

STATE CAPITAL NEWS

- Fund Surplus
- Crossing Deaths
- Public Ownership

By A. L. LINDBECK

Salem.—State Treasurer Leslie M. Scott estimates that he will have a surplus of between \$2,500,000 and \$3,500,000 in the general fund at the close of this year. Most of this surplus, Scott explains, will accrue thru excess revenues from the income tax levies and as such will not be available for state purpose over and above the amount necessary to offset levies against property.

As a use for this surplus revenue which will also provide additional relief for property owners, Scott suggests that it be diverted to the support of the public school system, especially to offset the county levy of \$10 per capita.

In addition to this surplus Scott calls attention to the fact that there will probably be a unexpended balance of some \$465,000 reverting from appropriations for new buildings which were not constructed because of the high costs brought on by the war emergency. This, unexpended balance, Scott explains, will be available for re-appropriation by the next legislature.

Seven persons have met death in grade crossing accidents in Oregon already this year, an increase of 43 percent over the record for the same period in 1941. In calling attention to this situation Secretary of State Snell points out that railroad traffic has increased greatly due to the war emergency and urges motorists to use greater caution in approaching grade crossings. Six of the fatal accidents occurred during daylight with clear weather and no view obstructions.

Senate President Dean Walker is again pinch hitting as the state's chief executive in the absence of Governor Sprague who is attending the governor's conference at Ash-

ville, N. C. The governor left Salem Friday night expecting to be gone two weeks.

The appointment of Marvin B. Clatterbuck as superintendent of the state school for the deaf has been made permanent by the board of control. Clatterbuck has been serving as superintendent of the institution under a temporary appointment since the death of J. Lyman Steed last September.

Emergency traffic and transportation problems were discussed by the Oregon highway traffic advisory committee to the war department here this week. Members of the advisory committee include W. H. Crawford, director of the Oregon economic council; R. H. Baldock, state highway engineer; Chas. P. Pray, superintendent of state police; and Ormond R. Bean, public utilities commissioner.

Approximately \$330,000 in common school funds will be available for distribution this year as compared to \$310,000 last year, according to Lewis Griffith, clerk of the state land board. The increase in the school fund was attributed by Griffith to the fact that large blocks of land have been leased during the past year to eastern Oregon stockmen under the land board's new "blocking" program.

Governor Sprague struck out this week in no uncertain terms at public ownership advocates who are attempting to force their program on to unwilling communities under the cloak of the war emergency.

In a letter to B. H. Kizer, regional chairman of the national resources planning board at Spokane, the governor expressed his opposition to all of the Columbia river power authority bills now pending in congress.

Declaring that in his opinion there was no war time emergency making immediate action on a power authority necessary the governor urged that "such controversial questions as public ownership" be postponed for post-war decision.

The governor also expressed himself as opposed to vesting broad

powers in a regional federal authority.

"This would establish a super-government, extra-constitutional in character, of uncertain status, which would further complicate the relations between the states and the federal government," the governor pointed out. "These regional authorities offer convenient vehicles for wielding vast economic and political power, responsible to no definite constituency."

Threatened friction between the national and state's civilian defense councils is believed to have been eliminated at a meeting in Washington, D. C., this week attended by Jerrold Owen, Oregon civilian defense coordinator. Attempts by the federal bureaucrats to dictate state defense policies under threat to move in and take over the direction of civilian defense efforts themselves met with immediate and vigorous protest from state officials resulting in the call by National Director Landis for a meeting with state representatives in Washington. A telegram received from Owen by his staff indicates that he was able to convince Landis that the set-up in this state was entirely adequate to cope with the problem of civilian defense without any federal interference.

Sponsors of a proposed Portland peoples utility district must start from scratch again, in their efforts to place the issue before the voters of that city, Attorney General Van Winkle has ruled that the promoters of this project slept on their rights after filing their preliminary petitions and failed to complete their call for an election within the time provided by the law.

A. F. Harvey, head of the motor transport division of the Oregon public utilities commission, has been appointed by the Interstate commerce commission as a member of a board to represent the several states in the administration of the interstate commerce act. Harvey has been with the Oregon commission for the past 16 years.

In spite of automobile and tire rationing there are more cars in Oregon today than there were a year ago. Figures released this week by Secretary of State Snell show that there are 394,511 motor vehicles registered in Oregon as of June 1, an increase of 227 over the figures for the same period last year.

SEASONALITY DETERMINATION

Notice is hereby given that the Oregon Unemployment Compensation Commission has reviewed all seasonal determinations made for the years 1938, 1939, 1940, and 1941 in the light of the Supreme Court decision in Layman vs. State Unemployment Compensation Commission.

A list of the employers and their tentative seasons as redetermined by the Commission is available for the inspection of any interested party at any local office of the U. S. Employment Service. Each employer who may be affected by a redetermination is being sent a notice to that effect and instructed to post the notice for the information of his employees.

If any interested party believes that any proposed redetermination of seasons is not consistent with the Supreme Court's decision in the Layman Case, he may file a protest with the Commission not later than July 1, 1942. Any worker who believes that he was improperly denied benefits because of seasonality restriction may so advise the Commission through any local U. S. Employment Office. Whenever it is necessary, hearings will be held before a final decision is made.

ELLIS H. JONES,
Informational Representative.

Neighborhoods to Be Units of New Extension Set-Up

Preliminary work will begin soon in each Oregon county the first step to the setting up of a neighborhood leader plan as a wartime emergency step in maintaining contact with every farm and rural family.

This big informational task has been assigned to the extension service by the secretary of agriculture. In each Oregon county the first step will be to call together an organization committee consisting mostly of farmers and homemakers who are already serving as chairmen of the several committees in the permanent agricultural planning program.

Although the 72,000 farm families in Oregon are gearing their activities to the war effort, latest authentic information on many emergency matters is not at once available to them. Extension specialists and county agents find that transportation difficulties and labor shortage are combining to make meetings less effective. Newspapers and radio are helping greatly to keep contact with individual growers but cannot do the task alone. So to make sure that needed information is spread promptly and thoroughly through the agricultural industry certain neighbors are being selected to receive and disseminate within their neighborhood all facts available that bear on many current and prospective emergency matters, explains W. L. Teutsch, assistant director of extension at O. S. C. and head of the neighborhood leader project.

The neighborhood leader plan is being sponsored nationally, with the same objective in all the states. If successfully set up and operated, it will provide a means through personal contact of getting out needed information from the state college through county, community and neighborhood leaders to every farm and rural family in the state. The neighborhood leaders will work thru farm visits, home gatherings and in cooperation with all farm organizations in contacting the 10 and 20 families in each neighborhood unit.

The first major information task to be handled on this "personal contact network" is to acquaint every farm and rural family with the dangers of inflation and how each can help in controlling this economic menace. History of the first World war shows that the agricultural industry was the worst sufferer from the wartime price boom which was followed by the severe agricultural collapse from which the industry is just now recovering.

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