

STATE  
CAPITAL NEWS

- Second Term?
- No Property Tax
- Snell Speculation

By A. L. LINDBECK

Salem.—Should Governor Martin succumb to the lure of a second term, as now seems likely, thousands of Republicans will change their political registration in order to participate in the Democratic primary election in 1938.

Since his return from a swing around the state with the state highway commission two weeks ago the governor has been deluged with letters from his admirers commending him upon his outspoken stand against sit-down strikes and labor "racketeering" in general. Many of these letters are from admirers who admit to a life long attachment to the Republican party but who express an eagerness to leave G. O. P. in favor of the Democratic donkey in order to help nominate Martin.

That, however, is a game at which more than one can play and it is not to be expected that the anti-Martinites will be caught napping when it comes to rallying support to their standards either. In fact, it is said that organized labor is already busy making Democratic converts out of Republicans in their ranks who will welcome an opportunity to cast a vote against the present occupant of the governor's office.

Of course, as yet the governor's attitude toward a second term is mere speculation. While Martin is openly flirting with the idea he is not committing himself one way or the other. The next primaries are still more than a year away and many things may happen in the interim—things that may have a vital bearing on the governor's final decision.

Just now the forthcoming gathering of young Democrats at North Bend Friday and Saturday holds the center of the political stage. At least it will provide another test of the strength of W. L. Gosslin, the governor's secretary and chief patronage dispenser for the administration, among the younger element of the governor's party. Gosslin is espousing the cause of Al Greenwood of Portland as candidate for president of the state organization while the anti-Gosslinites are understood to be backing Walter Tooze, Jr., also of Portland to head the association. At least some interesting developments are anticipated to show which way the straws are blowing in the party which now appears to be dominating Oregon politics.

The quarterly distribution of beer and wine taxes by Secretary of State Snell this week totalled \$22,240. Nearly one-third of the total went to the city of Portland. The apportionment was made to the cities and counties on the basis of population.

Dr. William G. Everson of Portland who tendered his resignation as chairman of the state board of conciliation to Governor Martin last week has reconsidered and will retain the post. Everson's reconsideration followed a request from the governor that he continue to serve on the board in spite of the unfriendly attitude of organized labor whose leaders had demanded that he quit.

A flat tax of \$10 a year on real property up to a valuation of \$2500 is proposed by a group of Portland residents headed by Charles B. Gibson who expect to sponsor a constitutional amendment covering this subject. The group plans to initiate a measure carrying out their purpose.

There will be no tax levy against property for state purposes in Oregon next year. That much can be predicted at this early date with reasonable safety. Income taxes are pouring in at an unprecedented rate. Present indications are for collections of more than \$5,000,000 from this source this year. This will provide a surplus of more than \$1,000,000 in anticipated revenues as set out by the tax commissioners in their 1937 levy. This surplus, ac-

## The Gloom Chaser

by A. B. Chapin



According to the provisions of the income tax act, must be applied toward a reduction of the property tax levy next year. Even without this surplus, however, it is anticipated that 1938 income taxes will be sufficient in themselves to entirely offset the property tax levy of \$5,570,000 for that year including a one-half mill levy for the Bonus commission which was waived in the 1937 levy.

Members of the tax commission are in doubt as to the application of income taxes to the elementary school levy. While this tax is included in the state levy it is not a state tax in the true sense inasmuch as the tax is retained in the counties in which it is collected and does not flow into the state's treasury. It is probable that the next legislature will be asked to authorize a refund of income tax monies to the several counties in amounts equal to the fund raised by the state levy for school purposes in case income tax collections exceed the property tax levy for other state purposes.

Plans for participation by Oregon troops in army maneuvers at Camp Lewis this year were discussed at a conference here this week attended by Major General George A. White and a group of army officers from Fort Lewis headed by Colonel Francis W. Clark. Approximately 14,000 national guard troops from Oregon, Washington, California, Idaho, Montana, and Utah will take part in the 15 days of intensive training beginning August 17.

On June 30 Dr. R. E. Lee Steiner will sever his connection with the state hospital at Salem after 49 years of service with that institution, 30 years of which he has served as its superintendent. Steiner submitted his resignation to the board of control last week and the board asked him to remain on duty until the last of June when he will be succeeded by Dr. John C. Evans who for years has served as assistant superintendent of the institution.

The state supreme court increased Oregon's income tax collections by approximately \$250,000 this week when it held that contractors on the Bonneville dam were subject to the tax. The opinion reversed one handed down by the court in the same case last November.

The board of control has authorized the purchase of two more farms for use by state institutions. One is

a tract of 130 acres adjoining the "cottage farm" of the state hospital south of Salem. Price of this farm is \$8,000. The other is a 320 acre tract adjoining the state prison annex, also south of Salem, priced at \$12,000 which is being purchased by the penitentiary. Appropriations covering the cost of these farms were made by the recent legislative session.

Earl Snell, secretary of state, is not running for office—not just now at least. Snell made the statement this week after political prognosticators had suggested that he would either seek the republican nomination for governor or a second term as secretary of state. Political observers, however, observed that he left the gate open to a more timely entry into the political race in his "not now" qualification to his statement.

The pin ball operators are leaving no stone unturned in their determination to perpetuate their existence in Oregon. Articles of incorporation were filed here this week for the Oregon Merchants Legislative League the purpose of which is to "carry on a campaign of education regarding the necessity and propriety of legalizing and licensing trade stimulators."

Guy V. Litner, state director of re-employment, reported to Governor Martin that 1465 men and women were placed in jobs during March. Nine hundred of these jobs are permanent positions, Litner said.

OSC Speakers Sweep  
Big Oratory Contests

Corvallis—When Ray Siegenthaler of Portland won the Pacific coast intercollegiate oratory championship for Oregon State college recently he made it a "clean sweep" for OSC in the four major college oratory contests this year. Previously John McCormick, Portland, took first in the state Peace Oratorical contest; Margaret Schoeler, Corvallis, won the women's state Old Line contest, and Glen Faxon, Albany, captured top honors in the mens' division of that contest.

Siegenthaler, an honor student and leader in many campus activities, competed against speakers from Idaho, Washington, Oregon and California.

Sylvannus Wright was in town Tuesday from Lexington.

County Agent Tells  
Wire Worm ControlBy JOSEPH BELANGER,  
County Agricultural Agent.

Wireworms have been a source of considerable trouble to farmers all over the state in potatoes, vegetable crops and, in some cases, with field crops. While there is no easy and cheap way to completely eradicate this pest, there are certain control measures which are effective in reducing the damage. There is no known cultivated crop which is entirely immune from the attacks of this pest.

The adult of the wireworm is a hard-shelled, brownish to black beetle, about one-half inch long, commonly known as a click beetle. These beetles are the only stage of the wireworm to leave the soil, being active above the surface during the months of April, May and June, after which they enter the soil again to deposit their eggs. The life of a wireworm is from 2 to 5 years, depending on food and soil conditions, with an average of 3 years for most of them in the Pacific northwest.

Chemical treatment for wireworms is expensive. Carbon disulphide treatment will cost about \$75.00 an acre. Treatment with crude naphthalene costs around \$24.00 an acre. This treatment might be economical for the small acreages used for the average garden. According to M. C. Lane, Division of Truck Crop and Garden Insect Investigations, U. S. Department of Agriculture, when crude naphthalene is used, it is recommended that the ground be first plowed as deeply as possible (10 to 12 inches) and the furrow slice be narrowed to about 9 inches. The flaked naphthalene, with the lumps reduced to the flake form, should be sprinkled by hand (or machine) along the sides of the furrow from top to bottom before being covered by the next furrow slice. Immediately after the plowing is finished, the entire field should be disked as deeply as possible in order to mix thoroughly the crude naphthalene crystals with the soil. This disking is very important, because the better the mixture of naphthalene with the soil the better will be the kill of wireworms. Smoothing the top soil with a float after disking will help to keep the naphthalene gas in the soil. It appears necessary to use 800 pounds of crude naphthalene per acre to obtain a maximum kill of wireworms. To insure an even distribution over the entire field the

crude naphthalene should be weighed out at the rate of 1 pound to 73 linear feet of 9-inch furrow slice. After the expiration of a week the gas from the naphthalene will have accomplished its greatest kill of wire worms, and seed or sets can be planted with little risk of injury. There are no harmful residues left in the soil. The cost of naphthalene is from 3 to 5 cents per pound, depending on the distance from the source and the quantity to be purchased. At these rates it would cost \$24.00 for the material to treat an acre or about \$5.00 for enough to treat a small garden plot of about an eighth of an acre.

If crude naphthalene is used, it is important that the average temperature of the top soil be as high as possible (at least 70 degrees F.) during the period of treatment, and that the soil be in good tillable condition. This practically limits the use of either of these chemicals to May, June, July and August. In many cases, this means that the treatment used would be in preparation for the next year's crops.

Drying the soil is another way to kill large numbers of wireworms. Wireworms cannot survive in soils that become dust-dry, or are too dry to support shallow-rooted plants. In order to accomplish this drying of soil, deep-rooted crops such as alfalfa and fall grains should be grown without any irrigation during the entire season. Apparently, wireworms cannot escape from the upper dry soil layers by downward migration. After such a crop is grown, the ground should not be disturbed before the first of September, after which time the land can be fall-plowed and prepared for growing truck crops the following season.

Flooding during the hot summer months is also effective where this treatment can be followed. Small plots that are heavily infested can be flooded for a short period in summer and the wireworms practically eliminated. If the flooding treatment is used, it should be borne in mind that little damage will be done to the wireworms until the temperature of the water is about 70 degrees F. If it is possible, during the warm summer months, to leave the piece of ground flooded for a week or ten days, so that the temperature of the water can get as high as possible, a good kill of wireworms can be expected. Flooding kills all stages of wireworms, including the pupae and adult beetles. Of course, the principle drawback to this method of control is that it can be used only on fairly level fields when plenty of water is available for at least a week, and in fields not in crop during the period of flooding.

Crop rotations to control wireworms have been studied for some time. In general, it may be said that alfalfa does not seem to cause an increase in wireworm numbers in most situations, and that it has a tendency to reduce heavily infested fields after five or six years.

To sum up Mr. Lane's recommendations, the crude naphthalene treatment, summer flooding, drying out of the soil by growing grain or alfalfa, and summer plowing are the best measures recommended for reducing wireworm numbers under the various conditions under which they are troublesome.

Oregon Leads States in  
Banker-Farmer Work

Oregon has been on the honor roll of the Agricultural Commission of the American Bankers' association more times than any other state in the Union, according to the current bulletin of the commission. States are rated according to the extent to which the bankers of the state cooperate with farmers in placing agriculture on a more businesslike, modern and efficient basis. Oregon has been on the honor roll for eight years, and Georgia next with seven.

The current bulletin reports that bankers accomplish the most effective results in this field when they cooperate with the extension service and act as a connecting link between the farmers and the college. Such close cooperation has characterized the banker-farmer program in Oregon, the leaders report.

Joe Engelman was in town Tuesday from Ione.