

STATE CAPITAL NEWS

By A. L. LINDBECK

- Power Rate Cuts
- Curio Collectors
- PUD Bonds

Salem.—Another rate reduction, the second in three months was announced by the two big electric utilities serving Portland and the lower Willamette valley counties this week as sponsors of peoples utility districts continued to press for public ownership.

The new rate schedule, to become effective with meter readings after March 15, will, according to Public Utilities Commissioner Ormond R. Bean, cut \$100,000 a year from the gross revenues of the Portland General Electric company and approximately \$20,000 a year off the revenues of the Northwestern Electric company. These cuts are in addition to reductions approximating \$700,000 brought about by rate reductions announced by the two utilities last December.

The new rates, as well as those reduced in December, apply only to domestic lighting and heating.

In the meantime the Oregon Hydroelectric commission has confined itself to a statement of engineering facts with the comment that the proposed projects could be operated at a profit under certain assumed conditions. Those conditions include the acquisition of the transmission and distribution lines of the private utilities at their book value plus a small additional amount to cover material, supplies and working capital and, in most cases, the purchase of electricity from the Bonneville project. In only one instance, that in Clackamas county, does the commission hold out any hope of immediate rate reductions through public ownership.

Estimated to raise \$2,000,000 a year through fees and licenses a measure legalizing various gambling devices is being initiated by the Oregon Merchants Legislative League. The measure would legalize punch boards, pinball games and bank nights but not slot machines. A portion of the revenues thus raised would go to the schools but the major share would go to the counties to finance old age pension and relief payments.

The State Board of Control is considering the advisability of employing a full-time architect. The suggestion was advanced by Governor Sprague at a meeting of the board this week. Similar proposals have been considered by the board under previous administrations.

Curio collectors have been carrying away all kinds of trophies from the new capitol ever since that

building was opened to the public but a nocturnal visitor this week set an all-time record by carting away a large man-hole cover from one of the openings to the tunnel that carries the steam pipes, electric conduits and other service adjuncts to the various state buildings.

The advantage of general obligation bonds over revenue bonds in financing public power projects is urged by Governor Sprague in citing the recent experiences of two power districts.

In the case of the city of Monmouth, Oregon, the governor points out, a block of \$40,000 of general obligation bonds bearing interest at the rate of 3¼ and 3½ per cent was snapped up at par and accrued interest.

On the other hand the Grays Harbor County, Washington, Public Utility District financing its operations through revenue bonds was compelled to accept a bid of 95 and accrued interest on an issue of \$3,350,000 of its bonds bearing 4½ per cent interest.

The Monmouth bonds, the governor pointed out, were sold on competitive bid while the Grays Harbor bonds were sold at private sale.

Forty per cent of the patients admitted to the state hospital for mental cases are ultimately dismissed as cured, according to Dr. John C. Evans, superintendent of the Salem institutions.

Hugh Rosson, director of traffic safety in the state department, has resigned to manage the campaign of Ralph Cake, republican candidate for national committeeman. Rosson will go to Portland this week to open campaign headquarters. Present prospects are that Cake will be opposed by Harry Corbett, also of Portland, former state senator from Multnomah county.

Farmers who confine their hauling to their own produce are not required to display either a produce dealers' license or a PUC license, according to Frank McKennon, chief of the plant industry division in the state department of agriculture.

In spite of an increase in the volume of business handled during the year the operating costs of the public utilities department for 1939 were \$1089 under the costs for 1938, according to Commissioner O. R. Bean. Nearly \$4000 was cut from the traveling expenses of the department during the year, Bean said.

State Senator Dean Walker of Polk county has let it be known that he will not be a candidate for state treasurer, thus confirming a prediction made in this column last week. In stead he will concentrate his efforts on a campaign for the senate presidency for which honor, it is understood, he will be opposed by Douglas McKay of Marion county.

IONE NEWS

Lone Section Enjoys Abundant Rains

By MRS. ELMER GRIFFITH

The best news in this section is the fine rains which have been falling the last week. Leonard Carlson, weather observer for Gooseberry, reports that one half inch fell there Sunday, and .10 inch on Monday. Elmer Griffith, observer at Morgan, measured .44 inch Sunday, and .39 inch more by Tuesday morning. The soil is well moistened.

Mrs. Dorr Mason, who has been ill with pleurisy, is reported to be improved.

Fred Hoskins, Jr., spent the week end at home, returning to his school in La Grande on Sunday. On the return trip he found the roads in bad condition, due to rock on the road cause by the heavy rains.

George N. Ely and Fred J. Ely attended the district convention of the I. O. O. F. at Freewater on Saturday. On their return to Pendleton on Saturday night they encountered the heavy rains which did so much damage in the Walla Walla section. Sunday they tried the fishing at McKay lake.

E. J. Bristow also attended the I. O. O. F. convention. Mrs. Bristow accompanied him and visited her relatives in Walla Walla.

Ralph Harris, who is a patient at the hospital in Heppner, is reported to be slightly improved, although still quite ill.

Mr. and Mrs. Forrest McCarty were business visitors here the last of the week. Mr. McCarty is a brother of Mrs. Henry Gorgor.

Katherine Griffith, a student at La Grande, spent the week end at her home at Morgan.

Mr. Pyne, deputy district grand master of the I. O. O. F., stopped in Morgan Friday on his way to Hardman to pay an official visit. He inspected the hall at Morgan and met some of the members.

Oliver Loney of Portland is spending a few days at the Fred Ely home at Morgan.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Griffith and daughter June spent Sunday at the J. W. Howk home in Condon, and brought home their son George who spent the week end there, and attended the basketball tournament.

Members of the basketball squad who went to the tournament at Condon were Ted Palmateer, Ted Peterson, Clyde and Claude Pettyjohn, Norman Bergstrom, Melvin Brady, Billie Eubanks, Jimmie Ledbetter, Roy Pettyjohn and Bob Hoskins.

The boys were accompanied by their coach, Gilbert Haller, and went in the Henry Peterson and William Burk cars.

The P. N. G. club of the Rebekah lodge met Thursday at the home of Mrs. Clel Ray, Hostesses were Mrs. Ray's mother and sister, Mrs. C. W. Swanson and Mrs. Frank Lundell, and they and their guests

went out to Mrs. Ray's home to surprise her, since that was her birthday. Members present were Mrs. E. C. Heliker, Mrs. Della Corson, Mrs. J. E. Swanson, Mrs. E. R. Lundell, Mildred Lundell, Mrs. Milton Morgan, Jr., and Mrs. Ida Fletcher. The guests were Mesdames Frank Engelman, Matthew Gordon, Paul Pettyjohn, W. M. Eubanks, Fred Nicholson, and Miss Nun. The next meeting will be at Mrs. E. R. Lundell's home. On the 13th of March the club will have a sale of needlework and at 6:30, p. m., will serve a benefit supper. For this the charge will be made according to the age of those attending, but none will be lower than ten cents, or more than fifty cents. This will be at the I. O. O. F. hall.

PINE CITY NEWS

By BERNICE WATTENBURGER

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Neill and Mr. and Mrs. Elmo Kenton, daughter and son-in-law of Mr. Neill's, were Pendleton visitors Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Wattenburger and Mrs. Lois Kent were Thursday evening guests at the Russell Moore home.

Frank Helms who has been a Spokane visitor this week returned home Saturday evening.

Students home from school for the week end included the Misses Patricia and Mary Daley, Cecelia, Rosetta and Helen Healy, and Roy Ayers who had as a guest, Buck Haselton.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Meyers, parents of Jasper Meyers, surprised their son and family last Thursday. Friday they all spent the day with the Dee Neill family at Stanfield.

Mr. and Mrs. Bert Barnes spent Saturday evening at the Finch home.

Mrs. R. E. McGreer has a new car.

Mrs. Emil Groshens has moved out to be with her husband who has his sheep at the Marion Finch ranch. Their daughter, Donna Lee Cole has entered Pine City school.

Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Wattenburger and Mr. and Mrs. Russell Moore were Heppner callers Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. R. E. McGreer spent Saturday evening in Pendleton.

Mrs. R. L. Brewster is coming from Klamath Falls to spend the week with her daughter and family, Mrs. R. E. McGreer.

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