

STATE CAPITAL NEWS

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- Labor Criticism
- Gas Record

By A. L. LINDBECK

Salem.—At least 20,000 people will want to attend the ceremonies at which Oregon's favorite son candidate, United States Senator Chas. L. McNary is to be formally advised that he has been selected as running mate to Republican presidential nominee Wendell L. Willkie, in the opinion of Governor Charles A. Sprague who has been working with national committeeman Ralph Cake of Portland in arranging for the notification ceremonies.

Because McNary refused to sacrifice his young filbert orchard in order to make room for the anticipated crowd the ceremonies will be held at the state fair grounds on the afternoon of August 28 with Governor Stassen of Minnesota delivering the formal notification.

The huge grand stand at the fair grounds with seating capacity for 6000 persons will be augmented by the construction of temporary bleachers but at that it is expected that thousands will be compelled to stand throughout the ceremonies which will be brief and run on a strict schedule to conform to radio requirements, inasmuch as the ceremony will be broadcast on a coast-to-coast hook-up.

Members of the state board of control have given their consent to the participation of the state prison baseball team in a game to be played at Waters Field in Salem for the benefit of the Red Cross. It will be the first time in more than 20 years that a prison team has participated in a game outside of its own backyard within the prison wall. This game, Governor Sprague said, is not to be regarded as a precedent for other outside appearances of the team.

In order to avoid an eleventh-hour rush of motorists for examination when the new law requiring a test every four years becomes effective, Secretary of State Snell is urging drivers to take the examination as soon as convenient. Under an act of the last legislative session no driver may have his license renewed after July 1, 1943, unless he has successfully passed the requisite examination within the past four years.

The fiscal year ending June 30, last, was the brightest in Oregon's history from an industrial standpoint, according to records of the State Industrial Accident commission. Payrolls of industries under the protection of the workmen's compensation act, for this 12-month period aggregated \$164,167,340, an increase of 7.09 percent over the record for 1938-39. Reports compiled by the commission reveal the employment average of 120,120 men in Oregon industries during 1939-40, an increase of 6809 over the previous fiscal year.

Governor Sprague and Secretary of State Snell cut a melon at the state capitol one day last week. It was a big, juicy, 50-pound specimen presented to the state officials by members of the Mississippi delegation whose members visited Salem on a tour of the west.

At the request of the state board of control the United States public health service, with headquarters in Washington, D. C., will make a survey of Oregon's institutions for the care of the mentally deficient. A report on the findings of the survey, which will cover the two insane hospitals and the institutions for feeble minded, will be filed with Governor Sprague prior to the convening of the next legislature.

Defense of the experience rating and seasonality provisions in Oregon's unemployment compensation act by Ralph H. Campbell, attorney for the unemployment compensation commission, has brought sharp

criticism from labor leaders who seek the elimination of these provisions.

Campbell's statements in support of the experience rating and seasonality compensation act at forums conducted in several Oregon cities last week by the Associated Employers of Oregon, an organization which D. E. Nickerson, executive secretary of the State Federation of Labor, declares to be inimical to labor.

In a public statement Nickerson charged that the commission's attorney was catering to the employer group in his defense of the measure which labor seeks to amend. In a letter to Nickerson following his protest against Campbell's statements C. N. Rynerson, labor representative on the commission, declared that Campbell exceeded his authority and was not speaking for the commission, in making the statements to which labor took exception.

The state library loaned a total of 454,608 volumes during the two years ending June 30, last, according to the biennial report of Miss Harriett C. Long, state librarian. More than 25,600 borrowers were served directly by mail, with 170,614 volumes going to schools and 88,098 volumes being loaned to public libraries throughout the state. Isolated communities throughout the state were served with reading material through the facilities of 917 travelling libraries, the report shows.

Governor Sprague wants the 1941-42 state budget to be "something more than a mere collection of statistics." In letters addressed to all department and institution heads the governor has asked that their budget requests be accompanied by a "program of operation" to back up their requests for state funds.

Objection to the transfer of the Oregon archives from Portland to Salem was voiced by Lewis A. McArthur, president, and Nellie Piper, librarian of the Oregon Historical Society, before the State Board of Control this week. These records, the Historical Society officials claim are now more readily accessible to a greater number of persons than they would be if returned to Salem. The archives, which consist of all state documents dealing with the provisional and territorial government were turned over to the Historical Society for safe keeping by the legislative session of 1931 until such time as adequate vaults could be provided for them in some building in the capitol group in Salem. Board of control members who feel that this requirement has now been met, both in the new capitol and the new library building, recently suggested the return of the records to the capital city.

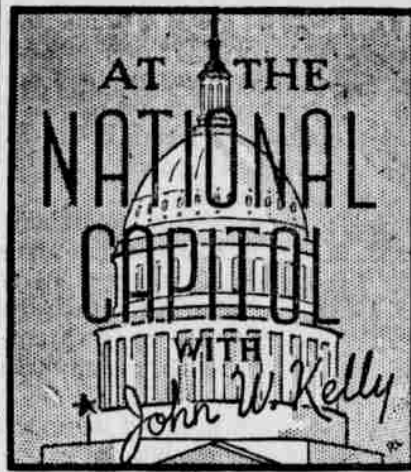
In spite of the fact that registration of non resident motorists was down 14 percent during June, gasoline consumption in Oregon last month broke all records according to Secretary of State Snell. June gasoline consumption as reported to the state department by state distributors, aggregated 26,145,739 gallons, an increase of 5,065,553 gallons over June, 1939. Gasoline consumption for the first six months of this year was 10 percent above that for the first half of 1939, Snell said.

Half of States in Summer Enrollment

Oregon State College.—Exactly half of the 48 states were represented in this year's regular summer session, which is just ended with a total enrollment of 926, approximately 13 percent more than last year. In addition, Alaska, Canada, China, and Egypt, as well as 34 of Oregon's 36 counties, had one or more students in the session.

California, as usual, sent most of the out-of-state students, but such far-eastern states as New York, New Jersey, Delaware, and Kentucky were also represented. The distant fame of Oregon as a place for summer study is indicated by the fact that approximately one-third of this year's students were from out of the state.

The post session of five weeks starts August 2 and continues to August 31.



Kelly on Assignment

The presidential campaign this year holds special interest for the Pacific Northwest because Senator Charles L. McNary is the Republican nominee for vice-president. For the first time a native westerner, a son of Oregon is on the ticket of a major party. Complying with numerous requests, the Northwestern News Service has assigned Mr. Kelly to make a survey of sentiment in the agricultural mid-west and public land states of the far west, where Senator McNary is expected to make his strongest contribution to the Republican cause. The survey will be made in August and Mr. Kelly's reports will appear in the Heppner Gazette Times.

Washington, D. C., August 1—Alarmists are worrying about the compulsory military training and registration of every male between 18 and 65 years. They want to know why American citizens should be drafted into uniform when there is no war nor war in sight. Army brass hats plan an army of 3,000,000 men, which is not large for a country the size of the United States, but is a very large and very costly as a peacetime army.

Another feature of the conscription program, approved by the senate committee on military affairs, is that any conscript taken from his job to respond to the call of the colors must be re-hired by his employer at the end of his compulsory service. Severe penalties are imposed on an employer who fails to take back the draftee. On the surface this looks good, but not for the employer. At the end of the service period of the conscript his old employer may be out of business, bankrupt or been compelled to reduce his employes to a minimum, or he may no longer need the special skill of the conscript. Regardless, however, the employer must re-engage the worker who was taken taken away by the draft.

Portland Woolen Mills has sold wool blankets valued at \$186,562 to the army, Malarkey & Kallander, Portland, have been awarded a \$33,950 contract for buildings at Vancouver barracks. The navy bought pine lumber valued at \$40,788 from Daugherty Lumber Co., Cottage Grove; raw linseed oil for \$11,764 from Kerr Gifford & Co., Portland, and lumber at \$6,324 from Geo. E. Miller Lumber Co., Portland. These are the first national defense orders placed in the state. The next announcement will report a \$2,000,000 order for four navy boats to the Commercial Iron Works of Portland.

With the American export market shot to pieces on account of the war, the administration is taking further steps to affront the last big customer for American products—Japan. The land of the rising sun is the third largest buyer of United States goods and only a few days ago purchased one of the largest supplies of flour sold on the Pacific coast this year. Now official Washington is talking of an embargo on oil and scrap metal to Japan. Pacific coast business firms and exporters are alarmed over the treatment accorded America's best customer.

While several million children are ill-clothed, ill-fed and ill-housed in the United States, their plight is overlooked by humanitarians who are urging use of American merchant vessels and the United States navy to bring thousands of children from England to save them from the expected German invasion. Furthermore, there are several thousand

well-to-do American families anxious to provide homes for the little Britishers (also mostly from prominent and well-to-do families), who are not at all interested in the underprivileged American kids.

Any skilled mechanic of the Pacific northwest who does not soon connect with a job has no one to blame but himself. The government wants every trained mechanic it can find, and in the northwest the principal market at present is the navy yard at Bremerton. Several shipyards on the west coast are to be rehabilitated and used for constructing merchant and navy vessels. No wooden ship program, such as was experienced in the first world war is contemplated, however. The lumber business too will be pepped up as millions of dollars' worth of lumber will soon be ordered for barracks for the mobilized army.

On the national advisory defense commission the only member who is familiar with the Pacific northwest and its possibilities is Ralph Budd, railroad magnate in charge of transportation. (Budd has been an enthusiastic visitor to the Pendleton Round-Up). Industrial moguls E. B. Stettinius, Jr., in charge of raw materials, and William Knudson, in charge of production, think in terms of steel and automobiles, which means Pittsburgh and Detroit, where major industries of the country are concentrated. They want TVA expanded (which requires three years) although power is immediately available at Bonneville and, next year, at Grand Coulee.

Stettinius can see only the Atlantic coast as threatened by a foe; is not concerned, as is the navy, with the west coast although he has been told by a northwest representative that if trouble comes on the coast all sorts of munitions will have to be transported across the continent because he is unwilling to encourage industries in the Oregon-Washington area.

CORRECTION

In reporting surviving members of the Hiram Johnson family in Mr. Johnson's obituary last week, the name of Lillie McKay was inadvertently omitted and that of Zetta Hiatt was mistakenly given as Zetta Fuller.

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