

# Local News

Rev. F. R. Spaulding, pastor of the Methodist church here for several years, some years ago, is visiting friends in the city this week from his home at Dallas. He announced the passing of Mrs. Spaulding late in December. Himself an early day circuit rider, he is the son of still an earlier circuit rider who held a pastorate in Dallas, present home of Mr. Spaulding, 72 years ago. Mr. Spaulding is now residing at the home of his son, Bruce, district attorney of Polk county, who he said was not at all broken up by results of the recent attorney general race in which he was defeated, and is enjoying a good practice. He carried appreciation of his son for the good support given him in Morrow county in the recent election.

Miss Irene Beamer returned the end of the week to her teaching position in the Central Point high school after spending the holidays here with her mother, Mrs. Clara Gertson. It was mistakenly reported in these columns last week that Miss Beamer is a student at Oregon State college. She finished her work at O. S. C. last year, and is now teaching home economics.

Word has been received from her friends in Portland that Miss Lucille McDuffee, formerly of this city, has been very ill with flu at her home there, but is now able to be back at her work in the United States National bank.

Ivar E. Nelson, who farms in the Gooseberry district, was transacting business in the city Tuesday. He reported that he never saw prospects better at this time of year for the growing wheat crop.

F. H. Grey, manager of Copeland Lumber yards in Portland, was a week-end guest in the city, accompanying Mr. and Mrs. T. Babb. They returned to the city Monday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Clair Goheen of Portland were holiday visitors at the home of Mrs. Goheen's mother, Mrs. Clara Gertson.

Mrs. Oscar Keithley of Ione has entered the Morrow General hospital for treatment of a light case of pneumonia.

O. C. Stephens was a business visitor in the city yesterday from the farm on McKinney creek.

Pat Lenin is a patient at Heppner hospital, suffering a severe attack of the flu.

## Specimen Manual Ready for Teachers

Oregon State College.—A manual for the use of high school biology teachers in collecting and preparing living specimen for classwork is now available at merely the cost of materials, through the division of information of the state system of higher education. The 82-page mimeographed publication was originally submitted by Ruth Ann Bates as a thesis in graduate work at Oregon State college. It is one of numerous theses reproduced for general distribution as the result of a WPA project sponsored by the division of information.

The publication includes a section on the plant kingdom, one on the animal kingdom, and another on methods of keeping plants and live animals for class use. Typical species of plants and animals obtainable in Oregon, particularly in the western parts of the state, are described, together with a statement of dwelling place, the season in which they are most easily obtained, and the reason for their inclusion in high school biology courses.

## JANUARY CLEARANCE SALE

Coats, Suits, Hats, Dresses, Parka Gowns, Pajamas and Robes. CURRAN'S READY-TO-WEAR.

Use the G-T want ads for results.

### CARD OF THANKS

We wish to thank the kind friends and neighbors for their help, sympathy and floral tribute at the time of our bereavement. We are especially grateful to the Masons for their assistance.

Edmond Gonty and family, Thomas Gonty, Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Gonty.

## STATE CAPITAL NEWS

- Legislative Message
- New Treasurer
- Less Indebtedness

By A. L. LINDBECK

Salem.—Governor Sprague put the finishing touches to his legislative message Saturday and the document is now in the hands of the printers. If the organization of the House and Senate is completed Monday morning as is expected unless a hitch develops in the selection of a Speaker, the governor is expected to address the lawmakers assembled in joint session, shortly after noon Monday.

While the contents of the message are being closely guarded it is expected that the governor will touch on such problems as the proposed reorganization of the state industrial accident commission, experience rating as applied to the unemployment compensation act, proposed changes in the forestry laws and the financial condition of the state which is flattering when compared with conditions in the neighboring states of Washington and California.

Leslie M. Scott took over his new duties as state treasurer Monday morning at a brief ceremony attended by Governor Sprague, Secretary of State Snell and representatives of the press, in which Walter E. Pearson turned the office over to his successor. Pearson who was appointed to the post two years ago to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Rufus C. Holman to become a United States senator, was not a candidate to succeed himself but will return to Salem next Monday as a member of the Multnomah county delegation in the state senate.

The state highway department spent a total of \$15,100,000 during 1940, a report by R. H. Baldock, state highway engineer, shows. This total includes \$7,100,000 for new construction; \$3,530,000 for maintenance of roads and bridges; \$2,075,000 for bond retirement, and \$685,000 for payment of bond interest. Most noteworthy accomplishments of the year as noted by Baldock include completion of the Pacific highway route from Ashland south to the California line, grading and oiling of the last link in the new Willamette highway and completion of the new Pacific highway route through the city of Albany.

Prisoners who are domiciled at the new penitentiary annex south of Salem, will have to be content with a stairway as a means of reaching their sleeping quarters on the third floor of the new building. The state board of control this week turned down a request for \$5300 to cover the cost of an elevator for the building, on the ground that the "trusties" had plenty of time to walk up the three flights.

The Board of Control has authorized Secretary of State Snell to offer the new codes to county officials and state boards, commissions and institutions at the reduced price of \$58.75 a set. The state is paying \$61.87 per set for these self same codes in 1000 lots but the publishers are offering to sell them at the lower price and the state found it necessary to meet this competition in order to dispose of its surplus supply amounting to approximately 400 sets over and above those required to supply the members of the legislature for the next ten years and

such other state officials as are entitled to receive them without cost.

Governor Sprague will ask the state legislature for authority to organize a state guard. Not that he expects to create such an organization, but just in case it might become necessary to do so in an emergency that might occur during the absence of the national guard troops now undergoing training at Camp Murray and Camp Clatsop.

Oregon and its political subdivisions—counties, cities, school districts, etc.—have reduced their outstanding indebtedness by \$71,548,780 in the past ten years according to a survey by Walter Pearson, state treasurer.

On July 1, 1930, the state and its political subdivisions owed a total of \$185,643,457. By July 1, 1940, this debt load had been whittled down to \$114,094,677, a reduction of nearly 40 per cent.

The net debt of the state in 1930 according to Pearson's survey, was \$31,308,132. That figure is now down to \$13,681,578—a reduction of \$17,626,554.

The cities cut \$29,202,673 off their debt load in the 10 year period—from \$76,681,848 in 1930 to \$47,479,175 in 1940.

School districts whittled \$9,168,068 off their debt load in the period from 1930 to 1940—from \$22,539,320 to \$13,371,252.

The net debt of the 36 counties was reduced from \$24,460,729 to \$15,551,451—down \$8,909,278.

The progress of other political subdivisions in their efforts at debt reduction are shown in Pearson's survey as follows: Port districts from \$9,556,117 to \$4,998,258—down \$4,557,859; irrigation districts from \$17,637,947 to \$16,398,061—down \$1,239,886; drainage districts from \$2,097,159 to \$1,337,554—down \$759,605; fire protection, highway improvement and other districts from \$214,074 to \$99,183—down \$114,891. The only subdivision group to show an increase in the debt load were the water districts whose net debt increased from \$1,148,131 to \$1,178,165—up \$30,034.

Incidentally with this reduction in the public debt has come a reduction in the annual interest charge. While figures are not available for the political subdivisions the annual interest bill of the state which totalled \$2,928,323 in 1928 was down to \$1,617,633 in 1940.

The State Land Board has employed Marvin Klemme to supervise the "blocking" of the state's 700,000 acres of school lands. This is the first definite step in a program that has been under consideration for more than five years. The program involves the exchange of school sections scattered throughout the public domain to the federal government for an equal acreage grouped in larger tracts and more conveniently accessible to stockmen to whom it is proposed to lease the "blocks" for grazing purposes. Klemme was formerly with the federal grazing service in charge of grazing interests in Oregon and is thoroughly acquainted with the problem presented by the blocking program. It is expected that the "blocking" will require the better part of two years.

The first blocks will be made on an exchange-of-use basis. If the experiment proves satisfactory exchange of title will be made later.

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## STAR Reporter

FRI.-SAT, JAN. 10-11

### Mexican Spitfire Out West

with Lupe Velez, Leon Errol, Donald Woods

Cockeyed comedy of a blazing bride who goes to Reno to hold a husband!

plus

### Street of Memories

with Guy Kibbee, Lynne Roberts, Sterling Holloway  
DISNEY CARTOON

SUN.-MON., JAN. 12-13

### The Howards of Virginia

with Cary Grant, Martha Scott, Sir Cedric Hardwicke, Alan Marshal, Richard Carlson, Paul Kelly

"The Tree of Liberty," Elizabeth Page's famous novel of America's fight for freedom and independence is the basis for this excellent production.

TUESDAY, JAN. 14

Bargain Night: Adults 20c, Child. 10c

### PIER 13

with Lynn Bari, Lloyd Nolan, Joan Valerie, Douglas Fowley  
Comedy drama  
plus

### Outside the Three Mile Limit

with Jack Holt, Harry Carey  
Secret service melodrama

WED.-THURS., JAN. 15-16

### HIT PARADE OF 1941

with Kenny Baker, Fances Langford, Hugh Heret, Mary Boland, Ann Miller, Borrah Minevitch and His Harmonica Rascals, Patsy Kelly, Phil Silvers, Sterling Holloway, Six Hits and a Miss

A star-studded mery musical.

### EYES OF THE NAVY

#### THE MARCH OF TIME

### SHIP BY TRUCK

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PORTLAND : THE DALLES : HEPPNER  
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