

STATE CAPITAL NEWS

- Employee Shift
- Old Age Measure
- Election Lethargy

By A. L. LINDBECK

Salem—Scores of former state employees have quit their jobs during the past few months to join Uncle Sam's fighting forces or to accept better paying positions in defense industries.

Fifty-seven employees have quit the state tuberculosis hospital alone. The state hospital at Salem reports the loss of more than 50 employees since the first of the year and losses at other institutions are proportionately heavy.

While it has been possible to fill many of the positions requiring no technical training with older men and women who are content to work for the state pay scale, this has not been true of the positions requiring training such as nurses and technicians in the hospitals. As a result many of the institutions are operating shorthanded and will probably be compelled to "muddle through" as best they can for the remainder of the emergency.

Pay increases have been approved by the Board of Control for a number of employees in key positions but fairly rigid budgets prevent any blanket increase at this time, although it now seems fairly certain that this will be one of the problems with which the legislature will have to contend when they meet again next January.

Theo. Nelson, secretary of the Oregon Pension Federation announced in Salem this week that his organization is getting ready to initiate an all-inclusive old age retirement measure. According to plans tentatively agreed upon by the sponsoring group it is proposed that pensions to needy aged be increased to a minimum of \$30 a month—\$60 for man and wife—and that persons not eligible to pensions because of need to be re-

tired on a retirement pay of at least \$25 a month. In this latter group would be included farmers, state employees, housewives and others not now covered by the federal retirement plan. To finance this retirement program it is proposed that every adult person be required to pay monthly premiums, tentatively fixed at \$1, the money so raised to be matched by the state out of surplus income tax revenue, liquor profits or any other funds that might be available. Nelson said that the Federation expects to begin circulation of initiative petitions soon in order to get the measure on the November ballot.

Approximately 50,000 books were donated by Oregon citizens in the Victory Book campaign which closed last week, according to Miss Eleanor Stephens, director of the campaign in this state. Employees of the state library, donating their services, worked nights to sort and classify the 30,000 books cleared thru the library at Salem, with WPA workers mending damaged volumes, and Red Cross volunteers typing the book records. The books will be made available to members of the armed forces through libraries in the various cantonments and USO houses throughout the state. Books not suitable for the soldiers will be made available for children and women in the defense areas. Books not suitable for reading purposes will be sold to provide a fund for the purchase of technical books for the soldier libraries.

Colonel Ralph P. Cowgill, commander of Oregon's state guard, has been promoted to the rank of Brigadier-general. In announcing the promotion Governor Sprague explained that Cowgill's command already exceeds that of many brigadier-generals.

Candidates for public office are said to find the public discouragingly indifferent to the course of the political campaign. Of course this is an "off" year in elections in the national sense, there being no presidential campaign involved. But it is a distinctly "on" year in the state campaign with a governor, secretary of state, state senator, four

congressmen, three supreme court judges, a labor commissioner, a superintendent of public instruction to choose, not to mention a number of circuit judges and a full complement of senate and house members.

Apparently, however, the war is monopolizing public interest to the exclusion of all else, including politics. Early returns from outstate counties show sharp declines in registration figures on all fronts. A part of this decline might be blamed on the migration of voters to larger population centers in search of jobs in defense industries but even in Multnomah county where ship building has attracted thousands of new workers there are 10,000 fewer voters registered than there were two years ago.

Expected to cut heavily into the voting this year is the presence of thousands of men in the armed forces of the nation. Many, if not most, of these have their names on the registration lists, but will not be in position to take advantage of their right to vote this year. As a result veteran observers are already predicting one of the lightest primary votes in recent campaigns.

The war and taxes provided most of the candidates the themes for their campaign slogans this year. The official list of candidates as certified to the county clerks by the state department contains 67 slogans which feature the war effort with 63 others appealing for votes on the strength of promises to reduce taxes or cut governmental costs. Nearly a score of candidates for legislative positions have injected the old age pension theme into their campaign slogans while a few ring in the milk control controversy in their appeal for votes.

Plans for storing foodstuffs and clothing in areas removed from the coast to meet the emergency needs of a possible evacuation are already well advanced in Oregon. Governor Sprague told Claude R. Wickard, secretary of agriculture, this week. Storing of these emergency supplies against a possible enemy invasion of the Oregon coast, is to be handled by the public welfare commission.

First of 600,000 official voters pamphlets to be distributed this year went into the mails this week addressed to Democrats of the eastern Oregon congressional district. Other pamphlets will be mailed as fast as they are delivered from the state printing plant which is working day and night on the big order.

Of the \$2,485,554 paid out in benefits to jobless workers by the Oregon unemployment compensation commission last year \$759,163 or more than one-fourth of the total, went to employees of logging and lumbering firms. Indicative of the improved position of this industry over that of 1940 the amount paid to jobless employees in this classification for 1941 was only slightly more than one-half that paid to the same classification the previous year. Workers in wholesale and retail establishments drew \$593,160 in jobless benefits in 1941 and construction workers, \$21,011.

Feed Wheat Program Eases Shortages

The AAA feed wheat program, through which government-held wheat is being released at local loan rates for feeding purposes, has been credited by the Oregon USDA War board with a major contribution toward meeting milk, egg and pork production goals set for the state under the Food for Freedom program.

Reviewing progress of production to date at its April meeting, the board found that the 500 carloads of wheat sold to Oregon farmers under the program had helped relieve a deficiency of feeds created by the late spring and the increased livestock numbers.

The board recommended to the secretary of agriculture that the feed wheat program be continued "as the best means of converting the tremendous wheat surplus into needed livestock and poultry products, and of alleviating the acute grain storage problem."

Mrs. Leonard Carlson left for Portland Monday to visit her daughter Joyce and son-in-law, Johnnie Darst. Mr. Darst has enlisted in the navy and is leaving on the 22nd.

CITATION—Probate No. 977 IN THE COUNTY COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF MORROW.

In the Matter of the Estate of WILLIAM McCULLOUGH, Deceased. To Fannie McCullough, William Henry McCullough, David Walter McCullough, Mabel Ely Brion, Phyllis Agnes Beikoff, Gaytor Howard McCullough and Victoria May Shaw, heirs at law of the above named deceased; and also all unknown heirs of the above named deceased:

IN THE NAME OF THE STATE OF OREGON, you and each of you are hereby cited and directed to appear in the above entitled Court within twenty (20) weeks from the date of the first publication of this citation upon you to show cause, if any exists, why an order should not be made authorizing Robert McCullough, administrator of the estate of the above named deceased, to sell the following described real property of said estate, situate in Morrow County, Oregon, to-wit:

An undivided one-tenth (1-10) interest in and to: SW 1/4, W 1/2 of SE 1/4 Sec. 17; S 1/2, S 1/2 of N 1/2 Sec. 18; E 1/2, SW 1/4, E 1/2 of NW 1/4, NW 1/4 of NW 1/4 Sec. 19; SW 1/4, W 1/2 of NW 1/4, NW 1/4 of NE 1/4 Sec. 20; N 1/2, N 1/2 of S 1/2, S 1/2 of SW 1/4, Sec. 29; E 1/2 of Sec. 30; NE 1/4, NW 1/4 of SE 1/4 Sec. 31; E 1/2 of E 1/2, N 1/2 of NW 1/4 Sec. 32; SW 1/4 of NW 1/4, W 1/2 of SW 1/4 Sec. 33; also, Commencing at the NW corner of the NW 1/4 of NW 1/4 of said Sec. 33, running thence South 80 rods, thence East 80 rods, thence in a northerly direction to the place of beginning, all in Township 3 South, Range 28 E.W.M.;

Also: W 1/2, W 1/2 of SE 1/4 Sec. 4; also, commencing at the NW corner of SW 1/4 of NE 1/4 of said Sec. 4, running thence South 80 rods, thence East 80 rods, thence in a Northwesterly direction to the point of beginning; the N 1/2, NW 1/4 of SW 1/4 Sec. 5; E 1/2 of Sec. 8; W 1/2, W 1/2 of E 1/2, SE 1/4 of NE 1/4, E 1/2 of SE 1/4 Sec. 9; NE 1/4, E 1/2 of NW 1/4, NW 1/4 of NW 1/4 Sec. 17; all Sec. 16; all in Township 4 South, Range 28 East of Willamette Meridian.

As prayed for in the petition on file in the above entitled Court for the purpose of paying the cost of administration and other claims against said estate. Date of first publication April 9, 1942. Date of last publication May 7, 1942.

WITNESS, the Hon. Bert Johnson, Judge of the above entitled court with the seal of said Court affixed this 3rd day of April, 1942.

C. W. BARLOW, Clerk.

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