

STATE CAPITAL NEWS

- Timber Problem
- Capitol Inspection
- Power Ruling

By A. L. LINDBECK

SALEM—Oregon counties, particularly those in the western part of the state are confronted with a serious problem through the loss of valuable timber lands from the tax rolls, County Judge Guy Boyington told the State Emergency board here this week.

Thousands of acres are being denuded of their crop of merchantable fir and pine each year, Judge Boyington pointed out. In spite of the fact that the state has tried to encourage reforestation through the enactment of a reforestation tax of only five cents an acre on these cut-over and burned-over lands, many of the owners prefer to let the counties take the land for taxes rather than to wait 75 to 125 years for a new crop.

Clatsop county last year acquired title to more than 20,000 acres of this land, Judge Boyington said. Other counties are having the same experience. Every year the timber counties are getting deeper into the real estate business. Records of the state forestry department show that 874,744 acres of deforested lands had been taken over by the counties up to 1937. Most of this land is located west of the Cascades. The coast counties of Clatsop, Tillamook and Coos have been especially hard hit.

In the present condition the lands are of little or no value. In an effort to bring the lands back into production Clatsop county is conducting a reseeding experiment which gives promise of solving the problem, Judge Boyington said. A section of deforested land seeded to grass a year ago is now providing adequate pasturage for more than 100 head of cattle and 1500 head of sheep. If another year's experience demonstrates the success of the experiment Judge Boyington predicts that much of this now worthless land will be in demand for grazing purposes. In that event the land will be taken over by private owners and restored to the tax rolls. Other western Oregon counties are said to be keenly interested in the Clatsop county experiment.

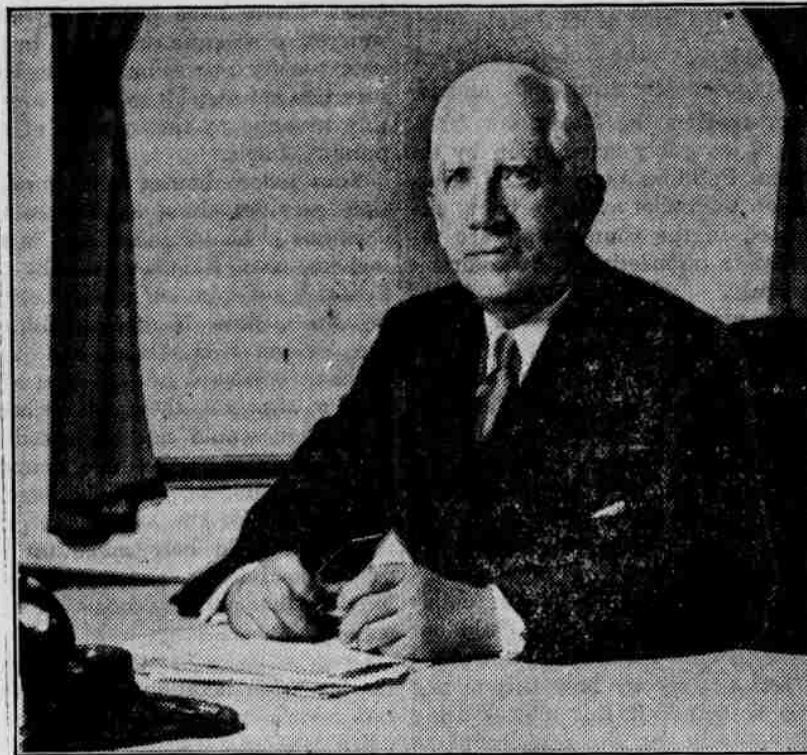
The Capitol Reconstruction commission has announced its intention of inspecting the new capitol next Tuesday, June 21. If found satisfactory the building will be accepted by the state. Actual transfer of departments to the new quarters, however, will not take place until about July 1 inasmuch as telephone service will not be available before that time. Departments to occupy space in the new capitol include the executive, state and treasury departments, budget department, board of control including the purchasing division and property control division, and the state land board. Space to be vacated in the state office building will be immediately occupied by the highway department which already occupies an entire floor in that building, the tax commission and the bureau of labor.

With no general rainfall over western Oregon since early in May and with temperatures unseasonably high conditions make for serious fire hazards in the forests of the state, according to the state forestry department. Commenting on the Big Creek fire in Clatsop county which broke out on June 2 and burned over 2000 acres before it was stopped, forestry officials pointed out that an almost identical situation was experienced last year when the Pisgah fire in southern Columbia county burned over 5000 acres during the first week of June.

There is no statutory provision under which the surviving remnants of the proposed Northwest Oregon Bonneville Peoples' Utility district may be organized. So Attorney General Van Winkle ruled in an opinion to the Oregon Hydroelectric commission this week.

Promoters of the project had contended that the law permitted the commission to approve the organization of a utility district out of those parcels of territory which voted fa-

NEW RED CROSS CHAIRMAN



NORMAN H. DAVIS

NORMAN H. DAVIS, newly appointed chairman of the American Red Cross, has assumed active direction of the nation-wide organization with headquarters in Washington, D. C.

Mr. Davis, named chairman by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, following the death of Admiral Cary T. Grayson, has been active for twenty years as a Special Ambassador of the United States to international conferences, dealing with world peace, finances, and disarmament.

He has represented the United States in this official capacity by appointment of Presidents Wilson, Hoover and Roosevelt.

A native of Tennessee, he engaged in banking in Cuba as a young man, and first came into active public service during the World War. He formerly made his home in New York, but since assuming his new post with the Red Cross has bought an historic residence in Alexandria, Virginia, across the Potomac from the nation's capital.

avorably on the proposed district in the recent election in which a majority of the voters returned an adverse verdict.

"There is no provision found in the statute for forming a peoples' utility district of the entire territory included within any proposed district, or of that portion thereof voting in favor of such formation after excluding those municipalities and separate parcels of territory which voted against such formation when the majority vote in the entire district is against the creation of such district," the opinion of the attorney general reads.

The proposed super-district included the major portions of Clatsop, Columbia, Clackamas, Washington, Yamhill, Polk and Tillamook counties. The only units favoring the project were the rural areas of Polk and Yamhill counties, an isolated unit in Clatsop county and a few small municipalities.

With a reduction of 40 percent in the number of highway fatalities Oregon ranks fourth among the 48 states in the improvement of motoring conditions, Secretary of State Snell has just been advised by the National Safety Council. Snell attributes the big decrease in traffic accidents in this state in large part to the campaign of safety education which has been carried on by his department over the radio and through lectures before schools, service clubs and other groups.

The State Emergency Board authorized deficiency appropriations totalling \$22,000 at a meeting here this week. Largest item on the list was a \$15,000 appropriation to cover maintenance of the new capitol from the time it is taken over by the state, about July 1, until the next legislature meets. Secretary of State Snell had requested an additional \$1500 for capital outlays but the board held this was a responsibility of the Capitol commission since it includes furniture and equipment for the building and disallowed the item. The board also approved an item of \$4000 requested by the extension service of the State college in connection with a reseeding experiment in Clatsop county, and \$3000 for the Department of Agriculture to be used in financing Oregon's participation in the World's Poultry Congress to be held in Cleveland, Ohio, next year.

The grand review of the Oregon National Guard, now in training at Camp Clatsop, will be held on Saturday afternoon, June 25, according to Major General George A. White. In addition to the review there will be a combat demonstration by the

186th infantry, supported by the 218th field artillery displaying various phases of fire power in repulsing a mythical enemy. At least 25,000 persons are expected to witness the camp on this occasion. On the preceding day, Friday, June 24, the various units participated in a program of military athletics.

Oregon's relief funds are in good condition according to Elmer Goudy, executive secretary of the State Relief committee. Goudy, however, expressed concern over the lack of seasonal employment at this time and the prospect of a substantial increase of the relief load because of growing unemployment. Any unusual increase in the relief burden, Goudy admitted, would necessarily be reflected in increased drains on the relief fund which has been set up to take care of the situation as it was visioned at the time the last legislature was in session.

Vacationists are showing unusual interest in Oregon this year. Inquiries received by the travel bureau of the state highway department between January 1 and June 1 totalled 38,058, an increase of 7500 over the same period a year ago.

OSC School of Forestry Gets High Rating

Oregon State College—The school of forestry here has been included among five out of 20 schools in the entire United States to be given a rank of 100 per cent in the showing of its graduates made in 1937 in taking civil service examinations for junior forester. Others achieving the rank are Harvard and Yale which take graduate forestry students only, University of Michigan and University of Montana. The 26 OSC graduates who took the examination made an average grade second only to that of the graduates of Michigan, among undergraduate schools.

In total enrollment in forestry schools OSC ranks second only to the New York State college of forestry which reported 502 compared with 488 here when the figures were gathered last fall by The Journal of Forestry, and a cumulative total for the year of 555 at OSC.

INVITATION—

To Evangelistic services being held in The Tent opposite postoffice. The meetings will continue each evening except Monday and Saturday at 7:45 o'clock. Interesting messages will be given of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God. We extend a very cordial invitation to all. Evangelists: R. E. Wainwright, R. I. Campbell.

Better Variety Of Wheat Sought By Station Men

A high yielding wheat that is smut resistant and has good quality for milling and baking purposes is the chief aim of cereal breeding work being carried on at the eastern Oregon branch experiment stations, reports Dr. D. D. Hill, associate agronomist at Oregon State college, in discussing the breeding program with small grains. Another desirable quality is a stiff straw, not too long, as excess straw growth unnecessarily taxes the limited moisture supply.

"In the years when the Pacific northwest had export outlets for all of its surplus we produced a lot of Club wheat for the export trade," says Dr. Hill. "Now that a much larger percentage of our wheat is being used in domestic channels, Club wheat is harder to sell. Consequently, it has been necessary to replace a considerable portion of the Club acreage with new varieties of different quality. We must produce what the customer wants, if that is at all possible."

The necessity for continuous search for new and better varieties was recently demonstrated in the irrigated section of eastern Oregon, Dr. Hill points out. For years farmers on irrigation projects were entirely satisfied with Federation as a rotation crop, or as a nurse crop for clover and alfalfa. In 1935 and 1936, however, an infestation of rust seriously reduced the yields of Federation. There is now demand for a variety which will yield as much as Federation under irrigated conditions, and be resistant to rust.

The new Rex wheat, recently introduced after being bred at the Moro station, is rapidly replacing many other varieties, including Federation. It is stiff-strawed, non-shattering, reasonably resistant to smut, and much more winter hardy than Federation.

New varieties must undergo years of rigid testing before they are released for general use.

Mr. and Mrs. Vawter Parker motored to Portland Tuesday where Mr. Parker went to attend Masonic grand lodge.

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