

STATE NEWS

- Small Political Crop
- Bond Redemption
- Spotlighted Scott

By A. L. LINDBECK

Salem.—Veteran observers of political events about the capitol are agreed that the crop of candidates developed in the pre-primary campaign to date is one of the smallest in recent Oregon history. With more than 100 state offices to fill only 80 candidates had filed up to Saturday night. While many more will have volunteered their services before this appears in print the prospects are that there will still be many vacancies, especially for legislative seats, when filing time closes at 5:00 p. m. next Tuesday. Even if the customary last-day stampede is repeated this year it is hardly probable that the total of filings will approach that of 1940 when 417 men and women were entered in the race for state offices, or that of 1938 when 423 candidates filed.

So far only one candidate has filed for each of the three posts to be filled on the supreme bench. The same situation prevails with respect to the offices of attorney general, labor commissioner and superintendent of public instruction while in many of the legislative districts no candidate of either party has filed. Secretary of State Snell has announced that the doors of his office will be closed to candidates promptly at 5:00 o'clock Tuesday afternoon although any who are in the office at that time will be permitted to complete their filing and declarations sent in by mail and bearing a postmark prior to that hour will be accepted as meeting the requirements.

Oregon's bonded debt which hit a high of \$66,062,810 on January 1, 1928, will be down to \$29,648,235 on April 1. On that date State Treasurer Scott will pay off \$1,075,000 in highway bonds and \$700,000 in Ore-

gon veterans' state aid bonds.

It will no longer be possible to slip up on the elusive clam in the dark—that is not until the war ends. Governor Sprague, at the request of military authorities, has banned night clam digging or any other activity that involves the use of lights on the beach. Furthermore the sale and use of fireworks of all kinds have been banned in Oregon for the duration.

Prospect that Oregon may have to forego its annual state fair this year was seen when J. D. Mickle, director of the state department of agriculture, announced that the fair would not be able to operate if revenues from the dog races were cut off. The fair's share of these racing revenues last year amounted to \$30,000. Without this money, Mickle said, it would not be possible to pay the premiums usually offered to exhibitors in the various departments.

Although he is the only member of the state board of control who is not a candidate for public office at this time—or perhaps it is because of this reason—State Treasurer Leslie M. Scott almost monopolized the publicity spotlight around the capitol this past week.

First the treasurer gained attention with a statement hitting at those who have been making so much ado over the so-called surplus in state income tax revenues. This surplus, if any, Scott pointed out "is very much exaggerated. Just something for the politicians to talk about to please the voters," is the way he put it.

Technically, at least he is correct since the \$1,800,000 in excess collections that had accumulated as of last December disappeared when the tax commission earmarked this money for state needs in the current tax levy and until heavy tax payments of the past two weeks there was not enough money to the credit of the general fund to meet state expenses for the current six month period let alone any surplus.

Scott again claimed the limelight when he cracked down on certain unnamed justices of the peace who, he charged, are making a racket out of traffic cases which come into

their courts. These justices, the state treasurer explained, assess the offenders a fine and costs then remit the fine on condition that the cost is paid and pocket the costs as their fees, leaving the state and county, which are rightfully entitled to the fines, to hold the sack.

Scott also criticized justices who assess exorbitant costs on minor traffic law violators. Some of these, especially in Klamath county, he pointed out, assess costs of \$8.00 in these cases even when the accused enters a plea of guilty, whereas, in his opinion costs in such cases should not exceed \$4.50.

These practices, Scott explained, were exposed by department of his department engaged in checking up on traffic fines and collecting amounts due the state from this source.

In spite of the fact that deferment from military service is being granted to farm workers there is still a serious shortage of men for work on the farms due to heavy enlistments among farm boys and to the migration of hundreds of men from farms to the cities to take better paying jobs in defense industries, according to Colonel Elmer V. Wooten, state director of selective service. While there appears to be plenty of common labor for farm work, Wooten said, the shortage is in men who are able to repair and operate farm machinery.

Some 5000 farmers whose operations are covered by the state industrial accident fund will welcome the news that their insurance premium rate is to be reduced from \$4.60 to \$4.00 per \$100 of payroll as the result of action taken by the Industrial Accident commission this week. Contractors engaged in home construction were also granted a rate reduction from \$7.00 to \$4.00 per \$100 of payroll. The new reduced rates will become effective as of July 1, next.

Other states may have their "fifth" columnists but Oregon is to go these one better with an organization of "sixth" columnists. These will be the numerous volunteer groups, gun clubs and "guerillas" which have been organized to meet any attempted invasion by an enemy force. Governor Sprague has instructed Colonel Ralph P. Cowgill, commander of the state guard regiment, to regularize these groups by giving them a definite military status as reservists. In the event of capture their members would then be entitled to treatment as prisoners of war, the governor explained. Otherwise they would be subject to immediate execution.

With the training of civilian defense instructors in western Oregon practically completed instruction of similar groups in eastern Oregon counties will be started immediately, according to Jerrold Owen, state defense coordinator. The training program is under the direction of Jack Hayes.

Round Won in Fight On Venereal Disease

Portland (Special)—Oregon has definitely won the first round in the fight against the venereal diseases, it was intimated here yesterday by Dr. Frederick D. Stricker, state health officer. While public health and law-enforcement agencies are still far short of effecting an absolute knockout, Dr. Stricker said, an adoption of the four-point program relating to health and recreation for the soldiers to be quartered at the new Benton county cantonment represents a substantial gain.

Dr. Stricker's reference was to the unanimous endorsement by responsible officials of Marion, Polk, Linn, and Benton counties and of the mayors of the cities in the cantonment area, of a four-point program suggested by Dr. Adolph Weinzirl, head of the social hygiene education division of the University of Oregon medical school. The program calls for: adequate facilities for the discovery and treatment of the venereal disease; strict enforcement of laws relating to prostitution; adequate recreational facilities; and full public information regarding the danger of venereal infection.

The program was formally adopted by the conference of mayors and county officials held in Salem last week.

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Pendleton Army Station Reopened

The U. S. Army recruiting service has reopened their office in the Post Office building, Pendleton. Sergeant Lewis T. Hammack, well known recruiter in eastern Oregon will be in charge of the station.

Sergeant Hammack announced the Army is in need of young men for every branch of the service. All men are classified at the reception center and placed in the branch of service where they are best fitted. In most cases a man will follow the line of work he has been doing in civilian life. Men who do not have any special training will be sent to army schools after proper training and showing ambition to take advantage of the opportunities offered in the service today.

Those men who wish to make application for the Officer Training School may do so after four months service in the ranks. The army is going to train 75,000 young men as officers during the next year. Complete details concerning the army may be secured from Sergeant Hammack in the Post Office building, Pendleton.

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