

# STATE CAPITAL NEWS

By A. L. LINDBECK

- Retirement Plan
- Dewey Support
- No Indictments

Salem. — Approximately 27,000 public employees in Oregon will be affected by the compulsory retirement plan now being worked out by Governor Sprague's special committee if the legislature adopts the committee's recommendations and makes its acceptance mandatory upon all the state's political subdivisions.

These would include employees of all counties, cities, school, port and irrigation districts as well as state employees.

Tentative plans submitted to committee members this week for further study preliminary to another meeting to complete draft of the program call for compulsory retirement of all public employees upon reaching the age of 65 years with a "pension" or retirement annuity based upon length of service and the average salary received while in the public employ.

The maximum retirement pay in any case would be fixed at \$83 a month. This would be available to employees with 40 years of service to their credit at an average salary throughout that period of \$2000 a year. Employees with shorter service credits or lower salary averages would receive proportionately smaller "pensions" upon retirement. That is an employee with only 20 years of service to his or her credit upon reaching the retirement age of 65 years at a salary averaging \$2000 a year for the 20 years would be entitled to only one-half the maximum or approximately \$41 a month. Employees with only 20 years of service to their credit at a salary average of \$1000 a year would be entitled to only one-fourth the maximum or approximately \$20 a month and so on.

Employees leaving the public service before reaching the age of retirement either through dismissal or voluntary resignation would draw the amount of their contribution to the retirement fund plus interest earnings. In the event of the death of a public employee before reaching retirement age his or her beneficiary would receive the accumulated contributions of the employee plus interest earnings.

Should the plan as tentatively outlined be adopted beneficiaries would be protected in their interest in the retirement fund so long as they remained in the public service—except federal—within the state. That is a school teacher could transfer her sphere of activity from one district to another without losing any interest he or she might have built up in the retirement fund. Likewise a county employee might resign to accept employment with the state, or vice versa, and his or her social security account would follow into the new position.

In order to finance the proposed program it is estimated that male employees would be required to contribute four percent of their earnings to the retirement fund, this contribution to be matched by the employing agency with an equal amount. Women employees having a longer life expectancy, according to tables compiled by insurance companies, would be required to contribute a proportionately larger amount of their earnings to the retirement fund or content themselves with the prospect of a smaller "pension" upon retirement.

Administration of the proposed plan would be in the hands of an ex officio non-salaried board, authorized to employ the necessary clerical help with investment of the retirement fund to be a responsibility of the state treasurer.

Sigfrid Unander, research expert attached to the governor's staff and executive secretary to the retirement plan committee, declares that the proposed plan is actually sound in contrast to many of the retirement plans heretofore set up by states and municipalities for their

employees. Its operation, he estimates, would cost the state approximately \$100,000 a year based upon the number of employees now on the state payroll.

Oregon's delegation to the Republican national convention will be bound to support Thomas A. Dewey for vice-president under this state's preferential primary law. Dewey with 1842 votes to his credit topped the list of write-in candidates as running mate for Oregon's favorite son, Chas L. McNary. McNary who received this state's endorsement for presidential honors was also given 1029 write-in votes for vice president. Other Republican write-in candidates for vice-president in the order of their standing were Sheridan Downey, Robert Taft, Herbert Hoover, Arthur Vandenburg, Robert M. LaFollette, Jr., and Wendell Willkie.

Democratic voters bound their national delegates to support Robert M. La Follette, Jr., for the vice-presidential nomination, writing in 2416 votes for the Wisconsin senator. Louis Johnson, assistant secretary of war, was runner-up for vice presidential honors on the Democratic ticket with 2121 votes. Other candidates receiving support on the Democratic ticket for vice president included John N. Garner, James A. Farley, Cordell Hull, Sheridan Downey, Paul V. McNutt, Burton K. Wheeler, and C. L. McNary.

No indictments were returned by the Marion county grand jury which concluded its investigation of the state forestry department this week but former state forester J. W. Ferguson came in for severe reproof for inefficiency and unbusinesslike procedure in the handling of certain of the funds under his care. While the grand jury found nothing illegal in the manner in which the funds were handled its report declared that the procedure under which the funds were administered "is conducive to waste and inefficiency."

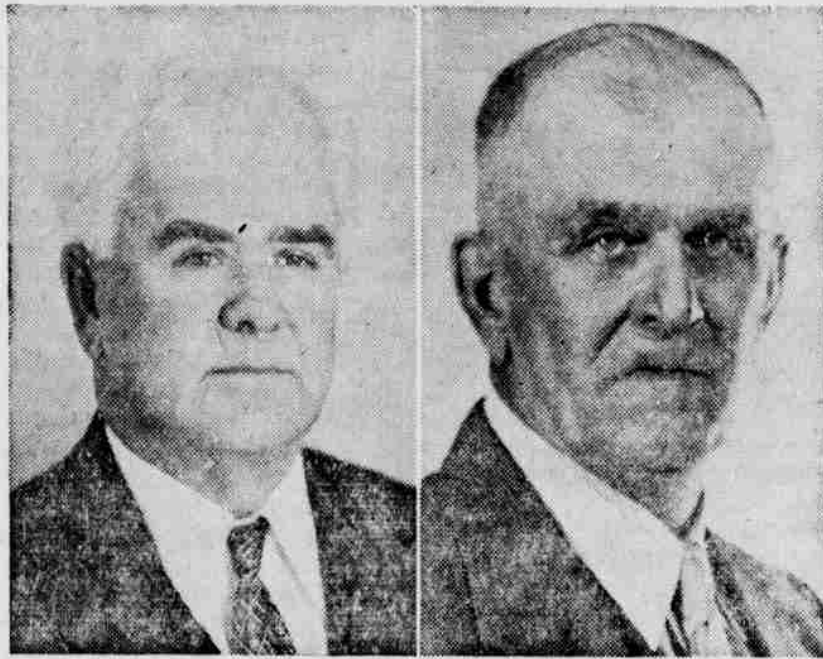
Members of Oregon's 249th Coast Artillery regiment who went into intensive training at Camp Clatsop this week will be called upon to defend the mouth of the Columbia river from simulated attack by an enemy force, according to Major General George A. White. The newly organized anti-aircraft units will get their first opportunity to fire the new anti-aircraft guns in practice against targets towed behind army airplanes. The powerful searchlights with which these new units are equipped will also come into play in night practice when their powerful beams will stab the ether far above the earth in search of invading planes. The 4000 Oregon guardsmen in the infantry regiments and other units of the 41st division in this state will go to Fort Lewis, Washington, August 4 for 21 days of intensive training with troops from other states of the northwest.

The Salem Lions club which several years ago "adopted" the state school for blind as its particular project has already started a drive for a new fire-proof building to replace the frame building now used as a class room at that institution. Aid of other Lions clubs throughout the state will be sought in support of a measure providing for the improvement which will be presented to the next legislature.

Attorney General Van Winkle has ruled that a man who raises bees for a living is actually a farmer and as such is entitled to the use of an exempt farmer's license for his truck. The attorney general who several years ago ruled against apiarists as farmers was convinced of the error of his way when J. D. Mickle, state director of agriculture, produced records of the state college to show that bees are largely responsible for the pollination of farm crops valued at \$12,868,738 a year in this state.

Two bicycle traffic fatalities have been reported in Oregon since the first of the year, figures compiled by the secretary of state's office disclosed. There was no bicycle fatality in April when a total of 56 accidents involving bicycles was reported. Twenty-nine persons were injured in bicycle accidents, however. Of these 29, 24 were between five and twenty-four years of age.

## VETERANS OF PUBLIC SERVICE



Veterans of 30 years of service with Pacific Power & Light company who will be honored during the company's 30th anniversary celebration include Frank J. Hamblton, left, and Louis Happy, with 40 and 42 years respectively in public utility service. Hamblton was employed originally in 1900 by the Joseph Milling company of Joseph, which also sold electric power. He now is rural representative for the Pacific company at Enterprise. Happy began at Yakima in 1898 with the Yakima Water company and now is line superintendent in the company's construction department with headquarters at Kennewick, Wash.

## Defense Included at Summer School

National defense will be included in summer school work at Oregon schools, with courses in pilot training offered by at least two of the state controlled institutions.

Oregon State college at Corvallis has been authorized to accept 50 new men for training for a three-months period starting about June 15. These men will be provided training without cost and will be given the same work for which a charge of \$40 was made this last year. The college has also responded to a request to make available the facilities of the school of engineering in an extensive training program in connection with national defense measures in mechanized warfare.

At La Grande, the Eastern Oregon College of Education will offer a civilian pilot training program from June 15 to September 1. The project is initiated by the Federal Civilian Aeronautics authority and limits the training to 30 selected pilots, ages 18 to 25, of which 10 per cent may be girls. Total cost of the training for those selected is paid by the government except for transportation to and from the airport. Persons applying do not have to be enrolled for regular college work this summer, but must have been a bona fide student of some college during the last school year or a graduate in the class of 1939 or 1940. Flight training will be given at La Grande airport and ground school training at the college, possibly in night classes.

## Academy Vacancies Open in July, 1941

Representative Walter M. Pierce writes this paper that the second Oregon district will have one vacancy at Annapolis and one at West Point for entrance in July, 1941. Civil service examinations for designation of candidates will be given on Saturday, October 5, 1940, at various post offices in Oregon wherever there are candidates.

West Point candidates must be qualified young men in fine physical condition, between 17 and 22 years of age. Annapolis candidates must be between 16 and 20 years of age. Candidates should make sure of physical fitness before entering the examination, Mr. Pierce states, and adds that perfect eyesight is of first importance.

The civil service examination covers algebra, plane geometry, English composition, literature and United States history, and for West Point, ancient history and English grammar in addition to other subjects. Applicants should write the congressman, in Washington, without delay as the letter should be received there before June 20. Catalogues will be sent upon request.

## WEED CONTROL EFFECTIVE

Klamath Falls—A county wide weed control program has been under way here this spring, encourag-

ed by reports from the bureau of reclamation that for the first time a decrease in noxious weed acreage is shown in its records of the Klamath project. The county spray rig has been in daily use spraying roadways, ditch banks, and similar areas with diesel oil. In addition, a burning crew was used to wilt certain perennial weeds. Credit for the decrease in perennial weeds in 1939 is given by County Agent Henderson to good summer following being carried out by growers, as well as effective use of smother crops and, in some cases, good coverage of drains and ditch banks.

Lakeview—Frank Graves of Summer Lake has established a trial plot of subterranean clover to see how this new forage plant will do in this part of eastern Oregon, reports Vic Johnson, county agent. Johnson obtained 1½ pounds of seed for Graves which was planted in May. Ordinarily fall planting is preferred for this type of clover in most regions.

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