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**County Official Paper**

On another page of this issue will be found some figures showing the increased cost of government of the state of Oregon. These figures will be found interesting to every tax payer in the state. They will show the enormous increase in number and cost of the various commissions. They will give to the people the information in a detailed way what has been claimed in a general statement. Read them over and you will see that the number of Commissions has increased from 13 in 1903 to 55 in 1913. The increase in cost of these commissions has been even greater in proportion than the number, running from \$67,600 in 1903 to \$1,178,091 in 1913. Other figures of the increased cost are just as startling as those of the commissions.

These figures are published exclusively in the St. Helens Mist. No other paper in the State of Oregon has yet published them. They were obtained at considerable expense and time and were taken from the records at Salem and are authentic.

After a careful perusal of this statement you will readily see that your money is being spent for things that you never dreamed of. You did not realize that your money was so recklessly used. You did not realize that there were so many useless and extravagant commissions. You did not know the reason for an increase from \$18,000 to \$67,000 in Columbia County's State tax in one year. It is up to tax payers to take some action in curtailing the needless expenditure of money in all of these commissions. It is up to the people to do away with a number of these commissions and place the duties of state government on officers whose duty it is to assume responsibility instead of shifting it on to some minor commission.

It is high time something was being done to check the runaway system of conducting the affairs of the State of Oregon.

Circuit Judge Cleeton of Portland has issued a permanent injunction restraining the County Treasurer of Multnomah County from adding any penalty or interest on taxes where one-half of them are paid before April 1st. This decision is far reaching in its effect and while the particular case decided only affects Multnomah County, other counties in the state will no doubt be guided by the same rule as is applied in that county. The law as it now stands requires the payment of all the taxes on or before April 1st and in case they are not paid by that date a penalty of 10 per cent will be added together with interest at 1 per cent a month, until the first of September when they become delinquent and the usual method of disposing of delinquent taxes will prevail. It also provides that taxpayers may pay one-half of the taxes before April 1st and by doing so avoid the penalty but not the interest of 1 per cent each month. So the decision of Judge Cleeton affects us all. It means that those who pay one-half of the tax before April 1st will not be required to pay any penalty or interest either and if the last half is paid before September

1st no extra charges will be made. The decision is the subject of much discussion. It is held by some people to be the only true exposition and construction of the present tax law while by others it is claimed to be only a method of getting people into trouble.

Taking the entire decision as given by Judge Cleeton, it would seem that it is good reasoning and sound judgement. The law itself provides that unpaid taxes shall become delinquent on September 1st and by the addition of penalty and interest before that date an increase in the taxes would result before delinquency. Such a thing would be unwarranted and unwise and contrary to law. Under the law as construed by Judge Cleeton a payment of one-half the taxes now will prevent any penalty or interest being attached to the remaining one-half.

The decision is a popular one with the great masses of the people and will result in great relief to tax payers with no resultant damage to the county or state.

Who was the party that had printed the pink posters this week? He will confer a favor on a number of excited citizens by making known his identity.

Judging from performances during the past few days in St. Helens, there is a good opening for a boxing instructor here.

**"TWENTY YEARS AGO"**

Columbia County's Tax:—The tax roll for Columbia county for the year 1893 is now complete in the clerk's office, and shows the following sums of money to be collected in order to meet the requirements: County school tax, \$7,108.93; county tax, \$18,163.58; state tax, \$6,711.91, and poll tax \$4819. The tax for the year 1893 is 20 3-10 mills against 27 mills for 1892 the total tax for the latter year being \$33,864.66 against \$32,902.88, a difference of \$5,617.88. The state tax of \$6,711.91 will be due next Wednesday.

Charles Meserve, the editor of the Oregon City Enterprise, was shaking hands with friends in this place this week. He was accompanied by his wife.

The city has men at work laying side walks around the north end of block eleven, and two crossings are being laid from the northwest corner of that block.

Destructive Fire:—About 2 o'clock Wednesday morning the people of our quiet little city were rudely aroused from their slumbers by the unwelcome sound of the fire alarm, and hastily rushing into the streets were shocked to find the large general merchandise house of Dart and Watkins enveloped in a mass of flames. The hose company got to work in a creditably short time and through their efficient efforts the fire was very quickly gotten under control, and extinguished. The fire, which was undoubtedly the work of fire bugs, started in the interior of the store at the rear end, and when discovered was bursting out of the window of the hat room, which is separated from the rest of the store by heavy lined partitions. As the fire was well under way the steamer Telephone came up to the dock, and rendered very effective assistance by running out a line of hose through which a good stream of water was quickly turned on the fire.

The loss to the building is nominal but the loss on the stock is heavy, and resulted principally from smoke and water. All of the goods in the main part of the store are ruined and will be an almost total loss of about \$6000. Messrs Dart and Watkins have been in business only about thirty days and they feel their loss keenly. There is \$2500 insurance in the Hamburg Bremen Company, on the stock and building.

Dr. Orville Yeargain of Oregon City, came down Wednesday evening on a professional visit to Hon. G. W. Mc Bride, who is dangerously ill at his home in this place.

WANTED—To sell or trade for two residence lots in St Helens, almost good as new standard player piano. Apply at Mist Office.

**THE POLITICAL SITUATION**  
 Oregon's "Mr. Dooley" Presents His Views on Matters and Things to Columbia County Folks

"Mr Casey" says Finnigan, "what's the latest news from the front?"

"They's lots of news," says Mr Casey. "The week has brought out a new bunch of candidates an wan or two has fallen be the wayside and some hasn't."

"Who's the misfortunate wan to drop out?" ast Finnigan.

"Well, fer wan there's brother Stevens has decided he doesn't want to be Guvner, cause unknown. It may be," says Mr Casey, "that he don't like the soocitey at Salem, agani it might be because the's no Guvners manshun in the Capital city. Ye nivir can till what the trouble is with a candidate. The polit cal bug gits into a man's systim without warnin' and its libble to leave in the same Junostarshus manner. However," says Casey, "Bob's droppin' out has not upst the game beyant repair fer there's yit enough good min lift to make the race at the primaries fairly intristin."

"Wan thing I noticed," says Casey, "that is intristin' to the political student and that is that they is now nearly as minny candi ates fer Justice of the Supprime Court as they is fer Guvner, which is a hilty sign."

"If ye folloy the p apers, Finnigan, ye'll note a pecculer situashun. The Gunver byes is all fer cuttin' out the worthiss komishnuss; the Justicees illet are all for law rayform be illiminatin' most of the laws now on the books and be puttin' the lid on anny new laws that may be sprung; the candidates fer the assibly are fer doin' away with the Sinite and many of the imbrayo Sinitors would wipe out the Assimby, and they's some of the votres of the state who favor the ideas of thim all. I'd go wan stip farther in this wipin' out business and do away with the collichshun of taxes. What do ye git fer yer tax money? If ye want a devorce ye pay a fee fer filin' yer papers; ye have a deed to raycord, does the lad at the Court house say 'This way please, I'll raycord the documint fer ye with plissure? He does not. He says 'Wan dollar and twenty cints, and be quick about it.' Ye have a street to fix or a slice of sewer to intsal. Do yer taxes cover these items? They do not. Ye have the plissure of payin', fer thim outhen yer own pockit. Personally I'm opposed to taxes at anny price.

"The eyes of the voters is cintered these days on the two min who're out fer the office of Railroad komishuner. Wan is now in and the other has lin heard to admit to a close frind that whin the votes is counted after the primaries that people will know that he was in the runnin'. 'Toot! Toot!' says Patton, 'watch me smoke as I make the grea est race in histry fer the office of komishuner of Railroads

"Ye're not a railroad man, Finnigan," says Casey, "or ye'd know how to appreciate the jutis of a railroad komoishuner. The hours is long and arjus. The pay isn't overly good and the work is hard and tiresome. Ye're at yer disk in the state house trying to git out a rayport that don't mane annything, yet says something that'll look good in the daily press. While ye're doin' this yer phone bill rings and some wan at the other ind of the line tells ye they's a wrick on the P. G. and P. 'Tis wan of yer juties to lookin to the causes of wricks. Ye grab yer suit case and ye git a spicial injine to take ye to the seen of the catastrofy fer wricks wont wait fer anny man. 'Tis loike whin yer wife spills the milk she runs fer a mop to wipe it up. So tis with the Græks aworkin' on the track. As soon as they hear the cry of the dead and dyin' they're off to raypair he damage and to pick up what stray joolry they can find. Whin ye arrive at the seen of trouble 'tis yer jutty to ast all the quintsins ye can think of and some ye can't. Wan fellow that got ther before ye did will till ye thinks the cause of the wrick was the work of a lad that was fired from the circus and to git evin ture up a rail intindin' to wrick the circus train that is jue at this pint at tin forty two, but be mistake caught the limited instid. A farmer livin' near by tills ye that its navthing more nor liss thin the poor construction the track that did the damage. The divishun superintendent advances the information that this is the colid midif siction but that the seasons is changin' and the onlooked for aschun of the Deesimber sun and winter rains ecupled with the kimele aschun of the alkili on the roadbid has had a dilyter us ilfiet on the spikes ho din' down the rails and that if ye'll do him the honor to dine with him in his private car he'll be pleased to cite siviril similar cases, wan in partucler that he thinks will suit yer fancy. Fer manners'

sake ye jine yer host, and after takin' a couple of shots under yer belt from the D. S's private bottle ye feel loike stein' a bite, and whin the diener is over and ye've finished yer cigar ye think ye'll take another look at the wrick, whin bless yer soul, ye surprised to see the wrickige has bin cleared away and the track all prised out frish slick as a new pair of pants. This is only wan of the many arus tasks that falls to yer lot as a railroad komishuner.

"I seen be the papers a few days ago," says Casey, "that they is a terrible struggle on among some of the byes to see who is goin' to be made Nashunle komityman be the rayputilicans. Charley Akerman who was a Bull Mooser is back in the fold and goin' after the job in great st- le, while Brother Williams has his eye on the job fer another term.

"There is wan job, Finnigan, that they's nawthin' in yit they's some who want it mighty bad. Ye see 'tis like this. With that job ye think ye have pristegee with the powers that be. But its only a drem', fer under the Orgun laws ye can't deliver the votes like in the days gone by. Iviry man thinks fer hisieif and some thinks fer his wife on illichshun day, and usuhnal ly votes as he thinks, so where can the lad with the Nashunal title hilp anny wan with his power.

"But," says Casey, "I nearly forgot the most important turn of the week Cousin Oz has rayturned from the East and almost simultanous with his leavin' fer home comes the word that Wardo the Mixican prisidint was layin' down and had promised to be good. Can ye see anny conniction in the two ivints, Mr Finnigan? ast Casey. "Not onliss the Guvner told Woodrow that he would loan him the use of his field marshal to quell the trouble in Mixico," says Finnigan. "Yer right, Finnigan," says Casey, "and the word was passed onto Jawn Lind who slipped the word to O'Shan nesy who tipped it off to Wardo who being advised be his cabinet ministers of what took place at Copperfield decided that his hour had come and he's now packing his suit case fer the South of France. Wance again has the Orgun policy b'n vindicated, all of which goes to show that Orgun beats hell, fer by the acts of wan of her officials has war wance again bin averted."

**BRIEF NEWS OF OREGON**

A bounty on flies is going to be offered by the Salem commercial club to the school children in Salem.

Bids will be opened April 1 at St. Helens for the \$360,000 bond issue recently voted by Columbia county for permanent highway construction.

Dairy cows in Coos county this year are selling for a much higher price than ever before, due to the increase in the dairy business and the efforts to better the grade of the dairy stock.

The county in which a schoolhouse is located has jurisdiction in trying cases of crime in or near the building, according to an opinion of Attorney-General Crawford.

The Corvallis commercial club has started a campaign to increase its membership to 500 and to become more effective in developing Corvallis and Benton county commercially.

Counties which have collected interest on delinquent taxes without dividing it with its taxpaying districts may be sued by the districts for their share of the money, so Attorney-General Crawford decides.

A false reading of a Babcock butter fat test is a violation of the weights and measures law, according to an opinion written by Attorney-General Crawford for Deputy State Sealer of Weights and Measures Buchtel.

Citizens of Glendale have organized the Glendale-Cow Creek Good Roads association, of which Mayor Coe of Glendale is president. The association starts off with a membership of 35.

The Portland chamber of commerce has filed a protest with the Oregon delegation against the proposed removal from Portland of the pure-food laboratory of the department of agriculture. The delegation will try to have the order of removal rescinded.

That there are thousands of acres of fine land in Oregon from five to 25 miles from railroads that may be purchased for from \$20 to \$50 an acre, is the assertion of Mark Woodruff, publicity agent of the Portland, Eugene & Eastern railway.

An attendance average of 96.07 per cent, 2877 pupils on record in Polk county, 1855 pupils neither absent nor late, are some of the items in a report issued by H. C. Seymour, county superintendent, for the month of January.

The forest service is spending \$2300 for roads during the coming summer in Baker and Grant counties, within the Whitman national forest. The service plans to open a new and shorter road across the mountains between Sumpter and lower John Day valleys, a distance of approximately 60 miles.

Miss Mollie Towne of Phoenix, formerly deputy county clerk, has announced her candidacy for the legislature on the democratic ticket, the first woman in Oregon to seek legislative honors. Miss Towne has studied law and has been admitted to practice.

It is reported that the O-W. R. & N. company will build a cutoff on its Umatilla-Spokane line from Cold Springs siding, on the Columbia river, across the irrigated section, through the town of Hermiston, connecting with the Echo-Coyote cutoff about miles west of Hermiston.

George Stewart, Jr., representing McMinnville college, won the annual intercollegiate oratorical contest of Oregon at Albany. Lisle Hubbard, of Pacific college, took second place, and Eric Bolt, of Willamette university, was third. Stewart spoke on "The American Press and World Peace."

Plans for a federated college and religious training school will be considered this spring at the annual Oregon conferences of the United Evangelical, United Brethren and Evangelical Association denominations. The conference of the United Evangelical churches will be held at Dallas, beginning April 4.

The Anti-Saloon league of America, whose headquarters and general publishing house is in Westerville, Ohio, has determined to throw the whole power of its organization to the assistance of the Anti-Saloon league of Oregon and the other organizations co-operating with it for a dry Oregon this year.

Believing that an eight-hour law having application to farms, dairies and other agricultural pursuits would be an injustice, the Linn county Pomona grange has passed a resolution protesting against such a regulation. It is recited that such a law would be wholly impracticable to the conditions peculiar to farm industries.

To retain the services of L. J. Chapin, the agricultural expert employed during the last two years to give expert assistance to the farmers of Marion county, the promotion department of the Salem commercial club has appropriated funds for the payment of half of his annual salary. In the past this had been paid by the county court, the other half being paid by the government, but this year the county court refused to give any funds for the purpose.

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