

# STATE CAPITAL NEWS

- Funds for Needy
- Mickle for White
- Formal Dedication

By A. L. LINDBECK

SALEM — Oregon's contribution toward the relief of the needy aged, averaging \$21.35 a month, is well above the national average of \$19.35 a month, according to figures compiled by the bureau of research and statistics of the federal division of public assistance.

Oregon's quota of needy aged who are receiving financial aid, however, averaging 195 for each 1000 of the state's aged population, is slightly under the national average of 212 pensioners for each 1000 of aged population. This higher national average is accounted for largely by the apparently padded assistance rolls of such state as Oklahoma where politically dominated relief administration has enrolled 575 out of every 1000 of the aged population as pension beneficiaries. In Utah 462 out of every 1000 of the state's aged population are on the pension rolls and Colorado pays assistance to 454 of every 1000 of its aged population.

Highest pensions are paid by California where the monthly average is \$32.67, followed by Massachusetts with a monthly average pension of \$28.07.

Oregon's general relief payments, averaging only \$15.62 per case per month fall far short of the national average of \$25.34. This situation is largely accounted for by the more generous relief payments in the more prosperous states of the east, New York topping the list with a monthly average of \$35.33, followed by Massachusetts with \$29.61 and by New Hampshire and Pennsylvania with monthly averages slightly in excess of \$28.

A report circulated in Lane county to the effect that Peter M. Sullivan, county relief director, was a cousin of Governor Martin and that his appointment to the relief job was "political gravy" brought a prompt denial from the governor who told newsmen that this was the third time when he had been called upon to "nail similar lies." In a statement to the press the governor said that neither he nor Mrs. Martin had any relatives in Oregon other than their son and daughter, neither of whom are on the state payroll.

J. D. Mickle, appointed by Governor Martin to succeed Solon T. White, resigned, as director of the State Department of Agriculture, has been in the service of the state almost continuously since 1912 when he was first elected to the office of Dairy and Food Commissioner. Re-elected in 1916 he served until 1920 when he decided to quit public service and accepted employment with the Oregon Dairy Council as secretary. Upon the death of Curt Hawley, his successor, two years later Mickle was asked by Governor Pierce to again take over the post of Dairy and Food Commissioner which he did. He was re-elected in 1924 and again in 1928, serving in that capacity until his department was absorbed into the newly created Department of Agriculture which also took him over as chief of the division of foods and dairies. Although a registered Republican Mickle twice received the nomination of both major parties and both of his appointments have been at the hands of Democratic governors.

County school superintendents in session here last week recommended that election of the state superintendent of public instruction be placed upon a non-partisan basis. The proposal will probably receive attention at the hands of the next legislature. There is ample precedent for the reform in the action of the 1935 session which placed the election of county school superintendents on a non-partisan basis, and prior to that, the action of the 1931 session in placing the election of all judges in the state on a non-partisan basis.

With its program practically completed and its existence nearing an end the Capitol Reconstruction commission has at last decided to move

its office to Salem, a move advocated by many state officials from the inception of this commission.

The move, it is understood, will also include dismissal of the two stenographers heretofore employed by the commission but Alton John Bassett, secretary to the commission, is to be retained at a salary of \$350 a month. Bassett was in Salem this week conferring with state department officials regarding the use of a room in the capitol building for his offices but it is understood the Capitol commission plans to make use of the offices now occupied by the clerk of the work in a temporary building on the new library site in order to economize on clerical help, telephone rental and other expense.

Just to prove that where there's a will there's still possible to find a way State Treasurer Holman finally succeeded in moving his big safe into the new quarters assigned his department in the capitol building. The feat was accomplished by sawing the bronze bars of the window frame in two in order to admit the safe and then brazing them together again.

Double parking on business streets is condemned by R. H. Baldock, state highway engineer, as conducive to serious traffic accidents. The practice, said to be prevalent in most Oregon cities, is encouraged by "certain merchants for selfish reasons," according to Baldock who explains that it is up to local authorities to correct this situation wherever it exists.

Formal dedication of Oregon's new \$2,500,000 capitol will take place on October 1, Governor Martin's 75th birthday, according to plans announced by the Capitol Reconstruction commission. The new furniture for the executive suite as well as the pioneer statue which will perch atop the capitol are expected to be in place in time for the dedication ceremonies. One formal opening and an "open house" celebration have already been observed since the new building was completed.

A score or more of beautiful shade trees north of the new capitol have gone down under the blows of the woodsman's axe this week as workmen began clearing the ground preparatory to the improvement of the Summer street-Court street approach to the capitol. Contract for widening of Court street has already been let by the State Highway commission but the improvement of Summer street will be handled by the Capitol commission.

A material decrease in commercial and industrial consumption of electricity in Oregon during March, April and May is shown in a survey just completed by the Public Utilities commission.

The Public Works administration has given its approval to a grant of \$97,476 for construction of new buildings for use by the State Forestry department. The buildings, already under construction, are located east of Salem, adjacent to the state highway shops.

Dr. W. D. McNary has just completed 25 years of service as superintendent of the eastern Oregon state hospital at Pendleton. Prior to going to Pendleton Dr. McNary was for 16 years employed at the state hospital at Salem.

**Yield Tests Run on Alfalfa**  
Madras-Ladak alfalfa far out-yield both Grimm and common on variety test plots on the John Bolter farm at Willowdale figures kept by County Agent K. W. Sawyer show. The plots were seeded on the same day, with the same amount of seed. The Ladak yielded 158 pounds of green weight per square rod, the Grimm 97 and the common 84. These figures are for the first cutting. A similar test will be started on another plot, and records kept on both for the next several years, Sawyer says.

**WHEAT FIRE NEAR CONDON**  
Report in the daily press this week said that fire destroyed 6000 acres of grain in the Condon vicinity Saturday. J. S. Burres was reported as the largest loser, with the Lear and Knox farms suffering some loss.

Potted plants at all times, phone 1332; will deliver. 15tf

## ● LOOKING FORWARD

By FRANKLYN WALTMAN, Publicity Director, Republican National Committee

Whenever anyone dares to suggest that the Social Security Act is somewhat less than perfect he immediately is assailed by the New Deal Propagandists as a reactionary, a Tory, a fiend, an enemy of mankind, or worse. Even though the criticism is constructive and is designed to improve the administration of the act for the benefit of wage-earners, the critic's voice is drowned out by shouts that he is seeking its repeal. Indecent motives are attributed to everyone who disagrees even in the slightest with the President and his New Dealers.

Republican criticism of the Social Security Act has not been directed at the objective of the act, "to provide a greater measure of security for American wage-earners and thereby to enhance the welfare of the nation as a whole." The point of Republican criticism has been that as drafted the Social Security Act does not and will not promote greater security for wage-earners. Republicans in Congress have warned that the heavy taxes in pay rolls and pay envelopes levied under the act would have harmful effects, with inconsequential benefits.

### Contributed to Depression

Truth in time will establish itself. We have heard Marriner S. Eccles, chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and an ardent New Dealer, say that the withdrawal of consuming power through social security taxes is one of the major contributory causes of the Roosevelt depression.

Now we have the testimony of the American Association for Social Security, publisher in its current bulletin. This organization for years has fought for "the promotion of social security and social insurance in the United States." Its executive secretary is Abraham Epstein, frequently called the "father of Social Security" in this country. Its president is Bishop Francis J. McConnell of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Among its directors are Monsignor Francis J. Haas, dean of the School of Social Service, Catholic University, Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, Mrs. Mary K. Simkhivitch, the well known social worker, and many other socially-minded persons. These people are neither partisans nor reactionaries.

Do they believe with President Roosevelt that "the successful operation of the (Social Security) Act is the best proof that it was soundly conceived?" They do not. Indeed, the American Association for Social Security finds that the Act is neither "soundly conceived" nor that its operation has been successful.

### Created Greater Insecurity

Instead of increasing purchasing power, the Association finds the Act has diminished it. Instead of giving workers security, the Association finds the Act has created greater insecurity for them. Instead of helping industrial workers, the Association finds that the Act's chief result has been to create a new bureaucracy and government jobs for tens of thousands of clerks.

Referring to New Deal claims of the "success" achieved in the old age insurance system, the Association asserts that "search as we might, however, the success of this stupendous national undertaking seems confined to the issuance of about 38,000,000 social security numbers"—an activity characterized by the Association as "unprecedented, costly, irrelevant and unnecessary."

The average lump sum old age payment up to April, the Association found was \$29.80, although a New York executive who worked (and still does) for seven corporations, was reported to have received \$1,001.67. More significant, the Association found, was "the deepening insecurity stimulated by this system," adding that while the United States Treasury paid \$2,935,829 to old age beneficiaries it collected in taxes from workers and employers for old age insurance a total of \$577,450,100.

"Since the employer contributions are generally included in the price of goods," the Association Bulletin added, "it means that for every dollar spent in old age insurance payments to increase the purchasing

power of workers, \$197 of sorely needed purchasing power were withdrawn from them and spent for other purposes."

### \$197 in Taxes for Each \$1 Spent

In other words, Social Security taxes took \$197 from workers for every \$1 given to them. That is the New Deal's idea of the more abundant life for workers!

Space is lacking to give other conclusions reached by the Association, except for a word about unemployment insurance. Pointing out that the average benefit paid to the unemployed totaled only \$15.46 per month, irrespective of whether the unemployed person was single or had a family with many dependents, the Association made this observation:

"The evidence is sufficient to indicate that not only has the operation of the unemployment insurance laws so far not proved that these laws have been soundly conceived, but, on the contrary, it definitely points to the fact that these laws are not succeeding in providing even as little protection as the totally inadequate home relief."  
Let the President and his New Deal satellites cease their ballyhoo and answer the non-partisan findings of the American Association for Social Security.

### Amateur Photographers to Compete

"Save those summer pictures," is the advice of Leo G. Spitzbart, manager of the Oregon State fair, to the host of Oregon amateur camera fans who will have unusual opportunity for fine pictures during the next month.

The amateur photographic art department of the fair, which will be held this year from September 5 to 11, offers the public a chance for clean competition in this hobby. Each amateur may enter five prints in each of the following groupings: landscape, marine, architectural and figure studies of people or animals. Ribbon awards will be made to winners.

"Vacation time is the time for good pictures," Mr. Spitzbart says, "and the amateur who shoots with an eye to competition is prepared to go places at the fair."

Details of the state amateur photographic art show may be obtained by writing to the Oregon State Fair, Salem.

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