

STATE CAPITAL NEWS

- Unionization
- Contributor Lists
- Property Protection

By A. L. LINDBECK

Salem.—Unionization of Oregon's farmers as attempted by John L. Lewis, head of the United Mine Workers, is opposed by J. D. Mickle, state director of agriculture, as inimical to their best interests.

"Under the cooperative laws of Oregon they (the farmers) are given such rights as assure them of the privilege of contributing to their own welfare through their own collective efforts," Mickle declared. "They have all the rights and privileges accorded by law to other organizations, corporate or individual. Therefore I fail to see where affiliation with a labor organization will strengthen their organization in any way."

Instead of benefitting by affiliation with a labor union Mickle predicted that "many difficulties will arise from other connections." While he refused to point out these difficulties the agricultural director gave it as his opinion that farm organizations which have been in the habit of running their own affairs would not take kindly to dictation or overlordship "by other organizations which have no common interest or farm-minded connections."

Advocates and opponents of initiative measures are required to file itemized statements of contributions as well as expenditures, according to an opinion of the state supreme court this week. The opinion directed the Oregon Business Council, Associated Farmers of Oregon and Eastern Oregon Wheat League to file a list of the contributors to their campaign in support of the "anti-picketing" bill which was approved by the voters of Oregon in November, 1933, but which was later held by the high court to be unconstitutional.

"One of the chief purposes of the Corrupt Practices act is to prevent fraud and insure purity of elections by limiting the amount of campaign expenses," Justice Belt wrote in presenting the court's view of this question. "People have the right to know—and it is so contemplated by the act—who is spending money and the amount thereof to secure the approval or rejection of an initiative measure."

Consumption of electricity in Oregon during 1941 increased by 7.2 percent over that for 1940, according to a compilation of electric utility reports just completed by O. R. Bean, public utilities commissioner.

Nearly 64,000 of the official voters' pamphlets mailed out prior to the recent primary election failed to reach the persons to whom they were addressed. This number represents approximately 12 percent of the total mailing and is in striking contrast to the 5 to 8 percent of "returns" in previous years. The large increase in undelivered pamphlets this year is accounted for by the large shift of voters to industrial centers.

The state of Oregon is doing its bit toward financing the war effort. State Treasurer Leslie M. Scott announced that approximately \$1,000,000 in state funds have been invested in war bonds.

Governor Sprague who attended the annual conference of governors at Asheville, N. C., returned to Salem Tuesday. President of the Senate Dean Walker officiated as governor pro tem during the absence of Sprague.

Oregon's public buildings and bridges are to be protected against enemy damage by the new federally subsidized war damage insurance.

The state board of control this week authorized the state insurance agents' association to write a policy covering the buildings in the capitol group and at the several institutions in western Oregon. Premiums on this insurance will cost the state \$7000 a year but the policy will provide 100 percent protection against any damage done by enemy planes or ships or by American for-

ces in repelling invasion.

At the same time the state highway commission ordered insurance placed on all of its buildings and contents valued at \$10,000 or more and on all state highway bridges of a value of \$100,000 or more. Bridges on the coast highway and on highways leading to the coast valued at \$10,000 or more will also be covered.

It is expected that the state board of higher education will also take steps to protect its buildings at Eugene, Corvallis and Monmouth under this insurance plan.

Morrow county's school fund was enriched by \$1,422.52 this week thru the annual allocation of earnings of the common school fund. The \$325,659.48 available for distribution was apportioned on the basis of 1.22 for each child on the school census list. The per capita apportionment was a slight increase over the \$1.14 of last year.

The state highway commission has adopted a new policy covering maximum truck weights in conformity with the request of the Office of Defense Transportation. While this new policy will permit the operation of some trucks with a combined maximum weight in excess of the 68,000 pounds recently agreed upon as an emergency measure these trucks will be confined to certain specified roads which are straight enough to permit their operation without menace to other traffic and with bridges strong enough to stand up under the additional strain.

Only 13 of the 558 wheat seed loans made to eastern Oregon farmers by the state in 1925-26 remain unpaid, according to State Treasurer Leslie M. Scott. The unpaid principal on these 13 notes amounts to only \$4,836.32 out of the total of \$396,711.39 advanced by the state to finance seeding operation for farmers of the eastern Oregon wheat section whose crops were frozen out in 1924 and 1925. The loans were made out of funds of the World War Veterans State Aid commission and were repayable by January 1, 1926, with interest at the rate of six percent a year. Most of the loans were repaid on time but the legislature of 1927 appropriated \$4,518.69 to reimburse the commission's trust fund for the loss up to that time since which time loans repaid as well as interest collected, have gone into the state's general fund. The board of control has asked the treasury department to make one more effort to collect on the 13 delinquent notes although an investigation made by that department two years ago revealed that all of the signers of these notes had lost their farms and had left the counties in which they had lived at the time of making the loans and could not be located.

In spite of the tire shortage and gasoline rationing consumption of

Cloudy Weather Causes 4th Concern

Too much cloudy weather preceding the week end of the 3rd of July may actually cause the forest warden greater concern than periods of normal fire weather, N. S. Rogers, state forester, said in issuing a reminder against cigarettes and campfire carelessness by forest visitors.

"During a period of continued cloudy weather and late spring rains most of us become complacent, forgetting the need for fire vigilance. Then, when summer suddenly breaks we are not aware of the fire danger. Actually, three or four sunny days with a light wind place the forest at the mercy of the camper or smoker, for the fuel reaches the inflammable point and fires easily 'run' under such conditions.

"To prevent wasted acres I ask that every forest visitor be constantly on the alert. Enjoy an outdoor week end, but remember the fire warning."

Motorists especially were reminded of the Oregon forest code which makes the throwing away of burning material along highways or along other roads a violation subject to fine. The state forester requested the smoking public to make full use of ash receptacles in disposing of lighted cigarettes, pipe, or cigar materials.

The forest code also prohibits the use of fireworks, firecrackers, or even cap pistols on forest lands. Added wartime restraint against the use of these materials throughout the state has been given by Lieut. General John L. DeWitt, commanding the Western Defense Area and Fourth Army, and by Governor Chas. L. Sprague who has instructed state police, sheriffs, and other law enforcing agencies to enforce the edict.

SUMMER ENROLLMENT FAIR

Oregon State College—Summer session enrollment for the first of the two five-week periods here is somewhat below that of last year but is not as low as many feared in view of the unsettled conditions. Registration at the end of the first week was 601 compared with 713 a year ago. Practically all of the reduction is in men students.

this latter commodity in Oregon shows a decrease of only four per cent for the first five months of the current year as compared to 1941 records, it was reported by Secretary of State Snell. May consumption was down nine percent under the May, 1941, figures.

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