

# THE OREGON MIST.

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NO. 2.

## Proposed Oregon Tax Law

(Continued from last week)

(Assessor to give notice of meeting of board of equalization.)

Section 36. That section 3060 of the Codes and Statutes of Oregon, compiled and annotated by Hon. Charles B. Bellinger and William W. Cotton, be and the same hereby is amended to read as follows:

Each assessor shall give three weeks' public notice in some newspaper printed in his respective county; if there be no such newspaper, then by posting up notice in six conspicuous places in his county, setting forth that on the first Monday in October the board of equalization will attend at the court house in his county, and publicly examine the assessment rolls, and correct all errors in valuation, description, or qualities of lands, lots, or other property assessed by such assessors; and it shall be the duty of persons interested to appear at the time and place appointed. Proof of such notice, if published in a newspaper, shall be made by affidavit as provided by law, filed with the clerk of the county where the newspaper is printed, on or before the first Monday in October in the year when such notice is printed; if such notice is posted, proof thereof shall be made by the affidavit of the assessor or his deputy, setting out the time, manner, and place of posting such notices, filed with the clerk of the county on or before the first Monday in October in the year when such posting is made.

(Changes the date of meeting of the board of equalization as specified in the notice, from the first Monday in August to the first Monday in October; provides for preparing the assessment roll of the board by requiring proof to be filed on the giving of notice, and prescribing the form of such proof; changes the duty of the board to make a survey of the land to be assessed, and to make a list of the same, which is almost a literal duplicate of section 3060, R. C. Comp. This has been omitted as not properly belonging in a section which merely prescribes what notice shall be given of the meeting.)

(Word "assessor" shall include his deputy.)

Section 37. The word "assessor," as used in this act, shall be taken to include his deputy.

(New.)  
(County court may appoint special assessor in event of failure of assessor to act.)

Section 38. In event of the failure of the assessor to commence or continuously and vigorously prosecute the making of the assessment in the manner provided by law, the county court may summarily appoint a special assessor, who shall qualify in the same manner as the assessor, and who shall have all the duties, rights, privileges, and emoluments of the assessor in making the assessment for the current year, and whose acts shall have the same effect as if the same had been done by the assessor.

(Intended to provide a way to escape from the situation in which one county of the state found itself in 1905, when the assessor did not make the assessment and the county court undertook to appoint a special assessor to make the assessment. The validity of the assessment was assailed by heavy taxpayers, but has not yet been determined. This contingency may occur in any of the counties of the state, and the public should not be prejudiced by the failure of an assessor to act as required by law, but removal from office would give speedy and adequate relief as against a recalcitrant assessor.)

(Repealing section.)

Section 39. That sections 2709, 2710, 3041, 3042, 3044, and 3059 of the Codes and Statutes of Oregon, compiled and annotated by Hon. Charles B. Bellinger and William W. Cotton, be and the same hereby are repealed. That all acts and parts of acts in conflict herewith be and the same hereby are repealed.

(Sections 2709 and 2710 have long been obsolete; they provide for the assessment and collection of taxes, and equalization by the city and its officers. Compare section 2098. The assessor of the state in annual reports have twice recommended the abolition of the poll tax, or its transfer to the 33 road poll tax. A. Lane of 1902, and section 2098 of the same ground as section 2042; and see section 6 of this act. Section 2044 is included in section 3059, providing for the assessment of all lands, which, of course, includes that of corporations. Section 2059 is merged with section 3070 in drafting section 25 of this act.)

(Saving clause as to assessment for current year.)

Section 40. That, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this act contained, the provisions herof shall not apply either as to the property subject to assessment or to the mode of assessment thereof, to the assessment which but for this act would be made in the year 1907 upon the basis of ownership and valuation of property March 1, 1907; but the statutes which have heretofore been in force shall continue in full force as to the assessment for that year until all things in and about the same, necessary to a valid assessment for taxation, shall have been done as fully as if this act had not been enacted.

### A BILL.

For an act to provide a more efficient and equitable system for the assessment of bank stocks, shares and banking capital for taxation; to define what bank stocks, shares and banking capital shall be subject to assessment and taxation; to whom assessed and taxed; to define the duties of the county assessor in reference to the assessment of the same; to prescribe the manner of determining the cash value of such banking stock, shares, and banking capital; to prescribe the duties of the assessor, including building and loan and trust companies, incorporated under the laws of this state which engages in, but not as its principal business, the business of banking, lending of money, the receiving of money on deposit, buying and selling bullion, bills of exchange, notes, bonds, stocks, or other evidences of indebtedness, with a view to profit; and it is hereby made the duty of the assessor, managing officer, and accounting officer of every company or association, including building and loan and trust companies, incorporated under the laws of this state which engages in, but not as its principal business, the business of banking, lending of money, the receiving of money on deposit, buying and selling bullion, bills of exchange, notes, bonds, stocks, or other evidences of indebtedness, with a view to profit, between the first day of April and the fifteenth day of May in each year, to make out and furnish to the assessor a statement, setting forth and showing such reference to such banking business in this state on the first day of March of the current year at the hour of 1 o'clock a. m.:

national bank stock and private banks, loan and trust companies," approved February 2, 1903, to repeal sections 3042, 3060, 3064, 3065, 3067, and 3068 of the Codes and Statutes of Oregon, compiled and annotated by Hon. Charles B. Bellinger and William W. Cotton, and to repeal all acts and parts of acts in conflict herewith.

Be it enacted by the people of the state of Oregon:

(Assessment and taxation of stock and shares in national and state banks.)

Section 1. The stockholders or shareholders of every corporation bank located within this state, engaged principally in the business of banking, lending money, receiving money on deposit, buying or selling bullion, bills of exchange, notes, bonds, stocks, or other evidences of indebtedness, with a view to profit, whether such bank be organized for banking purposes under the laws of this state or of the United States, shall be assessed and taxed on the value of their shares of stock therein. Such shares shall be assessed only with regard to the ownership and value thereof on the first day of March, at the hour of 1 o'clock a. m., in each year, at the place required by law.

(Statement to be furnished assessor by cashier or accounting officer.)

Section 2. To aid the assessor in determining the value of such shares of stock, the cashier or other accounting officer of every such bank mentioned in the first section of this act is hereby required to furnish a statement to the assessor of the county where the same is located, between the first day of April and the fifteenth day of May in each year, verified by oath, showing the amount and number of such shares of the capital stock of such bank, the amount of its surplus or reserve funds, and the amount of its undivided profits at the hour of 1 o'clock a. m. of the first day of March preceding, the actual and cash value of all real estate owned by it in this state, or elsewhere, and the location of the same; also the cash value of the securities of the United States owned by it.

(Ascertainment of value of stock—Deductions for real estate and exempt property.)

Section 3. Real estate owned by such bank and situate in this state shall be assessed and taxed as other real estate is assessed and taxed. The assessor shall deduct the amount of all investments in real estate from the aggregate amount of such capital stock, surplus fund, and undivided profit, and the remainder shall be taken as a basis for the valuation of such shares of stock in the hands of the stockholders subject to the provisions of law requiring all property to be assessed and taxed at its full and actual cash value.

(Shares of national banks not located within state exempt.)

Section 4. The shares of capital stock of national banks not located in this state, held in this state, shall not be required to be assessed or taxed.

(Bank to keep and furnish list of stockholders.)

Section 5. In every bank and banking office mentioned in section 1 of this act there shall be kept at all times a full and correct list of the names and residences of stockholders, owners, and parties interested therein, showing the number of shares and the amount held, owned, or controlled by each party in interest, which list shall be subject to the inspection of the officers authorized to assess property for taxation. It shall be the duty of the cashier or other accounting officer of each bank or banking institution to furnish the assessor with a copy of such list annually, between the first day of April and the fifteenth day of May in each year, showing the facts in this section specified as of the hour of 1 o'clock a. m. on the first day of March preceding.

(Penalty for making or furnishing false or fraudulent list or statement.)

Section 6. The cashier, managing or other accounting officer of any company, association, copartnership, or person who shall willfully present to or furnish the county assessor with any statement required by this act, which statement shall be false or fraudulent, shall be deemed guilty of perjury, and upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by law as otherwise provided for perjury.

(Repealing clause.)

Section 10. That sections 3042, 3064, 3065, 3067 and 3068 of the Codes and Statutes of Oregon, compiled and annotated by Hon. Charles B. Bellinger and William W. Cotton, be and the same hereby are repealed. That all acts and parts of acts in conflict herewith be and the same hereby are repealed.

(To be continued next week)

## NEWS OF THE WEEK

In a Condensed Form for Our Busy Readers.

A Resume of the Less Important but Not Less Interesting Events of the Past Week.

General Harrison Gray Otis, of Los Angeles, is seriously ill.

The government has purchased a site for a Federal building at North Yakima.

The Chicago & Northwestern railroad will build a new \$20,000,000 depot in Chicago.

The house of commons has voted to grant home rule to the Transvaal and Orange River colonies.

A general strike has been declared at all the ports of Italy and as a result there is serious injury to commerce.

The Japanese ambassador to the United States declares it useless to think of war between his country and ours.

Representative Hardwick, of Georgia, would compel railroads to install the block signal system and license all railway telegraphers.

A million bushels of wheat are being allowed to rot on Northern Pacific plains in Central Washington, while the sidings are crowded with empty cars.

An influential Japanese paper says the solution to the present trouble in the United States would be to allow the Japanese to build their own schools and if necessary to get aid from the home government.

There is an upward tendency in the hop market.

Russian terrorists tried to kill Admiral Douhassoff.

Hill has abandoned his Great Northern-Burlington merger.

John Barrett, United States minister to Colombia, is in Portland.

Negro convicts in Mississippi revolted and several were severely hurt.

Chicago has arranged terms for ownership of the street railway systems.

Cardinal Gibbons defends King Leopold's government of the Congo state.

The pope says French political freedom does not compare with that existing in America.

The Interstate Commerce commission will start at Minneapolis in January and work West investigating the car shortage.

The Mexican minister to the United States says his government assumed control of the railroads to prevent American ownership.

President Smith, of the Louisville & Nashville railroad, says political leaders threaten to confiscate their property and denounce Roosevelt and the judges who fined the railroads.

There is little hope of King Oscar's recovery.

The president will endorse ship subsidy in a special message to congress after the holidays.

Two lake steamers collided off Duluth and it is feared one of the vessels is lost together with 31 men.

The Northern Pacific announces an increase in its capital stock from \$155,000,000 to \$250,000,000.

## WORK ON THE CANAL

President Sends Special Message to Congress.

Health on Isthmus Good and Much Headway Has Been Made on Canal.

Washington, Dec. 18.—President Roosevelt yesterday sent a special message to congress on the Panama canal in which he reviewed his trip across the isthmus and made many important recommendations: Among other things he said:

"An inspection on the ground at the height of the rainy season served to convince me of the wisdom of congress in refusing to adopt either a high level or a sea level canal. There seems to be a universal agreement among all people competent to judge that the Panama route, the one actually chosen, is much superior to both the Nicaragua and Darien routes.

"The wisdom of the canal management has been shown in nothing more clearly than in the way in which the foundations of the work have been laid. The first great problem to be solved, upon the solution of which the success of the rest of the work depended, was the problem of sanitation. This was from the outset under the direction of Dr. W. C. Gorgas, who is to be made a full member of the commission, if the law as to the composition of the commission remains unchanged. The isthmus had been a byword for deadly unhealthfulness. Now, after two years of our occupation, the conditions as regards sickness and the death rate compare favorably with reasonably healthy localities in the United States.

"It is curious to note the fact that many of the most severe critics of the commission criticize them for precisely opposite reasons, some complaining bitterly that the work is not in a more advanced condition, while the others complain that it has been rushed with such haste that there has been insufficient preparation for the hygiene and comfort of the employees. As a matter of fact, neither criticism is just. It would have been impossible to go quicker than the commission has gone, for such quickness would have meant insufficient preparation. On the other hand, to refuse to do anything until every possible future contingency had been met would have caused wholly unwarranted delay. The right course to follow was exactly the course which has been followed."

The president goes into details on the work of exterminating mosquitoes and then tells of the improvements made in Colon. The city has been drained, a reservoir to supply water has been built with a capacity of 50,000,000 gallons.

There is a great deal of merit behind the movement for increased salaries for senators and representatives. In times past \$5,000 went farther than it does today; it was a larger salary, as salaries went, and was more of an inducement than it is at the present time.

The time was when the average congressman could save money on a \$5,000 salary. But that time is past. It is doubtful if a dozen men in congress are able to save a single cent of their present salary; a vast number of them expend much larger amounts each year, and in a perfectly legitimate way.

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## SLOW AS OX TEAMS.

Freight Cars Travel but an Average of 23 Miles a Day.

Chicago, Dec. 18.—"Car shortage and traffic congestion are more serious now than they ever have been in the history of this country. Already a number of schools in the Northwest have been forced to close because coal shipments could not be had. Business all over the United States is being injured vitally by the existing conditions, and remedy must be had quickly, if chaos in commerce is to be prevented."

The foregoing statement was made by Interstate Commerce Commissioner Franklin Lane, who, with Commissioner James S. Harlan, arrived in Chicago over the Pennsylvania road from Washington on the way to Minneapolis, where a hearing will be given the railroads and shippers of Minnesota.

"When you come to think of the freight car problem, it is one of the biggest in this country," said Mr. Lane. "Do you know that the average speed of freight cars is only 23 miles a day? Just think of it! With the big business interests of Chicago and other cities crying out for more cars, the 'empties' are leisurely making their way across the country.

"Something is wrong, or this condition would not exist. If the average speed made by a freight car is only 23 miles a day, we might as well have the old wagon trains and oxen back. They made as good time as that, and there were no rates or rebates or wrecks. What is the cause of this state of affairs? Well, that is for us to find out, and we hope to do so in a very short time."

Mr. Lane said a number of commercial organizations had suggested and advocated a reciprocal demurrage law that would compel the railroads in the event of unusual delay, to make good the damage.

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## PEOPLE WALK

Strike on Portland Street Car Lines Ties Up Traffic.