

Union County's Wealth

SUMMARY OF THE ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR THE YEAR 1919.

Classification of Property.	Number	Valuation
Acres of all land	751,372	\$ 11,294,985.00
Acres of tillable land	165,235	8,605,245.00
Acres of non-tillable land	298,786	1,275,750.00
Acres of timber land	287,451	1,408,990.00
Town or city lots	1,521,950.00	1,521,950.00
Improvements on town or city lots	2,063,730.00	2,063,730.00
Improvements on deeded or patented land	1,099,115.00	1,099,115.00
Improvements on land not deeded or patented	62,825.00	62,825.00
Logging roads and rolling stock	29,500.00	29,500.00
Engines and manufacturing machinery	383,830.00	383,830.00
Merchandise and stock in trade	989,430.00	989,430.00
Farm implements, automobiles, etc.	838,195.00	838,195.00
Money, notes and accounts	561,486.00	561,486.00
Shares of stock	4,550	397,500.00
Hotel and office fixtures	75,970.00	75,970.00
Horses and mules	9,796	44,750.00
Cattle	18,211	757,975.00
Sheep and goats	19,532	161,480.00
Pigs	6,404	79,930.00
Dogs	495	5,755.00

Total local assessment for year 1919 \$ 20,990,000.00
Total local assessment for year 1918 19,852,270.00

Increase local assessment for year 1919 \$ 1,137,730.00
NOTE.—The above does not include Public Service Corporations, which are assessed by the State Tax Commission. Public Service Corporations assessed 1918 at \$5,121,426.00.

I am herewith handing you for publication, our summary of Assessment Rolls of Union County for the year 1919, as finally equalized by the Board of Equalization, which may be of interest to your many readers.

I allowed a little space in your excellent paper, I will endeavor to explain some features of the 1919 summary, compared with the 1918 summary.

You will notice some increase in values, this increase being obtained pretty much all along the line, an increase is noted in the number of cattle, sheep and automobiles, some decrease is noted in the number of dogs and pigs, average on cattle and hogs higher, and on horses and sheep lower, some increase on tillable land, improvements on land not deeded, also on deeded land, and machinery and merchandise, and stocks, a little falling off on money notes and accounts.

Also would like, at this time, to call the taxpayers' attention to the very important matter of cooperation in this work, as well as cooperation in other lines of work, for the best interests of the county.

A few years ago, when I was approached by some of our taxpayers to become a candidate for the nomination of County Assessor, at first I refused, then reconsidered, and decided that perhaps they just wanted someone to fill out the ticket, and I might just as well be the one sacrificed.

I had often heard of the snap the County Officials had, and as I had always worked hard, thought perhaps there was a chance to get in on the snap for a while, well, in the course of events, was elected, and qualified, and started out on the job to find the snap, and up to this day I

have never been able to find it.

However, in a very short time I did discover that I had the hardest and biggest job I had ever had, not excepting loading 100,000 capacity cars with sacks of wheat, which job I had held for 22 years in this county, prior to entering the Assessor's office. I also soon discovered that, to get the best results, and for the best interests of those concerned, it would be necessary to have cooperation with the taxpayers.

I tried to stir up some enthusiasm along this line through the press as well as by private cooperation. Did I get any encouragement, I leave the answer to you. Next I tried to get assistance to make the proper showing before the State Board of Equalization, to get the ratio which we were entitled to. Did I get any? Yes, one letter one year from one taxpayer, which was a help. More letters from more taxpayers, along the same line I think would have helped more.

Baker and some other counties at different times have thought the matter to be of enough importance to send some of their most influential citizens before this Board.

Three or four years ago a taxpayer league was organized in this county. I thought, through this organization surely, I would get some cooperation. Did I get any? No.

I think that, in the seven years I have been in this office, that I have been invited to two called meetings of the taxpayers to talk over matters pertaining to assessments, from which some good, I think, was derived. If nothing more, some people were convinced that lower valuation does not make lower taxes. The purpose of this meeting was to get values low-

ered, therefore some thought taxes would be lower, but, as the meeting proceeded, some one asked if they were not knowing at the wrong door to get lower taxes, and it was generally believed that they were.

It was my privilege a few weeks ago, to attend a joint convention of Oregon and Washington county officials, which gave me an opportunity to talk with officials from another State, as well as our own, and I especially enjoyed the privilege of visiting the office of the Assessor of the County of Clark, Washington. I discovered that his valuations were very low, and asked him if, by reason of low valuations, taxes were any lower. He very promptly answered, "no." Then I asked him, why assess so low. He hesitated, but finally said that his predecessor was assessing that way, and if he raised values, they would beat him out of value.

The assessor is only human and does not know, and should not be expected to know the affairs of every man in the county, and, to some extent has to rely on the statement of each taxpayer as given by him, and we find that a good many give in as low as their conscience will allow. Some people's conscience being a little more elastic than others, there is liable to be some unequal assessments creep in. By the right kind of cooperation, to some extent at least, this condition could be improved. My policy from the start has been for every property owner to give in all he owns, according to the Law. If a man or woman has 100 head of cattle, that is just the number he or she should give in; if \$10,000.00 worth of merchandise, \$10,000.00 in what he should give in, and all other assessable property in the same way, some have made the excuse that the reason they did not give all, was because the other fellow did not give in all. That, in my opinion, is a very poor excuse, and you should make your return correct. In this way, with cooperation, it will be possible to see that the other fellow does the same, as I have heretofore stated to the press. Don't ask some poor widow woman to pay a part of your taxes. This means that if you don't give in all your assessable property at the true cash value, it is not too late yet to make corrections along this line.

Just recently I had the pleasure of attending a banquet held by my home town (Island City). The purpose of the meeting being the discussion of cooperation and the betterment of community affairs. A number of fluent speakers, including some of La Grande's best talent, urged cooperation in farming, stock raising, school and church affairs and all other lines affecting the welfare of the community. If cooperation is good along these lines, I am more than convinced that a little of the same medicine with the county assessor might be of some benefit.

It is not the intention of this article to stir any duty of mine, but to urge the taxpayers to take more interest in affairs of this kind and know, from their own knowledge, how matter stand, and now, since the ball is rolling, to see that the money recently voted in this county for road purposes is spent for what it was intended. It is a good time to start on other matters affecting the welfare of the taxpayer.

Mr. Taxpayer, I wish, again, as I have before, to urge you to, soon after the 1st of March 1920, to prepare a list of all of your assessable property and have it handy when the assessor calls. In that way you will not be so liable to forget something, and very materially help to reduce the expenses of the county.

U. G. COUCH,
County Assessor.

Good Word for Popular Music.

Give popular music its due. It has its place—just as has the classic. Do not look down upon it, so long as it can help some soul away from its gloom. Perhaps it may do something for you in an "off moment"—if you will let it. But even if it doesn't, the mere fact that there are people whose hearts it will lighten, suffices to give popular music a reason for being, which we should not set aside merely because it doesn't happen to be "our kind" of music.—Exchange.

Horses Versus Elephants.

Tests made to determine the respective pulling power of horses, men and elephants showed that two horses weighing 1,600 pounds each, together, pulled 3,750 pounds, or 550 pounds more than their combined weight. One elephant weighing 12,000 pounds pulled 8,750 pounds, or 3,250 pounds less than its weight. Fifty men, aggregating 7,500 pounds, pulled 8,750 pounds, or just as much as the single elephant, but, like the horse, they pulled more than their own weight. One hundred men pulled 12,000 pounds.

Saw It on the Way.

Bills was soon to have his third birthday and could hardly wait for the party his mother promised him. Every day he inquired about it. His mother told him his little birthday hadn't come yet and that he must wait until it came. He ran to the window and said: "Oh, mamma, I see it now coming up the road."

Paragon Carpenters Struck.

The Victoria tower of the houses of parliament, at Westminster, took some twenty years to build. From base to summit the tower contains 140 square rooms—each room proof and packed with state papers, the records of centuries of English history.

Chances for a Childless Man.

"Small house wanted in Gillingham near docks." "No children." "Clatsop." "Monday."

Autumn Fashions At Their Best

People demand more of a store today than formerly. It is expected that a store must be able, not alone in the sort of better values it can procure, but in its ability to provide all the whims of fashion—the improvements devised by inventors as soon as practicable after such whims or invention has been put forth. We try at all times to be on the alert—to be "up and doing" on all these points and folks are fast find-it-out.

THE RICHEST OF PLUSH COATS

These dresses comprise a large and most varied assortment of new fall creations—several models are exact reproductions of some of the season's best creations. There are silk dresses of Tricotee, Polret Twill, Satin, Georgette and Charmeuse. Also many combinations of Georgette and Satin.



In the wool dresses we have those of Jersey, Tricotee, French Serges and many mixtures—many have a front of tricotee of other fibre silk materials. Embroidery is a prominent feature in both the silk and wool dresses—also there are many trimmed with Soutache Braid, or plain silk braid. The prices range from \$30.00 up to \$100.00 in both silk and wool.

NECKWEAR OF SILK AND LACE.

Lots of fluffy white neckwear of fine lacey materials. Vestees, Shawl Collars, Jabots as well as beautiful combinations of styles and the conservative collars and sets. Styles for either dress or suit—a feature that is strong in fall wearing apparel. At almost any price you may wish to pay.

JUST IN BLANKET TIME.



To get the best it is always advisable to get it early—our blankets are in, we have lots of them in wool, wool-nap and cotton. The quality of this first shipment is exceptionally good and the prices are very moderate. They range in price from \$1.98 to \$15.00 comprising what is no doubt the largest and most varied assortment in these parts. Many are on display at this store, together with comforts, pillows, etc. We ask you to inspect them, know their quality and then compare prices.

NEW SKIRTINGS OF WOOL PLAID.

Two new patterns arrived this week—a very fine, light-weight wool mixture; the pattern is large. Colors, Yellow over Black, fine stripes and colors running through. The material is 50 inches wide and priced at \$5.50 per yard.

NEW FIGURED GEORGETTE.

Three new patterns, suitable for blouse, dress or party gown. A plain figured Georgette—dark pattern, 40 inches, priced \$4.50 per yard. Silver embroidered pink Georgette, 40 inches, price \$7.00. Delft Blue Georgette, embroidered in Navy, 40 inches wide, price \$6.00 per yard.



MEN!

PERSIAN PATTERNS IN ATTRACTIVE NECKWEAR



Some of the newest creations in neckwear are these extra heavy silk ties in fine persian patterns. They're different from anything you've seen in the way of neckwear—SEE THEM—Price \$3.50. Also many new and attractive patterns in ties at all prices from 50c up to \$2.50.

NEW SHIRTS IN SOLID COLOR SILKS.

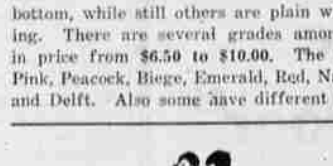
The very newest in Silk Shirts; these are Silk Fibre shirts—only part silk but hardly distinguishable from the real thing. The colors are Pink, Blue and Lavender in sizes 15 to 17 only. They are BATES-STREETS. If you're thinking of underwear, think of—MUNSINGWEAR—don't be content with a garment of inferior grade, when you are in need of good, all wool undergarments, REMEMBER that MUNSINGWEAR has never changed in quality. Its durability, washability and comfort cannot be excelled. We are exclusive agents for this high-grade underwear.

GINGHAM HOUSE DRESSES.

Neat, dressy styles for indoor wear in quite a variety of patterns that would make the making of these at home a nuisance. Made of good quality gingham and percales with belts and pockets. There are dark patterns and light, some plaids, some in dots and checks. Prices \$2.00, \$2.25 and up to \$4.50.

NEW SILK JERSEY PETTICOTS

In a great array of colors at all prices. Some have Tuffeta bottoms, others are accordion plaited at the bottom, while still others are plain with narrow ruffling. There are several grades among these varying in price from \$6.50 to \$10.00. The colors are Rose, Pink, Peacock, Biege, Emerald, Red, Navy, Purple, Gold and Delft. Also some have different colored flounces.



GIRL'S NAVY SERGE SCHOOL DRESSES

Of good quality blue serge, made up in sailor style. Sizes from 8 years to 14 years. Extraordinary values at \$6.50.

GIRL'S BLACK GYM SHOES

An all LEATHER black gym shoe; low cut, four eyelet lace. Made with well-sewn, flexible sole, no heel,—on same plan as tennis shoe. Will out-wear several pair tennis shoes—will not cause foot to perspire and the price is \$2.75.

Nothing Gained by Losing Temper.

What's the use of losing our temper over trifles? There's never one solitary bit of good resultant. Of course annoying things will happen. Of course the temptation will come if we're normal people—and most of us are. But the losing of temper doesn't help matters a bit. It incapacitates us for right action, even when the losing seems excusable. An angry person who cannot govern self is not apt to wisely strive to better conditions, at least, until the fit of anger is over.—Chicago Daily News.

Must Be Discreet.

Of course every man ought to be liberal with his wife, but there is no sense in giving her enough money to hire a divorce lawyer.

Rudeness Unpardonable.

A man has no more right to say an uncivil thing than to set one; no more right to say a rude thing to another than to knock him down.—Johns.

Picture Vaudeville at Sherry's Sunday and Monday.

"Through the Wring Door," from the novel by Jesse Lynch Williams, is Madge Kennedy's newest Goldwyn picture to be seen at Sherry's theatre today and tomorrow. The story revolves about a girl who, in due time meets the hero of her heart and the inevitable hap-

Must Be Discreet.

Her first decisive encounter with him occurs in a New York house when her chauffeur has driven her by mistake. She gives her coat and hat to the man who opens the door, and tells him to notify his friend that she has arrived for dinner, and then learns that she is in the house of a western mining man whose vast interests have been stolen from him through the trickery of her own father. She further discovers that her host has discharged all his servants and is spending his last night under his own roof.

Outside, an equinoctial storm is raging, and the girl is compelled to remain. Her adventure reaches a most natural climax, which is suddenly interrupted by the appearance of her father and her fiancé, who present the westerner as an unscrupulous rascal. He refuses to defend himself.

But the effect of the evening does not wear off, and when they meet position again the next day they are instinctively prepared to overcome all the vaudville movies, something new and unnatural barriers of wealth and novel.

FARM FOR SALE.

360 acres near Aljeel. Nearly all in crop for next year. See E. D. JAMES, Island City, Ore.

NEW DRESSES OF SILK AND WOOL

Finer and more desirable than all-fur garments are the exquisitely beautiful and luxurious coats of fine plush that we are showing at, from \$50.00 to \$85.00. Some of these plush coats are almost as rich as real seal. If you have been contemplating buying a really fine coat, by all means, see these. We'll pleasure to show them to you, and ye are sure that, if you are thinking of a fine coat, your ideas may be crystallized here.

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NEW BUDOIR CAPS.

In many new and dainty materials—of soft Satins, Laces and many combinations of both. Ask to see them.

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Sound Business Policy Reliable Service Progressive Methods

La Grande National Bank

CAPITAL AND SURPLUS \$250,000 RESOURCES \$1,900,000

Our doors have never been closed during business hours since the date of our organization in 1887. We will welcome and appreciate your account.

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We have the best equipped plant in Eastern Oregon.

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