

# STATE CAPITAL NEWS

By A. L. LINDBECK

- Consolidation
- Higher Payrolls
- Costly Government

Salem.—Elimination of 480 of the 1934 school districts in Oregon is provided for in preliminary reports already filed with the state board of education by county school district reorganization committees acting under authority of an act passed by the last legislature.

The state board took its first action on the recommendations of county committees this week when it approved plans for the reorganization of the school districts in Josephine and Curry counties. In Josephine county the reorganization plans provide for consolidation of the present 42 districts into 21 districts. In one instance 12 districts are being combined into one. A number of districts are not being disturbed in the proposed reorganization plan. In Curry county it is proposed to eliminate five of the existing 18 districts.

Opponents of the proposed reorganization plan in any of the districts affected have 60 days in which to reject the plan if a majority of the voters in the district so elect.

Published reports to the effect that the three D'Autremont brothers—Hugh, Ray and Roy—had appeared before the state parole board brought a prompt explanation from the board that the appearance was purely routine and had no particular significance. The three brothers who are serving life terms for the brutal slaying of four trainmen in the Siskiyou tunnel train robbery in October, 1923, are not eligible to parole, the board explained. Their only chance for release, the board's statement pointed out, lay through a pardon or commutation of sentence at the hands of the governor.

Grant county has been getting more and better game law enforcement than some of its residents want, but not as much or as good as some of them deserve. This is the conclusion voiced by Chas. P. Pray, superintendent of state police, in a report to Governor Sprague following an investigation into complaints filed by Grant county citizens against treatment meted out by state police to deer hunters in that section of the state. Pray declared that his investigations had failed to substantiate the charges.

The State Land Board has decided to boost interest rates on loans of \$1000 or less from the state school fund from five to six percent. Rates on larger loans will remain at five percent. The increased rate, according to Lewis Griffith, secretary of the board, was necessitated because of the high cost of collecting the smaller loans.

O. Henry Oleen of St. Helens, who eliminated himself for the Democratic legislative race two years ago in order to make the race for the Democratic nomination for governor, wants to represent Columbia county in the House of Representatives again. Oleen filed his formal declaration of candidacy with the state department this week. His was the fourth declaration filed in the 1940 primary campaign. Oleen has seen service in three previous legislative sessions.

Oregon's industrial payrolls hit a new all-time high in 1939 at \$158,294,120, according to records of the State Industrial Accident Commission. This figure exceeded the 1938 record by more than \$11,000,000. The average number of men employed by Oregon industries during the year was 117,100, compared to 109,245 in 1938, records of the commission show.

The encroachment of federal agencies upon state activities this week brought a vigorous protest from Governor Sprague who addressed letters to Oregon's delegation in Congress calling attention to what he termed an "acute situation."

While the governor's letter had special reference to the demand that the Oregon relief committee put

into operation a so-called merit system in the selection of its employed personnel he expressed concern "because of the threat to extend this federal authority over other departments of state government to which the federal government makes any contribution."

Insistence by the federal board upon its interference in the administration of the state relief set-up, the governor declared, constitutes a very grave threat to the efficiency and economy of operation of that state activity.

Earl H. Hill, veteran political leader of Lane county, who visited Salem this week, refused to commit himself as to his plans for the forthcoming campaign except to insist that he will be guided largely by the wishes of his friends. Hill is being put forth as a possible contender for the Republican nomination for state treasurer. He is also in line for the House Speakership, should his path lead in that direction, inasmuch as he is now the oldest member of the lower house in point of service. Under a gentleman's agreement by which the Speakership honors is passed around to various sections of the state the first Congressional district is entitled to consideration this year, Ernest Fatland the present speaker hailing from the second district and his predecessor coming from the third district. Wm. M. McAllister of Medford, also of the First district, is understood to have his eye on the Speakership also.

Including hidden taxes approximately 35 percent of the gross income of this country now goes toward the support of governmental activities, according to Wallace S. Wharton, member of the state tax commission, who warns that increasing taxes and mounting public debt would inevitably lead this nation to Socialism. While Wharton does not consider the tax situation as hopeless he declares that no solution is possible until a larger portion of the general public is made tax conscious.

There will probably be more than the usual quota of practical jokes pulled off in Oregon this year on April 1, that being the last day on which candidates may file for places on the primary election ballot.

The validity of the tax foreclosure act of 1939, a question which has been giving county officials considerable concern, was upheld by the state supreme court this week in an opinion affirming Circuit Judge Lewelling of the Marion county circuit court. The time element in the act, the point at issue, was merely directory and not mandatory, according to the high court's interpretation of the new law.

The value of quicksilver and non-metallic minerals produced in Oregon last year was \$6,000,000 according to a report by Earl K. Nixon, director of the state department of geology and mineral industries. Production of metallic minerals added another \$3,268,134 to the state's income during 1939.

## PECK HEADS COMMITTEE

Oregon State College, Corvallis, Jan. 24.—Kenneth Peck of Lexington, junior in forestry, was appointed chairman of the post banquet committee for the forestry banquet scheduled for February 24 in the Memorial Union, it was announced here last week. Arrangements are being made to make it the largest banquet in the history of the school of forestry. Students from the leading forestry schools of the northwest, who will be here for the northwest forestry school convocation, will entertain leading lumbermen, loggers, and United States forest service executives at the banquet.

Continuing the drive against misbranded butter, the state department of agriculture during December seized 616 pounds of creamery butter. In each case, the product was returned to the maker for rewrapping with proper designation.

Stick to your safety resolutions and you won't get stuck with an accident.

## BOARDMAN NEWS

### Boardman Defeats Umatilla 21-18

By MRS. CLAUD COATS

Henry Graves, Paul Smith and son Robert made a business trip to Helix Tuesday, Henry bringing back a load of pea vines, and the Smiths purchasing a registered white sow for Robert's FFA project.

Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Gorham were business visitors in Hermiston and Pendleton on Wednesday of last week.

Boardman Yellow Jackets won another victory from the Umatilla squad Tuesday on the Umatilla floor. The score was 21-18. The Boardman squad plays at Lexington on Tuesday, Jan. 23, and at Condon Saturday, Jan. 27.

The Boardman grade squad has a 100 percent score so far for this year. They took two victories from Arlington Friday. The first game ended with a score of 6-4.

Katherine Brown Rake is home for a couple of weeks from her school at Roosevelt on account of the flu epidemic. She is at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Brown.

Neal Bleakney and son Neal, Jr., motored to Walla Walla Friday. Neal, Jr., returned Sunday driving a new truck and Mr. Bleakney, Sr., returning on Monday.

Lyle Tannehill left for Eugene Sunday where he will enter the NYA trade school.

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Wicklander, Jr., were week end visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Wicklander, Sr.

Mrs. Chas. Dillon entertained several girls at a dinner party Tuesday evening in honor of her daughter, Clara Mae's birthday. Those present were Mardell and Janet Gorham, Echo Coats, Essie Jones, Geraldine Healy and Clara Mae.

William Harrington entertained a few of his friends Tuesday evening at a hot tamale feed. Those present were Mr. and Mrs. I. Skoubo, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Kunze, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Ransier, Mr. and Mrs. Claud Coats, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Anderegg, Mrs. Emma Hauke, Tom Gardener and the host.

## PINE CITY NEWS

By BERNICE WATTENBURGER

Mr. and Mrs. Bert Barnes, Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Ayers and Mr. and Mrs. Berl Wattenburger attended the wrestling matches in Pendleton Wednesday night.

A good sized crowd from Pine City attended the dance at Lena Saturday night. The music was very good and a good time was had by all.

Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Wattenburger spent the week end at Pasco with their son and family.

Mrs. Gladys Corrigan left for Portland Tuesday morning for medical treatment following her auto accident before Christmas.

Mr. and Mrs. Bert Barnes spent the week end with the Berl Wattenburgers.

Marion Finch helped butcher eleven hogs at the Eb Hughes ranch at Lena.

Mr. and Mrs. Russell Moore were Hermiston visitors Saturday.

Lowell Young is working during lambing at the Boylen Pine City ranch.

Mr. and Mrs. John Healy and Mr. and Mrs. Jim Daly attended the funeral in Pendleton for Mr. John Kelly.

R. E. McGreer made a business trip to The Dalles Tuesday to attend the annual meeting of the Production Credit association.

Mr. and Mrs. Jap Myers made a business trip to Pendleton Tuesday. Chs. Bartholomew attended the grazing meeting at Heppner, Monday.

Tender Fryers — Raised under most sanitary conditions in battery brooder. You'll find these chickens tender and delicious, weighing over 2 pounds. Dressed and delivered. Phone 3F11. Mrs. H. O. Bauman. 45&47p.

Absent-minded professors may be funny—but not absent-minded drivers.

## Beaver Trapped for Transplanting

The state game department live-trapped and transplanted 261 beaver during the past summer and fall as part of the first wildlife restoration project approved for Oregon under the federal Pittman-Robertson act, which furnished three-fourths of the funds. The work was handled by a crew of six men, all of whom were graduates of the fish and game management course at the state college.

Live-trapping beaver is feasible only during the summer and fall and it is planned to continue the project next season. In previous years this work was carried on by the game department in cooperation with the biological survey and forest service but the use of Pittman-Robertson funds makes it possible to do the work on a larger scale.

## SOILS PROGRAM OUT

The three-day program of the soils short course at Oregon State college, February 13, 14 and 15 is arranged so that those unable to attend all the time may get certain grouping of subjects each day, says Dr. W. L. Powers, soils chief. The first day is to be devoted to soil surveys, soil building practices, erosion control and drainage. The second day is devoted almost entirely to soil fertility and related matters. Irrigation and other forms of reclamation are to be emphasized the third day.

Courtesy prevents crashes.

## NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that no one excepting the undersigned has any authority to sell any of the personal property owned by Mike Kenny and the undersigned, and any one purchasing such property do so at their own risk.

43tf. MARY KENNY.

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Meets First Monday Each Month  
Citizens having matters for discussion, please bring before the Council.  
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