

STATE CAPITAL NEWS

- PUD Bond Sale
- 659 Traffic Arrests
- Jobless Fraud

By A. L. LINDBECK

Salem—The experience of the city of Cascade Locks in its sale of bonds with which to finance construction of electric transmission lines is regarded by Governor Sprague as complete vindication of his stand before the last legislature in insisting upon competitive bidding for PUD bonds.

Several months ago Cascade Locks negotiated a private sale of a \$79,000 block of 4½ per cent bonds at a bid of .95. The supreme court, however, upset the deal in a recent opinion which held that the bond issue must be advertised and thrown open to competition.

Under competitive bidding the city has just sold the same issue to yield 4¼ per cent at a bid of .98 to the same firm. The bonds are to mature serially over a period of 20 years, but are callable after three years. If allowed to run their entire course the city will realize a saving of approximately \$2000 in interest payments alone by reason of the better bid received when the bonds were thrown open to competition.

While the Cascade Locks bond issue was not subject to the new PUD law the same principle applies, according to Governor Sprague.

Grange leaders and representatives of the Bonneville administration contended vigorously for private sale of PUD bonds on the ground that such a procedure would make for more advantageous sale of PUD securities.

Commenting on the Cascade Locks sale the governor pointed out that the city not only got a better bid for its bonds through competition but also saved any broker's commission that would have been necessary under a private sale.

Discovery of a deed issued in 1870 has saved the old depot at Gervais. Under terms of the deed the Southern Pacific railroad in return for right-of-way and several blocks of ground in the city of Gervais agreed to maintain a depot there "permanently." The company this week notified the Public Utilities commissioner that it had withdrawn its application for permission to abandon the agency at that point and to close the depot.

Personnel of the field staff of the new parole set-up was announced this week by Fred S. Finsley, state parole director. It includes Kenneth W. Dalton, 32, Salem; Joseph R. Silver, 30, Newberg; Hey C. Korgan, 47, Portland, and Perry H. Price, 33, Eugene.

A total of 659 motorists were arrested by state police during June for violation of traffic laws. Warnings were issued to 7516 other motorists for minor infractions of the rules of the road. Failure to secure an operator's license resulted in the arrest of 121 motorists.

Governor Sprague established some kind of a new record when in opening the big trap shoot at Salem last week he missed only two targets which is exactly the same number missed by Frank Troeh of Portland in winning the world's championship two days later. Of course, it should be explained that the governor shot at only two targets while Troeh shot at 200, breaking 198 of them.

J. D. Mickle, director of the state department of agriculture, has announced the appointment of C. W. McNamer of Heppner as brand inspector for Morrow county. The appointment was made in compliance with an act of the last legislature requiring the inspection of all livestock intended for shipment out of the state. Brand inspection is also required for livestock destined for shipment out of the county in all eastern Oregon counties and in Josephine, Douglas and Jackson counties west of the Cascades.

Another prospect for enrichment of the state's common school fund

went glimmering this week when Miss Nadie Strayer of Baker advised the State Land Board that she was abandoning gold mining operations in the Snake river midway between Huntington and Robinette. Under an agreement with the state board Miss Strayer's company was to pay the state a royalty on any gold taken from the stream.

Plans for acquisition of the properties of the Mountain States Power company in Tillamook county were discussed here last week by officials of the Tillamook county peoples utility district in a conference with O. R. Bean, Oregon utilities commissioner. The PUD officials also conferred with State Engineer Chas. Stricklin relative to the expansion of the district and were advised that this could only be accomplished through an election in which both the district and the voters in the territory to be annexed express their approval. The Tillamook district, organized in 1933, is one of two such districts in Oregon.

Charges that immoral practices are common among inmates of the state prison are denied by Warden Geo. Alexander. The charges made by a former prisoner brought a delegation of Portland men headed by Bishop Benjamin Dagwell of the Episcopal church to Salem for a conference with Governor Sprague and Warden Alexander this week. It is understood the investigation was dropped after Alexander convinced the delegation the ex-convict was a perennial trouble-maker with a record in several penal institutions before coming to Oregon.

Silas Gaiser, former city superintendent of schools in Salem, took over his new duties as administrator of the Oregon Unemployment Compensation act last week. Gaiser succeeds D. A. Bulmore who had served in that capacity since the commission was created.

The Oregon state tax commission will not attempt to go back beyond 1939 in collecting taxes on salaries of federal employees residing in this state. This decision, announced this week, was prompted largely by enactment of the "public salaries act" by congress providing that both the national government and the several states shall confine their new found taxing authority to public salaries of 1939 with a threat of retaliation against state employees in any state which attempts to make its tax claims against federal employees retroactive beyond 1939.

Starting a drive against alleged "chiselers" the Unemployment Compensation commission has filed two suits against applicants for jobless insurance charging fraud. Other suits will be filed soon according to Ralph Campbell, attorney for the commission. Campbell said that a number of instances have come to the attention of the commission in which persons drawing unemployment compensation have returned to work at other jobs without notifying the commission. In one case jobless insurance was paid to a waitress who continued to work at her same job.

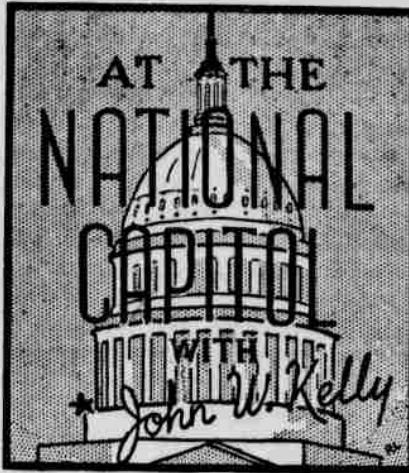
Circular on Gladioli Gives Many Pointers

Gladioli are among the most satisfactory and universal flowers grown in Oregon, whether produced for home use, exhibit purposes, or on a commercial basis, says Dr. W. P. Daruz, professor of pomology and horticulture at Oregon State college, in a recent extension circular dealing with gladiolus culture.

Those interested in this flower will find in Extension Circular 329 a brief history of the plant, its botany, a discussion of varieties, and the latest suggestions for growing gladioli successfully.

Of importance during the warm summer, says Dr. Daruz, is a constant supply of moisture for these flowers. Occasional heavy irrigation is beneficial in promoting best growth of the plants and several applications of fertilizer such as bone meal phosphate, or a complete chemical fertilizer, or liquid or other manure, will be beneficial.

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Washington, D. C., July 27—Under the so-called Hatch bill, passed by congress all of the several hundred postmasters of Oregon are forbidden to be active in politics. The prohibition applies to all federal appointive offices, but there are more postmasters than any other class.

Just to keep the record straight, the action of congress is the culmination of efforts started by the late Frederick Steiwer, republican senator from Oregon. It was Steiwer who introduced the original bill to divorce politics from public office, to forbid federal office holders from attending conventions to nominate senators, representatives, president or vice-president. The fact that the federal political machine made the second nominations of Taft and Hoover possible was admitted by Steiwer and he proposed putting a stop to such practices, whether the machine was controlled by republicans or democrats.

For several years the Oregon senator fought to get his bill out of committee and on the floor. He made no progress until New Mexico's Hatch, democrat, joined him. With the passing of Steiwer, Hatch carried on and after a bitter battle in which 100 per cent new dealers were defeated by a combination of republicans and conservative democrats, congress enacted one of the most sweeping reforms that has ever been undertaken in national politics. Incidentally Oregon's delegation with the exception of Pierce supported the reform bill and all six house members of Washington state opposed it.

Interpretation given the measure is that it blocks control of the democratic convention next year by Mr. Roosevelt and strengthens the position of Cactus Jack Garner.

Those thousands of women who work in packing plants during the season, the men and women who pick apples and pack them, the workers in the dairy industry, the employees in small sawmills, all those who constitute a formidable army in the Pacific Northwest are subject of a controversy which has been raging between the White House and congress for months.

National grange and others want them exempt from the wage-hour law, but Mr. Roosevelt protests, declaring that protection of this law is needed by the lowest paid class of labor in the nation. Application of the wage-hour law, as interpreted by administrator Elmer Andrews, would cause many canneries and small sawmills to shut down, depriving fruit producers of a market and depriving mill workers of employment, according to arguments for exemption.

Negotiations for a compromise are being held this week, but there is little prospect of legislation being enacted before the session closes.

Republicans and democrats alike from the western states are united on one phase of the president's lending program. This is earmarking 90 million dollars for reclamation projects now under construction or which have been authorized. The westerners are pushing through legislation which will enable settlers on projects to resume payments to the government and enable them to save their holdings. The plan involves, among other means to aid the settlers, a reduction in interest rates.

Junk dealers can continue bargaining for old rusty iron and abandoned farm machinery around the barn for the administration has thrown cold water on the proposal of Senator Schwollenback, Washington, to place an embargo on shipping scrap iron to Japan, which is

regarded as a munition of war. Secretary of State Hull objected to the senate taking up this matter until it comes to a decision on the president's neutrality program. This means scrap iron can be exported to Japan for another six or seven months, at least. Japan continues to be the largest buyer of Northwest lumber and food stuffs.

Sheepmen have obtained something out of congress. After hearings and debates extending for a year and agitation which started long ago, congress has enacted a "truth-in-fabric" measure. When an article is advertised as virgin wool it must be virgin wool and not reworked wool. Opposition has come from manufacturers who mixed reprocessed wool and offered the article as made of virgin wool. The new law will protect the consumer from being imposed on and is expected to increase the market of growers.

Reason congressmen are trying to wind up by the end of this month is because a congressman pays rent by the month in advance. If the session runs to August 5, as some predict, they must pay for all of August. Average congressman pays between \$100 and \$200 a month, none less than \$100 and many more than \$200. Since this session started rents alone have cost members about \$1500 to \$2000. . . . The president would like to try fishing in Rogue river when he visits the Pacific Coast next month. He will take along his tackle "in case." . . . Secretary of Interior Ickes wants to pay \$9,000 a year for chief attorney for Bonneville to a young lawyer only a few years out of school. An assistant lawyer was drawing \$150 a month a year ago. . . . Postmaster General Jim Farley does not share the apprehension of Mr. Roosevelt and his fellow cabinetee, Secretary of State Cordell Hull, that there will be a war in Europe in August. Mr. Farley left for the continent this week accompanied by his two daughters, planning a return to America in mid-September.

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