

STATE CAPITAL NEWS

- Bill Acceleration
- \$30 Retirement
- Fund Allocation

By A. L. LINDBECK

Salem, Ore.—The legislative session which started off in low gear speeded up considerably last week and by the time the session adjourned for the week end the House had exactly twice as many bills in its hopper as had been introduced in the first two weeks of the 1939 session while the senate was running neck and neck with its record of two years ago.

Measures already in cover a wide field. There are bills providing for legislative reapportionment and other bills which seek to make provision for the additional Congressman Oregon expects to get on the basis of the state's increased population as revealed in the 1940 census. There are bills providing for a system of regional vocational schools and others providing for the creation of a system of junior colleges. There are bills providing for amendments to the unemployment compensation act and the workmen's compensation act, bills amending the forestry laws and others amending the agricultural code.

Just how long the session will run it is impossible to say but judging from surface indications there is nothing yet in sight that should require any prolonged session and while it is hardly probable that adjournment will come at the end of the constitutional pay period it should not take very many days after the lawmakers cease to draw their \$3 per diem to clear the desks and get away.

Two measures having a direct bearing on the state's educational system are before the lawmakers. One of these provides for the creation of a system of regional vocational schools to be located at strategic points throughout the state. The proposed schools would be financed through a special tax levy starting off at one-fourth of a mill the first year and attaining a maximum of one mill in the fourth year. Sponsors of the program explain that it is proposed to establish the schools just as rapidly as funds become available and it is hoped that home school districts, anxious to secure one of the schools might be persuaded to donate the necessary building in order to speed up the program. The other school bill has for its purpose the establishment of six junior colleges to be administered as a part of the state's system of higher education. Cities selected for the location of these colleges include Bend, Pendleton, Marshfield, Klamath Falls, Astoria and Portland.

One of the real fights of the current legislative session will center about the "experience rating" provision in the unemployment compensation act. Written into the act by the 1939 session labor leaders are making a determined fight in an effort to have the provision eliminated at this session. Employers on the other hand, appear to be just as determined to preserve the provision intact. Already labor delegates in the House have introduced measures for repeal of the experience rating clause. Other labor sponsored bills ask for an increase in the weekly benefit payments and a reduction in the waiting period from three weeks to one.

Every citizen of the United States would be able to retire upon reaching the age of 60 years with an assured monthly annuity of \$30 if Congress should act favorably upon a proposal contained in a memorial sponsored by a large group of Oregon senators and representatives. Calling attention to the fact that many groups are not now included in the retirement provisions of the Social Security act the Oregon memorial calls on Congress to so amend the act as to make a retirement pay of \$30 a month available to all citizens upon reaching the age of 60 years if they are willing to retire from profitable employment. The

proposed \$30 monthly check would be forthcoming "as a matter of right" rather than as a matter of "need."

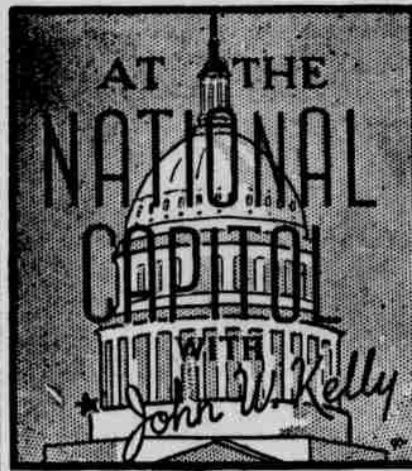
Apportionment of the counties' share of highway funds on the basis of assessed valuation instead of on the basis of automobile registration as at present is proposed in a bill which has been introduced by Representatives French and Miller and Senator Steiwer. A tabulation of the annual apportionment for 1940 as compared to the apportionment as it would have been made on the proposed basis shows that 19 Oregon counties would benefit by the change at the expense of the other 17 counties. Included among the 19 counties whose share of the highway money would be increased if apportioned on the basis of assessed valuations are all of those east of the Cascades with the exception of Hood River, Deschutes, Malheur and Klamath. Four Western Oregon counties would also be benefitted by the proposed change. These are Douglas, Linn, Polk and Multnomah.

The agricultural sub-committee of Governor Sprague's Oregon Economic Council has worked out a proposed marketing program which found its way into the legislative hopper this week in the form of a bill. Under this proposed program if 100 or more growers of any agricultural commodity should petition the state director of agriculture that official would be required to call a referendum election of all producers of that crop on the question of entering into the marketing agreement. Should 60 percent or more of the producers at such an election favor the plan it would then become obligatory upon all producers of that crop to observe the marketing program. Under this program grades and standards would be established by three producers and two processors to be appointed by the governor. As a special inducement to improve grades a label or seal would be adopted for use on only products of superior quality. Inspectors of the department of agriculture would pass on the quality of the product offered for sale and any violation of the established grades or standards would be punished by heavy fines. The program would be financed through a tax of not to exceed two percent of the price received by the producer for his crop.

Expert carvers in both House and Senate are busy trying to work out an acceptable plan for cutting up the state into four Congressional districts in anticipation of additional representation for Oregon on the strength of the state's increase in population as revealed in the 1940 census. Only one Congressional reapportionment bill has found its way into the legislative hopper so far. This one, a House measure, would leave the second district intact and would divorce the remainder of Multnomah county from the city of Portland which it would constitute the third Congressional district. In order to create a new district this measure would carve up the first district into two districts. In one of these would be included practically all of the counties between the Coast and Cascade ranges while the other proposed district would be composed of the coast counties to which would be added Columbia county and all of Multnomah county outside the city of Portland. This measure proposes to cut Lane and Douglas counties in two, placing the territory west of the Coast range in one district and that east of the Coast range in the other.

BIRTHDAY FETED

Mrs. Katie Slocum was honored with a birthday party at the home of her son, Lamont Slocum, with the latter as hostess to a group of friends Monday afternoon. Mrs. Stingle assisted the hostess in serving refreshments of ice cream and cake. Many nice gifts were received. Guests included, besides the honoree, Mrs. Rose Howell, Mrs. Rosa Eskelson, Mrs. Cora Crawford, Mrs. Josie Jones, Mrs. M. L. Case, Mrs. Wm. LeTrace, Mrs. Chas. Valentine, Mrs. Osmun Hager, Mrs. Lulu McCarty, Mrs. Sylva Devin, Mrs. Earl Evans, Mrs. James Morgan, Mrs. E. R. Huston, Mrs. Marcellus Morgan.



Washington, D. C., Jan. 30.—Instead of going up, the cost of living should be going down in the United States because this country is being used as a dumping ground by the British and the Latin American countries. The United States is practically the only open market left in the world and the British and the South American republics are each striving to invade it.

Take coffee. British and Holland possessions were running in coffee in competition with Brazil until a few weeks ago, when the United States established a quota system. It is difficult to reach England with food supplies and the possessions shifted to the United States market. At the moment there is loud protest from South America because England is dumping cocoa into the United States (largest of all markets), interfering with the business of the Latins. The British government ought up the crop of the Gold Coast and Nigeria and is shipping it to this country in direct competition with 12 of the 20 Latin nations. The government is now working on a quota basis for cocoa.

From the jump of the war, the British government bought the entire wool clip of Australia and New Zealand and shipped almost all of it to the United States. The wool is now coming here in American flag ships and being stored in warehouses at the ports of Oregon, Washington and California, with other warehouses in Boston. For the duration of the war and one year thereafter the British will purchase the wool of its colonial possessions. Part of it can be used to stabilize prices of domestic wool, but the hundreds of millions of pounds may depress the prices received by the sheepmen of Oregon, Washington, Idaho and other western states.

Northwest pear growers, their European market shut off, are striving to find new outlets for their product. At the same time the government has negotiated with Argentina permitting 300,000 boxes to be shipped to the United States by April 1. It is part of the "good neighbor" policy, but the pear growers must pay for it. With a surplus (only partly reduced by Surplus Commodities Corporation) the pear growers are faced with the new Argentina competition. These South American pears are shipped on American-subsidized line and the benefits are received by the fruit speculators in New York. Later it is expected that concessions will be made on Argentina turkeys, a very important crop in Oregon and a good crop in Washington.

The United States has loaned (given) \$110,000,000 to Argentina to promote good will. Part of this money is being used to ship wheat to South Russia, and there is a suspicion that the wheat's ultimate destination is Germany. This furnished a market for Argentina wheat. No one has noticed Soviet Russia, however, buying Pacific northwest wheat. What Russia is acquiring from the Pacific coast is gasoline and oil (two American tankers are now carrying those articles and sailing under the Russian flag); copper, some scrap, and machine tools. These items are going to Vladivostok and over the Siberian railroad to no one knows where.

These concessions to Soviet Russia in view of Russia's invasion of Finland and seizing part of Poland, is one of the mysteries of the new deal administration. It appears that what is bad for a Nazi to do is perfectly proper for a Communist.

Theory on which the British have been unloading everything from cocoa and coffee to woolen goods in the United States was that Britain

needed the dollar exchange in order to purchase war supplies. This theory is soon to be out-moded under the lease-lend bill, when enacted, as the president will be given power to furnish everything the British need from a left-handed shovel, if he considers that security adequate.

One of the hardest fights for a contract has been waged over the munitions dump near Hermiston, Ore. Twice it was awarded and held up. It is the biggest government job in the northwest, a matter of about \$10,000,000 and was worth fighting for. Navy officers are considering shipbuilding at Astoria, where facilities are now available and about 2000 men can be secured. War department says no more air bases will be established in Washington or Oregon for some time, although there are a couple of places in the interior that look good to them. To have a uniform wage scale in all shipyards of the Pacific Northwest the government has arranged for a conference in San Francisco next week at which several government agencies will have representatives. The purpose is to prevent strikes in the yards when production gets under way, as it will within a couple of months.

Dean R. Sprinkel is employed at the Boeing Aircraft plant in Seattle, Wash., and likes his work very much. He completed an airplane mechanics course in Pendleton last September.

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, General Land Office at The Dalles, Oregon, January 10, 1941.

NOTICE is hereby given that Elza H. Vinson, of Lena, Oregon, who, on December 12, 1395, made Additional S. R. Homestead entry, Act. Dec. 29, 1916, No. 029027, for SW 1/4, N 1/2 SE 1/4 Sec. 17; W 1/2 NE 1/4, E 1/2 NW 1/4, SE 1/4 NE 1/4, NW 1/4 NW 1/4 of Section 20, Township 9 S., Range 26 E., Willamette Meridian, has filed notice of intention to make three-year Proof, to establish claim to the land above described, before C. W. Barlow, County Clerk of Morrow County, Oregon, at Heppner, Oregon, on the 1st day of March, 1941.

Claimant names as witnesses: Edward Clark, of Heppner, Oregon; Sylvaneus Wright, of Lexington, Oregon; Dick Robison, of Kimberly, Oregon; Lee Flannings, of Kimberly, Oregon.

W. F. JACKSON, Register.

Professional Directory

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