

PRUNE HARVEST STILL UNDER WAY

(Special to The Observer)
OCT. 10.—The work in the prune orchards goes on in earnest, though the harvest is not nearly completed.

A small daughter has appeared at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Van Vleet at North Powder. Mrs. Van Vleet was a Cove girl and as Mrs. Vera Pease was well known here.

Frank Williams, who suffers from a broken shoulder and lumbago, is able to be out again.

Miss Mildred Payton and Miss Esther Saunders spent Saturday of last week at the fair in Elgin.

Several of the Cove teachers are spending the day in La Grande. Miss Janita Smith, Miss Edna Sheppard, Miss Esther Saunders and Miss Payton are those visiting in the metropolis.

School will close on Tuesday of this week for the teachers' institute, to be held in Baker.

Wm. Connors, of Mayville, Kan., a brother of Mrs. E. E. Roberts, is a guest of the Roberts home.

E. E. Roberts and his guest, Wm. Connors, spent a few days at the early part of the week in Bendleton with Mr. Roberts' son, Glen Roberts.

Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Dean and Mrs. A. G. Conklin were Union visitors on Tuesday.

Mrs. E. Z. Baxter of Union spent Wednesday at Cove.

Mrs. Phillip Lockwood is ill at her home in Cove.

The members of the Eastern Star lodge are making great preparations for the visit of their Grand Worthy Matron next week.

A number of one townpeople were in La Grande Saturday, being called there to the big event which transpired in the metropolis.

L. E. Love, who has been spending the past three months at his father's home in Cove, has returned to Portland.

Rev. H. J. Hansen, recently of Cambridge, Idaho, but now of Helena, Oregon, is a guest at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Charles DeHann.

The Ladies Aid was entertained by Mrs. Thos. Towle at her home on Wednesday of this week.

The Ladies Guild will be entertained by Mrs. Chris Bertson and Mrs. C. Hoveford at the home of the former.

H. G. Avery, county agriculturalist, accompanied by Miss Cooley and Mrs. McCoombe, millinery instructor and leader for the extension work, from O. A. C., were in Cove Saturday. Miss Cooley came for a two days' school of millinery. The Domestic Science room of the Cove public school was opened for this purpose, and the school was attended by a dozen or more Cove ladies. The instruction is of the best beginning at the rudiments and proceeding through the various stages step by step until the summit is reached, viz., the completed hat.

STARKEY HAS RAINY WEATHER

(By the Associated Press)
STARKEY, Oct. 10.—Len Ingham had a rainy week for threshing his crop of wheat. He had a good yield of grain, the entire threshing making 2100 bushels.

Mr. Briggs moved his threshing machine to the John Wells ranch and threshed a couple of stacks of wheat bundles for him.

Mr. and Mrs. Antons Vey, Jr., and friends came to Starkey Sunday and went to Pendleton.

Len Ingham bought five cows and calves of Ralph Sullivan, who is preparing to sell and leave Starkey in about four weeks.

L. T. Burnett came up with a mixed load of apples, tomatoes and squash which Starkey people were delighted to get. Mr. Burnett lives in Island City.

J. R. Rose and son, Tom, each took a wagon load of machinery down to the ranch he has leased in the Weston country Thursday, and reports the roads in fine condition.

Hay Strack and wife went to McKay creek last Monday. Strack is a cow-boy for cattle, Winn and Hawk.

Two bands of Pedro sheep passed through Starkey last Monday. Only one band of the Smythe sheep is left in the hills.

Will Hillhouse, who has been working on the Briggs' threshing, has returned to his home in the Hilliard country.

The crew that has been at work in the mines at Camp Carson, are leaving the mountains for the winter. The miners say their machines will do the work of separating the gold from

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the dirt. They will construct 25 machines during the coming winter and put them out on commission.

The Athens parties who are hunting and camped at Sulphur Springs have given up, and all but two men have left. Tom Gasky and Mr. Kelly will stay for another week.

W. E. Jones, Smythe brother teamster, went to Hiram Friday for stock salt, and will return Saturday. The rains have started the grass on the range, but it is too late to do the sheep men any good.

Coxons are very troublesome. One hunter, Lu. Paul Roberts reports counting 23 covelets in one bunch, and very bold they were. Shooting in among them didn't seem to scare them much.

MEXICAN NEARLY SHOOT NEGRO

Insult to Mexican's Wife Results in Row that Terminates in Shooting Scrape; Mexican Arrested.

A riotous party which might have resulted in serious injury occurred in the yards of the O. W. recently. A Mexican, by name of Ernest Ortega, drove a gun and fired twice at a negro, whose name is unknown, the altercation apparently having resulted over an insult the negro is alleged to have made to the Mexican's wife.

According to the officers, Mr. and Mrs. Ortega were living in the yards, where he is employed and the negro insulted Mrs. Ortega. Words ensued which terminated in the Mexican drawing a 27-20 caliber revolver and firing twice at the negro, who sought cover.

Sheriff Leo Warnick arrested Ortega but as no complaint has been filed against him the case will probably be dropped.

A. J. DeHann, 25, a garage owner of Tawona, was injured to death by a fall from his automobile Wednesday night when his car left the road, plunging the driver beneath it.

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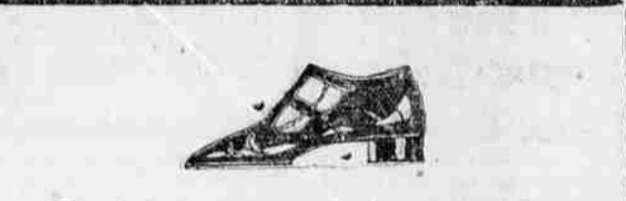


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Walter M. Pierce On Taxation

(From an Address Made at Albany, Oregon, Oct. 4, 1922.)

I came into this State 40 years ago, a wandering boy, working as a farm hand. For 30 years I have been in public office. I have never deliberately misled or deceived anybody. In public life I have tried to play absolutely square.

When I was nominated last May, I said to my friends: I will carry the message of lower taxes to the people of this State. I have no money, but I expect to make a hundred speeches. Five times I have touched the ocean, and gone from California to the river in Idaho three times. I have gone wherever the invitation was extended; wherever I could meet a little group and talk to them about what I think is a startling state of affairs. I am trying to do it fairly, honestly and in the open.

Friends, if we save Oregon from the auction block, if we save our property from confiscation by taxation, we have got to do some very hard thinking. To my mind, the tax question is the foremost problem in Oregon today. It rises above all else. The question is: Are you going to own your own homes and your own farms in future years, or are they going to be taken from you by the rising tide of taxes?

The rental value of all property in Oregon is too high according to the value of the property, caused by the high taxes. It doesn't cut much ice in the money markets when the property passes away from the man who thought he owned it. He is left with the husk; the kernel is gone.

When I went to the Senate the first time it took about 15% of the rental value of property to pay taxes. That year Umatilla county raised 3,000,000 bushels of wheat. Our State taxes were \$100,000 in that county; 3 1/2% of the wheat crop paid its taxes. This year that county produced 4,000,000 bushels of wheat, while her taxes are \$1,549,000, of which \$433,084 is State tax, while the whole is 40% of the value of the wheat crop taken for taxes. The population of the State then was about 313,000. Now is it not quite 800,000.

When I entered the State Senate 20 years ago, \$1,000,000 was the total State expense. When I returned to the Senate six years ago it was \$2,500,000 per year. Today \$15,000,000 or more is collected from us in taxation. Can this tide continue to rise if we keep our property? How high it is going to go?

There is collected \$6,000,000 in fees now, six times as much as we spent 20 years ago; more than twice what we spent six years ago.

In knots and in groups I have been carrying this message to the people: "THIS MUST STOP!" I shall continue to carry it until election day.

I asked Mr. Day, as Secretary of the Tax Investigation Committee, to collect some figures for me. According to these figures, there are only five or six States in the Union that have more bonded indebtedness than we have. In wealth and population we rank down about thirty-sixth. The figures show we are spending more money for State government than the State of Kansas. Kansas spends \$8,500,000; we spend \$15,000,000, while Minnesota spends only \$1,600,000. You ask, "Why is Minnesota away down there?" It is because Minnesota has raised from indirect sources the larger part of her revenue for State purposes, while we have raised it from the farmer, the cattle man and the sheep man. They thought these men could not kick,

but they ARE kicking today. If I do not miss my guess, they will show still more kicking in November.

Minnesota collects 5% upon all public service corporations in that State. California pays her State taxes in the same way. That should be done in Oregon. You may say this tax comes back upon the people. Just the same it is spread out on more people. It is not on a few scattered farmers.

Today we are confiscating property and ruining the people of this State who are feeding us. They cannot operate their farms at a profit, and they cannot pay the heavy taxes levied upon them.

Minnesota collects 25 cents from every ton of ore dug up and taken from the State. This is done by a severance tax. When you take a product from that State, you must pay for the privilege. I was at a place in Oregon where they showed me a mine from which a company had taken out a million dollars in gold. It was owned by citizens of England. They had not paid a dollar in taxes to the State of Oregon for removing this great wealth.

A severance tax has been levied by several States in this Union. It is something for us to talk about and consider. In a few years Oregon's beautiful forests will be blackened stumps. Here we allow the Government to set aside great forest reservations, from which no taxes are received. From forests in the reserves Easterners cut the timber and ship the lumber to Oklahoma. Thus from Oregon's great forests in the reserve State come no taxes to support the State.

We have \$10,000,000 in bonded indebtedness for the soldier boys. I don't regret the money we gave them. It was Senator Smith of Coos and I who introduced the bill. Two and a half million dollars have been raised to encourage the boys to go back to school. I am glad we have given this money to them. We can never do too much for the men who went down on the fields of France to do and to die.

We have on the ballot a measure to impose a flat income tax. I am opposed to that, but I am in favor of a graduated income tax, because I believe the man who has the large income should pay more than the man who has the small income.

A gross earnings tax would be another source of revenue.

The cattle grower certainly needs relief. Cattle are selling cheaper than they have sold in 30 years in proportion to cost of production. A million head of cattle in this State are going to the butcher's block. They simply cannot be produced for the money that is paid for them today. The burden upon the farm and ranch has become unbearable.

There is no question in this campaign but that of taxes. There is no other thing to talk about. If I don't do anything else, I am going to do this to the end of time. You can in six years drive this State into bankruptcy. I have done and am doing the very best I know how to carry this message of lower taxes to the people of Oregon. Extravagance must stop! Expenses must be reduced! Taxes must come down!

It all depends upon you who read these words. You can say by your ballot in November whether you want to go on paying this terrific cost, or whether you don't.

My pledge is this: If elected Governor, I will do every proper thing within my power to reduce taxation in Oregon. On this basis I ask your support and vote.

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