

STATE CAPITAL NEWS

- Funds Shortage
- 61 New Lawyers
- Political Warm-up

By A. L. LINDBECK

Salem—That old bugaboo—a general fund deficit—has bobbed up again to haunt tax spenders. Its existence was discovered by Budget Director David Eccles while engaged in a survey of state finances. Eccles thought that he was on the trail of a healthy surplus in the general fund when he stumbled onto the deficit instead.

The deficit is not a large one, amounting to only some \$168,818 in the current budget, but its existence came as a complete surprise to the budget director and others around the capitol who were under the impression that the last legislature had left a balanced budget—that is that they had kept biennial appropriations within estimated revenues.

In addition to the current deficit Eccles also discovered that the 1937-38 deficit, inherited by the Sprague administration, had taken on weight, amounting now to some \$417,000.

But Eccles does not intend that the deficit shall continue. On the contrary he proposes to use his budgetary control powers to wipe out both the inherited and the current deficit through a program of enforced economy in which all tax-supported state activities will be expected to share.

Real Estate Commissioner Claude Murphy is warning all real estate brokers who were in business prior to the enactment of the new law that they must get their registrations in before September 11 if they want to avoid the examination and the additional penalty of a \$1 examination fee.

The 61 law school graduates who passed the recent bar examination are scheduled to appear in Salem Thursday of this week to receive their certificates as duly qualified attorneys at law. The oath of office will be administered by John L. Rand, chief justice of the Oregon supreme court, and the new lawyers will be entertained at a luncheon arranged by the board of governors of the Oregon bar.

Official Oregon was well represented at the dedication of the Tongue Point naval base on the lower Columbia river last week. Governor Sprague was one of the speakers at the dedication ceremony and both Secretary of State Snell and State Treasurer Pearson were among the numerous "admirals" at the regatta, of which the dedication was an outstanding feature.

O. D. Adams, state director of vocational education, has just received notice of his appointment as a member of the Oregon state advisory board of the national youth administration.

Leo Friedlander of New York City, sculptor of the statuary that guards the entrance to Oregon's new capitol, has been here the past week supervising the finishing touches to the huge granite pieces, work on which is now completed.

Fatalities as well as injuries in traffic accidents on Oregon highways this year are ahead of the 1938 record, according to figures compiled by Secretary of State Snell.

Already the big guns of the two major political parties are being maneuvered into position on the Oregon front in preparation for the political campaign of 1940.

Right on the heels of the announcement by former Governor Charles H. Martin that he would head a campaign for the nomination of John Nance Garner of Texas as the democratic standard bearer, Frank McHale, Democratic national committeeman from Indiana, came to Oregon to sound out sentiment among democrats of this state in support of Paul V. McNutt whom many regard as President Roosevelt's choice as his successor.

Republican aspirants to the White House seat also have their eyes on Oregon. At least two of these will visit the state in person this month

to confer with party leaders on their prospects. Senator Robert A. Taft of Ohio is due in Oregon next week and Senator Styles Bridges of New Hampshire will follow him later in the month. Friends of both of these men are making elaborate plans for the entertainment of these visitors during their stay in the northwest.

The Oregon Pension Federation has addressed a letter to Governor Sprague urging his support of a program providing for a retirement pension of \$40 a month for all citizens of 65 years of age or over who would agree to refrain from all gainful pursuits. The proposed pension would be financed out of state and federal funds.

Rod C. McCormack of Eugene has been appointed assistant state veterinarian to succeed Dr. R. J. Green, resigned. McCormack is the son of the former state senator, E. A. McCormack.

Employees of the public utilities commission are no longer to be permitted to sip their morning and afternoon tea in leisurely fashion. Commissioner O. R. Bean has decreed that the morning and afternoon recess periods shall be reduced from 15 minutes to ten minutes.

With the Labor Day holiday signaling the end of the vacation period business in state departments was getting back to a normal basis this week. Governor Sprague who took last week off for a short rest at an Oregon beach resort was back at his desk Tuesday. Members of the state supreme court who have been on vacation since July were also back in their offices prepared to wade into the grist of appeals that have accumulated during their absence.

With a deficiency appropriation of \$500 at his disposal Secretary of State Snell is now pondering the location of a flag pole for the new capitol. Numerous suggestions have been made in this connection. One involves a pole set at a 45-degree angle from the roof of the capitol immediately above the main entrance. Another provides for two poles, one on either wing of the building. Still another calls for a tall fir pole to rise from the lawn in front of the building. In addition to the \$500 made available for this purpose by the State Emergency Board Governor Sprague has announced that he would make available a fund of \$294 raised by voluntary subscription shortly after the old capitol burned and which is now in his possession.

Wheat League Contest Interest Said Growing

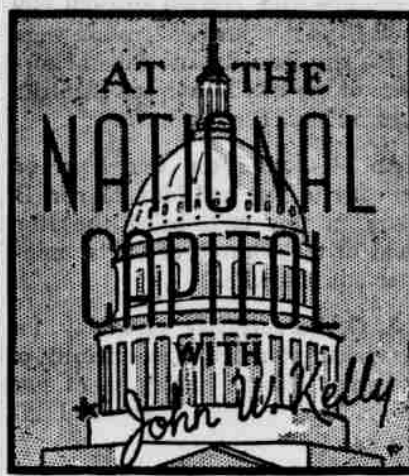
Mounting interest in the Eastern Oregon Wheat league's state convention, to be held in Condon in December, is evidenced by the fact that a number of out-of-state wheat growers plan to attend, coming from as far away as Texas.

The out-of-state interest, according to Harry Proudfoot of Wasco, president, is an outgrowth of the league's AAA wheat acreage compliance contest. Winning counties are now being determined for each participating state.

Idaho, Montana, Washington and Texas have written Proudfoot that they want to be represented at the convention. In announcing Texas' interest, C. H. Day, president of the Texas Agricultural association, said: "It is to the interest of all agriculture that sectional lines be erased with mutual understanding. It will benefit the wheat farmers of Texas to be represented at the Oregon council table."

Of a total of six pedestrians killed in Oregon during the month of July, two were crossing a highway, one was jaywalking and one was walking along the highway with traffic instead of facing it, Earl Snell, secretary of state, reported today in urging pedestrians to observe safe walking practices to avoid accidents.

Excessive speed was reported as an element in fatal highway accidents by 26 per cent of the drivers involved in this type of accident during the first seven months of 1939, figures compiled by the safety division of the secretary of state's office revealed.



Washington, D. C., Sept. 7.—When and if the United States is involved in war (and it can happen despite administration efforts), an order is all prepared, awaiting the president's signature, which will give the government complete control over labor. Such new-won legislation as wages and hours, collective bargaining, authority of the National Labor Relations Board, will be tossed out the window by the War Labor Administration if these statutes and regulations interfere with effectiveness (not necessarily efficiency). Labor will be regimented as thoroughly as it is in totalitarian states headed by Hitler and Stalin. Big shots in the labor movement and business agents will have nothing to say.

Employment of women and children under 16 will be compelled by the labor administration if the contest is of long duration and manpower is required for the field, and the protective laws now on the statute books will be ignored. Labor serving at home will be under as rigid discipline as labor in the front lines.

There are other measures ready for the signature of the president. An agency for price control, for selective service, for war trade, control of finance, and of course an administration for food production and control. If the United States is dragged into a major war again, as it was in 1917, things will be different. This is all part of the industrial mobilization plan, which can swing into action when the president pushes a button.

Social Security Board has already notified the higher-ups that there are now 30 million people working in industries which will be needed in war, and each individual of the 30 millions is represented by a card giving his or her life history. These SSB cards are supposed to be confidential, and are—not even G-men have been permitted to examine them—but war is different.

Farm Security Administration has \$40,000,000 to lend out this year (ending June 30, 1940), to tenants, farm laborers and share-croppers to enable them to buy farms of their own. It is expected that about 7000 loans will be made—they run for 40 years and the annual installments (including principal and interest) must average 4.3 per cent of the loan. In the two years FSA has been giving this start in life, 15 loans have been made in Oregon, a total of \$132,275, the average loan being \$8818 and the average acreage per farm 128 acres. For Washington state 24 loans have been made, representing \$163,777, average loan being \$6824 and acreage averaging 112 acres.

Smallest acre average is in California—44 acres—with average loan \$8217. Irrigation makes the small farm profitable. Last year (fiscal 1939, ending last June), borrowers spent 24 per cent of their loans for improvements. As good farms available are acquired, borrowers will have to spend more for buildings.

Here is what the AAA conservation program of 1937 meant to the Pacific Northwest, as of December 31, 1938, the figures just made available: Oregon payments \$2,466,788; Washington \$1,860,533. That is the money that went to the farmers. To administer the program in Oregon it cost \$149,556 and in the state of Washington \$93,774. Every county in Oregon received benefits, the lowest being Clatsop, with \$5035; the highest Linn, with \$218,971. In Washington the range was \$2717 in Mason county to \$244,820 in Whitman.

Upper bracket officials are rushing a program extending the na-

tional defense and appropriations will be requested of the next congress early in January for another billion dollars. It will include one million, at least, for Tongue Point, at the mouth of Columbia river; other millions to increase the number of airports and expand the airports now existing, and funds for building highways capable of standing up under the pounding of mobile artillery, and wide enough to permit brigades to be transported quickly.

War in Europe has changed the picture in Washington. Such topics as relief, WPA, spending-lending, congressional probes, have all been relegated while the administration, from President Roosevelt down to the messengers, discuss nothing but "the situation." So carefully had the administration formulated plans that the shock was cushioned and the financial market, always the first to be upset, was not disturbed. No cabinet member is watching developments more intently than Secretary of Agriculture Wallace for the conflict is expected to furnish a market for some of America's surplus food food products.

Approval has been given for a WPA project which is to make copies of official records in all Oregon counties and transcriptions of articles of historic nature in newspapers prior to 1891. A similar compilation of records is planned for Washington state.

Officials are conducting an undercover search for industrialists in Oregon and Washington to act as key men in the skeleton organization to be created by the war resources board.

AAA Wheat Payments To be 18 to 22 Cents

It is expected that wheat farmers who comply with the AAA farm program in 1940 will be paid from 18 to 22 cents a bushel on the normal yield of their acreage allotment, as compared with 28 cents this year, according to word received by the state AAA office at Corvallis. This includes conservation and price adjustment payments.

Definite rates cannot be established at this early date, it was said. The range within which the rates are expected to fall is announced, now, however, so that farmers planning 1940 operations can know approximately what payments they can earn.

The 1940 payments will be lower than those of 1939 because national acreage allotments are larger. Funds, therefore, must be distributed on a broad basis. The 1940 national wheat acreage allotment is 62 million acres, as compared with 55 million acres in 1939. Similarly, Oregon's 1940 wheat acreage allotment will be 851,458, an increase of 10 per cent.

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