

STATE CAPITAL NEWS

- Duncan Refusal
- Rural PUD
- New Fund-Splitting

By A. L. LINDBECK

Salem—Senate President Robert M. Duncan eliminated himself as a possible future contender for the governorship of Oregon this week when, after four days devoted to pinch-hitting for Governor Sprague he told capitol news men that he "wouldn't have the office as a regular job if it was presented to me on a silver platter."

The central Oregon legislator found the office beset by too many petty annoyances to suit him, people looking for jobs, relatives of prisoners pleading for pardons and paroles.

Duncan has been prominently mentioned as the Republican candidate for Congress against Walter M. Pierce, Democratic incumbent. So far, however, he has himself refused to discuss the proposal.

Some time within the next two weeks the Oregon Hydroelectric commission is expected to decide whether or not the rural area of Hood River county can proceed with the organization of a peoples' utility district. At the election last month the city of Hood River rejected the proposal to organize a PUD, thus eliminating itself from the project. The rural areas, however, voted in favor of the district and its sponsors are now urging the Hydroelectric commission to give the necessary approval. At a hearing before the commission in Salem Friday proponents and opponents of the proposed district were about evenly divided, with representatives of the grange supporting the project and representatives of the Farm Bureau and Taxpayers League opposed.

Fewer transients sought jobs in Oregon this year than usual, according to John Cooter, farm placement director. During the first six months this year, Cooter points out, there were only 17,565 out-of-state workers registered with the state employment service compared to 32,563 registrations during the first half of 1938.

More than 55 per cent of the farms of Oregon now enjoy electric service, according to a survey just completed by O. R. Bean, public utilities commissioner. Bean's figures show that 33,770 Oregon farms are now being served by private electric utilities. This is an increase of 4559 farms during the past year. It is estimated that another 200 farms are served by the three municipally operated electric plants while no figures are available on the number of farms being served by the Rural Electrification administration.

After a visit to Sacramento and a conference with budget officials of that state David Eccles, Oregon's budget master, is convinced that Oregon has much to be thankful for. After the last legislature got through financing state activities, Eccles points out, the California state budget was \$40,000,000 out of balance. This deficit which does not appear to worry California officials at all, is three times as great as the total appropriations approved by the Oregon legislature. With 35,000 people on the state's payroll California has a personnel department which does nothing but hire and fire employees of the numerous state departments and institutions. This department operates on a biennial budget of \$500,000, an amount sufficient to operate almost any of Oregon's state institutions.

Multnomah county stands to lose more than \$115,000 a year in highway revenues through the operation of amendments written into the law by the last legislature. Apportionment of highway revenues for the first six months of 1939 just completed by Secretary of State Snell shows that Multnomah county this year will receive only \$624,235.79 from this source compared to \$754,453.61 under the former apportionment. Heretofore county apportionments from the highway fund have

been based on motor vehicle registrations in 1931. The new law provides for the apportionment to be made on the basis of current registrations.

Most counties in the state are gainers under the new apportionment. Especially is this true in the case of Marion, Lane, Washington, Yamhill, Malheur, Linn, Lincoln and Klamath counties. On the other hand, a number of counties suffer under the new deal. These include Benton, Gilliam, Harney, Jackson, Jefferson, Morrow, Polk, Sherman, Tillamook, Umatilla, Union and Wasco. For the most part, however, these losses are small. In a few instances, notably Polk and Benton counties, these losses are accounted for, in part at least, through a provision in the law which requires that motor vehicle registrations be credited on the basis of the post office address.

The July apportionment of \$800,000 includes the following payments to counties: (figures in parenthesis show the amounts the county would have received on the old basis of apportionment): Benton, \$14,393.34 (\$14,730.25); Clackamas, \$38,927.38 (\$4,851.17); Columbia, \$14,265.67 (\$13,176.41); Coos, \$23,963.94 (\$21,716.47); Deschutes \$13,814.43 (\$12,237.69); Douglas, \$19,002.55 (\$17,756.80); Hood River, \$9,718.09 (\$8,962.38); Josephine, \$12,989 (\$10,098.79); Malheur, \$13,840.85 (\$8,455.31); Marion, \$60,280.76 (\$51,697.33); Morrow, \$3,488.83 (\$3,689.83); Multnomah \$249,694.31 (\$301,781.44); Polk, \$11,974.27 (\$12,453.24); Sherman, \$2,412.46 (\$2,540.16); Wasco, \$11,045.19 (\$11,331.72); Washington, \$28,485.11 (\$24,425.99); Yamhill, \$20,415.69 (\$18,501.86).

A financial statement showing an estimated \$18,000 in state funds as necessary to completion of the capitol project has been prepared by the Board of Control and submitted to members of the State Emergency board. The estimate includes a deficit of \$3894 accruing through contracts already let; \$5000 for landscaping the supreme court grounds and Waverly park, and approximately \$10,000 for the purchase of two flag poles and additional furniture for the state house, this latter item including a couple dozen bronze cuspidors, two bronze jardiniers and 10 marble benches for the House and Senate lobbies. Approval of the emergency appropriations, members of the Board of Control point out, will enable the state to take advantage of a balance of \$8462.50 remaining in the PW allotment for the capitol project.

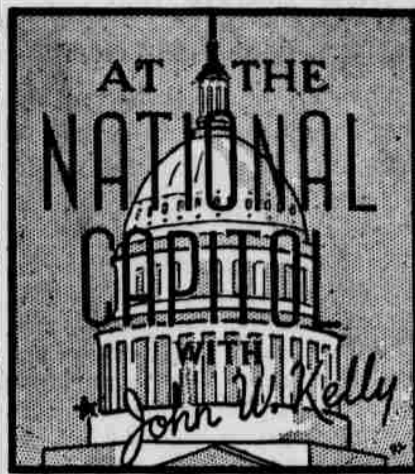
Daily average wage paid to workers in Oregon industries during June was \$4.49, the highest in the past ten years, according to statistics compiled by the State Industrial Accident commission. Industrial activities in Oregon for the first half of 1939 was far above that for 1938, records of the commission show.

The State Land board has decided to do a little prospecting on its mining claim in Douglas county. The board has approved the expenditure of \$250 in constructing a ditch across its property in an effort to locate a quicksilver vein. The property adjoins that of the Bonanza mines which has been operating for several years with an estimated gross return of approximately \$1000 a day.

KOY-KOAC Case Decision Delayed

Oregon State College—The Federal Communications commission has deferred final action on the radio KOY-KOAC case, pending disposition of applications for increases of power on the 550-kilocycle frequency, O. S. C. officials have been notified. KOY has had an application pending for more than a year to use the KOAC frequency, a request which is being vigorously opposed by the college, licensee of the state-owned station.

KOAC has an application pending for a permit to increase the power from the present 1000-watt limit to 5000 watts. The 1939 Oregon legislature appropriated funds for this expansion in the interests of better radio service to the entire state. It is understood that station KFVR at Bismark, N. D., has also applied for permission to increase power.



Washington, D. C., July 20—Write it in the book that President Roosevelt will have the kind of neutrality bill he is asking from congress. Basis for this prediction is the fact that Mr. Roosevelt manages, somehow, to get what he wants. Once he has an objective he cannot be prevented from achieving it. The man persists until he wins.

Defeated in his supreme court bill he has since attained part of his plan through death and resignations and had staffed the court with new deal liberals. Defeated in his effort for reorganization of government bureaus, he has won out and grouped in three new agencies an assortment of bureaus which were overlapping. Defeated in his monetary authority, he has recaptured control over the dollar. Defeated in his desire for a neutrality law which he believes will restrain dictators from starting war in August or September, the best guess is that he will force congress to come through.

The reason Mr. Roosevelt is successful in dealing with hostiles in congress where his predecessors failed, is that he is a better politician. If he encounters a reverse, he does not retreat. Instead he bides his time until the stage is set and then goes smashing through.

Being president is a man-killing job and eight years saps the vitality of any incumbent serving that long, yet Mrs. Sarah Delano Roosevelt, mother of the president, declares he is physically fit for another four years. White House physician Ross McIntyre (Oregon boy), attests that Mr. Roosevelt is in the pink, nevertheless Roosevelt children have said they hope their father will not serve a third term as they are solicitous of his health. Then along come the pessimists and point to the record: every president elected in a year ending with "0" dies in office. Thus 1940 should be a hoodoo year for whoever is elected.

They call it "the big bill," the 3.6 billion dollar self-liquidating loan proposal of Mr. Roosevelt. There is plenty of opposition to it, but the president wants it enacted before adjournment. In it is suggested \$460,000,000 for the rural electrification program. For fiscal year 1940 congress appropriated \$40,000,000 for this purpose; there are applications for \$60,000,000 more than the appropriation. Among the applications are many Oregon and Washington communities.

Farmers availing themselves of REA spend approximately \$100 for wiring and \$200 for appliances during the first six months he receives electric service. Additional expenditures come later as the farmer learns how convenient the power is. Farm plumbing installation is about \$200. A survey shows that on REA projects 86 per cent of the consumers have purchased radios, 81 per cent bought electric irons, 47 per cent purchased washing machines, 25 per cent bought refrigerators, 17 per cent installed water pumps. Secretary of agriculture Wallace points out that farmers, through REA, are aiding business of the manufacturers of appliances.

Next year there will be 13,000,000 or 10.04 per cent of the population aged 60 years and over; there will be 8,311,000 aged 65 years and over, or 6.30 per cent. In conference now is an amendment to the social security act to increase old-age benefits. Rolls of the aged receiving federal-state aid last month, June, were 1,848,700. Average amount being paid at present in Oregon is \$21.30; in Washington, \$22.10; California, \$32.50; Idaho, \$21.75; lowest, Arkansas, \$6.15. Proposed amendments aim to increase these amounts. The revised

Townsend bill defeated a few months ago was calculated to give approximately \$40 monthly. Important part of the proposed social security amendment is to start making payments under this act next January instead of in 1942. In this fund, June 1, there was \$1,098,814,347, of which 17 million dollars came from 3 per cent interest on treasury securities. Looks like a happy New Year for several million elderly people.

More mountain lions were killed in Oregon last year than in any other state or Alaska. In total take of fur-bearing animals, Oregon ranks 19th; Washington 22nd. Oregon take was 66,800 animals of 13 species; muskrats numbered 49,100; mink, 6600, common skunks, 3600. Washington take was 50,300 animals of 16 species; muskrats, 35,159; minks 5,200; coyotes 3000.

New policy of the Federal Surplus Commodities corporation will aid truck garden farmers. The plan is to buy in farmers' markets fresh vegetables during certain periods of surplus production, as a means of assisting vegetable growers engaged in efforts to improve marketing conditions. All vegetables bought by FSC will be given to state welfare agencies for distribution to needy families.

This week the government will launch an experiment to seek farm-source motor fuels. The experiments will be undertaken with a view to making liquid, gaseous and solid motor fuels from potatoes, corn, wheat, beans and other crops. Object: to find cheaper motor fuel and develop new uses for crops which are frequently surplus.

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