

STATE CAPITAL NEWS

- Resignation
- Replacement
- Speed Law Debate

By A. L. LINDBECK

Salem.—The resignation of Sam B. Laughlin this week as head of the State Training School for Boys at Woodburn has started a train of speculation as to just what prompted Governor Sprague to "suggest" the resignation and who is to succeed Laughlin when he steps down on April 1.

The resignation was all the more surprising inasmuch as there has been little or no public criticism of Laughlin's conduct of the institution in the nearly ten years he has held that post.

While the resignation came on the heels of the Osborne report which severely criticized the institution and Laughlin's administration the governor insists that this report did not prompt his suggestion that Laughlin resign although admitting that the report "precipitated" the resignation.

As to the Osborne report: That document devotes fully as much space to criticism of the state and the board of control for its alleged "penury" in providing for the care of its youthful wards as it does to Laughlin's administration of the institution. The report declares the buildings at the school to be insubstantial and improperly arranged in spite of the fact that at the time it was completed in 1927 the institution was reported to be a model of its kind, costing the state more than \$250,000.

Governor Sprague insists that he has no one in mind as successor to Laughlin and joins with Secretary of State Snell and State Treasurer Pearson in declaring that the new superintendent must be a man of ability with experience in work with boys and an administrator.

Oregon industrial firms with good employment records will benefit through substantial reductions in their rate of contribution to the unemployment compensation fund after next July 1, if the national Social Security Board approves the experience rating program adopted by the Oregon Unemployment Compensation commission this week. This program adopted by the commission upon the recommendation of its experience rating council embodies what is known as the "inverse chronological" method of computing benefit payments and employer contributions. Under the experience rating plan employers with good employment records will be rewarded with a reduction in their rate of contribution while employers with unfavorable records or large labor turn-overs will be penalized by an increase in their rate of contribution.

In a letter to the Northern Wasco Peoples Utility District this week Governor Sprague offered the services of the State Bond Commission, without cost, to all Oregon PUD's in working out their financial programs. At the same time the governor warned the PUD's against entering any financial arrangements with private promoters that might lead to serious embarrassment later. In a letter to Paul Raver, Bonneville administrator, the governor expressed the hope that peoples utility districts in this state would be able to avoid the "very heavy expense" involved in the financing of some of the Wahington projects which the governor declared to be "not at all justifiable."

Oregon motorists may begin displaying their new green and white license plates next Sunday, according to Secretary of State Earl Snell. It is estimated that approximately one-third of the state's 323,000 passenger cars will have been supplied with the new plates by that time.

At long last, two years after its completion, Oregon's \$2,500,000 capitol now has a flag pole—two of them in fact, one at either end of the building. The two fir poles, each more than 80 feet in length, 16

inches in diameter at the base and weighing nearly three tons, were set in place in their granite and concrete bases under the supervision of E. C. Settergen, Portland contractor, this week.

Rumor has it that Governor Sprague may replace T. Morris Dunne, chairman of the Unemployment Compensation Commission, and member of the Industrial Accident commission, when his term expires the first of the year. Dunne is now completing his eighth year as a member of the Accident commission, to which he was first appointed by Governor Julius Meier and later reappointed by Governor Charles H. Martin.

Patrons of Oregon's liquor stores spent a total of \$10,235,543.32 for liquid refreshments during the 12 month period ending June 30, last, according to the annual report of the Oregon Liquor Control commission. This figure represents an increase of nearly \$750,000 over liquor purchases during the previous 12-month period. Profits from the state's liquor monopoly available for public assistance needs during the fiscal year amounted to \$3,370,273, an increase of approximately \$500,000 over the previous fiscal year, the report shows.

Buildings owned by the state of Oregon have an aggregate value of \$24,930,218, it was revealed in a report compiled by Clifford Mudd, head of the state property control division. Other property owned by the state as listed in Mudd's report includes 61,000 chairs, 10,840 tables, 3900 desks, 2800 typewriters, 675 automobiles and 20 tractors.

A sharp legislative controversy is understood to be brewing over proposed changes in Oregon's speed laws. While it is pretty generally admitted that the present basic rule has failed to provide effective regulation of speeding motorists and that a new speed law with teeth in it is needed there are at least two well-defined views as to what any new speed law should contain. One group is known to support so-called prima facie limits an offending motorist would have an opportunity to prove to the court that in spite of the fact that he was exceeding the indicated maximum speed his driving was not reckless or unreasonable under the existing circumstances. Another group favors the enactment of absolute maximum speeds with no "ifs," "ands" or "buts" attached. Secretary of State Snell sponsored a proposed "prima facie" speed law at the last legislative session but the measure died in a House committee after having passed the senate. Increasing traffic fatalities in most of which speed is reported as the principal factor now seems to have aroused public opinion to a pitch which the lawmakers will not dare to ignore at the forthcoming session.

Peru and Persia have joined the list of customers for Oregon grown flax seed, Dan J. Fry, clerk of the board of control told the board this week. Four thousand bushels were shipped to Persia last week, the purchaser paying \$12,000 cash in advance for the seed. A similar shipment was made to Peru a few weeks ago Fry said.

NEW LIBRARY BOOKS

Recent arrivals on the shelves at Heppner public library are "My Life in a Man-Made Jungle," Belle J. Benchley; "Canada: America's Problem," John MacCormac; "Sapphire and the Slave Girl," Willa Cather; "Out of the Fog," Joseph C. Lincoln; "Country Editor," H. B. Hough; "Three's a Crew," Katherine Pinkerton.

In new location across street from creamery. Come in and look around. You are always welcome. We have many good buys in used linoleum, washing machines, stoves, sinks, ironing boards, dressers, tables, chairs, violin, shirts and socks for boys, overalls, etc.

TRADING POST

Cloy Dykstra — Heppner

Production Costs Shown In Bulletin

The first comprehensive bulletin dealing with land use and production costs on dry land wheat farms in the Columbia basin in Oregon has just been issued by the experiment station at O. S. C., as station bulletin No. 373. The cost of production material used in the bulletin is based on data gathered from 60 farms for the 1936 crop year.

Publication of the bulletin was delayed by the subsequent death of A. S. Burrier, who was the head of the department of farm management. The bulletin is the last of a series of posthumous publications bearing the name of Professor Burrier. The junior author is W. W. Gorton, assistant economist in farm management.

The average yield on the farms studied in 1936 was 17.3 bushels per acre and the wheat was produced at a net cost of \$11.36 per acre or 66 cents per bushel. The cost of production exclusive of all interest charges averaged 43 cents per bushel.

The 70-page bulletin includes a section on farm organization, wheat

yields, farm tenure, livestock enterprises, soil depletion, and farm investment and returns. Copies may

be obtained free from any county extension office in the wheat-growing region.



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