

## Capitol Parade . . .

By MURRAY WADE

### FARM CENSUS COMPLETED

Final compilation of figures of the Oregon farm census in all four districts has just been made. There are 65,003 farms in the state, according to John A. Kallak, state census supervisor. In all four districts as well as in the state as a whole an increase in the number and size is shown, which verifies preliminary figures. District No 1 includes 11 northwest counties with headquarters in Portland. District No. 2 include seven southwestern counties with headquarters at Eugene. District No. 3 includes 10 south-

eastern counties with headquarters in Klamath Falls. District No. 4 includes 8 eastern Oregon counties with headquarters at Burns.

### FIRE FIGHTERS ALERT

Oregon's capital was the hottest spot in the state for two days this week and the hottest spot in this hottest spot was the state forestry department. All reported conditions rapidly favor forest fire spreading. Hundreds of fires are being brought under control any of which could become devastating to valuable timber and other property to say nothing of human life.

Phone messages to the state forestry department this week told of a 17-year old working alone at Buck Rock look out station in the Rogue river country who was bitten by a rattlesnake. The nearest "neighbor" five miles away by pack trail. It took three hours for aid to

come. In the meantime he followed snakebite rules. First he did not pursue the snake that bit him. He slit the wound with a razor and laid down after phoning to the look-district ranger. After two days of observation at the hospital he returned to the lookout station, took his rifle and killed a rattler that he hopes was the snake that bit him.

### RECENT LEGAL OPINIONS

Attorney General George Neuner has ruled the laws of Oregon make the probation and parole system applicable to all prisoners now or here after confined in any jail for a period of six months or more or in a penitentiary. Answering a request from the state board of control Neuner ruled if any inmate of the Blind Trade school, or his relatives, are financially unable to pay \$35 per month, as provided, the court may reduce the amount under procedure

set forth in 127-412 O. C. L. A.

### EXECUTIVE BUSY

Jerry S. Saylor, recently elected secretary of the Public Employees Retirement system was administered the oath of office Monday by Secretary of State Robert S. Farrell, Jr. and immediately started organization of the new state department. The 1945 legislature passed an act loaning P. E. R. S. \$50,000 with which to establish the department. This sum, earning 4 percent, to be repaid before 1947. Mr. Saylor's many years experience in the insurance business was a factor considered by the retirement board. During the past two years he has been connected with the personnel management department of the Willamette Iron & Steel Works in Portland. The P. E. R. S. offices will be located with the Portland branch of the state insurance department

in the Oregon building.

### FARM GROUP SATISFIED

"Farm leaders are well satisfied with the Truman administration," says Ronald E. Jones, president of the Oregon State Farmers union. Jones has just returned from Denver where he attended a conference of national officers of the Farmers' union. There will be no national convention this year on account of transportation ban. "The Farmers' union is well satisfied with the new secretary of agriculture, Mr. Anderson," Jones reported. "He has been generally sympathetic with our program and objectives. He is not tied up with any specific farm organization so he is able to look at the picture as a whole."

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Mahoney of Portland were in Heppner to attend the funeral of Tom's aunt, Mrs. Harriet Mahoney.

## Coming August 22

# \$1,000,000 SLASH IN PP&L ELECTRIC RATES!

### 35th Anniversary Reduction Gives Customers Greatest Savings in Company's History

**E**LECTRIC RATE REDUCTIONS totaling One Million Dollars a year have been filed by Pacific Power & Light Company with the Washington Department of Public Utilities and the Oregon Public Utilities Commissioner. Subject to final review and approval by these state regulatory authorities, the new low rates will become effective August 22.

This means that residential and rural customers of the Company will save \$440,000 a year under the drastically reduced new low rate schedules! Their savings will average nearly 14%—equivalent to one day's free electric service out of every seven!

And commercial and industrial users will save an estimated \$570,000—or an average of about 15%.

This system-wide reduction—the fifth since 1936—provides cities, towns and even rural areas throughout the wide PP&L system with electric rates which are rapidly approaching those enjoyed by the largest centers of population.

PP&L's first rate reduction was announced back in 1911—just *one year* after the Company started business 35 years ago. In the subsequent years, rates have been

reduced again and again until the average cost of PP&L residential electricity is only about *half the U.S. national average.*

Each time the Company reduced rates throughout the past 35 years, it was with confidence in the growth and development of the Pacific Northwest area we serve.

Even during the present war period, with its many abnormal problems, we made two *temporary* rate reductions in 1944 in the form of "rate dividends" payable to every customer, amounting to approximately \$600,000.

### Looking Forward with the Northwest

This year, in spite of the many wartime uncertainties still prevailing, we have decided to go forward *now* with a progressive and far-reaching overhauling and simplification of our entire rate structure which we have long had under study

We are making this major rate reduction in anticipation of prospective savings in interest costs through refinancing of our bonds (savings we have already pledged ourselves to pass on to our customers), and because of the steadily increasing evidence that the Pacific Northwest area we serve is going to maintain its healthy growth through the years after Victory.

This million-dollar reduction, significant as it is today, will become more and more important to you when new electrical appliances are again available and you can take full advantage of the very cheap electricity it puts at your disposal.

## PACIFIC POWER & LIGHT COMPANY

Your Business-Managed Power System