McLaughlin Resigns as California Works Progress Administrator; Lawson Appointed.

Resignation of Frank Y. McLaughlin, Works Progress Administrator for California, and appointment of William R. Lawson, WPA district director in San Francisco as his successor, was announced today by Administrator Harry L. Hopkins.

The new California administrator has held the post of San Francisco District Director for almost a year, and his promotion is a recognition of his excellent work there. Lawson received Presidential appointment after the endorsement of McLaughlin. The retiring Administrator named Lawson to the San Francisco district post from the State administrative staff last year.

McLaughlin has had a distinguished career and is one of the ablest engineers and administrators in the country. He was born in Superior, Wisconsin, May 23, 1883, and from the time he left college in 1905 he has held important executive positions in the construction industry in the East, Middle West, Latin America and Europe.

In 1933, Mr. McLaughlin joined the federal forces when he became associated with the Division of Investigation of the Public Works Administration. He assisted in the organization of that Division in Washington, and in August, 1933 became regional inspector in charge of the four western States, California, Arizona, Nevada and Utah.
In March, 1934, he became intimately connected with California's relief problems, joining the staff of the State Emergency Relief Administration. He held various posts in this Administration and in February, 1935, he became State Relief Administrator. In July of 1935, he became both WPA and SEPA Administrator for California, but when the WPA got fully under way, he resigned as director of the SEPA and devoted his entire time to WPA activities. This was in January, 1936. The WPA in the State of California, under McLaughlin's able guidance, has been pointed to by Washington officials as an outstanding example of efficient administration.

Administrator Hopkins, commenting on McLaughlin's resignation, said: "It is with deep regret that I accept the resignation of Mr. McLaughlin, for he has done an outstanding job in California. Men like Frank McLaughlin have been the backbone of our program. I am confident, however, that Mr. Lawson will maintain this standard."

Robert H. Hinckley, Assistant Administrator of WPA in charge of the eleven western states, added: "Frank McLaughlin combines remarkable engineering and administrative ability. Our accomplishments in California may be attributed largely to his splendid work there, for he has developed the State organization from the beginning to its high rank in efficiency."

Mr. Lawson, his successor, was born in San Francisco, December 29, 1900, and was educated in the San Francisco public schools. He was graduated from the University of California in May, 1926, with the degree of B.A. He majored in economics.

Following his graduation, Lawson entered the firm of Lawson & Perelli and occupied himself with the management of extensive farm properties,
marketing of California fruits in eastern markets and he then became associated with the Certain-Teed Products Corporation doing sales and promotion work in the southwest states. Following this, he was with the Alba Grape & Fruit Company representing the concern in New York in the marketing of California Fruits and Fruit Products.

In August, 1933, Lawson was named San Francisco District Manager of the Home Owners Loan Corporation and served until the office was abolished. During this period, he reorganized the 10 northern California counties under his jurisdiction, established procedure for making of federal loans to home owners and handled 8000 applications which resulted in the lending of some $10,000,000 to home owners.

Lawson, following this, became an executive of the WPA State administrative staff, and in April, 1936, was named San Francisco county director for the WPA. During his regime the San Francisco district WPA offices, work and procedure have become a model for other districts.