

STATE CAPITAL NEWS

- Farley Appearance
● Martin's Decision
● Utility Valuations

By A. L. LINDBECK

SALEM—Democrats of Oregon had their day again Saturday. Scores of the faithful spent the day basking in the reflected glory of James A. Farley, postmaster general and chairman of the Democratic national committee.

Included in the royal entourage were scores of postmasters and post-mistresses all anxious to display their loyalty to the "king-maker," numerous party workers, holders of state and federal offices and patriotic Democrats who are willing and anxious to sacrifice themselves on the altar of public service.

There were also Willis Mahoney of Klamath Falls and Carl C. Donough and E. J. Griffith of Portland, all three recognized as aspirants for the seat in the United States senate now held by Fred Steiwer, republican.

Of congressmen and would-be congressmen there were many in evidence. These included Nan Wood Honeyman, democratic incumbent from the third district and Ellis Barnes of Portland who would like to succeed Mrs. Honeyman, and Andy Burke, sheriff of Marion county, who is being prominently mentioned as the democratic opponent of Congressman James W. Mott in the first district, and Harry Boivin of Klamath Falls who served as Speaker of the House in the last legislative session but who would not be unwilling to succeed Walter Pierce as Oregon's Congressman from the big second district; and there was also Vernon D. Bull of La Grande whose political aspirations are said to center in the office of labor commissioner.

If and when the state police step in to preserve law and order it will be only after local authorities have shown their inability to cope with the situation, Governor Martin declared this week in commenting on a press dispatch out of Portland to the effect that Mayor Carson had asked Chief of Police Pray to send in a few state troopers to help the Portland police in the strike situation.

State Treasurer Holman's proposal to "block" state school lands into sizeable areas has served at least one good purpose. It has aroused an interest among school people in the so-called irreducible school fund.

the friends of the schools were asleep on the job.

Governor Martin will give his reply to the demand for a special session of the legislature to consider more adequate pensions for the needy aged within the next few days.

Unless Townsend leaders who have been working on the problem the past week succeed in evolving a program that will finance more generous pensions without adding to the present tax burden, it is a pretty safe bet that his answer will be "no."

The demand for the special session was presented to the governor in the form of petitions containing more than 75,000 signatures. Presentation of the petitions was made by a large delegation of Townsend leaders who prevailed upon the governor to withhold any immediate decision and give them an opportunity to work out a program that might meet with his approval.

In an address before 500 Townsendites in Salem that night Governor Martin expressed himself as in entire sympathy with the old age pension movement. Declaring that present pensions were entirely inadequate to meet the needs of the aged the governor promised to go along with the sponsors of the more adequate pension program "to the limit that the traffic will bear."

Townsend leaders who are sponsoring the move for a special session are confident that a "transaction tax" would meet with the approval of the voters although to the layman it is difficult to distinguish between this tax and the sales tax which has been defeated by decisive majorities on three occasions in Oregon.

Approximately \$1,100,000 a year is being saved by Oregon utility patrons as the result of voluntary reductions in rates filed by the utilities during the past two years after a series of "friendly conferences" with the utilities department, according to N. G. Wallace, public utilities commissioner.

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Valuations of railroads operating in Oregon have been increased by nearly \$4,000,000 over 1936 figures while valuations of Oregon power utilities have been "upped" by \$4,289,037.15 the state tax commission announced this week.

Increases among the power utilities ranged as high as 66 percent in the case of the Port Orford Light and Power company. Hearings held by the tax commission, it was shown, revealed that the greatest improvement in earnings during the past year was made by utilities operating in eastern and southern Oregon rather than by the larger utilities operating in the vicinity of Bonneville dam.

In case there may be some who have not been apprised of the fact it should be mentioned that this is "Be Kind to People" week. That's a new one for the "weeks" calendar, a strictly Oregon product. Governor Martin has requested that all citizens of Oregon observe the week "in a general spirit of kindly interest and old-fashioned neighborliness."

Chas. H. Gram, state labor commissioner, has called a meeting of beauty parlor operators and beauty college operators for Portland on

October 29 to discuss hours of employment and wages. The operators have filed complaint against the 44-hour week imposed by the State Welfare commission which they claim to be impractical.

One out of every five persons killed in traffic accidents, is a child of school age according to Secretary of State Snell who urges greater care on the part of drivers now that schools are again in session. Snell calls particular attention to the provision in the traffic laws requiring motorists to give right-of-way to pedestrians on a crosswalk.

High school principals from all sections of Oregon are meeting in Salem this week (Wednesday and Thursday) for their annual conference. Subjects under discussion include experimental schools, visual aids in instruction and the place of an honor society in high schools. Speakers on the two-day program include Governor Martin and Secretary of State Snell, both members of the State Board of Education; Rex Putnam, superintendent of public instruction, and Thomas R. Fowler, president of the Oregon High School Principals' association.

The supreme court's opinion in the case involving salary increases for Portland school teachers is of interest to every city and county as well as every school district in the state. In the opinion the high court held that the Portland school district could not grant salary increases to its teachers in excess of the budget estimate. The opinion also held that the ruling applied with equal force to city and county governments.

Governor Martin struck out at critics of his stand on Bonneville power again this week.

"Self seeking politicians and demagogues have tried to becloud the Bonneville issue for their own ends and at the expense of the people," the governor declared in what is interpreted here a reply to Howard Latourette, Democratic national committeeman who last week had charged the governor with attempting to find a place for himself in the Roosevelt band wagon under false pretenses.

"Every cheap trick in the bag of rabble rousers has been used but I am convinced that the people of this state will not be hoodwinked," the governor continued. "In this modern day and age our people will be prone to accept with greater confidence and assurance the unbiased and sound calculations of trained engineers rather than the mouthings of pundits whose specialty is in using words to conceal rather than reveal."

Although LeRoy Herschel McCarty, convicted slayer of a Portland service station employee, is under sentence of death Warden Lewis of the state prison is not going to be in any hurry about the construction of the recently authorized lethal gas chamber. The warden recalls that it has been nearly six years since a murderer paid the supreme penalty for his crime in this state and that in the interim two convicted slayers have been snatched from the gallows by eleventh hour commutations of their sentences to life imprisonment.

Voters of Oregon will be asked to support a measure creating a sanitary board for the purpose of clearing streams of pollution. The proposed measure is being sponsored by the Oregon Stream Purification League of which State Treasurer Holman is president and Frank Franciscovich, president of the state senate, is vice-president.

Frank Tierney, executive secretary of the Democratic state central committee during the last campaign, has just taken a position as permit clerk in the Portland office of the Public Utilities commission.

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that there will be a meeting of the LEVYING BOARD OF MORROW COUNTY, OREGON, at the Court House in Heppner, Oregon, on the 18th day of November, 1937, when and where the estimates arrived at by the budget committee of Morrow County, Oregon, hereinafter set forth, may be discussed with the committee of Morrow County, Oregon, and when and where any person who shall be subject to such tax levy, shall be heard in favor of or against said tax levy or any part thereof.

ESTIMATES

This estimate sheet is made in compliance with Chapter 113, General Laws of Oregon for 1921, and amendments thereto, and shows the several services, materials and supplies for the budget estimates for the year 1938.

Table with columns for 1938 Estimated Expenditures, 1st 6 mo. 1937, 1934, 1935, 1936. Rows include COUNTY JUDGE, COUNTY COURT, SHERIFF, CLERK, TREASURER, ASSESSOR, SUPERINTENDENT, CORONER, ACCOUNTANTS, CURRENT EXPENSE, JAIL, ELECTION, INDIGENT SOLDIER, COURT HOUSE, GENERAL ASSISTANCE, BLIND ASSISTANCE, MOTHERS' AID, PHYSICIAN'S SALARY, COUNTY NURSE, INSANE EXPENSE, CIRCUIT COURT, DISTRICT ATTORNEY, COUNTY AGENT, SEALER APPROPRIATION, OLD AGE ASSISTANCE, MISCELLANEOUS, LIBRARY APPROPRIATION, INSTITUTE APPROPRIATION, OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS, PUBLICITY AND ADVERTISING, LOUISE HOME APPROPRIATION, WATER MASTER, WIND EROSION CONTROL, WEED CONTROL, EMERGENCY, MARKET ROAD, ROADS AND BRIDGES, ROAD BONDS, COUNTY SCHOOL, STATE TAX.

The following amounts are not included within the 6 per cent limitation and are authorized by law: State Tax \$35,000.00, Sinking Fund 27,500.00, Interest Fund 20,875.00, Total \$83,375.00

ESTIMATED RECEIPTS OTHER THAN TAXATION FOR THE YEAR 1938. Cash on Hand (General Fund) \$7,500.00, Sheriff's Fees: Mileage \$350.00, Auto Sticker Sales 150.00, 25 per cent Forest Rentals 400.00, Clerk's Fees 2,000.00, Motor Licenses from State 9,000.00, Land Leases 1,000.00, From Delinquent Taxes 12,000.00, Miscellaneous 2,000.00, Total \$34,400.00

RECAPITULATION

Total estimated expenditures for 1938 subject to 6 per cent limitation \$111,511.00, Total estimated receipts not including proposed tax 25,400.00, Balance; amount to be raised by taxation subject to 6 per cent limitation \$86,111.00

Dated this 18th day of October, 1937. MORROW COUNTY BUDGET COMMITTEE. By BERT JOHNSON, Chairman. By E. H. MILLER, Secretary. I certify that the amount of outstanding Morrow County indebtedness is the sum of \$415,000.00 in serial road bonds. (County Seal) C. W. BARLOW, County Clerk.