

THE OBSERVER

CLARKE LEITER, Editor and Publisher; J. D. MEYERS and H. B. LEITER, Owners.

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

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Address all communications to THE OBSERVER, 1710 Sixth Street.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1916.

BILL IS TAX DODGERS' HOPE

When the voter gets into the election booth in November and begins voting on the initiative measures let him remember what one remarkable measure will do. It is called the "Full Rental Value Land Tax and Homemakers' Loan Fund Amendment" on the ballot, although its positions were circulated under another name.

If adopted, every other form of property will be exempt from taxation and land alone will bear the burden. Railroads and public service corporations will no longer pay their share of the taxes. The small man must pay their share as well as his own.

Also, after paying taxes to support all governmental expenses, the land owner must pay a tax so that "loans" as high as \$1500 may be made to persons who have never saved anything for themselves. These loans are without interest and with questionable security.

Unless this measure is swamped under a flood of "No" votes, farm land and town real estate values will drop out of sight before their unfortunate owners can catch their breath.

STATE HIGHWAY FUNDS.

State highway funds have been inequitably distributed as the following table showing the funds expended in the various counties up to Sept. 1, 1916:

Table with 2 columns: County Name and Amount. Includes Clatsop county (\$103,616.39), Columbia county (118,515.62), Jackson county (106,755.31), Hood River county (53,297.18), Sherman county (44,920.29), Multnomah county (1,112.53), Washington county (22,158.71), Douglas county (38,000.00), Josephine county (6,648.12), Crook county (10,000.00), Lane county (5,000.00), Polk county (5,000.00), Yamhill and Tillamook counties (1,859.60), Coos county (405.49), Clackamas county (916.81).

Less than one half of the 1916 allotments have yet been expended. Besides the above amounts there were expenditures by the bridge department about \$18,000, the benefit of which was distributed largely over the counties of the Willamette valley.

The state highway fund is contributed by all the people.

We will admit that it should be spent on state highways.

But some of it should be spent on a transcontinental highway in Eastern Oregon.

The county judges and commissioners are active and should be in looking after the rights of Union and Wallowa counties.

HOW WOULD THEY VOTE?

Abraham Lincoln, in the minds of some people, is playing quite a prominent part in this campaign. It is a custom to call up the memory of great men and to speculate as to how they would vote and why.

How would Lincoln vote? How would George Washington? Benjamin Franklin? Grover Cleveland? Such speculation is futile. The answer is always partisan. The great man would vote the same way, of course, as the small man who asks the question.

POLITICAL PROGNOSTICATIONS.

These are the days of political forecasters. You can find them on every corner. They are the same ones who will tell you, "I told you so" after the election. About their chief value now is that they have the electoral vote of the states carefully tucked away in their vest pockets.

ADVERTISING AS AN ART.

Advertising has developed wonderfully the last few years.

It is developing artistic as well as scientific phases.

It is handled by high priced men, written by experts and artists.

It is a tribute to this newspaper that so many artistic advertisements from the East appear in its columns.

Its local advertisements are worthy of metropolitan newspapers. They are well designed and interesting.

And the best thing about it all, is that it pays to advertise.

The news that James Whitcomb Riley left an estate of \$200,000 may start a new crop of poets.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Among other extinct animals is the one that grew the cheaper cuts.—Chicago Daily News.

A de facto Government, it appears, is one that won't hurt you if you lend it money.—New York Sun.

Arbitration is like international law—something that the other fellow ought scrupulously to respect.—New York World.

Mme. Schwimmer says Ford has been badly advised. An honest confession is good for the soul.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

"Hughes Finds Wilson Wanting." What makes it worse is that Hughes is wanting the same thing.—The Masses (New York.)

If these union-labor leaders keep on getting everything they demand their occupations will be gone about New Year's.—New York Telegraph.

In the Republican preserves there is more joy over one Progressive that repenteth than over ninety and nine regulars who never strayed off the ranch.—Chicago Daily News.

Well, if we aren't exactly prepared to resist an armed invasion, we've got a bunch of railroad-workers who ought to be able to bluff the foe out of the country.—Binghamton Press.

Latin politeness is proverbial, but aren't these Mexican commissioners exceeding the limit when they persist in likening Woodrow Wilson to Venustiano Carranza?—New York Herald.

The study of European geography this fall is largely a matter of opinion.—Kansas City Star.

How would you like to be a Balkan king who had guessed wrong on the war?—Kansas City Star.

That eight-hour law is a snowball with all the potentialities of an avalanche.—Wall Street Journal.

Advertising. (Railway Age Gazette.) Advertising is the pendulum that regulates and keeps manufacturing, retailing and final buying in motion.

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Railroads' Future Needs. (Railway Age Gazette.)

Railway officers expect and endeavor to create increased traffic from year to year. They expect that sooner or later grades will have to be reduced, second track will have to be laid and various other improvements carried out in order adequately to take care of increasing business. It would seem the part of wisdom for the railroads to have their mechanical departments make similar preparations for the future. Increased tonnage will require heavier locomotives, higher capacity cars will be demanded, and for both cars and locomotives improved shop facilities will be essential if they are to return adequate service. The mechanical department should be in a position to study not only the present operating conditions, but the probable conditions of several years from now.

Flotsam and Jetsam

Ballad of Lost Ideals.

Aye, let them fly on rainbow wings A-down the path of memory. Full many a score of lovely things Fly from the distant Long Ago, Brought back when Fancy's summons brings Them rushing swiftly to and fro. Although securely tucked away, Come lost ideals of yesterday From the graveyard grass of the Long Ago

Therefrom hopes, loves, and sufferings, And all that made life sad or gay (That the heart weeps, that the heart sings, That the cheeks flush with joy or woe) Fare forth upon their travelings At rosy dawn, at even-glow. Although securely tucked away, Come lost ideals of yesterday From the graveyard grass of the Long Ago.

Ah Memory, unravellings Like these, make our world old and gray. Cease, cease thy painful wanderings, Thou bringest hurt. In mercy go. Put back thy poignant darts and stings. We must forget what he loved so. Although securely tucked away, Come lost ideals of yesterday From the graveyard grass of the Long Ago.

ENVOI

Prince, we must e'er repine, although We weary, jaded, heartsick grow. Although securely tucked away, Come lost ideals of yesterday From the graveyard grass of the Long Ago. —William VanWyck, in Los Angeles Graphic.

Picked Up By The Stroller

Philomath has come to the front with a poet in Ed L. Sharp. He turns out breezy stuff like the following: WINTER.

"Ere long the wintry winds will blow, from northland bringing rain lard. We'll gather at the cross-road and heat, prepare again for rain and sleet. The winds with leaves are playing jest, the sun sinks early in the west, all nature rests in calm repose, when winter zephyr round us blows. But winter, we will welcome you, we've weary grown of skies so blue. For then we'll rest from labor hard, once more our ribs will take on lard. We'll gather at the cross-road store, affairs of state discuss once more. While busy mother knits and spins we'll sit and smoke and roast our shins. We'll talk again of by-gone scenes and fill our hide on prunes and beans. From memory, summer's heat we'll blot, no more the festive fly we'll swat. For summer worry to us brings, with bedbugs, fleas and jacket stings, but winter brings us calm repose and rest from worry, work and woes. Dull care from us will fly aloof, when raindrops patter on the roof." How do you like it?

George A. Seibert, of the Union Republican, paid a very pleasant fraternal visit to the Editor of the Observer Saturday.

We wonder if the "25 years ago society column" is very popular among the ladies.

Assessment of Railroad Property Would Be Radically Changed by the Measure.

Despite the efforts of the county assessors of Oregon for several years to levy their just share of taxes upon the railroads, the Oregon ballot this year includes a measure which would relieve the railways from paying all but about 10 per cent of their present taxes.

This measure is the "Full Rental Value Land Tax and Homemakers'



Something to Please Every Customer all That's Desirable in Style and Quality, All in Our "Finest In The City"

Showing of Women's and Misses' Ready-to-Wear Apparel for Autumn & Winter

Suits . . \$15 to \$60 Dresses \$10 to \$35 Coats \$7.50 to \$55 Skirts . . \$5 to \$20

Corsets on New Lines for The New Season's Modes

The new Fashions call for a corset new and somewhat different from the one you have been wearing. The chic and charm of your new Autumn wardrobe depend directly upon the style and fit of your corset. See our new Fall lines of

"Henderson" Front and Back Lace Corsets, "Nemo" Self Reducing Corsets

Every new style is represented—every figure is provided for and every age looked after—from the rounded, slim, young girl to the dear old grandmother who requires the utmost in comfort as well as style. One of our experienced salesladies will help you find the models which best suits your individual requirements.

There are new, low, medium, and high bust corsets of the very best coutil, batiste and fancy brocades—including the popular front-lace models.

Henderson Corsets \$1 to \$4 Nemo Corsets \$3.75 to \$5

N.M. West & Co. THE QUALITY STORE

At M. E. Church Tomorrow Night Hear Oswald West

Ex-Governor of Oregon

CHAS. E. SPENCE, Master State Grange. WALTER M. PIERCE, President State Taxpayers' League. ROBERT E. SMITH, Secretary State Taxpayers' League

— On — TAX LIMITATION and RURAL CREDITS

MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC. LADIES ESPECIALLY INVITED.

A "NEST EGG"

Misfortune is liable to overtake you in money matters. Then it is that a good sized "Nest Egg" in the Bank comes in "powerful handy."

Over and over again have we seen comforting relief come to those who had accumulated a fund in this bank. If you haven't started an account, now is the time to do it.

In seasons of prosperity, place a part of your income in our bank. Some day this fund may carry you over a rough and rocky road.

La Grande National Bank

Capital and Surplus \$ 250,000 Deposits \$1,000,000