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CAPITAL NEWS

- New Commission
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By A. L. LINDBECK

Salem - Governor Sprague left Salem Wednesday for San Francisco ed an entirely new commission comwhere on Saturday he will participate in an Oregon Day program at the Golden Gate exposition. It will be the governor's first absence from crat) Salem, and Lowell Stockman the state since taking over the reins of government last January and, incidentally, the first opportunity Senate President Robert M. Duncan has had to officiate as the state's chief executive. Governor Sprague plans to return to the Oregon capital next Wednesday.

The past week has been an unusually busy one in the life of Oregon's governor what with opening the Wolf creek highway on Friday, addressing the state editorial association convention at Timberline lodge on Saturday and making the principal address at the "Happy Days" celebration at Hillsboro on Monday.

A protest by the Portland Building Trades Council against the use of convict labor on the new improvements at the penitentiary failed to move the Board of Control. As Governor Sprague pointed out to the protesting delegation the legislative appropriation for the new penitentiary buildings was based upon the use of prison labor. Furthermore, work on the building projects will provide much needed employment for prisoners. Construction work at the penitentiary has always been done by convict labor under the supervision of a "free" superintendent, with possibly one or two assistants, specialists in their line, also from the "outside."

Appointment of Irl S. McSherry, Salem printer, to be assistant parole director was announced this week by Fred S. Finsley, parole director. The appointment will become effective July 10. McSherry was at one time engaged in newspaper work in tion were employed by the bakery Oregon, being connected at various times with the Tillamook Headlight, the McMinnville Telephone-Register and the Salem Statesman. He served as private secretary to Governor A. W. Norblad in 1930.

Petitions are now being placed in circulation in support of the proposed initiative amendment providng for repeal of the milk control act. State Senator Thomas R. Mahoney the walls of the Hall of Representaof Portland who made strenuous ef- tives. The other recording the arriforts during the recent legislative session to have this law repealed.

mission is at last an accomplished fact. Governor Sprague last week asked for and received the resignations of Stanley Jewett (republican) of Portland and James D. Burns (democrat) of Condon. He was already in possession of the resignation of Arthur K. McMahan (democrat) of Albany, chairman of the commission, who asked to be relieved of his duties several weeks ago. Saturday the governor appointposed of Lloyd J. Wentworth (republican) Portland lumberman. chairman; J. N. Chambers (demo-(republican) Umatilla county ranch-

Organization of the new commission is expected to be followed by the resignation of Otto J. Runte as liquor administrator and possibly a few minor shifts in the personnel of the organization but Governor Sprague insists that there will be no wholesale housecleaning of the commission's employees.

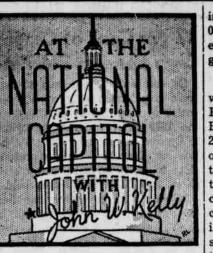
Four hundred choice leghorn pullets destined for the laying pens at the Cottage Farm of the Oregon state hospital, will grace the festive board instead. A patient of the institution employed on the farm, having nothing more important to occupy his time, wrung the necks of the entire flock one day this week.

Another important change in the state's official family is scheduled for July 15 when Silas Gaiser, former Salem school head, will succeed D. A. Bulmore as administrator of the unemployment compensation act. The post carries a salary of \$4500 a year.

In spite of the fact that the legislature frowns upon professional lobbyists the state, itself, through its numerous boards, commissions and departments, is probably the worst offender in this respect. This situation is brought sharply into the foreground just now through an opinion by Attorney General Van Winkle holding that claims presented by two Salem attorneys for "legal services" rendered the now defunct bakery board are legitimate and must be paid. The attorneys in quesboard to oppose the repal of the bakery board act during the last legisltaive session. Approval of the claim was withheld by the budget director on the ground that the

board exceeded its authority in employing the additional legal talent. Last of the mural paintings for

the new capitol were placed last week. One of these, portraying the The measure is being sponsored by famous Champoeg meeting, adorns val in Salem of a courier bringing the news of statehood, occupies a place in the Senate chamber. Work on the huge granite groups that will guard the entrance to the capitol is expected to be completed late this month. A total of 275 extra workers were employed by Secretary of State Earl Snell last week to handle the eleventh hour rush of renewal of operators' licenses. The extra crew was expedite the handling of the huge on the department as the dead-line for renewal of the drivers' permits approached.



Washington, D. C., July 3-Presi dent Roosevelt is irate at congress and with reason. Just before going away for the holidays congress administered several blows. He was forced to sign the relief bill despite his objection to many of its provisions; he was, apparently, deprived of his control over the dollar; the neutrality bill he wanted was so amended in that house that it contains the mandatory embargo feature he didn't want. Three strikes would make any president mad.

Mr. Roosevelt did not spend the Glorious Fourth reading the Declaration of Independence to his neighbors or popping strings of firecrackers. He was running up telephone bills consulting with his lieutenants and planning a campaign to make congress gig-back on neutrality and the monetary matter. Mr. Roosevelt refuses to "take it." He refuses to admit that he is licked and is prewith the legislative branch of the government. When Mr. Roosevelt believes he is right he keeps right on fighting. He has what the sports writers call "a fighting heart."

Reason the president regards continuation of his control over the dollar and the sort of neutrality bill he favors as vital is based on confidential reports that in late August or early September the long-expected war will materialize. All the inside information Mr. Roosevelt has received says that as soon as the harvest is over in Germany, Herr Hitler will start shooting. Mr. Roosevelt wants authority to meet the situation. This accounts for the unpublicised conferences he has been holding.

What caused the senate to join the house in prohibiting any relief funds for the federal theater project was a book and a manuscript. The book contained photographs of nude girls, a catalogue of models available for WPA art workers; the manuscript was of a theater project play with plot and dialogue so "strong" that it made hard-boiled legislators blush. Theater project produced many excellent and standard plays but it also took taxpayer money to sponsor several plays which were strictly propaganda for communism and against the American form of government. These few bad apples soiled the barrel of good ones. Workers on theater projects were pampered; they were paid twice as much as the eveyday reliefer and given vacations on pay. HOLC has foreclosed on 692 homes in Oregon since it began refinancing distressed owners, June 12, 1933. These are the foreclosures out of 9416. On this total the federal agency loaned \$18,821,240 and March 1, this year, there had been repaid 24.9 per cent, or \$4,681,395. John H. Fahey, headman of HOLC, a former newspaper publisher, points with pride to the manner in which the Oregon clients are taking care of their installments. Incidenally, of the money loaned, \$1,771,000 was used to pay taxes. President Roosevelt designated Fahey as chairman to clean out the politics which filled HOLC originally. Sponsors of WPA projects under the new law must, after August, pay 25 per cent of the cost. From February this year Oregon's local contribution to the projects has been 23.2 per cent; Washington's 24.4 per cent, so the new requirement will not be much of an added burden. But from the beginning of WPA to last December the average local contribution in Oregon was 18.9 per cent; Washington 16.5. All told, as operative in every county where an of December 1, 1938 (reported by the federal treasury), Oregon received federal WPA funds amount-

ing to \$36,363,621; Washington, \$77,-044,955. It aveages about \$36 for every man, woman and child in Oregon.

Here is what the row over the devaluation of the dollar means to the Pacific Northwest wheat farmer: Before 1933 the farmer received 2580 grains of gold for 100 bushels of wheat; today under full devaluation (the president was authorized to reduce the dollar content 50 per cent) the farmer for 100 bushels receives 1290 grains of gold. The fight

is whether the president or congress shall say how many grains of gold the farmer shall receive for his golden grain. A filibuster is merely a device to delay a vote on a measure which a number of members do not want to come to a vote. Technique in the senate is talk to kill time. This is impossible in the house where a speech is limited, frequently to 10 minutes, therefore a different method is used to attain the same result: those seeking delay demand a roll call, which requires more than an hour. Then after a few minutes a quorum call, then another roll call and these tactics are as effective as long-winded speeches in the senate. Both methods are now being

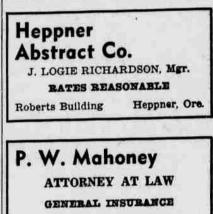
Greatest development the federal government has ever undertaken in Oregon is the Willamette Valley project, which will start immediately transforming the valley on a basis made at the next congressional ses-

used.



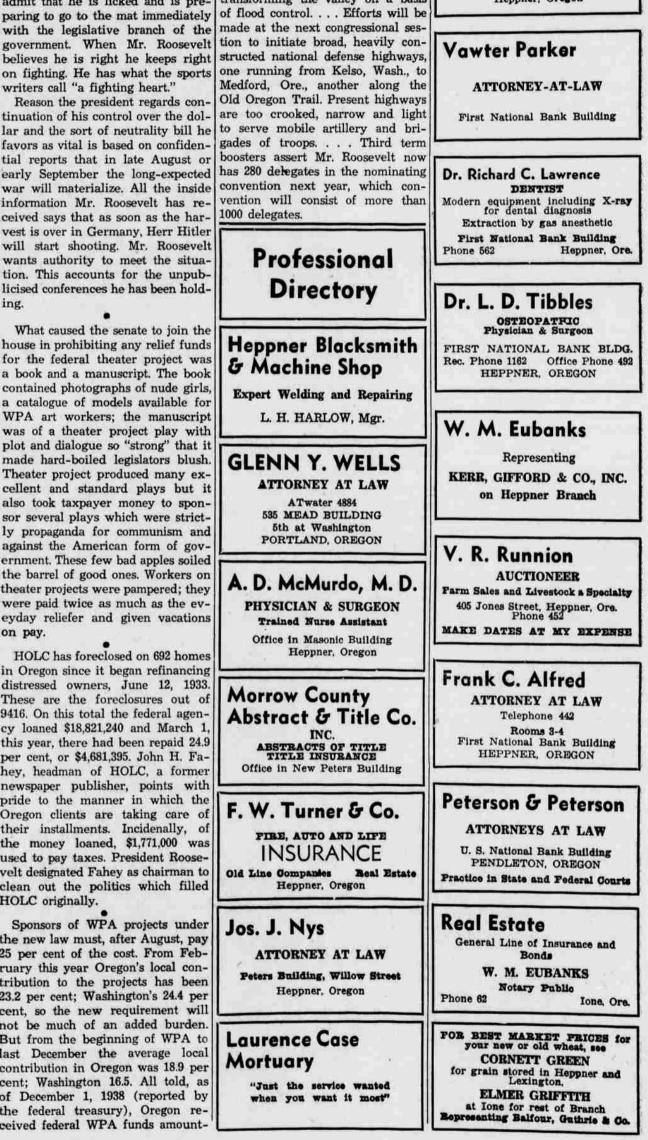
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Thursday, July 6, 1939

Observe the humble oyster. Now he is to be rehabilitated. The great state of Oregon is taking an active interest in his (or her) welfare. Governor Sprague announced this week that he had been instrumental in persuading the state fish commission and the State College, cooperatively. in a research project which will delve into the life and habits of the lowly bivalve in the Yaquina Bay divided into three shifts in order to region. Cost of the project is estimated at \$3000 for the year, to be flood of applications that poured in shared by the two participating agencies.

Whales also featured in the news of the week around the capitol. Former Governor Charles H. Martin sent a letter to Governor Charles A. Sprague suggesting that the state waive its right, title and interest in the carcass of the famous "Lessard" whale, now reposing on the Lessard ranch in Multnomah county. Killing of the stray whale in Columbia slough near Portland by Edward Lessard in 1931, it is recalled, raised a state-wide "stink" closely rivaling that raised by the whale itself a few weeks after its demise. Lessard was made the target of two criminal actions as a result of the killing, both of which he won. Governor Martin said he refused to accept the carcass for the state and thinks Oregon should "wipe its hands" of the whole messy affair mimeographing and sending puband let Lessard have it.

The long predicted reorganization agency can be accommodated. Esof the State Liquor Control com- timated cost \$21,645.

State Educational WPA Project Set

Washington, D. C. (Special to the Gazette Times from our Washington D. C. Bureau)-A statewide educational program has been approved as eligible for WPA funds with an estimated allotment of \$281,858. This project, under the state department of education, is for supervision of educational activities for underprivileged adults in literacy, vocational, parent, workers and public affairs. Also approved is a statewide project under the state board of control for educational and informational service for roadside beautification. This is to consist of typing, filing, licity to papers, the project to be