

# STATE CAPITAL NEWS

- More Progress
- 10 Million Income
- Upping Relief

By A. L. LINDBECK

Salem—First it was the counties, then the school districts; now it is the cities of Oregon that come forward with reports of substantial progress in their effort to reduce and ultimately wipe out their burden of debt.

A survey just completed by State Treasurer Walter E. Pearson shows that the cities of Oregon have succeeded in reducing their aggregate debt by nearly \$30,000,000 in the last ten years—from \$76,697,848 in 1930 to \$47,479,174 in 1940. Nearly \$7,000,000 of this debt reduction has been accomplished in the past two years, since July 1, 1938, when the net debt of the cities stood at \$54,674,910.

Reports compiled by Treasurer Pearson show that of the 194 cities reporting 36 had no outstanding indebtedness on July 1, last. Of these 36, six cities had wiped out their debt load in the past two years while an equal number which were debt free two years ago have since become involved in debt. A total of 125 municipalities reported progress in debt reduction with 41 others reporting an increase in their debt burdens.

The city of Heppner is reported as having reduced its net debt by \$7000 in the two year period ending July 1, last—from \$64,000 to \$57,000.

General fund revenues of the state of Oregon for 1941 are estimated by the state tax commission at \$9,949,114.43 in the annual tax levy released Saturday.

Of the total available revenue \$6,423,122.62 will be contributed by income tax payers—\$4,608,698.27 of this amount being credited to the state levy within the six percent limitation and \$1,814,424.35 covering special levies. Of these special levies \$1,129,951.63 goes for the financing of higher education; \$448,393.50 for the World War Veterans State Aid commission, and \$236,079.22 for irrigation bonds and interest. The state levy against property was waived by the tax commission, it being estimated that income taxes would be sufficient to cover the entire state levy.

In addition to the revenue from income tax payments the tax commission estimated that there would be \$2,342,242.03 available from miscellaneous sources such as corporation and insurance fees, and inheritance and gift taxes; \$676,640.78 from unexpended balances, and \$507,109 through transfers from motor vehicle fees for support of the state police bureau.

In anticipation of heavy calls for trainees to fill the new draft army in January, Lt. Elmer V. Wooten, state director of selective service, has instructed local draft boards to proceed immediately with the classification and examination of 20 percent of all registrants. Colonel Wooten said that he expects the December call, which was cancelled, to be combined with the January call in order to speed up induction of men into the army for training this winter. Most Oregon draft boards have on file applications from volunteers sufficient to meet any ordinary demands, Wooten said.

Relatives of state wards in the tuberculosis hospital, state hospitals and Fairview Home have paid the state a total of \$1,515,602 for the care of these wards since the state adopted the policy of requiring these payments, according to Dan J. Fry, secretary of the state board of control.

Oregon's relief budget for the forthcoming biennium, as approved by Governor Sprague calls for an increase of approximately \$2,800,000 over the 1939 appropriation for relief purposes in this state—from \$18,894,438 to \$21,690,452.

The major portion of this increase, however, will fall on the federal government if the governor's budget meets with legislative approval. Under

this budget federal aid to the state would be increased by more than \$1,500,000—from \$6,226,500 to \$7,742,973. The state which in the past two years has contributed \$8,458,855 toward relief from its general fund and liquor profits, will be asked to put up \$9,250,000 in the next two years—\$2,450,100 of this amount through a legislative appropriation and \$6,199,900 in profits from its liquor monopoly. An increase of slightly more than \$500,000 will be exacted from the counties whose contribution toward relief needs will be increased from \$4,164,083 to \$4,697,479 under the proposed budget.

More than 50 percent of the relief budget is accounted for by the estimated needs for old age pensions calling for a total of \$11,524,993 for the two year period as compared to \$10,119,589 during the past two years. General relief needs are estimated at \$4,784,198, representing only a slight increase over the \$4,633,822 budgeted for this item in 1939. The largest proportionate increase is found in the item for the care of dependent children for which \$2,772,346 has been budgeted for the next two years as compared to \$1,752,740 during the past biennium. Other items making up the relief budget include \$337,456 for aid to the blind; \$53,221 for child welfare; \$167,798 for crippled children and \$165,627 for WPA sewing projects.

The estimated expense of administering the relief budget for the two year period is placed at \$1,884,813.

A total of 487,349 Oregon voters cast their ballots in the recent election to establish a new high record mark, according to a compilation just completed by Dave O'Hara, elections clerk in the state department. The vote exceeded the previous record set in 1936 by 66,597. The November vote represented approximately 80 percent of the state registration, which establishes another record.

If the war department approves a request filed by Lt. Col. Elmer V. Wooten, acting adjutant general for Oregon, steps will be taken toward the immediate organization of a national guard air squadron in Oregon. The new unit which has already been allotted to Oregon will be based at Portland and will be made up of volunteers who can qualify as pilots and mechanics, Wooten said. The squadron will consist of 13 observation planes.

Higher prices for agricultural products are absolutely necessary if the American farmer is to maintain his present living standard, in the opinion of J. D. Mickle, state director of agriculture. Mickle pointed out that in spite of the offset of many organized groups, including farm cooperatives, prices for agricultural products have not advanced in proportion to the prices which the farmer is compelled to pay.

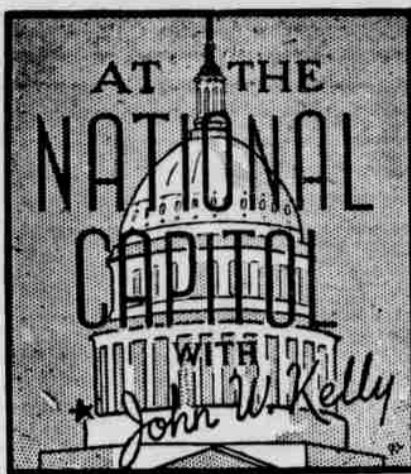
Nine hundred and fifty Oregon motorists arrested by state police for traffic law violations during October paid fines aggregating \$7707, according to a report by Chas. P. Pray, superintendent of state police.

### SUGGEST FEDERATION

Oregon State College—A World Federation to promote international good will, even though it included only a half dozen nations, was advocated by Dr. F. A. Magruder, professor of political science here and author of books on government. Dr. Magruder pointed out to a student-faculty forum group that while the world spent only \$10,000,000 on promoting the League of Nations, it is now forced to spend \$50,000,000,000 for defense. The speaker outlined many functions such a federation could carry on.

### AG. SCHEDULE PREPARED

A detailed schedule of agricultural programs to be given over the tate-owned radio tation, KOAC, from now until September, 1941, has just been issued in pamphlet form for free distribution. The schedule lists topics for the noon and evening farm hours as well as special broadcasts arranged in advance. KOAC broadcasts the most comprehensive list of market reports and summaries of any station in the United States, according to government surveys.



Washington, D. C., Dec. 5.—On the heels of sensational revelations by the house committee investigating un-American activities the President is using his influence to have the house refuse to continue the committee or grant it funds for further investigations. A similar attempt by the President last year failed because the Dies committee is popular with the public whatever its faults may be.

Present reason Mr. Roosevelt gives for killing the committee is that it is interrupting the investigations of FBI. Attorney General Jackson says after Dies made the first accusation, that FBI was aware that the strike at the Vultee airplane plant in California was started and continued by Communists. To this Dies inquires why, then, hasn't the attorney general gone after the trouble making Communists?

The house committee believes the way to deal with "fifth columnists" is to slow them up, expose them, and inform the public. FBI believes the better way is to keep tab on the foreign agents and apprehend them when they have violated the law—after, for example, they have blown up a plant filling government orders or caused damage in airplane plants. These two schools of thought will thresh out their views when congress meets next month.

Had the public been aware that the war department contemplated a new 750-bed hospital to serve Oregon and Washington there would have been a swarm of delegations to the national capital from two dozen towns in those states, each asking for the hospital. There would have been as much pulling and hauling as developed before the Veterans Administration located its facility at Roseburg, after pleas from Vancouver, St. Helens and Eugene. War department saved itself a headache by locating the new hospital on the military reservation at Vancouver without announcing the plan in advance. It is not generally known that Vancouver barracks was being considered for obliteration early last spring. Army officers proposed abandoning all old army posts (relics of Indian war days) and concentrating on a few great camps, such as Fort Lewis, Wash., thereby mobilizing large bodies of troops and saving the cost of maintenance of the ancient posts.

Proposal will be made that allocation of funds for federal aid roads in Washington and Oregon be applied toward constructing military highways and bridges which can hold up under a 50-ton armored tank. This would spend all government funds on a few miles to the neglect of the remainder of the federal aid system. Mr. Roosevelt prefers this method to a straight appropriation for military roads. However, every member of congress will be urged by constituents to support a military highway program—such as has already been recommended in a report now in the hands of the President and which he has not made public.

Much wanted improvements in several harbors and rivers on the Oregon and Washington coasts will have to wait until the "emergency" is over as the White House prefers using the money for munitions. When the President delivers his budget message residents of the coast will experience a genuine shock. No new projects will be started either for harbors or rivers and no new reclamation projects will be listed for approval.

Being prepared is a measure intended to extend the social security act to farm hands, domestics and

seamen—a total of several million individuals not now protected. The bill is scheduled for introduction during next January and will probably be opposed vigorously.

Washington Scene — An immense tool machine ordered by Japan is available for any industry which can use it, for \$100,000. Uncle Sam stepped in, but is permitting Russia to receive \$7,000,000 of tool machines. Canadian apples are invading the American market, affecting the growers of Wenatchee, Yakima, Hood River and Medford, but state department says nothing can be done about it. Millions in Europe are starving; United States has a surplus of food, but the British refuse to permit passage of ships with relief through the blockade, and Germany refuses to guarantee safety. American Red Cross and Herbert Hoover are having no success in efforts to soften their determination. Scotting over highways in a few months will be midget tanks, three feet high and six feet long, carrying machine gun and other weapons. They will replace motorcycles and sidecar used by the army. Henry Ford is to manufacture them unless CIO pulls a strike at the Ford plant, which is in the air. Sweden intends suing the Vultee plant for not delivering fighting planes. The planes have been seized by the United States, but the United States can not be sued.

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### NOTICE OF FINAL ACCOUNT

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, Executrix of the Estate of O. H. Warner, deceased, has filed with the County Court of the State of Oregon for Morrow County, her final account of her administration of said estate, and that said court has set Monday, the 25th day of November, 1940, at the hour of 11 o'clock A. M. in the forenoon of said day at the County Court room at the Court House at Heppner, Oregon, as the time and place for hearing objections to said final account and the settlement of said estate, and all persons having objections to said final account or the settlement of said estate are hereby required to file the same with said court on or before the time set for said hearing.

Dated and first published this 31st day of October, 1940.

EVA L. WARNER, Executrix.

## Professional Directory

### Maternity Home

Mrs. Lillie Aiken  
Phone 664 P. O. Box 142  
Heppner, Oregon

### Phelps Funeral Home

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