

# STATE CAPITAL NEWS

- State Property
- Snell Honor
- Deferred Class

By A. L. LINDBECK

Salem.—The state of Oregon thru its various departments, institutions, boards and commissions owns property valued at \$38,868,716. This includes buildings, furnishings and equipment, automobiles, trucks, etc. This fact was brought out in a report to the Board of Control this week in connection with the state's restoration fund through which the various state activities are reimbursed for losses through fire. Incidentally this fund now contains more than \$267,000 to set a new record high since its creation in 1925.

Largest property owner in the state family is the board of higher education with an investment of \$12,523,160 in the five institutions of higher education of which \$9,060,619 is represented by buildings. The state college alone owns property valued at \$5,890,430 with property of the University of Oregon valued at \$4,082,689.

Property of the state highway department, including its vast fleet of automobiles and trucks and other motorized equipment, is valued at \$4,780,129.

Buildings, furnishings and fixtures in the capital group are valued at \$4,413,348. This group includes the capitol, library, office building, supreme court building and printing building.

The Board of Control is considering a request from the Multnomah county commissioners that the state take over 30 tuberculosis patients which the county is now caring for in a hospital at Troutdale. Multnomah is the only county in the state providing county hospitalization for tuberculosis patients.

Secretary of State Earl Snell was this week elected president of the

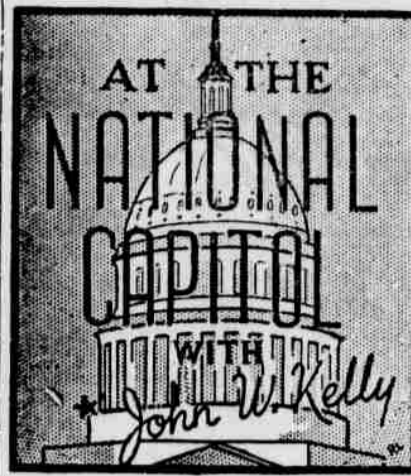
American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators at its annual meeting in New Orleans which the Oregon official attended. Incidentally Snell is the first western man to be so honored. As head of this association Snell is also ex-officio a member of the highway advisory committee to the war department.

Eighty-four percent of the salesmen and ninety percent of the brokers taking the recent examinations for real estate licenses made passing grades according to Claude R. Murphy, state real estate commissioner. Oregon is one of eight states requiring examination of persons dealing in real estate.

Oregon motorists consumed a total of 30,735,874 gallons of gasoline during August, an average of 73 gallons for every motor vehicle registered in the state, to set a new high record for the state, according to Secretary of State Earl Snell. The August consumption represented an increase of 12 percent over that of August, 1940 and was 435,000 gallons over the July consumption, the previous high record. Snell turned a check for \$1,536,794 over to State Treasurer Leslie Scott as representing the state tax on the month's gasoline sales.

The need for some form of control over construction in rural areas was pointed out by John W. Cunningham, engineer in charge of plans for the proposed army cantonment in the Benton-Polk area, in addressing a group of city and county officials from the proposed defense area meeting in Salem this week. Because of the lack of this control Cunningham predicted that the highways leading to the cantonment would be lined with unsightly beer parlors, hot dog stands and shacks of various kinds.

Three out of every four men who registered for the draft in Oregon have been given a deferred classification, according to a compilation of classification just released by Lt. Elmer V. Wooten, state director of selective service. Of the 103,667 draftees whose classification has been completed only 1441 were found to be available for immediate



Washington, D. C., October 2.—Department of agriculture has started out its extension agents and the local farm committees to ask every farmer to plant all his acres and make the 1942 crop the greatest of all time. There is one exception: wheat growers of Oregon and Washington will be requested to curtail as there is more wheat than required. There it is; Woolton says the British are getting along nicely, while Wickard says the United States must send convoys of food at once.

Reverting to the 1942 crop. The vast machinery of the department of agriculture is urging farmers to greater production. The soil conservation program is thrown out the window, or suspended, and this should put an end to the federal checks which have been such a benefit to many farmers. The department plans, by this enormous yield, to build up a vast surplus of food beyond domestic requirements and have this available when peace comes. Food, according to Secretary Wickard, will play an important role at the peace table and immediately upon the call for peace the accumulated surplus will be shipped to Europe to feed hungry people of the conquered countries until they can grow their own supplies.

If a farmer doesn't make money next year it will not be the fault of the department of agriculture. Good prices are assured, asserts the department, although the cost of production will be higher. The gov-

military service. Another 13,213 have been placed tentatively in class 1, subject to physical examination to determine their fitness and more than 5200 are already in the military service, either as volunteers or as draftees.

A total of 68,779 Oregon registrants have been given deferred classification because of dependents. This figure represents two-thirds of the number coming within the draft age.

The city of Baker has offered to turn over the public natatorium in that city to the state for use as an armory. Lt. Col. Elmer V. Wooten, acting adjutant general, estimates that it will cost approximately \$20,000 to remodel the building to suit the needs of an armory. This money is available in an appropriation set aside by the last legislature if the gift is accepted by the board of control as it is expected to be.

Fewer than one-third of the industries in this state which are eligible for an experience rate are paying penalty rates above the normal 2.7 under the new system which went into effect July 1, according to a report of the Oregon Unemployment Compensation commission. The penalized firms are largely those in the logging and lumbering industry, building and general contractors. Under the experience rating plan which rewards as well as penalizes industries, dependent upon the employment experience of each firm, 70 firms now contribute on a basis of one per cent, 615 contribute on a basis of 1.5 per cent; 1344 pay at the rate of two per cent; 1857 still pay the normal rate of 2.7 per cent; 567 pay 3 per cent; 422 pay 3.5 per cent and 1209 firms pay the maximum rate of four per cent.

Governor Sprague this week received a check for \$1000 from the sisters of the late Miss Harriett Long, former state librarian. The money will be invested by the state treasurer and the income from the investment will be used in the purchase of books for the library for which funds are not available, in conformity with a request made by Miss Long.

ernment, with its lend-lease money, will be the principal customer for everything from prunes to potatoes. As surpluses pile up they will be held for the peace period. To rush to Europe with food ready to cook or already processed is intended to convince the conquered people that Uncle Sam is their friend.

After the war, it is believed by economists in the department of agriculture, there will be no such depression among farmers as followed the first world war. To take up the slack the stamp plan will be continued, providing an outlet for farmers and also assisting needy families. The eating habits of the American people are also undergoing a change. Government is laying stress on the need of various vitamins and endeavoring to educate the people to use a balanced diet. In brief, food supplies being purchased for Britain gives a general idea of what commodities are highest in vitamins.

Quiet inquiry has been started in the northwest to find garage mechanics who know their business and are ready to go to the Burma road to repair trucks constantly being broke down while hauling munitions to China through the back door. The Chinese can not make repairs and when a truck is down it stays down, whereas a mechanic would have it rolling again in a few hours. The importance of maintaining the transport system on Burma road is so pressing that the government is trying to round up enough garage men to meet the situation. There are a few Americans now at shops along the highway but they are only a drop in the bucket compared with the number required.

Hop marketing agreement by which hop men of the three Pacific coast states do business with growers is about to expire. The agreement is said to have worked so satisfactorily with the hop men that they are asking for its renewal. Companion bills, one in senate and the other in house, have been prepared and will be introduced. The west coast produces practically all of the hops raised in the United States.

Estimate of the nut crop of the northwest is placed at 4,500 tons of filberts, and 5,500 tons of walnuts this year by the department of agriculture. The department also says there is a brisk demand for pickers to harvest the nuts. Owing to war conditions, the tonnage will be consumed in this country.

OPM has notified a timber contractor in the northwest that he must produce heavily of spruce for airplanes in December, January and February, the worst months in the year for logging. The operator is now seeking lend-lease funds, as the spruce is to be used by the British, to cut the logs before bad weather starts. No funds are yet available, and the operator is becoming anxious.

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