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SHERIFF HAS THE TAX ROLL

UNION COUNTY ONE OF FIRST TO FINISH.

Interesting Figures Relating to Taxes Shown by New Roll.

Union county's tax roll is now in the hands of the sheriff for collection. County Clerk Ed Wright has fully extended the roll and there is now available some interesting data as regards the taxes. Clerk Wright is one of the first in the state to turn over the roll to the tax collecting department.

The total assessed valuation is \$17,226,615. The total tax money the sheriff is to demand is \$383,220.71. Last year it was \$303,363.62. The total for the general fund, for the state, county, school and other taxes, is \$241,172.61. Last year this was \$172,633.75. The additional taxes are those for various cities and school districts. La Grande's special tax amounts to \$44,263. For Union it is \$8,338. Special school taxes amount to a large sum. In La Grande the school tax is \$35,427. For Union, \$13,579. Elgin, \$5,496. Cove, \$9,129.

Last year La Grande paid \$35,427 city tax. The assessed valuations of the various cities are as follows: La Grande, \$2,766,437; Union, \$833,803; Elgin, \$522,422; Cove, \$118,815; North Powder, \$102,815; Island City, \$72,707.

The heaviest tax payer is the O. W. R. & N. company, which pay a tax of \$56,299.26, or a little more than one-seventh of the total tax. Other big taxpayers of the county are: The Amalgamated Sugar Company, \$8,327; George Palmer Lumber Company, \$4,659.13; Grande Ronde Lumber Company, \$4,780; Frank Conley, \$3,846; J. E. Foley, \$3,213; Mrs. J. Gangloff, \$1,080; Julius Roesch, \$1,378; N. K. West \$1,596; A. E. Eaton, \$1,625; W. M. Pierce, \$1,750; Pierce & Sawyer, \$587.

0.37 PER CENT.

6.66 PER CENT.

These figures represent the proportion of fires caused by defective electric wiring and kerosene lamps respectively.

They are taken from the annual report of the Oregon Fire Relief association.

Out of 256 losses during the past year, one was directly traceable to defective wiring; sixteen to overturned or exploded lamps.

Any practical electrician can wire your house so that danger from defective wiring is absolutely eliminated. But no one can guarantee that your oil lamp will not be overturned or explode. There is always more or less danger.

You can avoid this danger, and enjoy bright, clean, convenient electric light for very little more than you now pay for oil lamps. Main 34 for rates.

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A Curious Windstorm.
A peculiar freak of a weather is the storm called the "williwaw." This form of storm is confined to that far-off island Tierra del Fuego. The coast is indented with deep bays crowned with high mountains. Down from their gorges drops the williwaw. A low, hoarse muttering is heard in the distance. Suddenly, without the least preliminary puff, a fearful blast of wind drops upon the sea. The water is not raised into waves, but driven into fine dust. Fortunately the shock lasts but ten or twelve seconds, and calm follows at once, for no vessel could stand such a wind for even half a minute. During the coming and going of a williwaw the barometer may be watched to drop a tenth of an inch or more and rise again at once.

She Was a Skeptic.
In pioneer days a settler near the present town of Albany, Mo., bought for his wife the first cook stove ever seen in that part of the state. It was an object of great curiosity, and the woman's next door neighbor, who lived ten miles away, came to see how it would work. Without comment she saw the dinner cooked. She ate the meal with judgment held in reserve and then remarked, with a shake of the head:
"Well, Sarah, it cooks all right, and the victuals taste good, but I don't believe it will ever be a success."

Mistakes.
To make mistakes is human. Every body makes mistakes, the best of us included. To acknowledge mistakes is commendable. It is evidence that one is learning by experience, and it shows that he has the courage to acknowledge a blunder. Courage is a rare quality in these days.—Leslie's.

A Simple Get-rich-quick Scheme.
Take 1,000,000 cats and get rich quick. This is the advice of the Liberte of Paris to its readers. The prescription is quite simple. A million cats will supply you with 12,000,000 kittens a year. The skins are worth a little over 28 cents each, so there you have a daily gross revenue of about \$10,000. To skin the cats you will have to employ 100 men, who will charge you \$2 per fifty cats. Your net revenue will thus be reduced to about \$9,000 a day. It should cost you nothing to feed your cats. Start a rattery. Rats breed four times as fast as cats, so the cats can have a daily diet of four rats apiece, which is ample. To feed the rats is perfectly simple. Give them the skinned cats. One cat will be ample for four rats. The scheme works out simply and automatically. The cats eat the rats, the rats eat the cats, and you have the skins.

No Previous Employment.
"You say, Rastus, that you want work for your wife," said Gunbusta, eyeing the husky darky before him from head to foot. "Was she ever employed before?"
"No, sir," replied the negro nonchalantly; "dis am her first marriage."—New York Times.

Notice.
Notice is hereby given that the annual dog tax can now be paid at the office of the city recorder and tags and receipt obtained for same. Dray license tags can also be obtained at the same place. All persons liable for same are hereby notified to procure the above licenses at once.
C. M. HUMPHREYS, City Recorder
1-24-1wk

GOT A FULL VOTE.

Even Though They Had to Go to Jail to Secure It.

That they had some rather advanced ideas as to the means of "getting out the vote" in New England a century ago is shown by an extract from Dr. Banks' "History of Marthas Vineyard." The voting, which occurred in 1807, was on the question of the removal of the county seat.

Extraordinary means were taken to get out a full vote in Edgartown. The sailing of ships was delayed for weeks so that their crews might vote, and on the day of the town meeting it was found that the contest between the two factions was to be close.

Some one suggested that there were several voters who, unfortunately deprived of their liberty, were languishing in the town jail, and if the jailer would kindly allow them to step across the street and vote it would consume but a few moments of the time the prisoners owed to the county. The jailer did not feel that he had the right to allow a general jail delivery even for such a worthy object, although it might save Edgartown.

It was then proposed that the ballot box be carried over to the gentlemen who were incarcerated. The point was then raised that all ballots must be cast in open meeting and in the presence of the election officials. Nevertheless astute minds found a way out of this awkward dilemma. A motion was made and carried that the meeting adjourn to the jail. There the ballot box was carried to the door of each prisoner's cell, and the imprisoned voters reached through the bars and deposited their ballots.

MIXED RELATIONS.

A Family Problem a Lawyer Did Not Care to Tackle.

A lawyer received a call from a new client, a man bent upon recovering a sum of money advanced upon a note and not repaid.

"Who is the debtor?" asked the lawyer.

"Oh, she's a relative of mine."

"How nearly related?"

"Very nearly."

"But, my dear sir," persisted the lawyer, "you must be more explicit."

"Well, she may be my mother-in-law."

"May be? Then you are likely to marry her daughter."

"I've already married the daughter."

"Then, of course, the defendant is your mother-in-law."

"Perhaps you'd better hear the whole story," returned the client.

"You see, a year ago we lived together, my son and I. Across the way lived the Widow Foster and her daughter Mary. I married Mary, and my son married the widow. Now perhaps you can tell me whether my son's wife is my mother-in-law or my daughter-in-law."

The lawyer did not answer. The problem was unfamiliar. He was not ready.

"I don't think I can take your case," he said. "It presents too many complications."

"Very well," returned the man, taking his hat despondently. "But there's one thing I forgot. Since our double wedding a child has been born to each of us. What relation are those two children to each other?"

STENCIL LETTERS.

Used by Writers and Illuminators in the Early Ages.

Movable characters were known to the ancients. They were used in teaching children to read. The ancients had also stencil letters, which they used to secure a regular style of penmanship. They even made use of plates, thus open cut, containing an entire page. It was placed on the papyrus to guide the pens of children, "an excellent means," saith Quintilian, "to learn them not to exceed the desired proportions." The Emperor Justinian (A. D. 518) could neither read nor write, an unexampled thing in one of such high rank. When it was necessary for him to sign his name he had a sheet of gold through which were cut the letters of his name.

"Then," said Procopius, "placing this tablet on the paper, one conducted the hand of the prince, holding the stylus dipped in purple on the type of the different letters, and took away the writing furnished with his signature." The same thing is reported of King Theodoric and of Charlemagne.

In the middle ages the illuminators and decorators made much of such tablets for tracing involved initial letters and even in a way composed entire works, such as copies of the plain songs, etc. A chartered abbey near Mayence possessed some sixty of the alphabets cut in leaves of labour, a copper alloy. Later these patterns were replaced by stamps whose imprint is proved by the evidences on the reverse of the page as early as the thirteenth century. In 1288 the monks of Fribourg published a treatise relating to money in this way, and it seems, according to a passage in Pliny and another in Petronius, that these stencils were used to publish figures and designs as well.—Charles W. Hall in National Magazine.

Tricky Lions.
Some of the most dangerous tricks of animals are those of simulating kindness. Charles Montague in "Tales of a Nomad" says that hyenas often follow lions and finish a carcass the moment the lions have left it. Sometimes, however, the hyenas are too eager and steal bits of meat while the lions are still at their meal.

"I have been told that the lion rids himself of the nuisance in the following way: He throws a piece of meat aside. When the lion is looking the other way the hyena dodges in and rushes off with the meat. Presently the lion throws another piece of meat, this time a little nearer. The hyena takes that also. At last the lion throws a piece very near indeed. The hyena, having become reckless, makes a dash at this also, but the lion wheels round and lays him low with a pat of his paw and a growl of annoyance."

Showed Him the Point.
A large crowd which collected on Broadway attracted the attention of two commercial travelers just back in New York. Joining it, they discovered that a safe was being raised to the fifteenth floor of a building and that the crowd was careful to stand outside the roped fence. "That's a good advertisement for my business," remarked one of the drummers, who is interested in the sale of airships. His companion admitted he didn't see the point. "Well, look at the sign. 'Danger below!' Then look up in the air. Danger below, safe above. Moral, take an airship."—New York Tribune.

Supreme Court Gowns.
They Are Made of the Finest Silk and Are Quite Costly.

It is said that the cut and style of the gowns worn by the justices of the supreme court of the United States are so peculiar that it is not always possible to have one correctly made.

The wife of a former justice used to enjoy telling of her trying experiences when she wished to have made in Paris the gown her husband was to use. The gowns worn there by scientists, scholars and students differ altogether from those our justices wear.

In London any clerical tailor would have understood the kind of gown desired, but not so in Paris. Wherefore, after many failures, the justice's wife gave instructions to the fashionable modiste who made her gowns. This modiste was entirely successful in turning out a gown for the justice.

The justice's gowns, which are always of the best quality of silk, cost upward of \$100. When the supreme court was first organized the justices wore quite gaudy gowns.

A portrait in oil of the first chief justice, John Jay, now hangs in the robing room opposite the supreme court chamber, and in this portrait the chief justice is represented as wearing a black gown with a broad bright red border around the neck and down the front. It is edged with gray, and the sleeves show a red border at the top and bottom, also edged with gray.—Harper's Weekly.

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