

STATE CAPITAL NEWS

- Labor Gains
- Costly Session
- Tax Deadline

By A. L. LINDBECK

Salem.—Labor made substantial gains through enactments of the recent legislative session. Amendments written into the workmen's compensation act and the unemployment compensation act provide for increased benefits aggregating more than \$1,140,000 a year.

A new schedule of awards written into the workmen's compensation act provides for increased benefit payments to injured workmen and their dependents amounting to an estimated \$522,000 annually.

Amendments to the unemployment compensation act provide for increased benefit payments to temporarily jobless workers amounting to an estimated \$621,000 a year. Reduction of the waiting period from three to two weeks alone accounts for an increase of \$250,000 a year in benefit payments while changes written into the seasonality section of the act will increase benefit payments by another \$300,000.

Increased premium rates averaging 15 percent were announced by the State Industrial Accident commission this week in order to meet increased drains upon the workmen's compensation fund. Still further increases in rates are in store for Oregon industries in order to meet increased benefit payments written into the law by the last legislature but which do not become effective until after July 1, 1942.

The recent legislative session was not only, next to that of 1939, the longest in Oregon but, also next to that of 1939, the most costly. The payrolls of both the House and Senate were substantially higher than those of the 1935 session which lacked only two days of equalling that of 1941 although considerably under that of the 1939 session. Senate clerks and stenographers drew an aggregate of \$26,874 in payment for their services during the recent session compared to \$32,033 for the 1939 session and \$21,644.50 for the 1935 session. House clerks and stenographers were paid \$44,279 for their services during the recent session, compared to \$47,047 in the 1939 session and \$38,278 in the 1935.

If the members of the Oregon legislature are looking for an answer to the negative reaction of the voters to their repeated requests for an increase in their per diem pay they can find it in such tumultuous scenes as those enacted in the House on the closing night of the recent session. And if, as has been charged, this negative reaction is a bit more pronounced in Marion county than in other sections of the state it is only because the voters of this county are closer to the scene of action and are more frequent spectators at these disgusting scenes than are those of more distant sections.

Granting that the inebriated representatives constituted only a small minority of the House membership and that their antics were anything but typical of the conduct of the legislature as a whole, it can not be denied that it is upon such demonstrations as these that opinion is based in the minds of a public that is prone to judge by surface indications.

The state hospital for insane at Salem came in for severe criticism at the hands of the Marion county grand jury which made its annual inspection of state institutions this week. While the management of the hospital was given a clean bill of health the institution was said to be "almost unbearably overcrowded" while certain of the buildings in which inmates are housed were declared to be "fire traps of great hazard." The first move in a building program to improve conditions at this institution was taken by the recent legislature which, acting upon the recommendation of the Board of Control authorized the construction of a 200-bed hospital

building to cost an estimated \$325,000.

Kenneth G. Martin of Portland has been selected as the successor to Linden McCullough as superintendent of the Blind Trade School in Portland, it was announced following a meeting of the Commission for the Blind Saturday. McCullough has resigned as head of the blind school effective April 1. Martin, who was a member of the commission for the blind has been interested in the blind and their problems for more than 20 years.

For the first time since October, 1911, no state banks in Oregon are in process of liquidation. This announcement was made by A. A. Rogers, state superintendent of banks, as he mailed out checks this week covering the final dividend payment to depositors in the old Albany State bank which closed its doors in October, 1933.

Secretary of State Snell, R. H. Baldock, state highway engineer, and Charles P. Pray, superintendent of state police, spent most of last week in San Francisco in conference with United States army officials regarding problems of transportation that might be involved in the event of an emergency requiring the movement of large bodies of troops and their equipment over the highways of this state.

A new record high in income tax payments is predicted by members of the state tax commission based upon early returns which have been pouring in during the past two weeks. Incidentally, the commission warns, Tuesday, April 1, is the last date on which state returns may be filed to avoid penalties.

Turkey Outlook Improved, While Fruits Doubtful

The turkey outlook for 1941 is somewhat more favorable than a year ago, according to a report on the agricultural situation and outlook just issued by the agricultural extension service at O. S. C. The report also includes outlook information on fruits, potatoes, milk, meat, eggs, and wool, and on horses and mules.

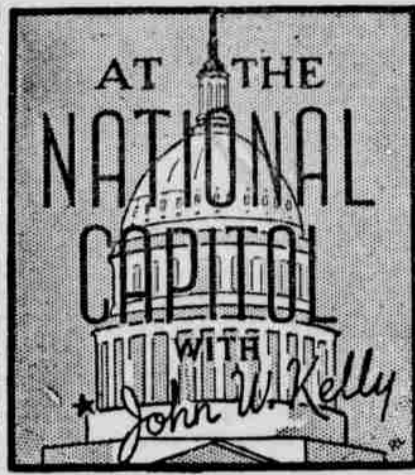
Improvement in the turkey outlook is attributed in part to a high level of consumer purchasing power expected to continue through the 1941-42 marketing season for turkeys. The available data also indicate a slight reduction in the turkey crop this year and a smaller carry-over of storage holdings, but a probable increase in chicken meat. Better purchasing power is also important in the outlook for fruits, potatoes, and other farm products, although offset more or less by weak foreign demand in the case of export-type crops. Fruits and some other products have been largely dependent upon foreign markets, now closed owing to the war, to absorb the volume needed to keep these enterprises prosperous.

The fruit supply is unusually large owing to increased output and reduced exports. Despite the improved domestic situation, the fruit outlook is not very favorable, particularly for export type fruit products. Prices for meat, milk, eggs, and wool are relatively high and the supply of feed is generally plentiful. These conditions are being reflected in increasing production of most kinds of animal products. Prices for horses and mules have continued to go down, even while prices for other livestock have been advancing.

Farm producers are confronted with an upward trend in farm wage rates and some indications of an increase in other farm costs and living expenses. The report also contains recent data on the volume of the nation's food supply, including such items as 40 billion eggs and 20 billion pounds of fresh fruit, and numerous other articles of diet in stupendous quantities.

Washington, D. C., March 27.—Bonneville power administration is in desperate need of \$1,500,000 with which to service the Reynolds Metal Co., the new aluminum company which has located at Longview, Wn., instead of Cascade Locks, as originally planned. Production is wanted by June 15, but it will require many months to assemble materials for a substation or to run a transmission line to Longview, even though the money was available—which it is not.

After Administrator Ravor signed the 20-year contract, agreeing to bring power to the Reynolds company, he asked for a "deficiency" appropriation from congress which would enable him to take power to the Longview site. He was told to wait for the regular appropriation bill for the fiscal year 1942. For reasons best known to himself, neither Ravor nor his assistants solicited the help of the Oregon delegation, but had seen Washington's Senator Bone and Representative Leavy.



A third draft of the proposed Columbia power authority has been completed and is under study. It does not provide for home rule, like the previous drafts centers the authority in the hands of the secretary of the interior, Harold L. Ickes. In the northwest the increasing demand is for an "authority" directed by local people, and not a single head in Washington, D. C.

As previously predicted in this column, the navy has awarded contracts to the Joe Dyer shipyard at Astoria, and to Kruze & Banks at Coos Bay, each for four 135-foot boats. These will be mine sweepers. Several hundred men will be required in each of the yards. Later the old shipyards at St. Helens will probably be given a contract to build freighters for the maritime commission, as the government now plans letting work for 200 additional freighters, a number of these to be allocated to yards on the Pacific coast.

There is such a need for destroyers that the navy is considering placing orders in the Columbia-Willamette river region. The yards on Puget sound are now loaded with all the orders they can handle. In the midst of war's alarms, the biggest sensation in the national capital last week was the strange disappearance of a Forest Grove, Ore., girl. A new arrival in the defense program, brought here to work in the war department making maps, she left for her office and that was the last seen of her for two days. Newspapers carried pictures and scare-head stories. When found the young woman was located in a park, suffering from amnesia.

One reason President Roosevelt does not want much river and harbor and flood control work now is that he wishes to build up a backlog of employment against the time when national defense is over and peace reigns in the world. The administration realizes that there will be a terrific let-down for the United States when the emergency is over and that something must be planned to meet the unemployment situation and the inevitable depression. This also applies to new reclamation projects, and for the same reason there will be no extensive development of the Grand Coulee reclamation, though a start will be made.

An item of \$75,000,000 for clothing and equipment of army and navy passed by the house, had a stipulation which should gladden the hearts of sheepmen of the west. It provides that none of this money shall be used to purchase blankets, uniforms or cloth which contains foreign wool. This was stipulated despite the fact

that the quartermaster department recently announced it would accept blankets and uniforms made of a mixture of foreign and domestic wools. There is in storage in the United States great quantities of Australian wool brought by the British government and shipped to this country in American freighters, the costs being defrayed by RFC. It was explained that the sheepmen were entitled to a "break."

Strawberry growers in Oregon are in a tough spot. They have ordered their hallocks for the berries and now the government, through one of its bureaus, declares these boxes are illegal anywhere outside of Oregon. The Oregon hallocks have a false bottom, but the box contains the same quantity of berries as the boxes of California or Washington. Heretofore the controversy has been among manufacturers of the boxes. Now, however, as growers have ordered their boxes, they will be the ones to suffer. California growers are making complaint against the Oregon box, and acting on this complaint the government is putting the kibosh on the Oregon containers in interstate commerce. It will affect, particularly, the Oregon market in New York city.

John K. Honey of Portland was in town over the week end. Mr. Honey is the owner of wheat land in the Ione section.

John Clouston, who was recently transferred to Pendleton from Lakeview in his work with the U. S. forest service, was a visitor in Heppner Tuesday.

NOTICE OF FINAL ACCOUNT

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, administrator of the estate of R. H. Lane, deceased, has filed with the County Court of the State of Oregon for Morrow County, his final account of his administration of said estate, and that said Court has fixed Monday, the 7th day of April, 1941, at the hour of 10:00 o'clock in the forenoon of said day in 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 thereto are hereby required to file the same in said court on or before the time set for said hearing. Dated and first published this 6th day of March, 1941.

R. F. PHILLIPS, Administrator.

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