

STATE CAPITAL NEWS

- Democratic Bloc
- Laws Upheld
- Holman's Successor

By A. L. LINDBECK

Salem—With 14 members to their credit the Democratic minority in the House of Representatives of the state legislature forms a block which can make itself felt in the organization of that body. Welded together under proper leadership the 14 Democrats represent a balance of power that might dictate its own terms for the support of one of the candidates now seeking the House speakership. Especially is that true if the speakership fight develops into a dog fight with none of the five candidates now actively campaigning for the honor able to muster a majority of the votes without aid of the Democratic bloc.

Sensing a situation of this kind, however, it is understood that some of the speakership candidates have proposed a get-together in Portland in the very near future at which some political horse trading might be indulged in to the end that harmony might prevail in support of some one member for the gavel-wielding job. Frank Lonergan, Multnomah county legislator, in Salem this week, however, denied any intention of giving up the fight for the speakership. Lonergan was the last Republican to preside over the House, occupying the speaker's chair in the session of 1931 and insists that it is again time for Multnomah county to enjoy this honor. Outstate members, however, appear to be just as determined that the speakership shall not go to the metropolis and in this attitude they have the support of at least one or two of the Multnomah county members. Outstate support, however, is divided between four candidates: Ernest R. Fatland, Condon; Earl Hill of Cushman, Lane county; A. Rennie of Corvallis, and Walter Fuhrer of Salem.

Two opinions of major importance were handed down by the supreme court this week. One upheld the validity of the milk and cream grading act of 1937. The other upheld the Multnomah county commissioners in their refusal to levy in excess of \$10 per capita for support of the county school fund.

The opinion in the milk and cream grading case had no direct bearing on the milk control law enacted in

1933. Reading between the lines of the opinion, however, one might get some idea of the direction in which the judicial mind leans on that issue. In his opinion Justice Kelly declared that "the regulation of marketing of farm and other products when the same enter largely into local and interstate trade has been recognized as a legitimate exercise of the police power of the state by many states of the union and even by the early colonies."

The court's stand in the other case settles definitely an argument between school district officials and county courts which has waged ever since the county school fund law was enacted in its present form in 1930. School district officials based their claim for a larger levy upon the argument that the statute requires the levy to "produce" at least \$10 per capita for each child on the school census roll. The court, however, pointed out that the statute does not require this amount to be "produced" during "the ensuing year. Admitting that during the depression years when tax delinquencies were high the levy did not "produce" \$10 per capita, the court called attention to the fact that payment of these delinquencies during the past three years had increased the return to the school districts to more than \$10 per capita. In other words, school districts must take their chances with other political subdivisions on tax collections.

For the second consecutive year automobile license No. 1 goes to a Yamhill county motorist again next year. C. H. George of Carlton was the applicant whose name was the first to be drawn in the big annual "drawing" for numbers conducted by Secretary of State Earl Snell. More than 19,000 motorists had their names in the pot when the drawing was made.

Speculation as to the possible successor of State Treasurer Rufus C. Holman, when that official resigns to qualify as a United States senator, appears to be pretty well centered about the name of P. J. Stadelman of The Dalles. Stadelman served one year as secretary of state following the death of Hal Hoss. He did not enter the race for election nor has he ever sought other public office but it is known that he enjoyed his brief experience as head of the state department and member of the board of control and those in the know say that he would welcome another taste of political life.

Stadelman, although a Republican, was an admirer and supporter of Governor Martin who, having been let down by his own party in the

primary campaign would probably not suffer any great qualms of conscience in going outside his own party for a candidate to succeed Holman. Should he object to Stadelman, however, Holman has only to delay his resignation until after January 9 when Martin will have relinquished the governor's post to Charles A. Sprague who is of the same political persuasion as is Stadelman.

While little mention has ever been made of the candidacy of Fred Paulus for Holman's post many political observers feel that he would be the logical choice for this post. Paulus has served as deputy state treasurer for more than 12 years and in this capacity has actually run the department although credit for its efficiency has always gone to his superior officers. By nature of a retiring disposition, being apparently titubant duties that devolve upon content to devote himself to the multitude deputy, Paulus has never had time to devote to the political side of public life but it is known that he is ambitious for advancement and feels that he has earned a promotion now that Holman is about to retire.

With the exception of four small precincts in Multnomah county Secretary of State Earl Snell carried every precinct in the state in his race for re-election, according to a careful check of official election returns. One of the Multnomah precincts he lost by only three votes and another by the narrow margin of six votes. This is said to set a record for

opposed candidates for state office in Oregon.

An increase of 37.9 per cent in relief demands in Oregon over those of a year ago is shown by the report of Elmer Goudy, state relief administrator, to Governor Martin. Total number of persons on general relief increased from 17,042 in October, 1937, to 26,108, in October, 1938, with relief expenditures increasing from \$134,025.48 to \$184,264.10 in the same period. Aged pensions on the state rolls in October numbered 18,603 who received an aggregate of \$295,890 from the counties, state and federal government, for an average monthly pension of \$21.28.

Its appropriation of \$2,500,000 exhausted, the Capitol Reconstruction commission has appealed to the State Emergency Board for a deficiency appropriation of \$13,000 with which to complete its job. The request has been approved by the Board of Control and passed on to the Emergency Board with a plea for early action.

It required 1200 pounds of turkey and 3000 pounds of chicken to provide a Thanksgiving Day dinner for the 2700 patients and 300 employees of the state hospital. A ton of potatoes and another ton of cabbage, not to mention 250 gallons of gravy, 200 gallons of cider and 400 gallons of coffee. Inmates of other state institutions were equally well fed on this occasion.

Read G. T. Want Ads. You may find a bargain in something needed.

NOTICE

The Lexington Oil Co-Op has no agreement with Panther Grease Co. whereby it receives any commissions on sales made by any representative of the Panther Grease Co. FRED MANKIN, President, 40-41 Lexington Oil Co-Op.

Vacant—3 rooms and bath, furnished; sun porch; reasonable. Bonnie Cochran.

BETTER READING FOR BOYS' LIFE
WEEK
DEC. 9TH - 16TH

12 issues packed with wholesome adventure stories, thrills, \$1.00 action, Scoutcraft...

Mail subscriptions direct to the BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA 2 Park Ave., New York, N.Y., publishers of Boys' Life... or through your local Scout office.

AN IDEAL CHRISTMAS GIFT!



Pre-Inventory Clearance

OF

SUITS and O'COATS

COMMENCING

**SATURDAY
December 17**

A real opportunity to save on that Suit or Overcoat you have wanted all fall.

Save up to \$5.00

\$24.50 OVERCOATS NOW \$19.50
\$22.50 OVERCOATS NOW \$17.50
\$19.50 OVERCOATS NOW \$16.50
\$27.50 SUITS NOW \$22.50 Extra Pants \$3.50

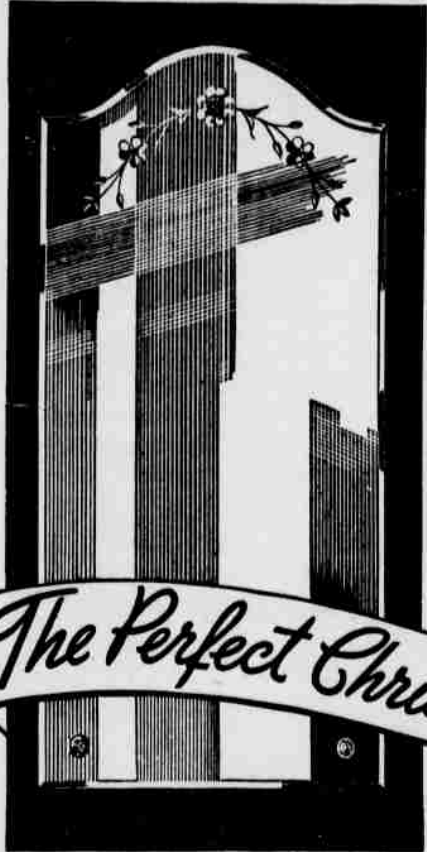
Save \$6.50 on Suit and Extra Pants

SPECIAL ON STUDENTS' SUITS
in sizes 35 to 38, \$17.50

WISHING YOU A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS

Wilson's Men's Wear
THE STORE OF PERSONAL SERVICE

MIRRORS



... that reflect your good taste. They have quality, exceptionally fine glass and craftsmanship. Such a practical, useful gift ... for what home ever has enough mirrors!

specially priced from
\$4.85 to \$7.85

The Perfect Christmas Gift

Tum-A-Lum Lumber Co.