MEASURE DESERVES DEFEAT

Correspondent Clearly Points Out Injustice of Proposed Land Tax Law

(Polk County Observer)

BRIDGEPORT, Or., Mar. 14—(To the Editor)—An amendment to the constitution of Oregon has been proposed, and is to be voted on at the June election, that should receive the attention of the voters. The amendment referred to is the one proposing to place all the expense of state and county government on land, and exempt all other kinds of property from taxation. Plausible argument favoring it is being written and sent out to voters, but the answer to it all is simple.

There are at least one hundred cases in court involving rights to personal property to everyone where real estate is involved. All of the criminal cases are either invasions of personal security, or arise from injury to, or appropriation of, personal property. So that almost all of the expense of maintaining our courts is necessary on account of the litigation over questions where the rights to personal property, in some form, are involved; yet it is proposed to make the land alone pay the expense.

It is claimed by the advocates of the single tax that any other form of taxation is a tax on labor. Does any man know that, in its final analysis, even land itself derives its commercial value from labor! To the practical man, purely academic discussions have no more place in business affairs than do the elaborate discussions of the theologians of the Sixteenth Century on the question of how many souls could balance on the point of a needle.

It is also claimed, (and here is where the single-tax theorist grows eloquent) that a tax on land alone would be so burdensome on the land holder that he would be forced to sell his holdings. I admit that the tax would be burdensome, but I deny that he would sell. He might abandon, but he would not sell—and for a very simple reason. It would have no purchasers. Who would buy it if it was taxed so no one could hold? Mr. Single Tax, you prove too much.

Again, if the argument that land would become cheap is true, then the rate of taxation would be increased, and that again would reduce the price, thus increasing the rate until the commercial value of the land would be reduced to nothing. Then no one could sell, for no one would buy a thing worth nothing, and the holdings would remain where they are. Then with no cash value to the land, there would be no basis of assessment, and with the proposed amendment made a part of our constitution, there would be no property tax. How would the government be run then?

If no one could hold land, because taxed out of existence, how could the county collect its taxes? The landowner could refuse to pay. Then what would happen. The court would order a sale of the land. Now just imagine the condition: The sheriff would advertise that he would sell at the court house. If he stated what then would be common knowledge, he would say: "Gentlemen, I now offer for sale a piece of property that, if you should own it, will be so burdened with taxes that you cannot sell it, nor keep it. The commercial value of this land is nothing. Now, how much am I offered?" No bidders. The county buys it in and cancels the tax.

Now, Mr Single Tax, what can, or will the county do? The land is not money, and it will not sell for money, if your amendment produces the result you claim for it. If it will operate to reduce the price of land to nothing, what will it do? The whole theory of Henry George, the originator of the idea of land alone carrying the burden of government, is predicated upon the assumption that the landowner would be forced to sell. would not the purchaser in turn be forced to sell? So I repeat, who would buy?

One of the strong (?) arguments of the advocates of this amendment is that one block in Portland would be assessed as much as 64 000 acres of Valley land, thus the farmers' tax would be reduced. How do they know that would be true, and if so, how would that help the farmer? The land in each county must pay the expenses of each county, and the state tax is based on the ratio of county expense to the expense of the state. A high or low valuation of Portland property does not affect our assessment.

I have stated but a few of the objections to the proposed amendment. The proposition is so ridiculous and unfair that one could multiply objections by the hour. All thinking men agree that many inequalities exist under the present system of taxation, but that is the fault of men, and not of the system. In any event, is it not better to "bear those ills we have, than to fly to others we know not of?"

Think for a moment! No tax on railroads, steamboats, manufacturing industries, passing millions, stocks, moneys, notes, bonds, stock in corporations, mines on the mountains, holdings of gold mines in fact, everything exempt except land! Is it possible that back of the so-called Tax Reform League stand a lot of men whose purpose it is to escape taxation, force land down to a mere song, buy it then change the law back to something like justice?

The American people love a joke; they enjoy a discussion; they are tolerant of fads, fancies and foibles; they endure cranks. But when a crank takes up a fad, and tries to argue a joke into the constitution, the sober second thought of the people asserts itself, and that settles it. Let every voter think seriously of the far-reaching effect of any proposed amendment of the fundamental law before giving it his sanction. If he doubts its wisdom, he should vote "no."

GLEN O. HOLMAN.

Good for Everybody

Mr Norman R. Coulter, a prominent architect, in the Dalbert Building, San Francisco says: "I fully endorse all that has been said of Electric Bitters as a tonic medicine. It is good for everybody. It corrects stomach, liver and kidney disorders in a prompt and efficient manner and builds up the system." Electric Bitters is the best spring medicine ever sold over a druggist's counter; as a blood purifier it is unequaled. Sold at Houlton, Deer Island, Warren and Scappoose dealers.

One of the most scathing excoriations ever delivered by President Roosevelt was recently visited upon a Senator who brought to him the news of a man who, instead of circulating obscene pictures, was engaged in the work of saving souls. The lawyer said the man had sold only cheaper books and asked his pardon, but the President learned that this was not true, that the man had sold salacious employer books and pictures and he did not mince his words as he lectured the Senator who lived near the target at the White House. He declared that there was nothing that so surely deserved the punishment of God and man as the circulation of books and pictures likely to debauch the young. It is a noteworthy characteristic of President Roosevelt that he never tells an impure story and does not feel himself free to tell one in presence. It is in fact, the proudest boast that during his campaign to the Spanish War no man at his mess ever told a story before him which a woman would blush to hear.

Best Healer in the World

Rev. F. Starbird, of East Raymond, Maine, says: "I have used Bucklen's Arnica Salve for several years, on my old army wound, and other obstinate sores, and find it the best healer in the world. I use it too with great success in my veterinary business." Price 25c. at Houlton, Deer Island, Scappoose and Warren dealers.

GOBLE ITEMS

Mrs. O. J. Lick returned home from a two weeks visit with her folks at Hoquiam, Wn.

Pearl Pitsenberg, O. E. Hunter, Frank Bishop, H. M. Fowler, and Mrs. Schola and daughter were Portland visitors the fore part of the week.

F. Bisnop's new hardware store is doing an immense business and he is getting in a large stock of very useful articles. Give him a call.

Broughton & Wiggins' dock collapsed Monday evening at 6:30 in which about 7000 railroad ties and 50,000 feet of lumber were let into the mighty Columbia. The loss is about $5,000.

A launch party was enjoyed Sunday by a large crowd, among whom were Mr and Mrs. S. E. Butts, Mr. and Mrs V. Force, Mr. and Mrs. Wm Mekkester, and Mrs. Chas. Page. Misses Ida Longacher, Hattie Mekkester, Elsie Jordan, Ara and Mildred Page. Messrs Ernest Gunin, Wm Carey, Lester Thurlow, Chas and Leslie Furer, Wiffred Butts.

Lame Shoulder

Whether resulting from a sprain or from rheumatic pains, there is nothing so good for a lame shoulder as Chamberlain's Pain Balm. Apply it freely and rub the parts vigorously at each application and a quick cure is certain. For sale by A. J. Deming.

Kodol is a scientific preparation of vegetable acids with natural digestants and contains the same juices found in a healthy stomach. Each dose will digest more than 3,000 grains of good heavy food. Sold by A. J. Deming and Scappoose Drug Co.

A PSALM OF DEATH

From early morn 'till set of sun
The song goes forth—"It can't be done"
Down years we hear the cry—
"It can't be done—The prize's dead,
No use to try—Give up instead
We love our ease, We love our jokes.
We are no worse than other folks."

A SONG OF LIFE

It can be done The prize's not dead
We won't give up! We'll work instead!
We'll work and watch, and watch and
And Faith, not Fear, shall win the day!

GEORGINA PEACE JOHNSON.

REUBEN

Tana Whitebeck, of Springfield, Or., visited his mother Mrs T. C. Watts for a few days last week.

Miss J. H. Magneson visited with her sisters in Portland Saturday and Sunday.

Mr. L. L. Jennick and Mr. Geo. Weeks of the Columbia Timber Co. camp were in town on Monday.

R. Lee Jordan, of Deer Island, was in town Monday.

Rivers & Hayes are in receipt of logs to be Polished this week from the camp on Pine creek.

Mrs. Martin Hoven and son are visiting with friends here a few days.

Elmer and Julian Wilson spent several days last week at Vine-mar, leaving after both got pretty sick.

Willis Vanhorn, of Head River, Ohio, one of the owners of the mine on Jones creek, were down looking over their property last week. This mine is running on a large scale and is one of the best in the district.

The shoe factory of the Goodyear Packing Co. at Astoria, 1 to the Portland the first of this week to take charge of the supplies at their factory at Mayger. She will sail for the North about April 20th.

Under auspices of Mizpah Temple, Pythian Sisters, of Vernonia, will be given a Social Dance in the Opera House at Vernonia on Saturday evening, April 4th. Everybody invited. Come and have a good time.

Miss Ethel Powell has been quite ill with the grippe for the past week, but is reported better at this writing.

Mrs. Ed Hall, of Vernonia, visited with her sister Mrs. Ed Powell, the first of the week.

Mrs. Ed Powell visited Vernonia last Friday evening and took in the entertainment entertainment and Spider Web social.

J. Jones and family, who have been residing on Mapel Grove Farm the past year, have purchased a fraction of the school house place on Pebble creek and will make that their future home.

We are sorry to learn that George Armstrong and family are not healthy our valley to a great loss. They have leased a ranch near Scappoose where they will locate the coming summer.

Constable E. J. Mills, of Yellow Jacket, spent Vernonia on business one day last week. Mr. Mills is a candidate for re-election on the Republican ticket and has many friends here.

N. W. Parker with his team of dogs has been chasing a cougar in this neighborhood quite frequently. Now if Mr. King of our Forest Grove Lodge will kindly supply him. He has done similar favors before.

Virgil Powell has had a sore knee around his residence for the past few days.

What has become of the telephone talk?

A crowd of about thirty young people gave Miss Alice Peterson a surprise party last Saturday evening at her home. All report a good time.

School superintendent J. H. Couchard visited schools in this section last week, and attended the special exercises at Vernonia Friday evening, to present the eighth grade graduate, Miss Thomas Nickerson, with her diploma.

Light farm wagon, good as new, and team of horses for sale. White & Anderson, Houlton, Or. 11.

NOTICE

Plans and specifications for special work in road district No. 2, St. Helens and Warren road will be found at Warren residence of N. F. Baker and Wm. Cooper's sealed bids received by April 1st, 1908.

County Court, by R. S. HATTAN.

COUNTY TREASURER'S NOTICE

COUNTY TREASURER'S OFFICE,
ST. HELENS, OR., Mar. 20, 1908.

Notice is hereby given that all unpaid County Warrants of Columbia County, Oregon, which have been presented and endorsed "Not Paid for Want of Funds," will be paid upon presentation at this office. Interest will not be allowed after this date.

EDWIN ROSS,
Treasurer of Columbia County, Oregon

NOTICE TO OWNERS OF TIMBERLAND IN COLUMBIA COUNTY OREGON

M. O. Nease, the crossing contractor, and the county court of Columbia County, Oregon, having entered and agreed upon John F. Chadwin and W. R. Lake arbitrators to re-cruise any tracts in dispute.

Notice is hereby given that any and all persons not satisfied with the amount of timber as reported by the county cruiser, can have their land re-cruised by the arbitrators by filing their applications with the county clerk on or before April, 20th, 1908, and depositing with the clerk the cost of the re-cruise, to be paid by the applicant in case the report of the arbitrators is within 20 per cent of the amount reported by the county cruiser, otherwise the money to be refunded.

Dated this 17th day of March, 1908.

By Order of the County Court
Attest: W. A. Harris, clerk.

Notice to Bidders

Plans and specifications for special road work in road district No. 2 will be found at the Meyers residence, Deloma post office, and with its Purchaser, and at the Hudson residence.

R. S. HATTAN,
County Judge.

SUMMONS

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Notice For Bridge Work

Administratrix Sale

Kendy's Laxative Cough Syrup acts gently yet promptly on the bowels and allays inflamation at the same time. Is pleasant to take. Sold by A. J. Deming and Scappoose Drug Co.