

**The Weekly Chronicle.**

OFFICIAL PAPER OF WASCO COUNTY.

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**COUNTY OFFICIALS.**

County Judge.....Geo. C. Blakeley  
 Sheriff.....T. A. Ward  
 Clerk.....J. B. Crossen  
 Treasurer.....Wm. Mitchell  
 Assessor.....Jas. Detrich  
 Commissioners.....Frank Kinard  
 Surveyor.....Joel W. Kozak  
 Superintendent of Public Schools.....E. F. Sharp  
 Coroner.....Troy Shultz  
 N. M. Eastwood

**THE LAWTON BILL AGAIN.**

The editorial from the Dispatch in Thursday's CHRONICLE relating to the repeal of the "mortgage tax law" and the "indebtedness deduction clause" has caused some comment, and while hoping you will take no offense at my boldness, I would ask space on the same subject, believing, (after listening to every argument pro and con, while the Lawton bill was before the legislature and its committee) the Dispatch to be wrong both in the interpretation of the law, and their opinion of the effect of it on the farmer and small borrower.

The old law provides (Sec. 2754) no promissory note or other instrument of writing, which is evidence of a debt wholly or partly secured by land or real property shall be taxed for any purpose in this state, but the debt evidenced thereby and the instrument by which it is secured shall for the purpose of assessment and taxation be considered as land or real property and together be assessed and taxed as herein provided.

The above section is repealed, now how is it possible to say that the mortgage is exempt from taxation and the note, which is a part of the mortgage, is still taxable? The law was termed the "mortgage tax law" but that title was not part of the law. Would it not be as reasonable to say the note is exempt and the mortgage is still taxable? You will notice according to the above section that they are assessable together. If they were taxed together, or as one, and the section repealed so taxing them, how can the tax remain on one or the other, and on which one?

A case can be supposed and might at great intervals be met with where it would be optional with the assessor to make double taxation, but the example, as follows, is not one of these: "If a man has a farm and he borrows \$5,000 on the property, gives his note and a mortgage, the party holding the note must pay on it as well as the borrower."

Now under the old law both the evidence of debt and the instrument by which it is secured are considered land or real property. If they were real property and separate, both should pay taxes, but only one tax is paid and the object of the repeal of the above section is and can be interpreted only to do away with that tax. As they were assessed together, it does away with the tax together, as much with the note as the mortgage, they are inseparable.

The legal rate of interest is eight per cent., but section 3593 and 3594, both now repealed, made an agreement legal between borrower and lender, as to who paid the taxes and mortgages were usually drawn eight per cent. and the borrower pay them, or ten per cent. and the lender pay. On a 25 mill levy the tax was \$2.50 per hundred dollars and if the lender paid the tax he just lost 50 cents of getting his eight per cent. providing the note drew 10 per cent. interest. If the borrower paid the taxes he just paid 50 cents more than his 10 per cent. on every hundred dollars. This two per cent. was added to pay the taxes that is as much a part of the instrument as any other portion of it. If I borrowed the money it was added above the legal interest to pay a debt I owed the state, and you contracted to pay such debt with that two per cent. When I cease to owe the state on my mortgage I cease to owe you the money to pay such debt. While no attorney, nor giving a learned decision as to the effect of the new law on present contracts, I believe mortgages drawn with the extra two per cent. to pay taxes will be able only to collect the legal eight per cent. interest, and even then the lender will be \$5.00 richer on every thousand loaned.

There seems to be an idea with many farmers and small borrowers (and many of the newspapers encourage them in it) that they will have a larger tax to pay since the repeal of the indebtedness clause and mortgage tax. Under the old system they paid the taxes to a second party who paid them to the county. Now they pay direct to the county, but that is not all. Many a farm is mortgaged for all it is worth, and more too, but the farms assessed for what they are worth are few and far between. The custom has been, and will probably continue so, until human nature changes greatly, to assess real estate at from 50 to 75 per cent. of its value—that is, a farm worth, say \$12,000 would be assessed by a very bold, bad assessor for \$9,000, or the owner if clear of debt

would pay on 75 cents on the dollar. The same farm if mortgaged for its full value would pay 100 cents on the dollar, or the owner would pay on the extra 25 cents on every dollar for the privilege of being in debt.

The new law will undoubtedly work a hardship on somebody, but it will not be the farmer or small borrower. Such have paid a tax on everything they owned or owed. The "no exemption for indebtedness" will never be unfavorably felt by them. In fact the assessment of thousands of dollars fraudulently covered by indebtedness will lower the rate so as to benefit and not injure them. Many a farmer in Wasco county worth less than \$1,500, pays more tax than merchants and capitalists in The Dalles, who can draw their check for \$15,000, and who have the unencumbered property to back them as soon as the assessor is out of sight.

As far as to "money" escaping taxation under the new law, referred to in the editorial, it could not possibly do so more than at present. If you will take the trouble to examine the assessment blanks of three years ago, when Mr. Gourlay made the best assessment ever made in this county, you will find a column devoted to "money, notes and accts." and money hard cash, was assessed at 50 cents on the dollar and even then, there was not enough of it found to carry on the business of The Dalles for 24 hours.

The new law may not be perfection. Its friends never so claimed, but it will take some time if the assessors do their duty, to bring it to the state of usefulness that the old law had reached.

Respectfully,  
 M. J. ANDERSON.

In 1883 the university of Notre Dame in Indiana adopted the practice of conferring the Lactare medal each year upon some layman "in recognition of distinguished services rendered to the American Catholic public." It takes its name from "Lactare Sunday," the mid-Lent Sunday, so called because the mass of that day begins with the word "Lactare," rejoice. Accompanying the medal is an address, usually in Latin, printed on watered silk and decorated by a celebrated Roman artist, Luigi Gregori.

The first recipient of the medal was Dr. John Gilmary Shea, the historian; in 1884 it was presented to Patrick Keeley, a New York architect, who had built over 700 churches and 15 cathedrals; in 1885 Miss Eliza Allen Starr, a Chicago artist and lecturer, received the medal in recognition of her labors for the promotion of church art; in 1886 Gen. John Newton, who had charge of the operations for the removal of obstructions from Hell Gate, was the recipient; in 1884 the choice of the committee fell upon a distinguished convert who had bound himself by a vow never to receive any ecclesiastical dignity, and his name is therefore omitted from the list. He had taken this vow in expiation of some act which he regarded as specially irreligious. In 1888 the medal went to Commendatore P. V. Hickey, then editor of the Catholic Review. Mrs. Anna Hanson Dorsey, an author of religious fiction who has been styled the "American Jane Austen," got it in 1889. In 1890 William J. Onahan of Chicago and in 1891 Daniel Dougherty received it, and in 1892 it was presented to Henry F. Brownson, son of Orestes A. Brownson, on account of his translation of Traquodi's "Life of Columbus." This year the recipient was Patrick Donahue, the veteran founder and manager of the Boston Pilot.

This matter of office-seeking is an annoyance to which all of the presidents have been subjected since the foundation of the government. Years ago President William Henry Harrison was worried to his death by the office-seekers, and when General Zach. Taylor was elected a troop of office-seekers followed him on his way to Washington, and one of them actually slipped his application for office in the president's pantaloons pocket without his knowing it. They worried him almost to death after he got there, and it has been the same with all the presidents down to Cleveland. Garfield was killed by an office-seeker, and it was an office-holder who pulled Andrew Jackson's nose. President Buchanan had a way of taking a man's papers and then chattering to him on other subjects in such a friendly manner that he was sure he was going to get his piece; but he rarely granted these particular applications. It used to be said that President Grant sometimes promised appointments and then forgot all about them, and the applicants were thereby the more disappointed; and it was further a matter of comment that General Grant's drafts upon his cabinet ministers for appointments were not always honored.

Another innovation in a theatrical way will be seen at "The MacKaye Spectatorium," in Chicago. People are to be taken to the various galleries by fast running elevators. The contract for these elevators was made by The Columbian Celebration Company and the Standard Elevator Company, of Chicago, a few days ago. This contract calls for the construction of fifteen of the largest and best passenger elevators ever built. These elevators are to have a carrying capacity of 10,000 persons per hour and are to be thoroughly tested as regards speed and safety. They will in themselves form an exhibit of great interest.

An advertisement in a Portland daily appeared recently for bright young men as detectives during the world's fair, and within a short time a score of Portland's most glib young men answered the "ad." They were informed that it was inserted by the great "world's fair detective Agency" of Chicago, with an important branch in Tacoma. In order to become a full-fledged "sleuth" the applicant would be required to remit \$3, a mere bagatelle (postage stamps not taken,) and that by return mail, if the application was favorably passed upon and the candidate appeared to be of sound mind, he should receive a magnificent badge and a tailor-made, hand-cropped commission in red, white and blue, with a large gold seal attached.

All this was calculated to stir up the sluggish blood of the Portland boys, and it did stir it up. They scraped up \$3 and got their commissions and their magnificent badges, which turned out to be pewter of the cheapest grade. Their instructions are to keep a strict lookout for a short, thick set man, about six feet in his undershirt, and close-cropped hair, prone to baldness along the back of the neck, which is hidden from view by brown wavy locks. He has a wart on his nose, which was cut off in an elevator accident, and when he chews he uses tobacco. Look out for him; he is a bad man, and is wanted at home." If the illusion was not wholly dispelled by this time the following paragraph would forever ally the warm, strong ambition of the youthful sleuth: "Detective Flannagan, of Tacoma, has placed in jail James H. Patchell, who attempted to establish a 'world's fair detective agency.' His plan was to advertise for bright young men for detective service, charging each applicant a \$3 fee. Many applications were found in his room. The police declare him to be a swindler. Patchell recently finished a two years' term in the penitentiary for wounding a prostitute."

Lake Geneva Wisconsin, will be the home of the Yerkes telescope and observatory, and Samuel W. Allerton, the citizens' candidate for the world's fair mayor, devotes a magnificent site and a lot of money besides. The structure, as designated, will be substantial and massive, and it will combine all the good qualities of the Lick institution with the more recent ideas of the best scientists of the world.

At the unanimous request of the board of directors of the Union Pacific road, S. H. H. Clark has withdrawn his resignation and will continue in the presidency. He will resign the presidency of the Missouri Pacific, but will continue one of the directors.

The condition of the Right Rev. Bishop Kip, of the diocese of California, who has been lying dangerously ill at his residence for the past few weeks, is not materially changed. The attending physician says he may live a day or two.

General E. Kirby Smith, surviving general of the civil war, died at his home in Sewanee, Tenn., Tuesday afternoon. He has been in poor health for some time. He was born in Augustine, Fla., March 16, 1824.

**The Literary Club.**

The Literary club met last evening with the Misses Story. The life and selections from the works of Bryant were read and discussed, after which a delicate luncheon was served, though being against the rules of the club, could not be refused when so daintily prepared by the charming hostesses. Miss Brooks and Miss Newman favored the club with some beautiful instrumental music, and Mr. Garretson rendered several pleasing selections on the guitar. After having spent one of the pleasant evenings of the season, all departed for their homes at a late hour. Those present were: Miss Story, Miss Ruth, Miss Brooks, Miss Knight, Miss Newman, Miss Etta Story, Miss Annette Mitchell, Miss Louise Ruth, Miss Ruth Cooper, Miss Auburn Story, Miss Myrtle Mitchell, Miss Lone Ruth. Messrs. Frank Garretson, Martin Donald, Edward Patterson, M. Jameson and J. Montgomery.

**Never Kick a Skunk.**

Strange that an Indian don't know when a skunk has got the drop on him! Wednesday morning as Justice Robinson was leading a hot skunk across the church-house bridge to be shot, an Indian stole up behind the animal and kicked him. The next moment the Indian fell with his wet face toward the cold North and his heels toward Siskiyou county. He is another unfortunate who didn't know it was loaded.—Klainath Star.

THE DALLES MARKETS.  
 THURSDAY, March 30th 1893.—While there is an improvement in business circles, it is far from being satisfactory. Our merchants have laid in large stocks of general merchandise anticipating an increased activity as the season opened; but the late, backward spring has held trade in check and a seeming dullness is experienced. The farming interests are now in full force, and consequently there is a disposition to delay purchases until necessity compels attention to the needs. The favorable and promising outlook for the farming classes, and also for the stock interests, however, gives a general feeling of confidence for an increased

activity in all branches of business throughout the country during the season.

Markets are quiet in consequence and prices in dry goods and groceries remain steady at former quotations.

In staple groceries sugars have undergone no change, but coffee has been shaded a trifle. Rice has likewise declined to 5 1/2 to 6 cents per 100 pound sack. Syrups remain steady at former prices.

Stock salt has declined to \$13.50 per ton. Liverpool salt is correspondingly down.

Hardware quotations remain without change on former base calculations. Bacon, country cured, is held at former figures. Eastern prices are rather in advance of home quotations.

Country produce is in fair supply, although eggs, while quotable at 15 and 16 cents per dozen, are rather scarce, and have an upward tendency.

Fresh roll butter is not as freely offered and is firmer at a slight advance.

Potatoes and onions continue to arrive and prices are steady without any change to note. While there is a seeming scarcity of other kinds of vegetables, the supply is quite adequate for the demand, and prices continue the same.

Green apples are held at an advance, and \$2 to \$2.50 per bushel or box is asked by producers.

Poultry is very scarce, especially good farm fowls, and find a ready market at \$4 for common, and \$5 per dozen for extra large and choice.

Beef cattle and mutton sheep quotations remain steady with a downward tendency.

Building material is 10 to 15 per cent dearer this season.

Lime is quoted at \$1.75 per bbl.; cement, \$4.50; plaster, \$4.37; lath, \$2.75.

**BUILDING MATERIALS.**

LUMBER—Rough lumber No. 1, \$12 M, No. 2 \$10 M. Dressed flooring and rustic, No. 1 \$25 M, No. 2 \$24, No. 3 \$18. Finishing lumber, \$25@32.50. Sawed shingles \$2.75 per M. Lime, \$1.75 per bbl; plaster, \$4.75 per bbl; cement, \$4.50 per bbl; hair, 7 cents per lb; white lead, 7 cents per lb; mixed paints, \$1.00@1.75 per gal; boiled linseed oil, 65 cents per gal.

WHEAT—\$2 to 50c per bu.

BARLEY—The market is nearly lifeless in barley, prices are down to 80 and 85 cents per 100 lbs.

OATS—The oat market is stiff and offerings are light at \$1 25 cents per 100 lbs. Rye 75 cents per bushel.

MILLSTUFFS—Bran and shorts are quoted at \$18 00 per ton, middlings \$22 50 to \$23 00 per ton. Rolled barley, \$23 00 to \$24 00 per ton. Shelled corn \$1 25 per 100 lbs.

FLOUR—Salem mills flour is quoted at \$4 25 per barrel. Diamond brand at \$3 75 per bbl. per ton and \$4 00 per bbl. retail.

HAY—Timothy hay ranges in price from \$12 00 to \$15 00 per ton, according to quality and condition. Wheat hay is in full stock on a limited demand at \$10 00 to \$12 00 per ton. There is no inquiry for oat hay, and prices are off. Alfalfa hay is not much called for, and is quoted at \$10 00 to \$12 00 per ton. These quotations are for baled hay exclusively.

BUTTER—Fresh roll butter at 40 to 50 cents per roll, in brine or dry salt we quote 30 to 40 cents per roll.

EGGS—The egg market is in good supply and good fresh eggs sell at 10 to 12c.

POULTRY—There is a fair demand for fowls for a home market and for shipment to Portland. Chickens are quoted at \$2 00 to \$3 50 per dozen; turkeys 8 to 10 cents per lb; geese \$7 to \$8 per doz, and ducks \$3 to \$5 per dozen.

BEEF & MUTTON—Beef cattle is in moderate demand at \$3 00 per 100 weight gross to \$5 50 for extra good. Mutton is quoted at \$3 50 and \$4 50 per head. Pork offerings are light and prices are nominal gross weight and 7 1/2 cents dressed.

**STAPLE GROCERIES.**

COFFEE—Costa Rica, is quoted at 24c per lb, by box. Salvador, 22c. Arabica, 25 1/2c.

SUGAR—Golden C, in bbls or sack, \$5 00; Extra C, \$5 10; Dry granulated \$5 00; In boxes, D. G., in 50 lb boxes, \$2 00. Ex C, \$1 85. GC \$1 75.

SYRUP—\$2 00@2 75 per keg.

RICE—Japan rice, 6 1/2@7c; Island, rice, 7c.

BEANS—Small whites, 5 1/2@6 1/2c; Pink, 4 1/2@5c per 100 lbs.

SALT—Liverpool, 50lb sk, 65c; 130lb sk, \$1 10; 200lb sk, \$2 00. Stock salt, \$16 00 per ton.

DRIED FRUITS—Italian prunes, 12c per lb, by box. Evaporated apples, 10c per lb. Dried grapes, 9@10c per pound.

**VEGETABLES AND FRUITS.**

POTATOES—Peerless, Buffalo whites, Snowflake and Burbank seedlings quoted at \$1 25 per 100 lbs. Extra good \$1.35.

ONIONS—The market quotations for A I onions is \$1 30 @ 1 40 per 100 lbs.

GREEN FRUITS—Good apples sell for \$1 25@1 75 per box. Fall and early winter pears are quoted at 60@75c per box.

**HIDES AND FURS.**

HIDES—Are quoted as follows: Dry, 6 1/2c lb; green, 2@2 1/2c; culls 4c lb.

SHEEP BELTS—75@100 ea. Deer skins, 20c lb for winter and 30c for summer. Dressed, light \$1 lb, heavy 75c lb. Bear skins, \$6@12 ea; beaver, \$3 50 lb; otter, \$5; fisher, \$5@6 50; silver gray fox, \$10@25; red fox, \$1 25; grey fox, \$2 50@3; martin, \$1@1 25; mink, 50c@5c; coon, 35c; coyote, 50c@75c; badger, 25c; polecat, 25c@45c; common house cat, 10c@25c ea.

Wool—The market is reported 13 to 15

Shiloh's cure, the Great Cough and Croup Cure, is for sale by Snipes & Kinersly. Pocket size contains twenty-five doses, only 25c. Children love it. Sold by Snipes & Kinersly.

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