

## STATE CAPITAL NEWS

- Pray Appointment
- License Plates
- President Maaske

By A. L. LINDBECK

Salem—The fate of no Oregon public official ever aroused greater public interest than did that of Chas. P. Pray, superintendent of state police, last week.

Publication of a rumor that Pray was scheduled to "walk the plank" at the expiration of his term brought a flood of protests to the executive department from every corner of the state.

In announcing the reappointment of Pray last Friday Governor Sprague characterized the rumors as "reporters' guesses" but at the same time he explained that he was investigating certain phases of the state police problem which indicated that he was undecided and that there was some foundation for the rumors.

Pray, one of the most popular members of the state's official family, was apparently the least concerned about the rumor. It is known that he had not asked for reappointment, being of the opinion that the governor should have a free hand in his selection of appointive officials. Pray has served as superintendent of the state police bureau ever since its inception eight years ago and in that time has built the organization up to a degree of efficiency which has earned for it national recognition.

Official Oregon was well represented at the annual gathering of the Order of the Antelope on Hart mountain last week. Among those making the pilgrimage to the central Oregon shrine were State Treasurer Walter E. Pearson, who holds the title of Keeper of the Canteen, in the organization; Secretary of State Earl Snell; Dan J. Fry, state purchasing agent; Jerrold Owen, secretary to the World War Veterans State Aid commission, and Lewis Griffith, secretary to the State Land board.

A total of 5472 predatory animals were killed by hunters in Oregon during the first six months of 1939, according to J. D. Mickle, state director of agriculture. The list includes 4944 coyotes, 496 bobcats, 23 bears and 10 mountain lions.

Oregon's 1940 automobile license plates will consist of blue numerals on a white background. Secretary of State Snell estimates it will require 275,000 sets of the plates to meet the demand next year.

Oregon's liquor monopoly did a \$8,361,561 business during the year ending June 30 last, according to a report by the Liquor Control commission. Profits for the year were reported as \$2,864,861, an increase of nearly \$140,000 over the previous year.

If the automobile business is any criterion the people of Oregon are more prosperous than they have been for many years. Statistics compiled by Secretary of State Snell show that 15,732 new cars and trucks were sold by dealers in this state during the first half of the year. This is an increase of 35 per cent over new car sales for the same period in 1938, Snell said.

Private automobiles operating as "for hire" carriers are in violation of the state law, warns O. R. Bean, public utilities commissioner, in declaring war on this practice.

Within the next few weeks all units of the Oregon National Guard will be supplied with the new style long trousers and canvas leggings to replace the breeches and wrapped leggings which have been the regulation issue for enlisted men of the army heretofore. Major General George A. White announced this week that orders have been placed with the war department for enough of the new style trousers to supply the 1500 men of the 186th infantry and the 218th Field artillery who have not yet received them.

Twenty-two arrests were brought

about through efforts of the livestock theft investigation division of the state department of agriculture during the first half of 1939. Nineteen of the arrests resulted in conviction, one defendant was acquitted and three cases are still pending. Penitentiary terms aggregating 17 years were meted out to six of the defendants but five of them were paroled from the bench and only one of the number actually went to prison.

A private elevator may be a great convenience but it does not afford much relief from the heat as Governor Sprague has discovered during the past week. When the capitol architects designed the new building they made provision for shower baths in the offices occupied by the secretary of state and state treasurer but not in the executive suite, thinking, no doubt, that he should be content with a private elevator. Offers by the governor to trade his elevator for a shower bath have failed to interest his Board of Control colleagues although both have graciously consented to allow the governor to indulge in a cooling shower during the hot weather in exchange for an occasional ride on his elevator.

A bronze plaque honoring former governor Charles H. Martin is soon to be placed in the new capitol. The plaque, the work of George B. Clausen, Portland sculptor in bronze, has been financed through contributions from some 50 prominent Oregon business men, all admirers of the former governor.

Oregon residents paid out a total of \$43,526,444 in insurance premiums upon all classes of insurance during 1938, according to the annual report of Hugh H. Earle, state insurance commissioner.

R. J. Maaske, just elected to the presidency of the Eastern Oregon College of Education at La Grande, was formerly assistant state superintendent of public instruction under C. A. Howard whom he succeeds at the La Grande institution. A graduate of the University of Kansas, Maaske began his teaching career at Irrigon in eastern Oregon.

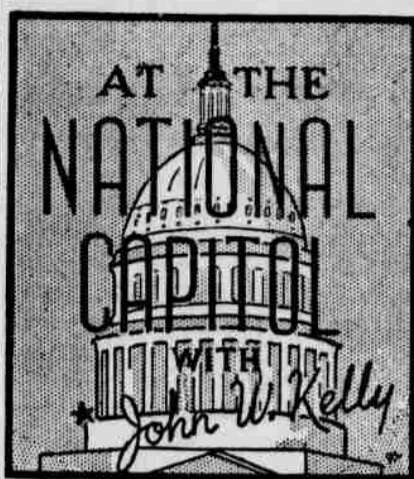
One evening last week a kind hearted motorist travelling along the highway down in Coos county picked up a couple of youthful hitch hikers. The grateful hitch hikers explained to the kind hearted motorist that they had been kept in after school and had missed their bus. They also regaled the kind hearted motorist with tales of their numerous pranks at school at the expense of their teachers most of whom, in the opinion of the youthful hitch hikers, were deaf, dumb and blind—especially dumb. All of which interested the kind hearted motorist immensely for he had once been a boy himself, and as a boy had attended school and may have played jokes on his "dumb" teachers even as did these modern hitch hiking youths. Arrived at their destination the boys thanked the kind hearted motorist profusely for the "lift" and he in turn thanked them for their entertainment and as he prepared to "step on the gas" he presented each of his guests with his card. It read: "Rex Putnam, state superintendent of public instruction."

### Poison Slays Grant Grasshoppers

Canyon City—An excellent kill of grasshoppers was obtained this summer on range land in the Logan valley area of Grant county, reports R. E. Brooke, county agent. Poison was spread over approximately 600 acres of range land, resulting in an estimated kill of 85 to 90 per cent of the hoppers. Actual counts showed from 84 to 152 dead hoppers per square foot in some sections.

If the town of Umatilla was destroyed in a flood and all its residents drowned, citizens of Oregon would be deeply concerned, Earl Snell, secretary of state, said today. Yet the traffic accident toll for 1938 was nearly equal to the total population of Umatilla, as given in the 1930 census. The accident toll was 328 while Umatilla's population was listed as 345.

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



Washington, D. C., Aug. 3—It is under cover yet, but the department of state is alarmed at the number of alien plotters and conspirators and gangs of assassins who are planning the overthrow of friendly governments. Many of these aliens are known and their purpose is known but there is no federal law by which the revolutionists and assassins can be either jailed or deported. Until the congress provides the necessary legislation these foreigners can conspire to seize governments, murder presidents and high state officials and be immune in the United States.

President Roosevelt knows the facts and is much concerned, for the anarchist groups are seeking to overthrow governments in South America, some of the 20 republics embraced in the administration's "good neighbor" policy. Inside facts of the plots are as sensational and thrilling as any fiction story on spies and international intrigue. Mr. Roosevelt realizes the embarrassment of trying to strengthen the bonds of friendship with a South American republic while at the same time the United States is harboring assassins and revolutionaries as they work out plans to destroy that particular republic.

Some fine day the lid will be lifted from this situation and the papers will be carrying first page stories. For the present, however, secrecy surrounds the facts which have been disclosed to only a few high officials. A bill is now being drafted by the state department which will be introduced by a senator of the Pacific Northwest possibly next January.

Social Security board cut off "match" money to Ohio because the monthly checks for old-age assistance carried a note announcing the governor was a candidate for reelection. Now SSB is under control of Paul V. McNutt and the monthly bulletin mailed to beneficiaries in Indiana (an official publication) is boosting him for the democratic nomination for president. McNutt has not cracked down on Indiana, which is his home state, for doing what Ohio did. Beneficiaries in Oregon and Washington will soon receive similar propaganda.

Survey of potential water power in the United States, just completed, places Washington state at the head of the list, with Oregon second and California third. Washington's potential power shows 8,768,000 horsepower available 90 per cent of the time and 12,021,000 available 50 per cent of the time. Oregon's potential horsepower available 90 per cent of the time is 4,502,000 and 6,104,000 available 50 per cent of the time. The three Pacific coast states have 41.67 per cent of all the power which is available 90 per cent of the time. It will always be potential until there are enough people to supply a market.

John Llewellyn Lewis, head of CIO, who contributed \$500,000 (dues from union members) to the Roosevelt campaign in 1936, is really as mad at President Roosevelt as he is at Vice President Garner. His calling Garner "an evil old man," is paralleled by his charge that Mr. Roosevelt was an ingrate when the president sat silent during the sit down strikes. And from the whippers which have circulated in Washington for two years, the president has his own opinion (not flattering) of Lewis. It was the sit-down strike and the administration's refusal to step in and establish law and order that caused the break between the vice president and president. Cactus Jack, after telling the president what he thought, packed up and went home to Texas, not returning until

Mr. Roosevelt requested him to return and smooth out the fight over the court bill.

One of the arguments for earmarking 90 million dollars for reclamation projects in the lending-spending bill so bitterly fought, was that 13.4 million can be used in Oregon and Washington, mostly in Washington. There could be used from this fund \$1,000,000 for Deschutes project (which will cost \$8,400,000 to complete); \$1,500,000 for Yakima-Roza project; \$10,000,000 for Grand Coulee, and \$900,000 for the Modoc division of the Klamath project.

The new schedule of power rates for Bonneville are intended to encourage use of the energy which has been going to waste for going on two years. The rates were submitted to the federal power commission and that body rushed its approval in four days in order to adjourn for the summer. Senators of Oregon and Washington have been advised to notify the commission by August 15 if they have any suggestions to make. Meanwhile Secretary of the Interior Ickes is asking legislation to hire a flock of officials for Bonneville at \$9000 each. It would require the sale of 620 kilowatt years on "at site" rates to pay one salary for one year. To date only 200 kilowatt years have been sold.

Mr. Roosevelt is being condemned again. He said he would not visit Alaska this summer as planned, because there are dense fogs in that region at this time of year. This has scared tourists contemplating an Alaskan trip. Unpublished is the hint that Mr. Roosevelt was informed fishing for salmon and steelhead in Oregon is not good in August, but is better in September. He will test this report in September. . . . Congressman James W. Mott's daughter is to be queen of the Astoria regatta, so as a compliment to Mott the entire naval affairs committee of the house will attend. Committeemen planned flying to Astoria in a navy transport plane but cancelled the air voyage because their wives insist on accompanying them and women are not permitted in army or navy planes. . . . Government payments to farmers for the first 6 months of this year were 414 million dollars, compared with 257 million for the same period last year.

Oregon's first college course in safety education is being held at the Portland session of the University of Oregon summer school, it was announced today by Earl Snell, secretary of state, a co-sponsor of the course with the state system of higher education. Nearly 40 students were enrolled in the course which is designed to train persons who wish to teach safety in schools, industrial or civic groups.

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