

STATE CAPITAL NEWS

- Tax Increase
- Larger Trucks
- Active Candidates

By A. L. LINDBECK

Salem.—A factual study conducted by the state tax commission has revealed that tax increases imposed on the home owners of Multnomah county by the substitution of the "uniform" for the "variable ratio" system of assessments amounted to less than seven percent. This figure is in striking contrast to the "20 to 35 per cent" increase claimed by opponents of the "uniform" assessment method, mostly political demagogues who seized upon the tax commission's order as a popular issue in the current political campaign.

At the same time the reshuffle of assessments in Multnomah county as a result of the tax commission's order resulted in an increase of 17.48 percent in taxes on apartment house properties and 17.24 per cent in taxes of industrial properties.

Only general business properties benefitted from the "uniform" assessment order and in this group the tax decrease was found to average only 6.20 percent.

But not all residential properties suffered tax increases as a result of the resort to uniform assessments. In their factual study the tax commission used 522 residential, 26 apartment house, 75 general business and nine industrial properties. The survey shows that of this number 83 residential properties of slightly more than 15 percent enjoyed actual tax reductions ranging to as much as 15.88 percent. On the other hand the other residential properties suffered tax increases ranging to as high as 31.24 percent.

Neither did all of the general business properties enjoy tax reductions as a result of the uniform method of assessments. A number of the properties in this group were also hit by increased taxes ranging to as

high as 26.37 percent.

Aside from the facts on the effect of taxes resulting from the tax commission's order for substitution of the uniform assessment method the most interesting situation brought to light by the factual study is the wide inequalities in assessments within the various property groups resulting from the long continued adherence to the "variable ratio" system practiced in Multnomah county.

Yielding to insistent demands from military, naval and other governmental agencies Governor Sprague has authorized the state highway commission to liberalize truck regulations to permit the operation of truck trains up to 60 feet in length and carrying loads up to 68,000 pounds over the highways of the state. Under the new policies the larger trucks will operate through Oregon on specific permits covering each truck movement and under regulations set up by the highway department. The liberalization order was issued after an investigation by the highway department and public utilities commissioner had revealed an acute shortage in transportation facilities due to the demands of the war emergency, the governor said.

Every family in Oregon is soon to be supplied with a 24-page profusely illustrated manual of advice to householders on what to do in the event of an air raid. The pamphlet, compiled by the state office of civilian defense and being printed in the state printing plant is said to be the most comprehensive publication so far prepared by the national office of civilian defense or any of the state departments for the information of civilians.

The state board of control has decided to spend approximately \$5000 in improving the air conditioning and heating of the state capitol. The improvements which are to be undertaken will include better control of the temperature in the House and Senate chambers and the large public hearing room and the installation of thermostatic control on all radiators in the building. All other air conditioning authorized by the last legislature will be postponed for the

time being because of the inability to secure materials.

While neither have as yet filed their formal declarations both Governor Charles A. Sprague and Secretary of State Earl Snell have launched a full scale offensive in their efforts to capture the republican nomination for governor before the end of May. Both of the republican candidates have set up campaign headquarters in Portland. Sprague's office is in charge of John McCourt, former state legislator, while Jerry Saylor, who handled Snell's campaign for his present job is again in charge as field marshal in charge of his gubernatorial campaign. The Sprague forces opened a Salem office this week in charge of Brazier Small and Irl McSherry, both prominent members of the American Legion, this strategy apparently being designed to wean some of the veteran support away from Snell who is himself a World War veteran and active legionnaire.

The two Democratic candidates for the gubernatorial nomination—Howard Latourette and Lew Wallace—were also active this week, both releasing announcements on their campaign programs which pledge each if elected to reduce taxes, reorganize the state tax commission and revamp the state's assessment and taxation system generally.

The announcement by Irl McSherry this week that he would not seek nomination as republican candidate for secretary of state leaves this field clear for Robert Farrell, Jr., of Portland, unless George Flagg, present deputy under Snell, finally decides to run. Flagg admits that he is still considering that possibility. It is also known that efforts are being made to induce State Senator P. J. Stadelman of The Dalles to get into the race for this post which he once held for a short time under appointment by Governor Meier.

Only other political development of the week was the resignation of E. J. Griffith of Portland as WPA administrator with the announcement that he will seek the democratic nomination for congress from the third district, opposing State Senator Tom Mahoney who had previously announced his candidacy for this office.

George K. Aiken, Ontario newspaperman, joined Governor Sprague's official family Monday as executive secretary to the governor and director of the state budget. Aiken who resigned as a member of the state game commission to accept his new job has been succeeded on the game board by Roy D. McClallen of Enterprise whose appointment was announced this week.

Marvin Klemme of Burns resigned this week as special agent for the state land board in order to become a candidate for the republican nomination for congress from the second Oregon district, opposing Lowell Stockman of Pendleton who had previously announced his candidacy. Klemme for the past year has been in charge of the work of blocking state school lands in the grazing districts of eastern Oregon.

Under new regulations to be put into effect by the war department March 16 registrants will be inducted into the army immediately upon passing their physical examination by a board of army examiners, according to Colonel Elmer V. Wooten, state director of selective service. The new regulation will eliminate the waiting period between the examination and the actual induction of the registrant. Preliminary examinations will continue to be made by local board physicians for the purpose of screening out registrants with obvious physical disqualifications.

IN FIRST AID CORPS

Eastern Oregon College of Education, LaGrande, March 5.—Kathryn Parker, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank S. Parker, Heppner, has been appointed a member of the first aid corps of the Eastern Oregon College of Education. The students in this group are studying about what to do in case of poison gas or fire, as well as the more common first aid practices. All members of the first aid corps have registered with the county defense chairman and have been finger-printed at the local police station.

TRAFFIC TIPS AND QUIPS



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Young men 18 to 25 are being given opportunity for free training as seamen, radio operators, engineers and stewards for service in the U. S. Maritime service through the United States Employment service. More than 40,000 men will be needed during the next two years for jobs on American vessels. Base pay for graduates is \$72.50 per month for ordinary seamen and engineroom helpers, and \$92.50 for able seamen and qualified members of the engine department, plus bonuses which frequently bring the total monthly wage to \$200. Cooks and bakers receive approximately the same pay. Radio operators' base pay varies from \$105 to \$165 per month, plus bonuses and extra payments. Apprentice enrollees receive \$21 to \$36 a month during the six months' training course, except in the radio school where they are paid from \$36 to \$60 a month during the six to ten months training period. Quarters, subsistence, clothing, and medical and dental care are gratis. Transportation is paid from the point of enrollment to the training station and from the training station to the assigned port. Enrollees in deck, engineer, and stewards departments are trained at Hoffman Island in New York Harbor, Port Hueneme near Los Angeles, and St. Petersburg, Florida. The radio school and a cooks' and bakers' school are at Gallups Island in Boston Harbor. All enrollees gain practical experience at sea on Maritime Commission training ships. Accepted applicants must be in good health and furnish evidence of citizenship and good character. Enrollees in the radio school must have completed two years in high school, including one year in algebra. Complete information and applications may be obtained at any local employment office, the one serving this district being located at Pendleton.

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