

STATE CAPITAL NEWS

- Veto Record
- 'Fag' Tax June 14
- First in Safety

By A. L. LINDBECK

Salem.—Of the 503 bills dumped into Governor Sprague's lap by the recent legislative session 486 were permitted to continue on their way to the statute books. The other 15 were cut down by the executive veto, establishing what is believed to be an all-time high record for vetoes in this state.

Of the 15 vetoed measures the most outstanding were the House measure providing for retirement of circuit and supreme court judges on \$200 a month pay; the Jones' bill, also a House measure, which would have permitted the sale of naturally fermented wines by the glass, and another House bill providing for a tax on dairy products to finance an advertising and marketing campaign to increase consumption of these products.

In vetoing the judges' retirement bill the governor expressed himself as opposed to the extension of this privilege to selected groups of public employees, and particularly to a group enjoying the salaries paid to judges. The Jones wine bill was disapproved by the governor as contrary to the principles of the Knox Liquor Control act and as not desired by the people of Oregon at this time.

Other vetoed measures included bills providing for appeals from decisions of the liquor control commission; curing defective and irregular deeds and conveyances; increasing the cosmetic-therapy board from three to five members; appropriating \$250 to provide a "suitable enclosure" for the bronze state seal imbedded in the floor of the capitol rotunda; appropriating \$5200 for additional experimental work on arid lands in Sherman county; appropriating \$5000 to compensate Mrs. Elizabeth E. Brown for injuries sustained in a fall at the state tuberculosis hospital; protecting public employees in their pay and priority ratings while absent in military service; providing penalties for acts of sabotage; relating to changes of boundaries of school districts; reviving the old Soldiers and Sailors commission and appropriating \$5000 for its operation; including service trades under fair trades act; and relating to relocation of county roads on or near airports.

The governor used the partial veto provision to eliminate two items totalling \$20,000 from the omnibus appropriation bill and to strike out a claim allowed to Mrs. Rose Swanson for the death of her husband while in the employ of the eastern Oregon state hospital from the sundry claims bill.

Records in the state department show that only seven measures of the 1939 legislative session were vetoed by Governor Sprague while Governor Martin vetoed only six bills of the 1937 session.

Barring the referendum which has been threatened by cigarette manufacturers Oregon smokers will begin paying a two cent state tax on each package of "fags" on June 14. Governor Sprague signed the cigarette tax bill this week in the presence of a group of old age pension advocates and sent it on to the state department to become law. Revenues from this tax are variously estimated at from \$1,200,000 to \$1,900,000 a year. Five-sixths of this revenue is to go toward public assistance, generally interpreted as old age pensions, while the remaining one-sixth goes toward the support of vocational education.

A substantial improvement in the employment situation, occasioned by the boom in defense industries, is reflected in jobless insurance payments for the first quarter of this year which were 28.7 per cent below those for the same period in 1941. Unemployment insurance payments for March, this year, were less than half those for March, 1940, according to a report by Administrator Silas Gaiser.

Legal-minded members of the

state's official family do not share the concern expressed by some commentators over the effect of the new Fourth Congressional district on state boards and commissions.

In the first place, these experts point out, although the legislative act creating the new district becomes effective next June the district itself does not become operative until the convening of the seventy-eighth Congress in January, 1943. Until that time the present First district will to all intents and purposes remain intact so that there is really nothing to become disturbed over until that date, following on the heels of which the state legislature will convene and be in position to straighten out any kinks that may have been created by the new political picture.

Even though the new congressional district lines should become effective at an earlier date, it is pointed out, the three-member factor would still be controlling. The boundaries of the second and third congressional districts remain unchanged and for the purpose of membership on boards or commissions whose membership is distributed according to congressional districts, the boundaries of the first district as defined at the time the boards and commissions were created would still control.

First referendum move since the adjournment of the legislative session is directed against the Wallace bill closing all coast streams to commercial fishing. The referendum is sponsored by the Oregon Fish Protective association of which Dudley Turnacliiff of Agate Beach is president and Chas. F. Henne of Tidewater, secretary. The ballot title for the referendum was completed by Attorney General Van Winkle this week and petitions are now being circulated for signatures in order to place the measure on the ballot at the regular election in November, 1942.

Republican party workers are anything but happy over the appointment of M. D. Wooley, Portland social worker, as head of the Boys Training School. Although the Board of Control which exercises jurisdiction over the school, is now solidly republican for the first time in six years Wooley, a New Deal Democrat, was selected in preference to several Republican applicants some of whom are said to have been fully as well qualified for the post as is the board's choice for the position which pays \$2100 per year and "found," this latter including living quarters, meals and laundry for the superintendent's family.

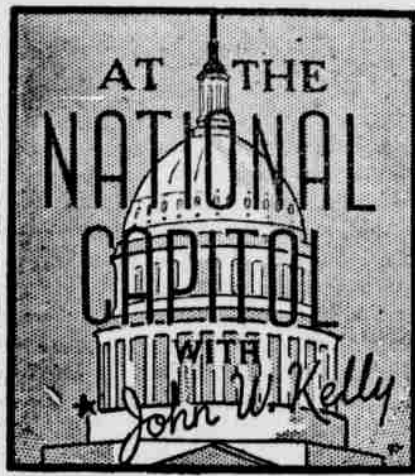
Secretary of State Snell, as head of Oregon's traffic safety campaign, is jubilant over the announcement that this state placed first in its division—comprising the eleven western states—in the reduction of traffic fatalities during 1940. Out to repeat this record in 1941 Snell points out that traffic fatalities in this state were reduced by 40 percent during the first two months of this year while traffic deaths over the nation as a whole increased by 16 percent.

At least two more referendums against acts of the recent legislative session are pending, according to reports reaching the state capital. Cigarette manufacturers are expected to begin their fight against the cigarette tax bill within the next two weeks. Reports are also current that a referendum will be filed against the free text book bill which Governor Sprague permitted to become a law without his signature.

Game Management Said Concern of State

Only recently has the public begun to think of wild game as part of a management problem, but Arthur S. Einarson, federal biologist stationed at Oregon State college with the wildlife department, is authority for the statement that management of wildlife is not a project for a few but is an endeavor in which every citizen can help.

In a new experiment station circular No. 141, entitled "Suggestions of Management of Small Game in Oregon," Einarson says that the future supply of wildlife in Oregon



Washington D. C., April 10.—Despite the assurance given by President Roosevelt that no American soldiers, sailors or aviators will be sent to fight in Europe and that United States help to Britain will consist of supplies, there is a definite belief that an AEF will, within a year, be operating in north Africa. The convoy question also worries congress and this is one reason that congress will not adjourn this year but will remain at its post on a hop-skip basis, prepared to cope with any situation within a few days' time.

It is now certain that the administration will give aid to Turkey and to Yugoslavia. Apparently, the only way to send supplies is around the Cape of Good Hope, at the tip of South Africa, and then up the other coast to the Red sea and Suez canal. An expeditionary force could also follow the same route.

Whenever the subject of convoys has been broached to the president, as at press conferences or to his congressional leaders, his reply has been that a question is preposterous. This answer, however, has not quieted the members of congress. It is generally admitted that if American supplies are to be sent to England they must be accompanied by a convoy, either American or English naval vessels. Under the lease-lend bill destroyers can be turned over to Canada and the American crews can volunteer in the Canadian navy without loss of American citizenship. What congress knows (and the president has said a convoy means shooting and shooting means war) is that an American convoy will be attacked by the German submarines, and then "we are in."

Congress is taking time by the forelock. It is starting to investigate the national defense contracts now instead of waiting until after the war is over and more damage is done. A special committee of the senate will investigate why contracts have been distributed geographically; why certain sections of the country have been given contracts (and in exposed positions within 200 miles of the coast) and others have been ignored. The sale of land for certain cantonments and defense plants reeks with scandal. One cantonment was estimated to cost \$9,000,000 and it will cost \$22,000,000 because of being improperly located. This committee will investigate the reason for giving a few general contractors more than one billion dollars' worth of work while scores of others were ignored. Strikes, too, will be probed where they have halted defense orders and some effort will be made to determine how many millions of dollars have been collected by dues before an American citizen can work for national defense. Estimates range from \$30,000,000 to \$80,000,000 col-

could be much better assured thru the establishment of game management areas as joint projects of the Oregon state game commission, sportsmen's clubs, and private land owner.

The report deals particularly with the management of pheasants, quail, and similar wild fowl, including some discussion of water fowl. Steps necessary in the establishment of a management unit and the probable results to be obtained are set out in the bulletin.

CALL FOR WARRANTS

Outstanding warrants of School District No. One, Morrow County, Oregon, numbered 6487 to 6743 inclusive, will be paid on presentation to the district clerk. Interest on said warrants ceases April 11, 1941.

EVELYN ISOM, Clerk, School District No. One, Heppner, Oregon.

lected as initiation fees, or work permits. No one knows the exact figures, and the unions are not revealing their receipts from this source.

After the first world war congress authorized many investigations, but it was too late to remedy what had been done. Now congress is moving in on the job in the heat of construction and the fever of production, and the fact that congress is investigating will prevent graft and crookedness, for not all are patriots.

The lengths to which national defense can be strengthened is remarkable. The government, through one of its bureaus, suggests that rats be exterminated in the cause of defense. This report says there is one rat for every two persons in the city mentioned and one rat to every person in the rural areas. Annual destruction caused by rats is estimated at \$180,000,000. On the farms rat damage is about \$10 a year, or \$63,000,000 for all farms. The rodents cut grain in shocks and granaries, from mangers, pig stys and poultry yards. No estimate is made of baby chicks and eggs destroyed, but the report cites 188 chickens killed in one night on a single farm.

Department of agriculture says every farmer can help Britain by raising pigs and poultry. Hog products are needed desperately in the British isles, and the secretary advises hog raisers to go the limit as there is a market for every pound. There is nothing in the war for the wheat men, as the British will take wheat from Canada, which now has on hand more than the British can consume in two years, and the carry-over in the United States is expected to be 380,000,000 bushels. Wheat, apparently, is a drug on the market. Government has pegged prices to prevent skyrocketing thus: Hogs, \$9 per 100; dairy products, basis of butter pound, 31 cents; chickens, 15 cents a pound; eggs, 22 cents a dozen. These are the principal items needed by the British.

Providing the right kind of Chromite can be found, the U. S. Vanadium Co. of New York intends coming to the Pacific northwest, locating in either Washington or Oregon. Rural population of Oregon is 558,009, an increase of 93,969 in ten years. Washington rural population is 814,222, an increase of 135,365 in ten years. The increase is due to better farming and living conditions.

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