

## STATE CAPITAL NEWS

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By A. L. LINDBECK

Salem.—Secretary of State Earl Snell remains the big question mark in the forthcoming Republican primary campaign.

Barred from seeking a return to his present position by the state constitution which limits a secretary of state to two consecutive terms, it is generally taken for granted that Snell will be a candidate for some other office.

It is also pretty generally taken for granted by most political prognosticators that Snell will enter the lists as a candidate for the republican nomination for governor in opposition to Governor Charles A. Sprague who has already publicly declared himself as a candidate for re-election.

There are a lot of other prognosticators, however, who still believe that Snell will step aside from the gubernatorial race and contend instead for the second district congressional seat now held by Walter M. Pierce of La Grande who has also declared his intention to seek another term. This is the course the republican strategists are hoping Snell will pursue since it is feared a contest between Snell and Sprague might result in a breach in the party ranks through which the democrats may be able to slip their nominee in the fall elections next year. However, this pathway which was wide open a month ago now presents a bit of complication in the form of Lowell Stockman of Umatilla county who is understood to have made up his mind that he wants the republican congressional nomination over in that district.

Snell himself is not taking anyone into his confidence regarding his plans for the future. Some time ago he intimated that he might have an announcement to make in September but now that the oyster season is at hand he has decided to defer his announcement until "later on," probably after the first of the year.

In the meantime additional interest has been injected into the republican gubernatorial situation by rumors that State Treasurer Leslie M. Scott, third member of the board of control, would also like to sit at the head of the council table. If the prospect of two strong candidates for this top ranking state job has been giving the republican leaders nightmares one can well imagine that the prospect of a three cornered race with all three members of the board of control engaged in a mad scramble for primary preferment will be enough to set party strategists to tearing their hair.

The sudden death of J. Lyman Steed, superintendent of the state school for the deaf early Thursday morning (Septemehr 4) leaves another vacancy in the state's official family for the board of control to fill. Steed who had been superintendent of the deaf school since 1926 was regarded as an outstanding leader in work among the deaf as well as an able administrator.

Local school district boards are vested with authority to change the date for opening of schools if circumstances warrant, according to Rex Putnam, state superintendent of public education. The statement was made in connection with appeals being made in many sections of Oregon for the release of children from school to aid in harvesting crops because of the shortage of adult help. In lieu of postponing the opening of schools Putnam pointed out, arrangements might be made to excuse students who are needed for work in hop yards, bean fields or prune orchards.

With the employment of William H. Crawford, Portland mechanical engineer, as full time director, the Oregon Economic council is now concentrating its efforts on a solution of the problems confronting Oregon communities in defense areas. Especially is the council concerning itself with the problem confronting the city of Hermiston

where approximately 5000 new workers have suddenly been dumped into a community with a normal population of 800. Admitting that the situation at Hermiston is serious neither Crawford nor David Eccles, executive secretary of the council are able to offer a solution. Water and sewage facilities of the community are entirely inadequate to the needs of the increased population and the Hermiston schools can not begin to take care of the added burden occasioned by the arrival of families of workmen with many children of school age. Inasmuch as the Hermiston emergency is of a temporary nature, expected to end as soon as the contract on the army ammunition dump is completed shortly after the first of the year it is not felt that the expense necessary to the extension of water mains and sewer system as well as the construction of additional school rooms would be justified. Similar situations but on a somewhat smaller scale are expected to confront Corvallis, Monmouth, Independence, Medford and other Oregon communities with the construction of cantonments and other defense projects which are on the federal program.

J. C. Lindley who has been employed as an examiner in the state banking department since 1934 has been promoted to the post of assistant superintendent to succeed S. Dietrick who recently resigned to accept a position with the United States National Bank of Portland. A. A. Schramm, former superintendent of banks but more recently employed in a bank at Corvallis, has accepted a position as examiner in the banking department.

Governor Sprague is much encouraged over the success of the "Keep Oregon Green" campaign. The fire season of 1941, he said, has been the lightest for many years. A report submitted by State Forester Nels Rogers shows that only 7659 acres of timber land outside the national forests have been burned over. Only 312 man made fires have been reported as compared to a normal 700 for a fire season. Lightning fires were responsible for more than 90 percent of the damage suffered in timbered areas of the state this year.

Increased employment is being reflected in a substantial decrease in unemployment compensation benefits. A statement issued by State Treasurer Leslie M. Scott shows that only \$432,460.24 in jobless insurance was paid out during June, July and August compared to \$813,664.28 for the same months in 1940. Public welfare costs during August amounted to \$829,001, Scott's statement shows. Of this total \$464,912 went for old age pensions, \$181,379 for general relief and \$91,757 for aid to dependent children.

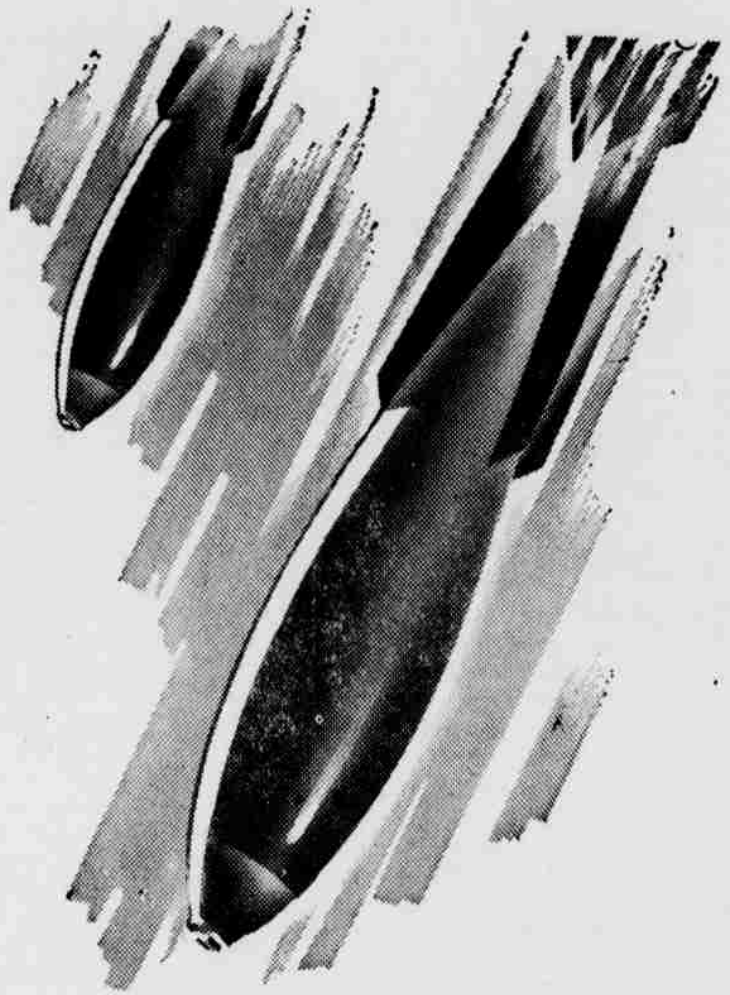
With second half income tax payments now coming in state tax officials expect the grand total of revenues from this source for the year to reach \$8,000,000, or nearly \$2,000,000 above the original estimate upon which the 1941 tax levy was based. Penalty and interest will accrue on all payments not made by October 1.

Only 55 of the 61 young lawyers who passed the state bar examination were present this week to receive their certificates at the hands of Chief Justice Percy Kelly of the state supreme court. Most of the absent ones have been called into military service.

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