

STATE CAPITAL NEWS

- Taxes Small Part
- Bond Debt Down
- Objectors' Draft

By A. L. LINDBECK

Salem.—Taxes, about which so much complaint is heard, form less than 28 percent of the state's revenue and income taxes comprise less than nine percent of the total revenue handled by the state treasurer. This is revealed in a report by State Treasurer Leslie M. Scott.

Scott's report shows that of the \$92,500,000 collected and disbursed by his department last year only \$24,500,000 came from taxes—property, income, inheritance, gift and gasoline. The remaining \$68,000,000 came from fees, fines, interest on loans and bank deposits, contributions by the federal government, revenue from liquor sales and privilege taxes and contributions by employers and employees to the industrial accident and unemployment compensation funds.

There were no property taxes collected by the state in 1941 but income taxes produced a total of \$8,012,772. Gasoline taxes, about which little or no complaint is ever heard, yielded a total of \$14,898,611 or more than one and three-fourths as much as the income levies. Inheritance taxes yielded \$1,471,643 and gift taxes, \$198,300.

In addition to gasoline taxes Oregon motorists contributed an additional \$4,474,363 to the grand total of state revenues through the medium of registration fees and mileage and gross revenue fees.

The gross income of the Liquor Control commission, all of which passes through the state treasury, amounted to \$12,903,274. The state's share of the "take" from pari-mutuel betting on horse and dog races amounted to \$132,378.

Federal grants to various state agencies totalled \$9,538,599, of which \$2,810,895 went into new highway

construction.

Contributions by employers to the unemployment compensation trust fund, including federal allotments for administration and maintenance of the free employment offices, amounted to \$9,746,766 and another \$6,382,040 was collected by the State Industrial Accident commission.

Interest earned by state trust funds and bank deposits added \$1,385,334 to the year's total of revenue collections.

Other revenue sources itemized in Scott's report include: Fishing and hunting licenses, \$762,864; poundage fees paid by commercial fishermen, \$164,523; fees paid by insurance companies, \$939,141; corporation fees, \$320,063; fees collected by department of agriculture, \$484,860; fees collected by Department of Labor, \$68,713; litigants' fees, divorce fees, and filing fees collected by supreme court, \$50,906; collections by state department from sales of law books, notarial commissions, candidates' fees, etc., \$64,556; collections from state wards, \$145,313.

Conscientious objectors may be drafted for service as attendants and orderlies at the two state hospitals for insane at Salem and Pendleton. The board of control has announced that such a plan is under consideration in order to fill the places of employees who are quitting jobs in these institutions to accept better paying jobs in defense industries. The plan is said to have been approved by the national selective service board. If the "conchies" are employed they will be given their "keep" and \$2.50 a month.

Sale of Marquam Lake to the state game commission for use as a game preserve has been held up pending investigation of complaints by farmers of Sauvie Island that the game commission's program will interfere with plans for drainage of this district.

Oregon's bonded debt which in 1928 hit a high of \$66,062,810 is now down to \$29,648,235, according to a report by State Treasurer Leslie M. Scott.

Interest on state bonds which at the peak amounted to \$2,928,323 a year is now down proportionately

to only \$1,293,508, a saving of \$1,634,815 a year, Scott's report shows.

Since 1917 when Oregon started its spending orgy by authorizing its first road bond issue taxpayers of this state have paid a total of \$51,031,052 in interest.

Of the state bonds now outstanding \$16,175,000 were issued by the World War Veterans State Aid commission, \$11,541,750 by the state highway commission; \$1,900,485 are Oregon District Interest bonds and \$31,000 are farm credit bonds.

As a partial off-set against this outstanding indebtedness Scott points out, the state has \$20,355,192 in assets represented by cash, mortgages, real estate contracts and property.

Had these outstanding bonds been issued with callable provisions, Scott points out, they could now be refinanced at an average interest rate of two percent instead of the four to six percent the old bonds bear.

Chas. V. Galloway, chairman of the state tax commission, who has been the butt of considerable criticism at the hands of newspaper editorial writers and political demagogues the past year, is digging down into his own private purse to pay for 30 minutes of time on radio station KGW between 9:00 and 9:30 o'clock Saturday night, May 2, at which time he will give his version of the uniform assessment order, the shift in the tax paying period and other controversial issues.

Tire rationing is beginning to be reflected in reduced gasoline consumption on the part of Oregon motorists. Sales for both February and March were down below the levels for the same month last year, according to a report by Secretary of State Snell. However, due to a big January increase gasoline consumption for the quarter was still above that for the same period a year ago.

Plans for the protection of Oregon's forests from fires through sabotage this summer were made by a committee of the state forestry board meeting in Salem this week. Included in these plans are greater restrictions on entry into timbered areas, more closures of forests and an absolute prohibition on slash and debris burning after May 15.

Warning that Japan can be expected to strike back at this country for the bombing of Tokyo and other cities of the island empire, Jerrold Owen, coordinator of the Oregon defense council, has sent word to all county defense coordinators to keep their organizations constantly on the alert. "A bombing fleet over the Pacific—and that means Oregon—is not impossible," Owen declared in his bulletin addressed to the county coordinators.

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3 Morrow Children Under Boys', Girls' Aid

Portland, Oregon, April 23.—Three dependent children from Morrow county are at the present time being cared for by the Boys' and Girls' Aid society of Oregon, Mrs. Myrtle C. Dalziel, state director, announced this week.

A state-wide child-caring agency, the society finds homes, pays board, supplies clothing, and provides medical and dental service for more than 350 dependent children. Funds to meet the increased needs of the children for the current year will be raised in a state-wide appeal to open May 1.

"Fifty-five percent of the children under our supervision are sent from counties other than Multnomah," Mrs. Dalziel points out. "Because of increased costs this year, the welfare of these nearly 200 children has become dependent on the support of citizens throughout the state. The society cannot continue to provide adequate care to these boys and girls without additional funds."

The drive will be conducted on a state-wide basis with a separate campaign organization in each county. Mrs. Dalziel cited the unmet needs of the society's wards as totalling \$25,000 for the year 1942. Jesse G. Gard, of Salem and Portland, is state chairman of the appeal.

Operating on the foster home plan basis, the BGAS places all children under its supervision in foster, or private family homes for care. Dependent children are accepted from all parts of Oregon, likewise are placed in homes throughout the entire state.

E. Harvey Miller of Heppner represents Morrow county on the society's honorary board. The organization's administrative office is located at 1504 S. W. 11th Avenue, Portland.

BAND SETS CONCERT DATE

The Heppner school band will present its annual concert Friday evening, May 15, announces Harold W. Buhman, director. Several marches and overtures will be played. Also the instrumentation of the band is much better due to the addition of the new tympani (kettle drums), two French horns and a new E flat alto clarinet. These new instruments were learned and are being played by different members, although they are owned by the band organization and represent several hundred dollars in value. This concert is free to the public, in appreciation by the band members of the wonderful support citizens of Heppner have given the organization.

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