

Capitol Letter

"BY UNITED-PRESS"

(Special to Vernonia Eagle)
SALEM, ORE., (UP)—Columbia county receives the sum of \$9,908.18 as its share of the annual apportionment of the state's irreducible school fund, George G. Brown, clerk of the state land board has announced.

The amount was based upon a population of 6,271 children over four and under 20 years of age in the county.

Although the total amount available in the interest account of the funds exceeds by more than \$3,000 the amount in the same fund a year ago, the per capita apportionment today exceeds by only one per cent the total apportionment in the entire state last year.

The amount apportioned to Columbia county will be reapportioned among the various school districts by the county school superintendent upon the basis of school population.

There are no dogs in Columbia county, not counting the "hot dogs", if the state tax rolls are to be believed in this respect, which they are not.

In all of Oregon there are only 8,308 pedigreed canines, pups, whelps, mongrels, pooches, hounds and just plain dogs, the tax roll shows, and they have a total valuation of \$105,090 upon which owners pay taxes.

However, this is not an accurate census of the dog population of Oregon because many county assessors do not make any attempt to assess dogs, says Earl L. Fisher, chairman of the state tax commission.

The cost of government is substantially contributed to by public utilities in Oregon, says Earl L. Fisher, chairman of the state tax commission in releasing a report on taxation of utilities.

During the tax year 1930, public utilities will pay property taxes aggregating \$7,193,363.67 based upon the apportioned value of \$180,199,380 Fisher said. The full assessed valuation of the utilities amounted to \$306,115,066 but the former figure represents the taxable value upon which they actually pay taxes and conforms to the standard of undervaluation in the respective counties, ranging from 42 per cent in Clackamas county to 84 per cent in Sherman county.

The ratio of taxable to the full cash value of property generally in Columbia county, as determined by the state tax commission for the year 1929, was 62 per cent, Fisher said.

California strawberry plants are prohibited from importation into Oregon by an order signed this week by Governor Norblad. The quarantine was created to prevent entrance of "strawberry yellow," a plant disease found prevailing on California berries.

A complete "socialist independent" ticket was prepared this week for Oregon voters. Socialists selected candidates during a recent Portland convention. As there is not a regularly standing Socialist party in Oregon, the combination of "socialist independent" will be used to designate

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W. D. McNair, Manager
W. C. Culbertson, Prop.

the party nominees on the ballot.

L. R. Alderman, special investigator of the department of justice, said the Oregon state training school for boys was one of the finest institutions of its kind in the United States. Alderman was making an inspection tour of penal institutions in the United States.

Sixty persons employed by the state motor vehicle department during the automobile license rush season, were discharged Saturday.

Merger of the Great Northern and Northern Pacific railroads will not be contested by the Oregon public service commission. Minnesota and Idaho were to ask that the case be reopened and asked Oregon to join them in the petition. The interstate commerce commission last February authorized the merger.

The state board of control has authorized a \$200,000 loan for the state flax industry so that flax growers may be paid for their crops immediately. Processing the flax into fiber takes many months.

Creation of a "white fleet" of official motor vehicles to be used by state traffic officers on patrol will be considered at the next meeting of the state board of control.

It was planned that the official automobiles and motorcycles be painted in some distinctive color as in other enterprising states. California would be the model after which Oregon would establish the fleet of white motor cars and cycles.

The California-Oregon Power company has filed water and power right applications with the state engineer for the proposed development of a \$27,600,000 power project on the Klamath



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river. Completion of the project would be extended over a period of 20 years. Approval of the federal power commission must first be secured before the state acts upon the applications.

Refunds of \$200,000 were asked by eastern Oregon grain growers in applications on file with the public service commission. It was said railroad companies had failed to comply with 1924 freight reduction orders of the commission.

W. B. Bartram, manager of industries at the Oregon state penitentiary, was employed by the state board of control on a full-time basis during the flax harvest at a monthly salary of \$500. Bartram was formerly paid only \$150 by the state and the Oregon Linen mills paid the balance of his salary. The mill recently closed down.

The "guest list" of the Oregon state penitentiary this week includes 11 persons from Columbia county who are making that institution their abode and residence for a stay of from one year to life.

There were 914 "guests" in the prison as of July 31. The number of inmates serving sentences for the ten most predominant crimes were:

Larceny 164, burglary 115, forgery 104, assault and robbery 85, rape 81, murder 79, liquor law violations 51, assault to rob 38, obtaining money under false pretenses 36, assault with dangerous weapon 22.

One convict escaped, two made a daring but hopeless break for liberty, and another committed suicide rather than spend the rest of his life in prison, during the past week at the Oregon state penitentiary.

Although the Hawley-Smoot tariff bill created many new high protective horticultural rates, Oregon bulb growers continue to complain they are unable to meet competition of foreign growers, according to officials here. It was said that Holland growers had anticipated the advanced rates and created prices that continue attractive to United States importers.

A staggering blow to the success of the "cabinet form of government" amendment which will appear on the November ballot was seen here this week in an opinion of the attorney general holding that the office of county district attorney would be abolished if the measure is passed.

With this decision there automatically springs into existence an organization opposing the measure led by the 36 district attorneys of Oregon and their immediate friends. Many of them have held office for years and have an effective and powerful organization behind them in their counties. They will naturally be expected to fight hard against a measure that would abolish their offices.

SALEM, Oregon, (UP)—The names of a lawyer, a hotel keeper and a department store manager will probably appear on the ballot when Mr. and Mrs. Voter go to the polls next November to select a new governor for Oregon.

Ralph S. Metschan, impresario of the Hotel Imperial in Portland, Ed Bailey, Eugene attorney, have already been regularly nominated by the Republican and Democratic parties, respectively, to represent them in the forthcoming campaign. Every indication was that Julius L. Meier, Portland department store proprietor, will run on an independent ticket as the standard bearer for that element of the Republican party that supported the late George W. Joseph and which is now dissatisfied with the regularly chosen candidate, Metschan, who succeeds Joseph.

Deflection in the ranks of Republicans to the independent candidacy of Meier was started by Rufus Holman, who at one time entertained aspirations for the governorship, but now has withdrawn in favor of Meier. From eastern Oregon came word that Jack Pearce of La Grande, veteran party leader of Union county, will bolt the G. O. P. to support the Portland merchant.

Thursday night, August 7, will tell the story as to Meier's intentions and in state capital circles there is no doubt whatever that he will accept the independent nomination.

About 350 men and women signed the "call" for the assembly of electors to choose an independent gubernatorial candidate, declaring that "If Oregon is to progress, expand and prosper, it must be liberated from the grip of monopolistic utility corporations that threaten its industrial and economic existence."

There is wide diversion of opinion as to the effect of an independent in the field and even the Democrats are divided in their opinions. Some believe an independent candidate for governor will split the Republican vote and elect a Democrat while others believe an independent will split the anti-Metschan vote dividing it between the Bailey and Meier camps to such an extent that Metschan will be elected. An independent has never yet been elected to any major office in this state.

One arm of the "progressive independent group" of Republican pro-Josephites met in Portland last Friday night for an informal talkfest preparatory to the big meeting August 7. The

backbone of this camp, 90 committeemen, had blacklisted Metschan prior to the session at which the latter was nominated.

Democratic leaders met in Portland Saturday to formulate plans for battle, choose their leaders, and prepare for the coming campaign. The fireworks will not start until after the independent candidate has been named and there are indications the battle will consist largely of mud-slinging between camps.

Reid Murdock Canning and Preserving Plant at Salem To Operate Year 'Round

Salem STATESMAN: According to a statement by H. W. Armstrong, president, Reid Murdock company, made at Salem recently, plans are now in formation to keep their big plant in that city in constant operation. Much preserving done in Washington will be transferred to the Salem plant. About 500 people are now employed and several vegetable packs will be added to lengthen the season.



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FINNEY OF THE FORCE

By F. O. Alexander



A Big Vocabulary

YAA - YAA
YAA!

TERRIBLE!

FOINE! - YERE A GOOD LITTLE BIRRD, AN' OI ALMOST HATE TO GIVE VEZ TO MRS. SNOOD!

OH, HOW LOVELY! - WE'LL BE SECH COMPANY FOR EACH OTHER!

SEZ YOU!

WHY THE VERY IDEAR!