

STATE CAPITAL NEWS

- Candidate McNary
- Clouded Titles
- Definite Policy

By A. L. LINDBECK

Salem.—Added impetus was given to Oregon's political campaign this week when supporters of Chas. L. McNary for president filed petitions with Secretary of State Snell assuring their candidate a place on the Republican ballot and former Governor Chas. A. Martin returned from Washington with the go-ahead signal from John Nance Garner who will enter the Oregon arena in his fight for the Democratic nomination for president.

In the state treasurer's race prospective candidates continued to send up trial balloons in their effort to determine just which way the political winds are blowing before making their decisions to run or not to run as the case might be.

The week brought at least one new rumor which, however, still lacks official confirmation. That was a report that Bruce Spalding, democrat district attorney of Polk county, is seriously considering entering the lists as a contender for the position of attorney general against the Republican incumbent, I. H. Van Winkle.

But it is a bit early yet to expect many actual filings. Even among those who have pretty well made up their minds to run there is always a tendency to procrastinate, a tendency prompted largely by a desire to delay parting with the requisite filing fee until the last minute.

While Oregon does not elect a governor this year, nor a secretary of state nor a state senator there are plenty of other political places open to those with ambitions in that direction. In addition to balloting on presidential and vice presidential candidates at the May primary, the state will elect a full complement of presidential electors, three congressmen, a state treasurer, two justices of the supreme court, an attorney general, 14 circuit court judges, 26 district attorneys, 15 state senators and 60 state representatives.

A warning to the state's title to its school lands might be clouded was sounded by an attorney for the Standard Oil company who appeared before the State Land board this week to urge that Oregon join California in a petition to the United States supreme court in an appeal involving title to certain school lands in that state. According to the oil company attorney Secretary of the Interior Ickes has claimed for the federal government title to certain school lands on which oil has been discovered in paying quantities. Attorney General Van Winkle was instructed by the Land Board to take such steps as he might regard as necessary to protect this state's interest in the school lands.

A number of changes in the accounting system of the Oregon Unemployment Compensation commission were recommended in the report by state auditors released this week. The auditors recommended the establishment of a central accounting officer to prevent overlapping and duplication of records. Except for a few minor discrepancies, traceable to errors on the part of commission employees, funds of the department were found to be in excellent condition.

The State Land Board has instructed Attorney General Van Winkle to bring suit against the Port of Portland in an effort to collect royalties on sand and gravel which the Port commission is alleged to have taken from the bed of the Willamette river for a fill. It is estimated that the royalties involved, which go into the common school fund, amount to between \$1600 and \$2400.

Meeting here in conference with the State Land Board a group of educators and stockmen comprising the common school fund advisory committee agreed upon a definite policy for the administration of

school lands still remaining in the hands of the state.

Under this policy the Land Board will continue with a program of blocking state lands around private holdings for the mere advantageous leasing of these lands for grazing purposes. In order to do this it will be necessary to effect an exchange of school sections located within the public domain for federal lands lying adjacent to private holdings.

The committee also placed its approval upon a proposal to exchange isolated school lands for scattered federal lands lying outside of grazing districts.

Pending the exchange of school lands lying within the public domain arrangements will be made with the federal grazing service for the administration of these lands, the state to receive its pro rata share of grazing fees.

Stockmen on the advisory committee assured the educator-members that improved range conditions could be expected to lead to better prices for lease of those school lands in the future.

Exemption of cannery and packing plant workers from the provisions of the unemployment compensation act was urged by a large delegation of fruit growers, packers and cannery men from Hood River, The Dalles and Medford at a meeting here this week. Spokesmen for the delegation told the members of the unemployment compensation commission that the small growers were being discriminated against under the present administration of the act which imposes a payroll tax against cooperative or commercial canneries and packing plants but exempts plants operated by large corporations for the handling of their own products. Furthermore it was pointed out that packing and canning are seasonal occupations and that in spite of the fact that the employers now contribute to the jobless insurance fund their employees were in no position to benefit from this fund.

Oregon's forests contributed a total of 621,745 Christmas trees to the national harvest last year, according to figures compiled by State Forester Carl L. Davis. The 1939 harvest was almost double that of 1938 when 317,000 trees were cut in Oregon for holiday use. More than 161,000 trees were shipped out of the state, most of these going to California markets, and 365,000 trees found their way into local commercial channels. An estimated 95,000 trees were cut by families for home use. Clackamas and Marion county forests contributed 161,000 trees of the state's total; Lane county, 96,000; the Northwest counties of Clatsop and Columbia, 56,000, and Willowa county, 34,655.

It looks like another big tourist year for Oregon and the other states of the Pacific northwest, according to Secretary of State Earl Snell. January registration of tourist cars totalling 3584 represented an increase of six percent over the figures for January, 1938.

Unemployed workers who leave the state on pleasure trips jeopardize their rights to unemployment insurance, according to a ruling here this week by Referee William H. Witt of the Oregon Unemployment Compensation commission.

CHERRY WOOD FOR PIPES

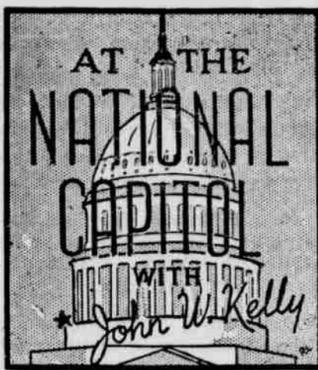
Oregon cherry tree twigs or small wood may be converted into pipe stems, judging from a communication from a large pipe manufacturing company received by Director J. D. Mickle of the state department of agriculture. The query wanted to know if small pieces of cherry wood were available in quantity in this state.

CALL FOR WARRANTS

Outstanding warrants of School District No. 25, Morrow County, Oregon, numbered 67 to 92 inclusive, will be paid on presentation to the district clerk. Interest on said warrants ceases February 16, 1940.

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Washington, D. C., Feb. 15.—If the method of determining proportional representation followed in 1930 is adopted for the 1940 census, it is believed Oregon will be entitled to four representatives in congress instead of three. In 1940 the basic figure for congressional representation was 297,712 with an additional member for a major fraction of that number. Consequently, if it is shown that Oregon has in excess of one million population the state will be entitled to another representative. Until redistricting legislation has been passed by the state legislature, this additional member would be rated as congressman-at-large and elected by vote of the entire state.

The 1930 census gave Oregon a population of 953,786, which was a gain of 170,397 over the figure for 1920. It is believed the increase in the past ten years has been at least as great as during the previous decade.

No public mention has been made yet, but Federal Surplus Commodity corporation plans purchase of a variety of commodities of Oregon and Washington this year to be used in relief channels. Items and the estimated sum for each include: Apples \$8,000,000, fluid milk \$2,500,000, fresh pears \$1,500,000, fresh peaches \$15,000,000, compared with \$27,690,000 last year.

For the past two years a study has been in progress as to what to do in the settlement of Grand Coulee. A report has been completed showing how many people can be planted on the project and how and where communities should be started to serve as trading centers. This blueprint of the future of the greatest reclamation project on earth is under lock and key until the president is prepared to bring it out.

As part of the soil conservation program farmers of the Pacific northwest are guaranteed 7.5 cents a pound for hairy vetch seed and 3 cents a pound for Austrian winter peas by the government. Not all soil is suitable to growing these crops, but it will substantially increase the acreage in Washington and Oregon this year, the estimate being made of 50,000 additional acres in Willamette valley alone. Market for the seed will be southern states, where the farmers will pay 9.5 cents a pound for vetch and 5 cents a pound for Austrian peas.

For every dollar of internal revenue collected in Oregon the federal government gave in grants and expenditures within the state \$3.30. Each Washington state dollar brought back \$2.10, and each Idaho dollar returned \$8.50. Figures are for the fiscal year 1939. Per capita collections in Oregon were \$13.63 while government expenditures per capita were \$43. Collections per capita in Washington were \$19.70 and government expenditures per capita \$44. Into Oregon in fiscal year 1939 the government distributed, one way or another, \$44,179,000; into Washington \$74,420,000.

An Ohio congressman is making the most vigorous opposition to appropriation for Bonneville hydroelectric project. A lawmaker from New York state is the principal opponent of Grand Coulee, and a Mississippi house member objects to Bonneville rates being lower than those of TVA. Western members think they have enough to do in looking after the affairs of their own district.

Seed (red clover, alfalfa) is the major crop in Malheur county, and in 1937 Malheur produced more red clover seed than any other county

in the United States. But a farm co-op which buys seeds for New York, Pennsylvania, Indiana and Ohio has ceased purchasing Malheur seeds because Malheur is in Oregon and Oregon seed has been banned in New York. Thirty miles away in Idaho, and Idaho seed is accepted without question, although there is no difference between Malheur product and Idaho. Secretary of Agriculture Wallace has been made aware of the unjust discrimination and promises to do something about it.

Western metallurgical companies are displaying interest in the successful laboratory experiments of Washington University in the formula for making magnesium, a metal lighter than aluminum. Immense deposits of the raw material from which the metal can be made are located in the vicinity of Spokane. Government officials have an idea that an industry for manufacturing this metal of the future may be located in eastern Washington and use power from a Grand Coulee-Bonneville hook-up. War department is interested because magnesium will permit the building of faster planes carrying heavier loads than at present.

EASTERN STAR ENTERTAINS

Members and a few invited guests enjoyed a program given by the Eastern Star Friday evening. A play, "How the Story Grew," was presented by members of the chapter and musical numbers were provided by Mrs. Raymond Ferguson and daughter, Mary Lou, who played a piano duet, Mrs. O.G. Crawford, two vocal solos and Russell McNeill, two vocal solos. Mrs. J. O. Turner and Mrs. McNeill were the accompanists for the singers. Tea, coffee and cookies were served following the entertainment.

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