



By PAUL DUNHAM

Washington, D. C., Aug. 28.—Allocation of funds has finally been made for improvement of airports in Oregon and Washington, five in the former state and 12 in the latter. Of the total appropriation of \$80,810,110 Oregon will receive but \$1,038,000 distributed as follows: Eugene \$113,000, Klamath Falls \$278,000, La Grande \$105,000, The Dalles \$180,000 and Tillamook \$410,000. The total for the 12 airport projects in Washington is \$2,105,000.

Selection of these airports to receive federal funds was made by a board composed of the secretaries of war, navy and commerce, which certified that they were necessary to the national defense. This certification included 26 locations previously announced but on which work had not been started and 140 new locations. The WPA will do the work on 87 of the projects and part work on 15; the others will be let by bid. It is expected that all will be completed shortly after the first of the year.

While all projects are stated to be necessary to the national defense, there is a somewhat mystifying disproportion in the selections. For instance, Texas is given 27 airports on which \$5,942,000 in federal money will be expended. Far to the northeast, in Maine, 17 sites were chosen for which \$3,178,000 will be available, and with one less in number Georgia will receive \$3,178,000. Just why there should be more airports required in Georgia than in Oregon or Washington is not clear, nor why Maine should be favored

above other New England states, unless it is felt that the Pine Tree state affords a better jumping off place for the defense of Greenland and Iceland.

For the announced purpose of aiding South American countries to prepare an efficient personnel to operate airlines to be established by them to replace lines previously operated by German companies, a program has been set up for the training of pilots and technicians in the United States. The number from each country will be apportioned on an equitable basis and will total 404 pilots, 120 service mechanics, 120 instructor mechanics and 20 aeronautical engineers. The army will train 100 of the pilots and the balance will be under the direction of the Civil Aeronautics administration. Hitherto all but a few of the airlines in South America have been either German owned or operated.

Emphasizing the fact that such gasoline shortage as may exist in any locality in the United States is due to the lack of adequate transportation facilities, a department of interior report on production of natural gasoline shows that the daily average in June was 7,133,000 gallons as compared with 6,161,000 in June of last year. However, there was an actual decrease in the quantity on hand, 261,870,000 gallons this June as compared with 294,000,000 on hand June 30, 1940.

While no record was made of the voice vote in the house on extension of the selective service period, a teller's count showed 21 Republicans voting with the majority and thereby keeping draftees in the army another 18 months. Had the policy of Republican Leader Joe Martin not been opposed this number would have been considerably larger as other Republican members had previously expressed themselves as favoring a longer period of training. But Hamilton Fish rallied strength against the house leader in a party caucus just prior to the voting that only 21 upheld the administration measure. This clash was only one of many recent almost open quarrels between Congressman Fish and the

party leader.

Colonel Blank of the Presidio, in full uniform decided while in Astoria recently that he would inspect the naval air base at Tongue Point; had his orderly drive to the scene of the development. A marine corps leatherneck was on guard at the entrance. The work is being carefully protected as the task of making it in to an almost major air base (with destroyers and submarines, too) proceeds. The visiting colonel ranks the officer in charge. At the gate the marine halted the car, asked the colonel if he had a permit. No, the colonel did not have one; he did not need one, he was a colonel, and he demanded entrance. The marine was firm. "No tickets, no shirtee." Throwing out his chest, the colonel said he had his uniform on; that should be sufficient credentials. "Humph," said the marine, "anyone can get a colonel's uniform." And the colonel drove back to Fort Stevens indignant. (Note: Fakers have paraded in uniforms).

Secretary of Labor Perkins has rented the first two floors of her home to a British mission and is living on the top floor. The rent is presumed to be commensurate to the inconvenience.

### Farm Prices and Costs Move Up as Big Crops Stored

Material increases in both farm prices and farm costs and further indications of a total U. S. output of farm products approaching record proportions are outstanding among the facts included in a review of the agricultural situation and outlook just issued by the Oregon State college extension service. The report gives particular attention to the market outlook for wheat from the crop to be planted this fall and next spring.

While the government index of prices received by farmers was advancing seven points from mid-June to mid-July, the index of prices paid by farmers went up three points, the report shows. The prices-paid index omits farm wages, which have been advancing quite rapidly. While both farm prices and farm costs apparently have gone up further since mid-July, data are not yet ready to show which is advancing the faster at present.

Owing to the more rapid increase in farm prices than in costs during the past year, however, the exchange value of farm products has increased from an index of 75 in July, 1940, to 94 per cent of the 1910-1914 average in July this year. This places the general exchange value of farm products slightly above the 1926-1930 average for the first time in years. The exchange value of some farm products is even above the 1910-1914 "parity" level, while other items are materially below parity in exchange value.

The sharp uptrend in prices for farm products is attributed to strong consumer purchasing power and other factors associated with the war and the defense program. Owing to these forces, farm prices have gone up despite prospects for agricultural production of record pro-

### Warn Public Against Irrigated Land Sharks

"Write the bureau before you buy" any land in a federal reclamation project and particularly in the huge Columbia basin project to be watered from the Grand Coulee dam.

This advice from the bureau of reclamation is being broadcast far and wide in view of persistent attempts of certain land speculators to unload practically worthless land on investors and home seekers by misrepresenting it as good land soon to be irrigated, says J. C. Moore, representative of the bureau of agricultural economics, stationed at Oregon State college.

A recent specific case cited is that of a young Montana couple who were induced to agree to pay \$500 for land in the Columbia basin project which proved to be so-called Class 6, or poor land for which no irrigation water will ever be provided under present plans. The land is roughly estimated to be worth about \$3 an acre instead of the \$23-50 per acre they agreed to pay.

The bureau of reclamation at Coulee Dam, Wn., is prepared to answer any inquiries promptly and without charge, in regard to land in the Columbia basin project, says Moore. Some land may remain without water for 20 years or more, as the plan is to bring under irrigation only small parcels this year.

Neither the bureau of reclamation nor any other agency of the federal government has land to sell and no one is authorized to represent them in the sale of such land, Moore adds.

Production of nearly all farm products is expected to be above average and the supply of wheat, including carry-over stocks, will be exceptionally large.

With carry-over estimated at nearly 400 million bushels and 1941 production of 951 million, the United States has enough wheat for about two years. Storage is one of the problems, and what to plant this fall or next spring on surplus wheat acres is another. The government wheat acreage quota is 11 per cent less than last year, representing a cut of 7 million acres in the whole country and 70,000 acres in Oregon.

A number of fall and spring sown crops could be planted on surplus wheat land in Oregon. The food for defense program calls for increased production of pork, milk eggs, and some kinds of vegetables. The short-time market outlook, at least, also looks favorable for beef, veal, lambs, and wool, while consumer purchasing power remains high, the report shows.

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