

STATE CAPITAL NEWS

- Mobilization
- Archives Return
- Funds for Counties

By A. L. LINDBECK

Salem.—The pending mobilization of the national guard for an extended period of intensive training has overshadowed every other activity in state circles the past few weeks.

Long before the public announcement of the mobilization program came out of the national capital Major George A. White and his staff were busy with plans for placing the Oregon troops in readiness for the expected call to service so that now, with most of the units enlisted up to authorized strength it is only a matter of issuing the mobilization order to set Oregon's citizen soldiers in motion toward the tent city at Fort Lewis which will be their home for the next year or more.

In an effort to avoid the experience at the close of the World war when many of the soldiers returned to find their jobs filled by stay-at-homes General White is asking that all employers of guardsmen sign an agreement to keep the job open for the soldier when his period of service is ended.

General White reports that the prospect of mobilization of the guard has resulted in an epidemic of weddings among enlisted men who are seeking this avenue of escape from military service inasmuch as married men are being offered an opportunity to resign from the guard. A number of commissioned officers have also handed in their resignations rather than spend a long period in training. So severe has this situation become that General White has issued a notice that no further resignations will be accepted from officers based only upon "personal convenience."

In anticipation of the prolonged absence of the regular guard organization from the state General White and Governor Sprague have discussed plans for the organization of a force of militia or "home guard" similar to that built up during the World war. Such an organization is it understood would be composed of men willing to donate their service and subject to call only in case of riots or other internal disorders beyond the capacity of the state police to cope with.

Mobilization of the guard will strike heavily into the ranks of Oregon officialdom. More than a score of employees of state departments and institutions hold commissions as officers in the guard, in addition to which there are a number of state employees who hold commissions in the army reserves. Among state employees who will be affected by the mobilization order will be Cecil Edwards, secretary to Governor Sprague, who is a lieutenant in the guard and aide to Brigadier General Thos. E. Rilea; H. G. Maison, assistant superintendent of state police, who is a captain in the 162nd infantry; William Hammond, head of the operators division in the motor vehicle department of the secretary of state's office, who is aide to Major General White with the rank of captain, and Clifton M. Irwin, an employee of the public utilities commission, who is colonel in command of the 249th coast artillery corps.

Return of the state archives to Salem is being considered by the Board of Control. The archives were entrusted to the care of the Oregon Historical Society following the disastrous fire in 1935 and are now housed in Portland. More than 28,000 documents are included in the collection, all of which have been card indexed by the historical society to make their contents more readily available.

Approximately 1000 young men are now enrolled in training centers in Oregon preparatory to taking jobs in defense industries, according to O. D. Adams, state director for vocational education, under whose di-

rection those courses are being set up. These training courses which are open to young men over 18 years of age are being opened in centers which offer adequate shop and laboratory facilities. The entire cost of the training program is being met by the federal government as a part of the national defense program.

The annual apportionment of state school funds to the various counties has just been completed by the State Land Board. The fund this year, created through interest earnings of the irreducible school fund, totalled \$304,361, more than \$3000 under the 1939 apportionment. On the basis of 264,662 children on the school census rolls this amounted to an allocation of only \$1.15 per child. Apportionment of the fund by counties included: Benton, \$5850; Clackamas, \$17,163; Columbia, \$6560; Coos, \$9,641; Deschutes, \$5713; Douglas, \$7,640; Gilliam, \$814; Hood River, \$4,100; Josephine, \$4594; Malheur, \$7,261; Marion, \$22,741; Multnomah, \$81,285; Polk, \$6752; Wasco, \$3496; Washington, \$11,999; Yamhill, 8099; Union, \$5528.

Oregon's greatest need is more population in the opinion of J. D. Mickle, state director of agriculture, who has just returned from a tour of the eastern counties where he found crop prospects good and farmers and ranchers in an optimistic mood.

The capitol flag pole situation has narrowed down to a question between wood and steel. Board of Control members have tentatively accepted the recommendation of the capitol architects for two poles, one at either end and at an angle of about 45 degrees from the corner of the building. The \$6000 surplus in the library building fund will be used to finance this improvement.

Frank C. Dillard of Eugene is the new member of the Oregon Hydroelectric commission. Dillard was named this week by Governor Sprague to succeed John S. Hodgin of La Grande, deceased.

Oregon patrons of private utility corporations paid out a total of \$28,138,860 for electric service during 1939, according to a report by Ormond R. Bean, public utilities commissioner. Bean's report shows that 32 privately owned electric utilities operating in this state served a total of 266,941 customers last year.

Subnormal persons are happiest among people of their own kind, according to Dr. H. G. Miller, superintendent of Fairview Home who urges that all feeble minded persons should be committed to an institution rather than attempt to care for them at home. Describing his institution as a training school for morons Dr. Miller points out that after years of proper supervision many of these subnormals are able to make their own way in the world.

In two reports released this week the Oregon Hydroelectric commission held that a Peoples Utility district, should one be organized in Marion county, holds out good prospects of reduced rates, whereas a similar organization proposed for Curry county was discouraged as holding no prospect of any advantage over the privately owned utilities at this time.

RESOLUTIONS OF RESPECT

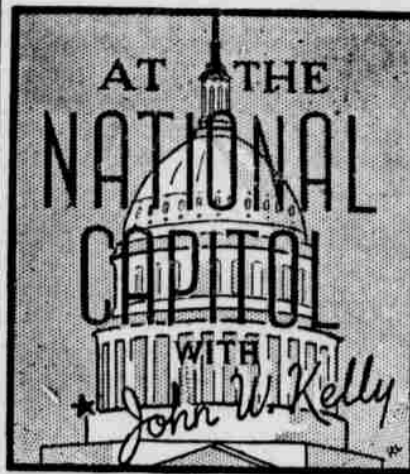
Whereas it has pleased our Heavenly Father to call to her Eternal Home our beloved Sister Effie Gilliam, who was a faithful member of Ruth Chapter No. 32, Order of Eastern Star, and

Whereas, there is a vacancy in our Chapter and in the homes of her loved ones that will never be filled; Be it resolved, that Ruth Chapter extends its sympathy to her family and relatives in their hour of bereavement, and records its sorrow in the loss of a sister.

And be it further resolved, that a copy of these resolutions be presented to the family, and copies be given to the local newspaper for publication, and spread upon the minutes of our Chapter.

Sarah McNamer, Anna Graham, Robert Wightman, Committee.

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Washington, D. C., July 25.—Both political parties (the headmen) realize that the battle for success in November depends on the farmers and the livestock men. It is the opinion of party strategists that neither the Roosevelt-Wallace ticket nor the Willkie-McNary ticket can win without the farm vote and that the balance of power rests between the Mississippi river and the Pacific coast.

There is no more acute politician in the country than Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and because Mr. Roosevelt recognized the potency and importance of the farm vote he directed the Democratic convention to name as vice-president his secretary of agriculture, Henry A. Wallace. Mr. Roosevelt swept aside all other aspirants seeking a place with him on the ticket when the Republicans designated Oregon's Charley McNary for vice-president.

Mr. Roosevelt had no apprehension about Willkie and his ability to dispose of him, but the president knew that McNary and the latter's standing with the farmers of the nation had to be checkmated somehow. The answer to this was the selection of Secretary Wallace. It is no secret in the national capital that Mr. Roosevelt and the secretary had not been "speaking" for months and that Wallace was in disfavor with the White House advisers of the president. But politics is politics, and such trivial matters as personal likes and dislikes have no place when there is a presidential campaign to be won. Hence Wallace was designated as the one best bet the Democrats had to reach the farm votes.

The farm vote represents millions of votes. The farm vote was Democratic in 1932 and 1936, but Mr. Roosevelt is taking no chances on the farmers returning to the Republican ranks. If anyone can hold them in line it is Henry Wallace, whose benefit checks have found their way into the pockets of farmers everywhere. There will be another distribution of benefit checks next October, on the eve of the election—and that will have its effect, too.

One attack McNary will make on the farm program policy of the new deal is what he regards as the discrimination against the majority of the farming industry. Of the millions distributed in payments for cotton, wheat, tobacco and rice—just four commodities—80 percent goes to the cotton planters of the south. Tobacco payments, of course, also go to the southern states. Senator McNary will point out that the greatest farming industry of all—dairying—gets nothing; that cattlemen get nothing, nor the fruit growers, nut growers nor producers of vegetables.

Another disagreement between Wallace and McNary which will carry to the farmland is the administration's policy of reciprocal trade agreements. These agreements (all knocked galley-west by the war) were seriously injuring agriculture as they were designed principally to aid the heavy industries, the manufacturing plants of the eastern states. The western states are particularly opposed to the trade treaties and it will be McNary's endeavor to capitalize this sentiment and swing those states to the Republican ticket.

It is the first time in political history that the rival candidates for vice-president will be useful instead of ornamental in a campaign; that their fight will be as important as that of the presidential nominees.

Personally, Wallace and McNary are very friendly. In the senate, as Republican leader, McNary has mat-

erially assisted Wallace in much of his legislation and each has a high regard for the other, as was shown by the nice things they said in the press. Then, too, Mr. Roosevelt is very fond of McNary, respects his judgment, has invited his advice, but when it comes to Willkie Mr. Roosevelt is prepared to give him both barrels. Between Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Willkie no quarter will be asked or given.

National defense advisory commission is having a study made of the possibilities of magnesium metal in Oregon, Washington and Montana. This is the "wonder metal" two-thirds as light as aluminum. No other metal has the strength and light weight of magnesium. The largest supply of low grade magnesium ore is in the Pacific northwest and to make the metal requires quantities of cheap power, also available in that area. Eventually magnesium metal will replace aluminum in airplanes. The ores are found in Josephine and Curry counties, Oregon; Stevens county, Washington, and in five counties in Montana. Germany is producing 50,000 tons a year; the United States 3,600. Washington State college at Pullman has worked out a process by which the metal can be produced for 10 cents a pound.

Final Wing Started on OSC Dairy Barn

Orego State College.—The third wing of the big dairy barn on the college farm here, which was left with only the foundation laid when constructed several years ago, will be completed this summer and fall under a project in which the WPA will supply most of the labor requirements. Construction is now started, with F. E. Price, assistant dean of agriculture and a member of the agricultural engineering staff, in charge.

The new unit will house 34 milk cows, and will provide several calf pens and bull pens for six herd sires. When complete, the three units will have capacity for approximately 100 head of cows, heifers, and bulls, and for a large number of calves. The Gothic roof design with distinctive and economical Oregon arch construction, which was

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