

# STATE NEWS

- New Senate Leader
- 1940 Fair
- School Costs

By A. L. LINDBECK

Salem. — Resignation of Senate President Robert M. Duncan to accept a seat on the circuit bench has started the king makers on their pre-session task of picking a new senate leader. Not that Duncan's resignation has any bearing on the situation one way or another. It merely offered a convenient excuse on which to hang the biennial guessing contest. Among those most prominently mentioned as Duncan's most likely successor is Dean Walker of Polk county, a veteran of many senate sessions and for the last several sessions senior chairman of that powerful joint House and Senate committee on ways and means. Marion county's own Douglas McKay is also receiving considerable attention in this connection. Neither are the prognosticators overlooking U. S. Balentyne of Klamath county, leader of the left wing contingent in the last senate and whose followers were booming Balentyne for the presidency long before the 1939 session adjourned.

Oregon's participation in the San Francisco fair during 1940 will probably depend upon the attitude of the State Emergency Board. The legislative appropriation for the state exhibit at the big show on Treasure Island was practically exhausted during 1939 and no provision was made for a repeat performance. Governor Sprague has indicated that he will present the situation to the emergency board for consideration.

Only one payment remains to wipe out the loan negotiated in 1929 to finance the state office building. When the state makes this final payment of \$11,740-plus interest on July 1 the building, constructed ten years ago will be debt free, according to State Treasurer Walter E. Pearson.

Temporarily unemployed workers in Oregon draw an aggregate of \$4,042,888 from the unemployment compensation fund during 1939 compared to \$5,916,398 in jobless insurance paid out by the Oregon commission during 1938 it was revealed this week by the Unemployment Compensation commission. The figures reflect a substantial improvement in the employment situation in this state, a condition which is also reflected in a reduction of the active file of unemployed persons from 85,827 to 42,071.

Truck and bus operators in Oregon paid a total of \$1,203,531 in fees during the past year according to a report by O. R. Bean, public utilities commissioner. Of this amount \$979,116.46 was turned over to the state highway fund. This was an increase of nearly \$145,000 over the 1938 figures.

The suit brought by William F. Woodward of Portland in an effort to block printing of the new Oregon codes was thrown out of court by Circuit Judge Lewelling this week. Woodward who contends the act is invalid because it confers non-judicial powers upon the state supreme court, has indicated that he will carry his fight on up to the state's highest tribunal.

Oregon will have \$2,595,000 in federal funds for use on its state highway system during the year beginning July 1, according to word received from Washington by R. H. Baldock, state highway engineer. Of this amount \$1,884,000 has been allocated to regular federal aid highways, \$245,900 for secondary highways, \$335,000 for grade separations and \$129,200 for public lands roads.

Cost of operating Oregon's public school system during 1938-39 increased more than \$1,220,000 over the costs for the previous year—from \$17,663,167 to \$18,885,990—according to figures compiled by Rex Putnam, state superintendent of public in-

struction, from reports filed by county school superintendents.

This increase in school costs came too in spite of a smaller school enrollment and a reduction in the number of teachers employed. While there was an increase in the number of children on the school census rolls from 269,663 to 270,397, there was a loss of nearly 3000—from 210,219 to 207,546—in the public school enrollment. This enrollment loss was reflected entirely in the elementary school figures where the enrollment dropped from 148,715 to 144,794. Enrollment in the high schools of the state at the same time showed a small increase from 62,063 to 62,752.

Paralleling this reduction in school enrollment there was also a reduction in the number of teachers employed in the public schools from 7177 to 7054. This reduction occurred entirely in the ranks of elementary school teachers whose numbers declined from 4851 to 4693. The number of high school teachers gained from 2001 to 2024 while there was a gain of 12 in the number of junior high school teachers, from 325 to 337.

The per capita cost of educating high school students shows an increase from \$105.77 to \$109.62 while the cost of educating pupils in the grades increased from \$90.34 to approximately \$94.

More than \$450,000 was whittled from the bonded debt load of the school districts whose aggregate outstanding bonds were reduced from \$15,068,003 to \$14,627,954. Outstanding school warrants at the same time were reduced by more than \$225,000 from \$1,484,679 to \$1,258,957.

Remodeling of the supreme court building, authorized by the last legislature, was completed this week. Arthur S. Benson, clerk of the supreme court, who was formerly quartered on the third floor of the building now occupies offices on the first floor, sharing the space formerly occupied by the state library, with four assistant attorneys-general. I. H. Van Winkle, attorney general, with his corps of clerks and stenographers and three or four other aides, occupy the west half of the first floor. The seven supreme court justices will remain on the third floor but will enjoy greatly enlarged office space by reason of the clerical force on the first floor.

Preliminary petitions for a proposed initiative measure which would close most places of business throughout Oregon on Sundays and holidays, have been filed with Secretary of State Snell. The measure which is sponsored by the Portland Grocery clerks union, would exempt candies, tobacco, drugs and medicines, motor fuel and oil, newspapers and magazines, restaurants and theaters from operation of the proposed Sunday closing law.

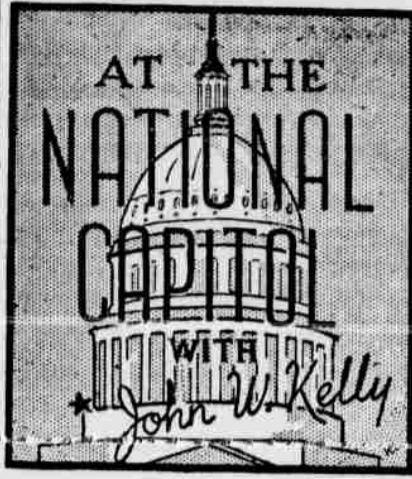
Mrs. Joe Rogers, Sr., of Independence is the second candidate to file her declaration of intention to enter the 1940 campaign with Secretary of State Snell. Mrs. Rogers, a Republican, who wants to represent Polk county in the lower house of the state legislature, was defeated for that honor when she ran as an independent two years ago.

## KOAC Gets Navy OK For Power Boost

Oregon State College.—The KOAC application for increase in power to 5000 watts, now pending before the federal communications commission, will not be opposed by the navy department as appeared likely for a time. Navy approval was obtained by means of a proposed directional antenna designed by F. O. McMullan, chief engineer for KOAC and head of the electrical engineering department here.

The directional antenna system will fully protect radio operations at the Tongue point air base, meet commission requirements for protection of a North Dakota station on the KOAC wavelength, and yet will greatly increase the effective coverage of the station in all parts of the state.

State college officials are still awaiting a decision on the KOY interference case.



Washington, D. C., Jan. 10.—Legislative influence of Washington and Oregon will be exerted to have restored many of the cuts made by President Roosevelt in the budget. As soon as the budget became public and the slashes were apparent, a movement was started to get more money for Bonneville and Grand Coulee. The latter was given an estimate of \$12,000,000 for fiscal year 1941 (it was \$23,000,000 for the current fiscal 1940), and Bonneville was cut to \$6,000,000.

Representatives of the two states will appear before the ways and means committee of the house and present arguments for larger sums. Backers of Grand Coulee are anxious to expedite completion of that project; Bonneville boosters want four more generators installed. With present installation and generators being installed, Bonneville will have six. The complete plan calls for ten units.

Reclamation will proceed under a slow bell. At the last minute there was stricken from the budget an estimate for a tunnel to drain the water from Tule lake into lower Klamath lake. Until this project is undertaken, Klamath Falls will continue to be subjected to dust storms. Deschutes project is cut a few thousand dollars, but remains at practically \$400,000. Work will continue on Wickiup and the 500 CCC enrollees will be available.

If congress does not increase the budget for Bonneville there will still be an abundance of funds to build transmission lines from Pasco to Midway and Midway to Ellensburg; from Pasco to Pendleton and Pendleton to La Grande, and Pasco to Colfax. Funds will be available to construct a transmission line from St. Johns to Astoria, down the Columbia river; another from St. Johns to Tillamook.

Money will be ready for a survey for a line into Waldport, Lincoln county, and while work is progressing along the coast counties of Oregon, a survey will be made from Bonneville up the Deschutes to Bend, in central Oregon.

There will be curtailment of activities of the biological survey and the fisheries bureau, unless congress disregards the budget recommendations—both services very important to the Pacific northwest. Also hard hit are various functions of the department of agriculture in Oregon and Washington.

Army engineers are budgeted a very small amount by the president for rivers and harbor work and the corps will have to count pennies to barely get by. There is not enough money for them to undertake new projects, and they may not be able to repair the south jetty at the mouth of the Columbia. The program desired for Port Orford, Coos bay, Yaquina, Bay Ocean, the harbors on the southwest Washington coast, are all cramped.

The president also made a deep cut in the estimate for flood control, which affects Walla Walla river, Columbia river, coastal streams and the Willamette valley project.

On the other hand, the president has made increases. The National Resources Planning board (of which his uncle, Frederic Delano, is chairman) is given \$1,600,000, an increase of \$312,000; and the office of government reports (which makes movies and furnishes government officials with radio facilities) receives \$1,055,000.

Robert Fechner, who was director of the CCC from its creation until his death a few days ago, has a record that was unique. Of all the

scores of men connected with administrative positions during the new deal, Fechner was the only one who remained at the head of his agency throughout the years. And there has been less criticism of CCC than any other emergency bureau. The boys under Director Fechner performed services worth millions of dollars in all part of the Pacific northwest, on the coast, in forests, mountains, ranges, parks, and they have been of great assistance in lowering the cost of reclamation projects in both Oregon and Washington.

Rapid completion of Grand Coulee dam is forcing the bureau of fisheries to rush plans for handling salmon which cannot climb the dam, as they do to Bonneville. The reclamation bureau is building hatcheries at Wenatchee on the Entiat, Methow and Okanogan rivers and these will be transferred to the bureau of fisheries for operation. The fisheries bureau trapped 50,000 mature Columbia river salmon at Rock Island dam last fall and transported them by trucks to hatcheries, some of the salmon having a 150-mile ride in the tanks.

The president slashed appropriations deeply to give more money for national defense, but so many communities are affected that there is a growing inquiry as to the necessity for more than two billion dollars being assigned to this purpose. It is believed congress will restore many of the cuts.

### SKIMMED MILK COSTLY

The first 1939 arrest of a restaurant dealer for selling adulterated milk to customers was made at the tag end of the year, report state department of agriculture officials. Skimmed milk, substituted for the legal whole milk, brought a \$10 fine at the hands of the court.

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