

UNDER THE CAPITOL DOME

By GILES L. FRENCH,
Representative for Gilliam, Mor-
row, Sherman and Wheeler
Counties.

Those old fashioned souls who think they can distinguish between a Republican and a Democrat, or who can find a distinction between a new dealer and a reactionary are entirely wrong, if the votes on the creation of new boards may be taken as a criterion.

Whether it was from the vote trading or something else, the bakers, barkers and watchmakers nearly carried the house and had established or had continued trade association boards to aid in raising prices. The spirit of the defunct NRA was in each one of them.

Some of the bitter end Republicans voiced a strong "Aye" when their names were called and some of the men who were new dealers two years ago spoke up with a brave "No." Since those votes were taken it has been remarked by many legislative observers that trading of votes is more common than usual and their judgment doesn't seem to be half bad. It can easily be seen how sponsors of four or five pressure group bills might put all of them over by forming a bloc and apparently this is what happened or rather nearly happened.

While the house lacks a Clint Haight to rise in his chair every morning and cry in wounded tones that he wants to go home, the sentiment is growing among the members that there is little more around here that has to be done and if the ways and means committee would just get their stuff finished and on the floor the story would be nearly over.

One step toward hurrying this was made Monday when the house killed the first of two education bills. This bill, House Bill 321, would have aided the process of school district consolidation in all counties of the state. It will be reconsidered but at best it has only a fair chance of passing both houses.

Serious opposition was not thought possible by the sponsors of the bill, but representatives from the valley counties, especially Linn, Benton, Polk, Marion, Washington, Yamhill, and Clackamas held for the present—and seriously outgrown—school system and succeeded in killing the bill.

The result of this vote makes it appear that any county that wishes to change its school organization had better do it itself and not wait for state laws that may or may not be passed.

At the first of the session there was some comment on the fact that both presiding officers were from the far country where men are presumed to lack many of the little social graces that make for smooth handling of their fellows. This sentiment has entirely died away as Duncan and Fatland have justified all the expectations of their most loyal friends. But one or two eastern Oregon expressions did creep into the formal doings at the first.

On inaugural day immediately after Fatland had been sworn into office and while he was still a little nervous the senate and the governor came to the door of the house led by the sergeant-at-arms. When Joe Singer in his richest Jewish dialect announced with due formality, "The honorable senate has arrived," the new speaker in true western style said briefly and hospitably, "Bring 'em in."

And when the meeting was over and the retiring governor and the incoming governor had spoken their speeches to the filled house and galleries and after they had gone down the aisles with their retinue, and after the other state officials and black robed judges of the supreme court had gone and none but the senate, house and visitors remained, President Bob Duncan, not wishing to be bothered by further formal sentence just said, "Clear the house."

The governor put his name on the bakery bill that repealed the bakery board in a hurry and thereby prevented a move to reconsider the vote. After a bill has been signed

by the governor it goes to the secretary of state to be filed with other laws and cannot be recalled. Old timers around Salem say that just four times in the history of the state has the legislature repealed a bill and then enacted the same act again. It could be done perhaps but it probably won't be in this case.

Next, and it is to be hoped last, big measure to be considered will be a sales tax. It may get on the floor if the committee to which it goes can be stern enough with its sponsors. The state can get along without it and still be more generous than during the last biennium, but there are always those who want to raise more money to do more things for more people.

HAS BAD FALL

Mrs. P. W. Mahoney had a bad fall at home Monday morning. While manipulating a hose she was using in emptying the washing machine, she accidentally fell backwards down the concrete steps of the back porch. She was knocked unconscious by the impact when her head struck the walk, but she soon continued her usual routine.

Varied Outlook For Field Crops Shown in Report

No rift in the cloudy wheat price outlook for 1939-40 is seen in an analysis of the domestic and world wheat situation contained in the current Agricultural Situation and Outlook circular just issued by the extension service at Oregon State college. The current circular is the annual issue which deals with market outlooks for field crops and vegetables.

High continued demand for forage seed is foreseen, although somewhat lower prices may result from the relatively large 1938 production, the report states. The circular also deals with the outlook for seed crops, truck crops, hops, beans, and flax seed. The circular mentions an indicated reduction of about 8 per cent in the 1939 potato acreage, but says more detailed information on this crop will be published in the March circular.

With respect to wheat, the circular points out that the world produced a near record wheat crop in 1938 which sold for low prices, and that

little improvement is expected in the United States wheat situation during the 1939-40 marketing season. Unless the world wheat acreage is adjusted downward, supplies will probably continue to be burdensome and any improvement in world prices will have to depend upon improvement in economic conditions. Very little information is yet available on the probable acreage of spring wheat in this country.

Turning to the general farm price situation, the circular reveals that in the country as a whole the general level of prices received by farmers as of January 15 stood at 94 per cent of the pre-war average, while the government index of prices paid by farmers for commodities stood at 120 per cent, giving a farm purchasing power of 78 per cent of the pre-war level. This is 2 points lower than in the month previous, and 3 points under January, 1938. In Oregon the mid-January index was 65 per cent of the 1926-1930 average, or 2 points under the month previous and 5 points below January, 1938. Copies of the circular may be had at any county extension office.

Richard E. Crewdson Victim of Epilepsy

Richard Edward Crewdson, 35, native Heppner boy, was found dead at the J. G. Barratt Butter creek farm Monday morning. Death appeared to have been caused by a fit of epilepsy to which he was known to be subject. He was employed at the Barratt ranch at time of death. On a visit to town the end of the week he appeared in usual good health.

Funeral services have been announced for 2 o'clock this afternoon from Phelps Funeral Home chapel, Rev. R. C. Young officiating. Interment is being made in Masonic cemetery.

The deceased was born in Heppner, September 4, 1904, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Crewdson, and his entire life was spent on the farm in the Matteson district and as a ranch hand. A steady, dependable worker, his services were always in demand. Surviving are the mother, Mrs. Hattie Crewdson, brothers Albert, Frank and Tom, and sisters, Laura Mortimer, Ida Hoagland, Grace Hale and Lillian Hoskins.



P.P. & L. RATE CUT NOW IN EFFECT!

Latest in succession of rate reductions puts cost of P.P. & L. electricity at new low!

You can now use
MORE electricity
at No Extra Cost!

● Pacific Power & Light Company brought cheap electricity into this territory. And the \$200,000 rate cut, which went into effect March 1, again proves that this company's progressive and long-established rate reduction policy is making P.P. & L. electricity cheaper and cheaper.

You can electrify your home more completely at little or no extra operating cost. Think for a minute. What new electric services would you like . . . an electric washer, ironer, toaster, I.E.S. lamp, clock, mixer,

roaster, radio? The chances are that you can add one or more of these without increasing your electric service bill over what it was prior to March 1. For you can now get more electricity at no extra cost!

If you add an electric range, the operating cost will be even less than before—because the average customer now does his cooking at the 23/4c and 2c per kwh steps of the rate. Decide to enjoy clean, quick, convenient electric cooking, too.

At dealers or our nearest office, values in electrical equipment are greater than ever—prices are low. Take full advantage of Pacific Power & Light Company's new low rates by further electrifying your home now.

PACIFIC POWER & LIGHT COMPANY

Always at Your Service