering of freight rates.

Pomona Master Minnie McFarland's talk covered the various things which are used to broadcast sound effects, such as broom corn used for fire and grape seeds for rain machine.

State Deputy Chas. Wicklander spoke of the accomplishments of the grange. That the grange was in favor of rural credits, rural electrification, water transportation, lower freight rates, reorganization of federal departments and a program for peace. Mr. Wicklander spoke on the youth movement banquet sponsored by the state grange for which 1171 plates were sold, and the praises given it by 4-H club and F. F. A. members and speakers who attended. We must keep up an interest in youth work as they will be the ones who will take our places in the perhaps not too distant future. Mr. Wicklander also told of the national grange going on record on soil conservation and crop insurance for

boys as well as hospital facilities and shops for instruction of the blind students. A nurses home at the eastern Oregon tuberculosis hospital at The Dalles, costing approximately \$27,000, completes the list.

Approximately 615 miles of state roads were improved during 1936, according to R. H. Baldock, state highway engineer. This includes 19.9 miles of concrete pavement, 14.6 miles of bituminous pavement, 25.3 miles of bituminous macadam wearing surface, 178.3 miles of rock and gravel surfacing, 132.7 miles of grading, 28.6 miles of non-skid treatment of pavement and 256 miles of rock surface oiling. The year's list of improvements also included 36 bridges and 17 grade separations.

In its campaign to make Oregon highways safer state police arrested 700 motorists for traffic violations during November. Most of the arrests were for reckless driving, speeding, failure to possess a drivers' license and violations of the basic rule. Warning slips were issued to 8601 other motorists who were detected in minor traffic law violations.

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Master Minnie McFarland and Paul Smith, overseer of Greenfield grange, spoke on rural electrification with power from Bonneville dam.

The annual reports of the Pomona officers were read and the committees for 1937 were appointed by the master.

Morrow County Pomona accepted the invitation to go to Pendleton February 4th to put on the fifth degree and install officers for Umatilla county. Greenfield grange will put on the tableaux.

In the Pomona contest, Dorothy Brady placed first with 90 points and Ida Brace second with eighty-eight points.

The committee on resolutions reported favorably for gas tax for mail routes and school bus roads.

It was voted to suspend the council meetings for an indefinite period. Wm. Kick of Irrigon was elected to fill out the unexpired term of gatekeeper.

Following the supper Greenfield grange conferred the fifth degree on eight candidates.

A vote of appreciation was given Greenfield grange for their hospitality. They were also complimented on the new two-story addition to their hall, which is 20 x 50 feet, containing dining room and kitchen on the first floor and a hall for small meetings on the second floor.

Rhea Creek grange will be hosts for the next meeting which will be April 3rd, the first Saturday.

The evening closed with dancing which was enjoyed by all.

Feed Meetings Resume County Session Series

The series of feed resources meetings started in December will be resumed the first week in January and will continue for more than a month, with 10 meetings being scheduled in as many counties. Livestock men in Wallowa and Union counties showed keen interest in the first two held, and a request was made at La Grande that a return session be held next year.

Latest results of feeding tests and other livestock management problems are discussed at these gatherings, which are somewhat like county farm institutes, says H. A. Lindgren, extension animal husbandman at O. S. C.

The remaining schedule is: Clackamas county, Jan. 5 and 6; Marion, 7 and 8; Mid-Columbia counties at Arlington, 19 and 20; Umatilla, 21 and 22; Malheur at Ontario, 26 and

27; Baker, 28 and 29; Klamath, Feb. 2 and 3; Central Oregon at Prineville, 4 and 5; Wasco county, 9 and 10, and a one-day feeders' meeting and tour in Yamhill county, Feb. 11.

Mrs. Elsie M. Beach, Lexington merchant, was transacting business in the city Monday.



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