

STATE CAPITAL NEWS

- The Governorship
- Salaries Restored
- Buildings

By A. L. LINDBECK

Salem.—Already, more than a year in advance of the 1938 primaries, the political prognosticators are beginning to worry about Governor Martin's attitude toward a second term. Many are convinced that the governor is now building his political fences with a view to entering the forthcoming campaign as a candidate to succeed himself. This, too, in spite of his oft-repeated declarations during the 1934 campaign that he would be a one-term governor. Those who believe the governor will be a candidate in 1938 base their belief on what they claim to be his changed attitude toward the masses in whose hands the voting strength of the state lies—in his more diplomatic public utterances and his evident anxiety to placate and mollify his constituents rather than to antagonize as he so frequently did during the first year of his tenure as governor.

On the other hand there are those who still contend that the governor will be content to retire from public life at the expiration of his present term; that he has had his fill of politics and the petty bickerings incident to his office.

Should it develop that the governor does aspire to a second term it is generally conceded that his most difficult hurdle will be the primaries. There in all probabilities, he will be confronted with the opposition of all the elements he has affronted and antagonized during his current term including the leaders of the state grange, organized labor, Townsendsites and last, but by no means least, the disappointed office seekers of his own party. Report, apparently well founded, has it that there has already been formed a strong coalition between Willis Mahoney, Howard Latourette, Ray Gill and Ben Osborne to oppose the governor should he seek re-election.

Whatever the governor's intentions may be toward a second term no one yet knows unless it be himself—which is doubtful—and he is not telling. But at least the subject provides plenty of material for speculation and probably will for several months to come.

Oregon's bonded debt was reduced by \$1,900,000 this week when State Treasurer Holman paid off \$1,300,000 in highway bonds and \$600,000 in World War Veterans' State Aid bonds. These payments leave \$47,208,010 still outstanding almost equally divided between obligations of the highway and bonus commissions. State bond retirements since January 1, 1935, amount to \$7,425,600, according to a statement issued by Holman.

Frank M. Franciscovich, state senator from Clatsop county, now knows how it feels to be the governor of a

great state. Franciscovich, as president of the senate, was governor from Thursday afternoon until Monday while Governor Martin was visiting with his daughter and family at Bremerton, Washington. Franciscovich, however, did not find it necessary to come to Salem during his brief reign as the state's chief, preferring to bide his time until the governor leaves on a more extended vacation which he is expected to do sometime this summer.

Hundreds of state employees and officials were made happy this week when their pay checks were restored to the old pre-depression base. The salary restoration was made possible when the recent legislature failed to re-enact the salary reduction act which had been in effect since 1933.

The experiment of transferring youthful offenders from the state prison to the boys' training school was given a black eye this week when it was found necessary to return two of the boys back to the penitentiary. The experiment was entered into approximately a year ago as a means both of reducing the congestion at the state prison and segregating the young first termers from the older criminals. Out of 66 boys under the age of 20 years, only nine were found who could be entrusted to the care of the boys' school where there is no provision for forcible detention of the inmates.

Details of the new state building program, so far as the acquisition of additional land and construction of the new library building are concerned, will be left entirely to the capitol reconstruction commission. At a conference here last week the board of control assured the commission that, while it reserves the right to veto any proposal that might not meet with its favor, it would not be its purpose to unduly interfere with the commission's plans.

As a starter the capitol commission is asking Uncle Sam for \$450,000 of WPA money to match the state appropriation of \$550,000. If that grant is secured it is expected that the commission will plan the construction of two buildings or one large building to accommodate not only the state library but several other state departments. If the federal grant is refused building plans for this biennium will probably be confined to a new library.

By far the biggest problem confronting the capitol commission, however, is that of acquiring additional land. All of the four blocks included in the proposed enlarged capitol site are now occupied by residences, some of the finest in Salem. Many of the owners are reluctant to sell for sentimental reasons. It is expected that the objections of these may be met by leaving them a life interest in the property. Condemnation proceedings will probably have to be resorted to

in acquiring some property in case the agents for the state and the owners fail to agree on a price.

An unprecedented demand for forest tree seedlings is reported by J.W. Ferguson, state forester. More than 600,000 of the seedlings will go to Oregon farmers this spring to be set out for woodlots, shelterbelts and windbreaks. Ferguson predicts that the demand for young trees will reach the million mark in 1938. Seedlings available for free distribution to farmers include 15 varieties. Trees are selected for shipment to meet climatic requirements of the various sections of the state as well as the particular needs of the applicant in the production of fuel, posts and lumber.

As was predicted when Governor Martin vetoed the emergency clause on the Martin anti-gambling bill the slot machine and pin-ball operators this week started the referendum on the measure as well as the Carney measure, which also outlaws slot machines and authorizes their confiscation as public nuisances. Preliminary petitions were filed with the state department this week and petitions will be in circulation throughout the state for signatures within a short time. If the requisite number of names are secured the two measures will be on the 1938 ballot for action by the voters. In the meantime it is expected that the legality of these gambling devices will be threshed out in the courts in a suit started in Marion county and which has already been decided against the pin ball operators by Circuit Judge Crawford.

Only one member of the former advisory board for the employment institution for adult blind was retained on the newly created board. That was Mrs. Lee Patterson of Portland who has been active in work for the blind for many years. Other members of the new board which will administer the institution are Dr. Ralph Fenton and O. V. Badley of Portland, J. H. Chappell of Marshfield and Mrs. Harry Burke of Astoria.

The authority vested in the highway commission by the recent legislature to construct a building out of their own funds may never be exercised. Governor Martin told newspapermen this week that he would never consent to the use of highway funds for building purposes. Furthermore the governor said that neither he nor the members of the highway commission had ever been

consulted with reference to the building bill although members of the legislature declare that the bill originally came from the highway commission.

IRRIGON

By MRS. W. C. ISOM

Mr. and Mrs. Padgett and Mrs. E. Gentry and son Donald of Baker were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Don Isom Sunday and Monday. Mrs. Gentry and son are mother and brother of Mrs. Isom.

Kenneth Mace left for his home at Teaco, Wash., the last of the week to visit his parents.

Rev. Rice of Spokane held services at the community church on Thursday and Friday nights.

Roy Minnick motored to Portland Saturday to attend a section foreman's meeting.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Markham and daughter Ilene from Richland, Wn., were week-end guests of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Aldrich.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Strader of Portland visited her sister, Mrs. Virginia Chaney and family last week. Mrs. Strader went to Dayton the first of the week to visit her father.

O. E. Barnes of Elgin visited friends here Monday.

Mrs. Becket who spent some time in California this winter for her health, returned home this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Steward and daughter, Earl Steward and Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Seaman of Portland visited their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Steward several days last week.

Russell McCoy has returned home from The Dalles and is again running the school bus. He reports his father, Emmett McCoy as improving slowly.

Miss Snow McCoy who has been in The Dalles hospital for some time recovering from an operation, returned home Saturday much improved in health.

Mrs. Bessie Wisdom is planning to move to Portland soon to be with her son, Bishop.

Chester Wilson went to work on the river dredge Monday as a driller.

The small daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Kendler is improving slowly.

Harry Dinges was transacting business in the city yesterday from Lexington.

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