

**STATE CAPITAL NEWS**

- Reappointments
  - Traffic Deaths
  - More Gas Sales
- By A. L. LINDBECK

**SALEM.**—Although delayed for more than three weeks after the expiration of their terms the reappointment of Earl L. Fisher and Chas. V. Galloway as members of the state tax commission finally came through as expected.

The reappointment of the two commissioners "with no strings attached" as explained by Governor Martin, is generally interpreted here as an official endorsement of their administration of the tax laws of the state and approval of the "hard boiled" and "arbitrary" methods employed by the commission in the assessment of penalties and interest against delinquent tax payers to which objection had been taken by certain individuals opposing their reappointment.

Contrary to the contention of some authorities that failure to reappoint the two commissioners promptly after the expiration of their old terms left a vacancy on the commission other authorities point out that the two commissioners continued to serve without any interruption in their status. In support of this view it is pointed out that the state supreme court has on at least two occasions held that an appointive official continues to serve until his successor has been appointed and qualified for the post.

Traffic hazards will be reduced to a minimum on the highways of the future according to R. H. Baldock, state highway engineer, who returned from a conference with other highway engineers at Chicago. The highways of the future, Baldock declared, will be wider and straighter than those being built today. Engineers attending the Chicago conference urged stricter enforcement of traffic laws against speeding and reckless driving, Baldock said.

Six hundred employees of Oregon creameries and cheese factories have been certified as milk, cream and butter graders following examinations conducted by the state department of agriculture. Certification of the graders was in compliance with an act of the 1937 legislature providing for the grading of milk and cream sold to creameries, cheese factories and ice cream plants.

The state board of control refuses to be dragged into a controversy being waged by Salem property owners over the location of a garage in a residential block adjacent to the state office building. At a meeting last week the board adopted a resolution in which it neither recommended or objected to the garage although the Capitol Reconstruction commission at a meeting a week before had gone on record as emphatically opposed to the garage which, it was felt, might detract from the attractiveness of the capitol setting.

Thirty-five persons lost their lives in traffic accidents on Oregon highways during May, according to Secretary of State Snell. This traffic fatality record was 10 more than that of May, 1936, and almost three times the record for May, 1935. Total traffic deaths for the year to date number 116 against 103 for the same period last year. Snell described the situation as "most serious and alarming" and declares that "the people of Oregon must be stirred to action" unless this human slaughter is to continue.

European countries are confronted with the same problems of stream pollution and sewage disposal as is the United States according to Chas. H. Carey, former corporation commissioner, who is now travelling in the British Isles and the continent of Europe. Carey has written to State Treasurer Holman giving a detailed account of some of the stream pollution problems he has encountered in his travels and methods being employed to correct the situation.

Legislation placing mature tim-

ber on a more equitable tax basis to perpetuate Oregon's timber supply is urged by the state forester, in his annual report, filed with Governor Martin this week. The report also recommends that the state acquire a large area of timbered land as an aid to the stabilization of forest land ownership.

The state forester also declares that the lumber industry owes a social responsibility to do whatever is economically possible to insure permanent communities through perpetuation of the timber supply but points out that many operators are financially unable to carry on such a program under existing conditions.

The state board of control is willing to sponsor an application for PWA funds for a new tuberculosis hospital to be built in Multnomah county but insists that the preliminary work of assembling the necessary data to support the application be assembled by sponsors of the new institution. Governor Martin in reply to demands from officials of the Oregon Tuberculosis association that action be taken immediately looking toward construction of the new hospital calls attention to the fact that both he and the ways and means committee of the legislature in approving the \$110,000 state appropriation did so with the distinct understanding that those who were promoting the hospital would secure the additional funds to supplement the states' contribution.

May collections of gasoline taxes shattered all previous records with \$1,041,408 paid into the state highway fund by motorists during the month according to Secretary of State Snell. A prediction that the May record would be followed by other new high records this summer as the tourist season reaches its peak, was made by Snell.

Reports from Washington this past week were more favorable for a federal grant for the new state library and office building without any hampering strings attached. Ralph Moody, assistant attorney general, who is in the national capitol in the interest of the building grant, wrote Governor Martin that a rider attached to the WPA appropriation provides for the grant to Oregon as an extension of the original capitol grant. Later press reports from Washington indicate that the relief labor restrictions may be removed entirely from the WPA appropriation. In either event Oregon will receive \$450,000 in federal money to add to the state appropriation of \$550,000 for the proposed new building.

"Tent City" at the state fair ground is in danger of razing. Plans for landscaping the grounds call for removal of the cottages some of which have been occupied by regular visitors to the fair over a period of many years. A committee from the Campers association called on the State Board of Agriculture in session here this week to protest the proposed razing of their cottages and the protest was taken under advisement.

What is hoped to be the first of a series of many similar refund checks was received this week by Secretary of State Snell from a large milling company. The check was for \$850 and represents processing taxes collected by the company under the Agricultural Adjustment act on feedstuffs sold to state institutions. Claims have been filed by the state with a number of firms aggregating \$70,000.

**1937 May Be Pine "Birthday"**  
Foresters are saying that 1937 is likely to be one of the rare "birthdays" of the Ponderosa or yellow pine. Seed years for these pines are normally from three to seven years apart, and a good seed year must be followed by a moist spring to get much reproduction. Officials of the soil conservation service, who are interested in encouraging protective tree growth on waste land, say their observations show that 1895 and 1912 were exceptionally good beginning years for these trees, judging from age studies.

I have four mares for sale or trade for cattle; price is right; weight from 1150 to 1400, broke single and double. W. H. French, Hardman. 14tf

**State Specialty Crops Not in Estimates**

Government estimates of Oregon's cash farm income for the past 10 years, which averaged slightly less than \$100,000,000, have included the principal national farm commodities but not numerous specialty products grown in Oregon, the current report on the agricultural situation by the OSC agricultural extension service points out. Among these specialty products are numerous kinds of grass and forage crop seeds, vegetable and flower seeds, flax fiber, filberts, peppermint oil, turkeys, and miscellaneous poultry, fur bearing animals, and others.

"This lack of data concerning the production and marketing of Oregon's specialty products has been a serious handicap and has caused the state to be shown as of much less importance agriculturally than the facts would warrant, as the trend of Oregon agriculture has been toward specialty products to a far greater degree than the available statistics indicate," says L. R. Breithaupt, author of the report.

The Oregon state legislature of 1937 took cognizance of the need for more agricultural data in a law providing for the cooperation of the agricultural extension service with the bureau of agricultural economics, and a survey is now in progress, Breithaupt says. The problem is so complicated, however, that the first annual figures are not expected to be available for some time.

The development of crop and livestock estimates as an official activity of the government dates from the year 1839 when congress first appropriated money for the purpose. Full-time federal agricultural statisticians were assigned to the respective states in 1914. By 1933, approximately three-fourths of the states had begun to cooperate in order that the data might be more complete.

"It is particularly desirable that the official crop reports should show Oregon's production of specialty products," says the college circular, which points out their value in advertising and marketing farm products. The data have been found valuable or essential for the benefit of the agricultural industry in many other ways, including planning agricultural production to meet market demands, in setting up marketing organizations and programs, in connection with tariff legislation and reciprocal trade agreements, in transportation matters involving facilities and rates, and for such vast projects as the agricultural adjustment and soil conservation programs.

**Stock Industry Urged Improve Organization**

The livestock industry of the west was urged to effect a stronger organization in order to be in position to defend its just rights against numerous agencies interested in phases of land planning by speakers at the annual summer meeting of the western section of the American Society of Animal Production at Oregon State college recently.

While a wide variety of technical subjects relative to animal husbandry were discussed, major emphasis was given to range livestock problems in the west by the livestock and college representatives from seven western states.

Livestock specialists are only beginning to recognize the importance of grazing, E. L. Potter, head of the division of agricultural economics at Oregon State college, declared. He added that much work remains to be done on grazing management, nutrition and carrying capacity, voicing the general opinion of the agricultural college representatives at the meeting that throughout the west there is an evident demand for increased knowledge of range livestock nutritional work.

Elmer H. Hughes of the University of California was elected president of the society. Julius Nordby of the University of Idaho was named vice president and Jerry Sotola of Washington State college secretary. The University of Idaho and Washington State college will be joint hosts to the society next year.

**"AUTOCIDES" LOOM**  
Homicides totaled 5 in Portland last year, suicides 22, "autocides" 72.

**OSC LISTS MANY GIFTS.**

Corvallis.—Gifts of money and materials, mostly for special uses, totalling \$68,268, were received by Oregon State college during the past year, according to a listing in the annual commencement program. This sum does not include \$88,268 in labor and materials on WPA projects, \$40,455 in student labor furnished thru the National Youth administration, and \$36,000 in a PWA grant used in constructing the new health service building.

A large proportion of the private money grants was for special research carried on in the schools of agriculture, engineering, science and forestry. Other gifts received were impossible to appraise in money value, such as a long list of articles given to the Horner museum.

Drivers listing their occupation as "laborers" figure in twice as many automobile accidents as any other class, Oregon State Motor association records find.

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