

STATE CAPITAL NEWS

- Lusk Appointment
- School Helps
- "New Policy"

By A. L. LINDBECK

SALEM—Appointment of Hal S. Lusk of Portland to the Oregon supreme court is believed by many to have cleared the way for appointment of Claude McCollock of Klamath Falls to the federal bench, a post which has now been vacant for many months. Basis for this belief lies in the fact that Lusk was regarded as McCollock's principal opponent in the race for the federal job. Other political prognosticators, however, do not hold to this view declaring that other factors have operated to eliminate McCollock, especially the fact that he is tarred with the taint of a private utility as a former attorney for the California-Oregon Power company. Which of these two schools of thought is correct only time will tell.

Lusk, who will take up his new duties on August 1 as successor to the late J. U. Campbell, will be the first Democrat to grace the supreme bench in this state since the retirement of O. P. Coshow in January, 1931. In fact Democratic supreme court justices have been few and far between in Oregon history, most of those who have served in that capacity reaching their position through appointment rather than through election. Coshow, the last Democrat on the supreme bench, was first appointed by Governor Pierce in January, 1924, to succeed Justice Lawrence T. Harris, resigned. In the general election that year he was returned to a full six-year term on the bench. That same year Martin Pipes, another Democrat, was appointed to the bench to succeed Justice John McCourt, deceased, but served only a few months. The only Democrat to be elected to the supreme court in this state in the past 50 years, with the exception of Justice Coshow who had the advantage of a previous appointment, was Alfred S. Bennett which term began on January 7, 1919, but who tired of the strenuous grind after less than two years experience and resigned on October 5, 1920.

The state forestry department is hot on the trail of the careless smoker, described by J. W. Ferguson, state forester, as the worst menace the department has to contend with. Of 128 fires in Oregon forests up to the middle of July, Ferguson points out, 33 were set by careless smokers, 24 were traced to logging operations, 18 to brush burning activities and 16 to lightning. Campers, incendiaries and miscellaneous causes account for the remaining fires.

Consolidation of smaller schools, equalization of taxation and more adequate school supervision and relief of property from a part of its present heavy tax burden were urged by county school superintendents meeting at Salem in their annual conference this week. The educators also went on record as favoring the establishment under state regulation of a bureau or teachers' agency for the dispensation of accurate information regarding the qualifications of applicants for teaching positions.

June was the second "million dollar gasoline tax month" in Oregon this year. Taxes paid by users of this motor vehicle fuel during June swelled the state coffers by \$1,028,815.76 which was only \$12,000 under the all-time high record set by May collections, according to Secretary of State Earl Snell, who predicts that July collections will top those for May.

Two important steps in the new state building program were taken by the Capitol Reconstruction commission this week. One of these was the elimination of the New York firm of Trowbridge & Livingston, capitol architects, as the designers of the new library and office building and agreement on the firm of Whitehouse & Church of Portland for this job. The other was the signing of an option on the T. B. Kay

property at a price of \$44,000. This property covers approximately one-third of the block bordering on Court street between Summer and Winter streets. Of particular interest in this connection is the price paid for the Kay property which will serve as a yardstick in measuring the value of other property in the blocks which the state hopes to annex in its program of building expansion.

Federal subsidies for Oregon flax growers are now practically assured in the opinion of L. L. Laws, manager of the state prison flax plant. The government is expected to pay flax growers \$7.50 a ton this year, Laws said. Earlier reports from Washington, D. C., were that the subsidy had been cancelled. Payments to Oregon flax growers this year under the subsidy plan are expected to approximate \$37,500.

Thirty-nine proposals are on file with the state board of control in connection with the Portland office building program. Twenty-four of these proposals involve the purchase of sites for the proposed building. Many of these sites are already occupied by buildings which would have to be torn down or moved if acquired by the state. The other 15 proposals cover buildings suitable for office purposes either as they stand or following remodeling.

The advancing cost of living has caught up with the imbibers of hard liquor. The Liquor Control commission has announced a complete revision of its price list effective August 1 with most of the items slightly higher than present prices. At the same time, the commission announced, 24 new brands of liquor are being added to the store shelves while 42 brands are being dropped.

Draft of a stream purification measure to be initiated by the recently organized Oregon Stream Purification league is nearing completion according to Senator Byron Carney of Clackamas county who was in Salem this week.

"When I said that the re-appointment of Chas. V. Galoway and Earl Fisher as tax commissioners was made without and strings attached I meant just that."

This was Governor Martin's reply to critics who have been "viewing with alarm" a purported "new policy" adopted by the board of control in its relations with the tax commission. The "new policy" which has drawn the fire of critics in certain quarters is supposed to involve scrutiny of major compromises entered into between the tax commission and tax payers.

"The board of control has no authority of law to meddle with the administrative duties of the tax commission and I for one have no desire to do so," the governor declared.

Tiring of the role of rubber stamp to department heads who expand their office space in rented quarters and then ask for official approval of their action the board of control this week turned thumbs down on this practice. Hereafter approval must be secured first or some officious underling is going to find himself in an embarrassing position, the board warned.

Approximately 200 applications for grubstake loans under the new mining act have already been filed with the state board of geology and mineral industries. The statute creating the board authorizes grubstakes of \$5 to be advanced to legitimate prospectors, the loan to be repaid as a "strike" is made.

HARDMAN NEWS

Mrs. Walter Wright Honored With Shower

By LUCILLE FARRENS
Mrs. Lewis Knighten returned to her home Saturday from Portland where she has been receiving medical attention.

Mrs. Walter Wright was honored with a shower at the home of Mrs. Ethel McDaniel Saturday. Refreshments of ice cream and angel food cake were served by the Rebekah lodge. Attending besides the honoree were Mrs. George Hayden, Mrs. S. T. Robison, Mrs. Dick Steers, Mrs. Sam McDaniel, Mrs. Carey Hastings, Mrs. Ethel McDaniel, Mrs. F. E. McDaniel, Mrs. Clyde Wright, Mrs.

Charley McDaniel, Mrs. O. H. Leathers, Mrs. Raymond Wright, Mrs. Orain Wright, Mrs. Barton Clark, Mrs. A. V. Wright and Jewel, Mrs. Peck, Mrs. J. B. Adams, Mrs. Bernard Bleakman, Mrs. Raymond McDonald, Mrs. Ray Robison, Mrs. Max Buschke, Mrs. Neal Knighten, Mrs. Lewis Knighten, Mrs. Irl Clary, Mrs. G. A. Farrens, Mrs. Harold Stevens, Mrs. Fred Kruger, Mrs. Jim ams, Mrs. Maud Robison, Misses Helen Van Schojack, Rose Cunningham, Charlotte Adams, Delsie Bleakman, Erma Scott, Creth Craber, Murl Farrens, Freda Ball and Alta Stevens. Those sending gifts but unable to attend were Mrs. Ed Craber, Mrs. Lewis Batty, Misses Faye Ward, Vern McDaniel and Pat Bleakman.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Lieuallen, agents for an aluminum company, held a demonstration dinner at the Lewis Batty home Sunday. Those attending were Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Batty, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond McDonald, Miss Murl Farrens, Miss Delsie Bleakman, Leslie Brannon and Nelson Knighten.

Owen Leathers, Charley McDaniel and Jim Stevens were called to go to the emergency lookouts Saturday. Mr. Leathers was sent to Red Hill, Mr. McDaniel to Ant Hill and Mr. Stevens to Pottamus.

Several changes have been made on the Forest service in the past week. Henry Fries was transferred from Opal ranger station to Mt. Emily, Marion Saling from Bull Prairie to Opal, Victor Johnson from Tamarack lookout to Bull Prairie, and Max Buschke from Snow Board to Tamarack.

Fan Miller and Lewis Batty motored to The Dalles to visit Jim Miller who is quite ill in the hospital there.

Miss Annie McIntyre was able to return to her home Sunday from the Heppner hospital where she recently underwent an operation for appendicitis.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl McDaniel of Lonerock were week-end visitors in Hardman. Miss Rose Merritt accompanied them home for a visit.

Roland Gallagher of Bend is visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Gallagher.

Mr. and Mrs. Carey Hastings and Mr. and Mrs. Raymond McDonald motored to Pendleton Monday.

Mrs. Lewis LeTrace and Lester Wick of Lonerock were visiting their sister, Mrs. Al Lovgren, Tuesday.

Mrs. Ben Stanton and family are visiting relatives in Hardman this week.

Word was received that Harold Glasscock of La Grande was seriously injured in a car wreck when his car collided with that of Dr. R.

M. Rice of Heppner. Mr. Glasscock is a nephew of Mrs. Lewis Knighten and is well known here. His many friends wish him a speedy recovery. Johnny Eubanks of Ione is hauling Jim Hams' sheep to Heppner. Mr. and Mrs. Hams motored in to sell them.

Misses Helen and Rose Cunningham and Les Rounding of Heppner were visiting Mr. and Mrs. Jim Brannon Sunday.

Harold Craber of The Dalles is visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Craber.

Mrs. Theodore Wacker of Salem arrived Tuesday morning for a visit with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ad Inskeep.

CCC OFF RELIEF STATUS

CCC enrollment is now off relief status, and until July 31 any boy between the ages of 17 and 24 years is eligible to enlist, announces Mrs. Clara Beamer, manager of the local relief office.

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