STATE

- Politics
- State Fair Clean
- Hoarding

By A. L. LINDBECK

Salem-Governor Sprague spent more than an hour in conference with Republican party leaders one afternoon this past week. After the conference none of those "in the know" would reveal the subject under discussion. All of which, of course, only serves to add to touch of mystery to the occasion and to arouse the curiosity of the political prognostiactors.

It is no secret that many of the Republican leaders in Oregon are becoming impatient of the governor's delay in cleaning his house of R. Bean, public utilities commission-Democratic hold-overs from the Martin regime. Neither is it any secret that some of these same party leaders are pretty much peeved over the governor's failure to consult with them regarding political appointments. Now these peevishly perturbed politicians fail to take into account the fact that the few Democrats who remain on the state payroll fought shoulder to shoulder with regular Republicans in electing Sprague. The fact that they are registered Democrats and hold-overs from a Democratic regime is enough to condemn them and to warrant their immediate disbarment from the public trough.

To an unbiased political observer viewing the situation from the vantage point of the side lines, it would appear that the governor has already made fair progress in his house cleaning chore. The lucrative dissatisfied with the present board public utilities commission post, the liquor control board, the unemployment compensation commission, industrial accident commission and the state parole board are already in Republican hands and the state highway commission although still headed by Democrats has always been staffed by Republicans, most turned over to the state by the conof whom are intensely partisan in their political opinions.

But there are a few Democratic office holders remaining. Enough at of Control also formally accepted the least to arouse the ire of Republican two huge granite statues guarding party leaders who believe implicitly the entrance to the new capitol this in the doctrine of to the victor belongs the spoils, especially now that their party is in the saddle. Among Oregon Born Road these are James H. Hazlett, corpor-ation commissioner, who still has Project Advances more than three years to serve under years to run. Then there is Dan Fry, state purchasing agent, who, in spite of his Demoratic affiliation has made such an outstanding record for efficiency that the Republican-dominated board of control hesitates to disturb him in spite of partisan demands for his scalp. And then there is State Forester J. W. Ferguson, whom even the governor would like to see supplanted by a Republican but about which he apparently can do nothing without a reorganization of the forestry board, a move which he seems reluctant to make.

While Governor Sprague "deplores" the hoarding of foodstuffs in anticipation of war-time profiteering there is nothing he can do about it, he told newspapermen at the capitol this week. The governor declared that in his opinion there was no occasion for hoarding in this country where there is an adequate supply of everything and told newspapermen that his family was not stocking up on anything.

Officials of the flax cooperative at Canby have applied to the Board of Control for an advance on this year's flax crop. Lack of sufficient capital, they said, places the cooperative at a serious disadvantage in competing with the state flax plant which is in position to make immediate payment to its growers without the necessity of borrowing from banks at high rates of interest.

In many respects the state fair this year was the cleanest ever. All games of chance and questionable entertainments were barred from the midway, gambling at the pari-mutuel windows by minors was forbidden,

and the races were run for the benefit of the spectators rather than the gamblers after Governor Sprague took a hand following complaints which poured in as a result of the apparent collusion between the race starter and the pari-mutuel operators on the opening day.

This has been another busy week for Oregon's chief executive. Tuesday Governor Sprague met with the State Reclamation commission at Clatskanie. Wednesday he jumped to Ontario to attend the annual convention of the State Real Estate association. He is scheduled for a stop in Baker on Thursday and on Friday he will take in the round-up at Pendleton.

Commercial motor trucks operating in Oregon paid fees totaling more than \$763,000 during the first seven months of this year, according to O. er. More than 12,000 trucks are registered with the utilities department for purposes of regulation.

Apparently aimed at Ralph W Perry of Hood River county, Attorney General Van Winkle has advised District Attorney John Baker of that county that it was unlawful for one person to hold the dual position of county commissioner and director of a peoples utility district. Perry, a Hood River county commissioner, was recently elected a director of the newly created Hood River PUD.

Reorganization of the state board of cosmetic-therapy examiners is pending, Governor Sprague told a delegation of beauty school operators and managers who conferred with him here this week. The governor told the delegation that he was and planned to replace Mrs. Mary Burgard of Oregon City as a member of the board and Inez B. Reinhart of Portland as secretary.

The new central heating plant which will serve all buildings in the capitol group at Salem was formally tractors this week. The plant, financed through PWA aid, represents an investment of \$130,000. The Board

The Pacific International highway the eleventh hour appointment made an Oregon-born project, has passed by Governor Martin, and Hugh H. the dream stages and is assuming Earle, insurance commissioner, form, according to announcemens of whose term still has another two the Oregon State Motor association.

North from Vancouver to Hazelton, Canada, as well as southward into far reaches of Mexico, the highway has already been built and is being used. On to Fairbanks, Alaska, is the present slogan, and a commission representing the United States and Canada have already agreed on major points.

Although the route is approximately four-fifths in Canada the United States expects to foot the major part of the bill. A road through or west of the coastal mountains would be terrifically expensive, but Uncle Sam needs the highways for military defense reasons, it is felt in Washington, and thus willingly assumes a greater part of the cost, as advised by the war department.

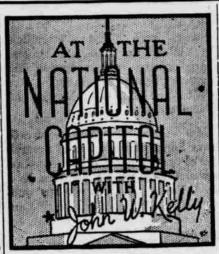
It was on April 14, 1930, in Portland, that the Pacific International Highway association was formed, in response to a call issued by President E. B. McDaniel, of the Oregon State Motor association. Highway enthusiasts from several coastal cities responded to the association's

"We believed in the international highway then, both for its commercial and tourist possibilities, and we believe in it now," said President McDaniel. "Connecting the tips of the two American continents might have seemed visionary at one time, but no informed person doubts the wisdom and feasibility of the plan now. "We'll have the tip-to-tip highway in a few years," he said.

APPRECIATION

We wish to express our appreciation for the help given us at the time of our recent fire.

Mr. and Mrs. Omar Rietmann.



Washington, D. C., Sept. 14-There is no immediate prospect of United States sending food to Great Britain and France, although the first reaction to the war's start was a sharp increase in retail prices to American consumers in the face of surpluses of everything. Later, and soon, the farmers and stockmen will receive better prices-now going to processors, wholesalers and retailers entirely.

Conditions at the opening of the second world war are quite different from the first "war to make the world safe for democracy" and "a war to end 'all wars." Wheat acreage, for example, is far greater today; there is a larger supply of livestock. Great Britain has already made contracts with Argentina for beef (same canned meat over which there was a controversy a few weeks ago when President Roosevelt said it was a better product than the American article). Canada and Australia have large wheat crops; sugar is being produced in British colonies; Ireland (neutral), is in the sugar beet industry in an important way. Wheat carryover in all wheat growing countries is enormous. Australia has a heavy store of wool. However, there will be a demand by the allies for fats.

To what extent food supplies reach Great Britain and France will depend on the scope of the submarine warfare against British flag ships carrying food cargoes.

Blame for upping prices is charged to the American housewife who has wanted to "stock up." The day that President Roosevelt gave assurance that there is no occasion to purchase more than the normal food supply for a week, the procurement division of the treasury ignored Mr. Roosevelt's advice to consumers. Procurement telephoned to all government agencies to prepare their requisitions for one year's supplies in order that the supply can be obtained "before prices increase." Among other items, a year's supply of sugar, flour, bacon, lard, coffee for government hospitals, camps, etc., the instruction of procurement division making Uncle Sam No. One hoarder.

Warlike atmosphere in the national capital-Tourists forbidden to walk under the portico of the White House. Police of the executive mansion detail have shifted their service revolver from the hip to a holster slung from a white Sam Brown belt. No outsider permitted to peek into the building at the navy yard where big guns are rifled. Eighteen minutes after a shift changes in the navy yard every blueprint and other document must be accounted for by the last man inspecting it. There are 500 civilians working in the yard; some were contributing to communist "front" organizations a few months ago. Secrecy surrounds Mr. Roosevelt's goings and comings between Washington and his mother's home at Hyde Park. Each day an officer from the army, another from the navy, sticks pins in a map of Europe facing the president's desk in the executive office, showing the day's developments in the war. Some new dealers who hate Hitler favor sending troops to the allies (they were too young to be in the first world war). The government has sent an improved gasmask of domestic manufacture to every representative in the foreign service in the war zone.

The farm revenue in the Pacific Northwest was better in July than in July, 1938, (but still below July, 1937), is due to government payments. Of the farm revenue in Oregon last July, \$7,343,000, the government contributed \$363,000, the re-

mainder being \$2,106,000 from crops and \$4,874,000 from livestock. For Washington's July revenue the government contributed \$1,120,000, other items being \$4,643,000 from crops and \$5,304,000 from livestock, total of \$9,947,000 for the month.

From January to August 1, the government paid Oregon farmers \$4,-300,000 Washington \$5,690,000. Including the government benefits, revenue for Oregon farms for the first seven months was \$43,213,000 and for Washington \$67,831,000. The figures show that livestock and livestock products bring in more revenue than crops-or did in the first seven months. Government payments for Idaho in the January-July period were \$5,446,000.

Behind the sudden abandonment of broadcasting the propaganda from Europe (it reached a point where no government-controlled station in the belligerant nations could be believed) was a slick piece of radio censorship on the American stations which were picking up the foreign broadcasts, making transcriptions, and recasting them. Every American station must have its license renewed every six months by the Federal Communications commission. Mr. Roosevelt disapproved of the propaganda. FCC gave a hint to the national networks, the propoganda transcriptions were discontinued. That's the inside story.

John L. Lewis of CIO and William Green of AFL are in for a severe jolt if America "goes in." Key men to handle industry and labor is a noted industrialist who had his troubles with the communist-inspired sit down strikes. The president has approved his selection.

Mr. and Mrs. Claude Graham and daughter, Jean Marie, returned the end of the week from a motor trip to Utah where they visited relatives of Mr. Graham's.

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