STATE CAPITAL NEWS

- Special Session
- Cash Balance
- Counties' Debts

By A. L. LINDBECK

Demand for a special session of the legislature appears to be confined to a few political demagogues in Portland. Certainly there is no special session sentiment to be found around the statehouse and all comment coming from up-state senators and representatives has been opposed to the move.

Dean Walker, senate president, of Polk county, has expressed opposition to a special session unless and until a definite program has been set for its consideration and Robert Farrell, Jr., speaker of the house, who has been repeatedly quoted in the Portland press as urging the session told capitol newsmen this week that he was only lukewarm toward the proposal.

Governor Sprague has refused to comment on the proposal except to admit that he is being urged to convene the lawmakers. The governor's political advisors, however, have let it be known that he does not favor the session. Among the reasons the governor is disinclined to call the lawmakers into session is the fact that no one appears to know just what good could be accomplished thereby. While the Portland agitators for the session are clamoring for relief for the small home owners and for the small income tax payer those who are most active in support of the session have not yet suggested how this relief is to be provided. Neither does any one around the capitol have any well developed ideas on this subject. Until some such program is developed, it is pointed out, it would be futile to convene the legislators and expect anything to be accomplished in the 20 days allotted to a special session.

Attention is also called to the fact that an interim committee created by the last legislature is now at work on a study of the state's assessment and tax laws. This committee is composed of a number of tax experts as well as veteran members of the legislature. Unless this committee can agree on a definite program of tax reform it is felt that it would be hopeless to expect the 90 members of the legislature to get together starting from scratch and with no definite goal to shoot at.

Furthermore, state officials are not inclined to view the situation growing out of the assessment controversy in Multnomah county or the prospective surplus in the income tax fund as emergencies which can not await the next regular session for attention by the lawmakers.

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The cash balance in the state treasury at the beginning of the current fiscal year, July 1, was $3,500,000 greater than at the beginning of the previous fiscal year, according to a report by State Treasurer Leslie M. Scott—$15,111,470 compared to $11,592,621. Receipts of the treasury department for the fiscal year just ended totalled $86,715,367.59 against disbursements of $83,196,518, Scott's report shows. Largest single source of revenue was the gasoline tax which poured $13,741,906.13 into the state's coffers during the year. Next largest was the state's liquor monopoly with liquor sales and licenses bringing in a total of $12,179,070.28. Other major sources of state revenue included: Income and excise taxes, $7,100,000; inheritance and gift taxes, $693,283.81; employer contributions to unemployment compensation trust fund, $5,327,864.32; motor vehicle registration and license fees, $3,630,114.86; motor carrier account (trucks and busses) $1,560,970.50; World War Veterans' State Aid commission, repayment of loans and sale of property, $2,581,355.36; federal contributions for public assistance, $3,128,309.15; federal aid for highways, $2,659,137.11; insurance department fees, $939,877; corporation department fees, $322,277; game commission from licenses, fees and fines, $800,835.

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Fifteen of Oregon's 36 counties are now free of debt. This was revealed this week in a survey by State Treasurer Leslie M. Scott. Three counties—Jefferson, Lincoln and Yamhill—joined the list of debt free counties during the past year. Counties which had previously qualified for a place in this list include Clatsop, Columbia, Douglas, Lake, Linn, Marion, Polk, Sherman, Tillamook, Umatilla, Union and Washington.

The net debt of the counties as of June 30 last, aggregated $13,321,328 as compared to $15,551,451 on June 30, 1940—a reduction of $2,230,123 in the past year. Every county in the state made progress in the attack against the debt burden during the year with the exception of Malheur whose debt load increased by more than $14,000 in the 12-month period.

Morrow county reduced its net debt by $26,446—from $323,528 to $297,082—in the 12 month period.

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If Attorney General Van Winkle gives his "okeh" to plans for construction of an armory at Astoria the state board of control is ready to contribute $40,000 as the state's share of the construction cost. Under the plan as submitted to the board the city of Astoria is ready to donate a site for the armory estimated to be worth $15,000. The county court of Clatsop county will contribute $25,000 in cash toward the project, the federal government $45,000 and the state of Oregon $40,000. The state's share will come out of a $100,000 appropriation authorized by the last legislature for armory purposes.

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Students at the state school for blind are to have motion pictures on their entertainment and educational schedule hereafter. The board of control has authorized the expenditure of $400 for the necessary equipment. Walter R. Dry, superintendent of the institution, explained to the board that many of the pupils at his institution enjoy partial sight and are able to see the pictures if they sit near the screen.

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The latest addition to the "house organs" put out by state departments is "Education News," a small four-page monthly publication published by the state department of education. The first issue made its appearance this week.

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The improved employment situation is reflected in a reduction of 25.9 percent in the state's general relief load, Elmer Goudy, relief administrator, told Governor Sprague this week. A part of the reduction, however, will be offset by increased allotments to meet the higher costs of living, Goudy explained.

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If the boys in Uncle Sam's navy find oleomargarine on their tables in place of butter in the future it will be over the vigorous protest of Oregon dairy interests. The Oregon Dairy Advisory committee meeting here this week addressed a resolution to Oregon's delegation in congress urging their opposition to a senate bill authorizing the proposed substitution.

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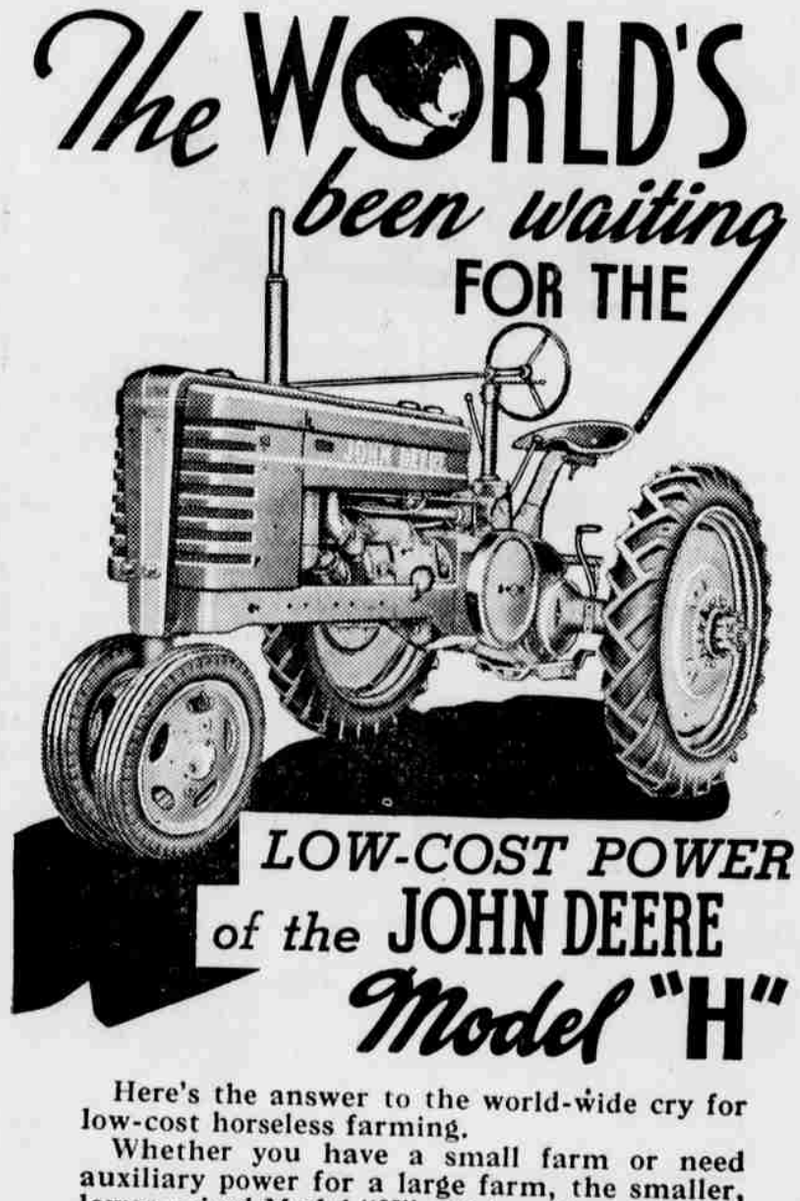
The unemployment compensation commission has designated Charles Cohn, Portland attorney, as special referee to conduct a rehearing into the petition of 700 non-striking employees of Montgomery Ward & Co. in Portland for jobless insurance benefits. The company has objected to a previous ruling granting the benefit paymets to the men and women who stayed on the job when the union members were out on strike.

SUMMONS—CIVIL No. 635

In the District Court of the United States for the District of Oregon. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, Petitioner, v. WILDA SIEGMUND, a single woman; MAE HICKSON and ROBERT E. HICKSON, her husband; NORA ZIMMERMAN and WALTER J. ZIMMERMAN, her husband; LLOYD BARZEE and VELMA BARZEE, his wife; WAITE C. CRAWFORD and MABEL E. CRAWFORD, his wife; MORROW COUNTY, a municipal corporation; JOHN DAY IRRIGATION DISTRICT, a public corporation; the unknown heirs of C. W. Barzee, deceased, and also all other persons or parties unknown claiming any right, title, estate, lien or interest in the real estate described in amended petition for condemnation herein, Defendants. To the defendants Lloyd Barzee and Velma Barzee, his wife, the unknown heirs of C. W. Barzee, deceased, and also all other persons or parties unknown claiming any right, title, estate, lien or interest in the real estate described in amended petition for condemnation herein: IN THE NAME OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: You and each of you are hereby required to appear and answer the amended petition for condemnation filed against you in the above-entitled case within four weeks from the date of the first publication of this summons, and if you fail so to appear and answer, the petitioner, United States of America, for want thereof will apply to the court for the relief applied for in its amended petition for condemnation filed herein, to-wit: That the above-entitled court make such orders and judgments as may be necessary (a) to ascertain and fix the amount to be awarded as just compensation for the taking, condemning and appropriating to the United States of America the fee simple title to the following described lands in Morrow County, Oregon: SE¼ of Section 23, Township 2 North, Range 24 East, Willamette Meridian, consisting of 160 acres, more or less; and (b) to ascertain and determine the parties entitled to such just compensation and make just distribution of such just compensation among those entitled thereto.

This summons is served upon you pursuant to an order of the Honorable James Alger Fee, Judge of the above-entitled court, made and entered in the above-entitled action on the 3rd day of November, 1941, by publication thereof for four successive weeks in the Heppner Gazette Times, a newspaper of general circulation in Morrow County, Oregon, published at Heppner, Morrow County, Oregon, and designated by the above-entitled court as the newspaper most likely to give notice of the pendency of this proceeding. The date of first publication of this summons is the 6th day of November, 1941.

CARL C. DONAUGH, United States Attorney for the District of Oregon, J. MASON DILLARD, Assistant United States Attorney, F. P. KEENAN, Special Assistant to the Attorney General, and BERNARD H. RAMSEY, Special Attorney, Department of Justice, Attorney for Petitioner. P. O. Address: 506 U. S. Court House, Portland, Oregon.



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