

STATE CAPITAL NEWS

- Workers Excess
- Speakers' Prediction
- Tax Changes

By A. L. LINDBECK

Salem.—Oregon has 322 machine, woodworking and sheet-metal shops suitable for conversion into defense industries, the Oregon Economic council told Governor Sprague this week. These shops now employ 4206 men and would need 11,670 skilled workers for capacity production, the report pointed out. A total of 15,845 skilled workers were listed in the report as available for defense production jobs in this state.

O. D. Adams, state director for vocational education, has been granted an indefinite leave of absence from his state job in Oregon to serve Uncle Sam. Adams, who has been away from Salem the past six months on a temporary leave, is a lieutenant commander in the naval reserves and is in charge of the educational program for both civilian employees and enlisted men at the Bremerton navy yard. Oscar Paulson, assistant director, is pinch hitting for Adams during his absence.

A third act of the recent legislative session was made the target for attack this week when the Association Against Public Taxes for Public Schools started circulating petitions in an effort to place the free text book bill on the ballot. The act under fire extends the use of free text books to pupils enrolled in parochial and private schools as well as those in public schools who are already enjoying this privilege. Sponsors of the referendum which is understood to have the backing of the Oregon Parent-Teachers association, must secure 15,866 verified signatures of registered voters by June 13 in order to prevent the act from becoming effective.

The prediction of Speaker Robert S. Farrell, Jr., that the legislature will be called into special session if this nation becomes embroiled in the world war, is not taken seriously by state officials generally. Governor Sprague's only reaction to the prediction was to call attention to the fact that the state has just gotten rid of a legislative session and nothing now on the political horizon would appear to point to the need for another gathering of the lawmakers before January, 1943.

The action of five Portland hospitals in increasing their charges for the care of injured workmen whose bills are paid by the industrial accident commission has revived discussion of a proposed state hospital to handle these cases. The suggestion has been advanced by responsible state officials that such an institution could care for hospitalized persons on the relief rolls as well as injured workmen who are protected by the Workmen's Compensation act.

Although the Board of Control has awarded the contract for drafting plans for the new treatment hospital at the state hospital in Salem it is not expected that actual construction work on the new building will get under way until next fall. Dr. John C. Evans, superintendent of the institution, expects to leave soon for a tour of mid-west and eastern states where he will visit other institutions of this kind in order to gather new ideas to be incorporated into the Oregon institution.

A total of 413 Oregon motorists were arrested by state police for drunken driving during 1940, according to the annual report of Chas. P. Pray, superintendent. Violation of the basic rule resulted in 502 arrests and 319 motorists were arrested for reckless driving.

The changes in the assessment and taxpaying dates voted by the last legislature do not become effective until next year.

Even then the transition will be so gradual as to be scarcely noticeable. Tax levies will be made next November as usual except that they will be reduced to 50 per cent of the normal levies. This means that when

the property owner goes to pay his taxes next March, if he pays cash in order to take the discount he will be called on to pay only 50 percent of his normal tax. If, however, he is of the class that takes advantage of the installment payments his March installment will be up to the usual average but there will be only two installments to pay instead of the customary four.

Then in July, 1942, the various tax levying bodies—school district, city, county, state, etc.—will make another levy. This one will be for a full year, the first installment of which will become due in November, 1942, with subsequent installments due every three months thereafter.

Oregon now has approximately 18,700 men in Uncle Sam's armed forces, according to records of state selective service headquarters. This number includes 16,493 officers and men commissioned or enlisted thru regular army, navy and marine corps channels, and more than 2200 who have been inducted for a year of training under the selective service act. By the end of June, according to Lt. Col. Elmer V. Wooten, state director of selective service, there will be more than 20,000 Oregon men in the armed forces of the nation. Of the 16,493 Oregon men commissioned or enlisted through regular channels 6,004 are in the regular army and organized reserves, 5715 are in the Oregon national guard now in active service, 3,964 are in the navy and naval reserve and 810 are in the marine corps.

The cash balance in the state treasury hit a new all-time high this week with a total of \$19,278,350 to its credit, it was reported by Leslie M. Scott, state treasurer. Heavy income tax payments account for the high total at this time.

The Board of Control has agreed to sell a ten acre tract on the state hospital farm southeast of Salem to the city for use as a garbage dump. The tract includes a deep ravine which the city wants for this purpose.

Gasoline taxes totalling \$2,955,688.50 for the first three months of 1941 showed an increase of \$404,804.53 over the same period in 1940, according to a report by Secretary of State Snell. Gasoline tax collections for each of the three months in the quarter showed an increase over the comparable month a year ago.

The Salem city council is giving consideration to an ordinance creating a restricted building zone around the state capitol group. This action is being taken as the result of a storm of protest aroused by the proposal to locate another filling station on Capitol street directly across from land being acquired by the state for the proposed new office building.

DISTRIBUTE WEIGHT

Even distribution of weight in the car is important, according to the emergency road service of the Oregon State Motor association. If a driver weighs about 150 pounds and his one passenger occupies the left rear seat, their combined weight is approximately 300 pounds. This uneven distribution of weight affects the springs on the left side of the car. It also increases swaying on curves at high speed.

CORRECT LUBRICANT

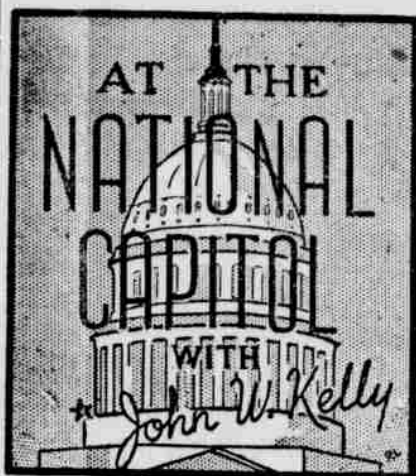
Only the lubricant recommended by the car manufacturer should be used for the transmission and rear end, according to the emergency road service department of the Oregon State Motor association. Grease not specially adapted to those parts may cause expensive damage.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned was duly appointed by the County Court of the State of Oregon for Morrow County, administrator of the estate of William T. Craig, deceased, and all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased are hereby required to present the same to the undersigned administrator at his office in Heppner, Oregon, with proper vouchers duly verified, within six months from the date hereof.

Dated and first published this 3rd day of April, 1941.

JOS. J. NYS, Administrator.



Washington, D. C., May 1.—War

work in the national capital is a social relaxation. It is a combination of cocktail drinking, sewing circle and church bazaar among the upper crust, of "dancing will win the war" by hundreds of government workers who volunteer to visit nearby cantonments (in chartered bus loads) to trip the light fantastic with the troopers. The girls "in government" concentrate on the soldiers at home; the society dames discuss the distress abroad and pay no attention to the American soldier men.

Cocktail parties are given for this or that "cause" and the ladies are quite adept at hoisting them. After a stint at making bandages for the Red Cross, the women relax with a few snifters; feel better for their sacrifice and demand that the United States get into the fray. It has been noted for months that the people who want war are principally women in the cocktail bars and at dinner parties. By this source there is an ever increasing number of congressmen convinced that there must be convoys and active participation, regardless of what the constituents back home think.

There are all sorts of activities and drives to raise money. There are concerts to aid the Chinese; bazaars for the relief of Greece; bundles for Britain, the Pickadilly arcade, which is an auction of odds and ends gathered here and there—a sort of antique shop—and when auctions are held to sell Aunt Maria's wedding dress or Mrs. Smith's heirlooms the customers first attend private dinners and then go to the auction place in a mansion, pay \$1 for the privilege of entering and making a bid. Women can roll bandages in any dress, but to lend color to the excitement they put on a nurse's uniform, or something suggesting a nurse's uniform, for the occasion and walk to the place where the bandages are prepared along thronged streets to advertise their war work.

A concert for the aid of China is a strictly social event; white tie, top hat and tails. Ushers are American born girls from the local Chinese colony dressed native style. One of these concerts, it was discovered by the patronesses, planned to divert half of the take to a communistic organization, so the patronesses withdrew. The Greek war was over before the relievers were fairly started and just as arrangements were being made for a Yugoslavia benefit that country sued for peace, despite assurances of the minister that his country would fight on and on. For a while Finland and Poland were the objects of sympathy, but Washington society forgot them for the Netherlands and France, and now these latter countries are in the discard.

Through it all, however, the women still have the British to relieve and send bundles and make bandages. The entire embassy is constantly on call attending receptions, examining doll collections, pictures, antiques; it is now an important part of their job. The embassy is supplemented by Lord and Lady Whosit, sent here for propaganda purposes along with novelists, dramatists, song writers, movie people from England, while isolationists on "the hill" demand that the FBI investigate British propaganda as well as German, and get nowhere with their complaint. As a matter of fact, congressmen who insist that America be given first consideration are considered almost Benedict Arnolds and they are not invited to the concerts or cocktail parties. They are—Secretary of the Interior Ickes calls them—"stooges of Hitler."

Ambassadors and ministers disappear from the scene as their

countries are absorbed. Up to that time they were engaged in the work of relief for this or that; comes Hitler, and they look for a new job and society knows them no more. The city is also full of wealthy refugees who mingle in the "best set" and inquire, "What is America waiting for? Why doesn't it fight?"

In the movie houses are propaganda films; news reels, war pictures of the sea, land and air. The music is "God Bless America" and the audience stands up. The movies reach the common people. But the man on the street and the girl in government attend pretty much to their work. Not for them the play-acting of dressing up and attending cocktail parties or the concerts. The wives of navy yard workers are not found rolling bandages nor the mothers of draftees. These know, and their men folk, that come next year the income tax will take from them more than they can afford; more than the cost of a concert ticket or an old clothes bundle.

Cabinet meetings have become quite serious since the recent reverses of the allies. Few of the members have any illusions as to the general situation, and especially the Republican secretaries of war and navy. They expected an occasional reverse by the allies, but did not expect them to be chased out of one country after another. They know that America can produce war material but time is required, and the Germans are not waiting for America to equip Europe. Some of the warmest discussions in the cabinet is what the administration should do about strikes. There is a difference of opinion on the subject.

BATTERY CARE

Batteries in automobiles have always been one of the most used and abused parts of the car, and today they carry more responsibility than ever, according to the emergency service department of the Oregon State Motor association. Located under the hood in new model cars, the battery benefits by increased ease of servicing and less chance of neglect. On the other hand, more motor heat is absorbed by a battery under the hood, causing more rapid evaporation of water in the cells and need for more frequent attention. Once a week is not too often to check the water level.

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