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EQUALIZE VALUATIONS.

It is hoped that the board of equalization now in session at Jacksonville, will justify its title and really and truly equalize assessments.

Assessor Grieve is new to the work. Perhaps this is the reason that there is such rank inequality in valuations as fixed by his office. Perhaps this explains why property in Medford which has had a growth in business and population of over 30 per cent in the past year and a consequent increase in actual cash valuations, is assessed at a total of over a hundred thousands less than last year's valuations.

It is probably due to Mr. Grieve's inexperience that he permits a certain lot and brick block on Main street near Central avenue, which probably returns at least \$150 a month in rents, and could not be purchased for \$10,000, to be assessed at \$800.

Possibly Mr. Grieve has depended too much upon his deputies, and has been careless in their selection. Perhaps this will explain why a certain large orchard near Medford is assessed at half of the valuation placed upon it a year ago, and other groves are assessed at far less than they sold for.

As now made up, the total valuations in the county show an astonishing decrease, despite the prevailing prosperity and increased realty values. The assessor has sought to overcome this loss by increasing the valuation placed upon the Southern Pacific property. The railroad can stand the increase, but it is hardly fair to "soak" one concern for the benefit of so many others.

It is impossible in this article to more than hint at existing irregularities in present assessed valuations, but after the board of equalization has finished its labors, The Tribune will take up the subject of assessed valuations in detail and make the public familiar with them.

If valuations are equalized, there is little complaint by taxpayers, but when one man is forced to pay more proportionately than his neighbor, there is just cause for complaint. It is to remedy this condition of affairs that the board of equalization was created—in other words, to equalize.

THE OCTOBER APPLE REPORT

"There has been very little change in the apple prospects since last month. Winter apples will likely run below the average size. The clusters of very small and practically worthless apples are now showing up very plainly.

"Spies and winter varieties generally in Ontario are showing up somewhat better in the fruit districts west of Toronto than in the counties along the north shore of Lake Ontario, where the crop is a little better for the most part a short distance back from the lake than along the lake front.

"Although early and fall varieties are much lighter than last year, winter varieties generally are a little heavier, particularly Spies."

Of crops in Europe the report says:

"Great Britain—The English apple crop is reported short. Weather conditions have been wet and cool during the summer and generally unfavorable for the proper development of apples. A large percentage of the fruit is below normal in size and is inclined to be wormy. In many sections the Aphid has been troublesome both on the foliage and fruit and has caused the latter where severely infested to remain small and scrubby. Pears are a better crop than usual. Plums are at least a good average crop. There will be large imports of all kinds of fruit into Great Britain.

"Germany—The German crop has not improved during the month. Only a medium crop is looked for. Germany will import fairly large quantity of apples.

"Belgium and Holland—Will have less than a medium crop of late apples.

FRUIT MEN TELL HAWLEY OF NEEDS

On Wednesday afternoon Congressman Willis C. Hawley met with the local fruit growers in the opera house and for two hours was told of the needs of the valley. Several local men spoke on various subjects showing the need for a local weather station and more government fruit experts, the injustice of the La Fean apple bill and other matters. Congressman Hawley promised to do what he could.

PREACH BROTHERHOOD OF MAN AROUND WORLD

NEW YORK, Oct. 21.—The Rev. J. W. Van Kirk of Youngstown, O., and a member of the East Ohio Methodist Episcopal conference, has reached this city, and will start in a few days on a trip around the world to preach the gospel of the brotherhood of man. Before departing he proposes to fly his flag of all nations from the Statue of Liberty in this harbor, and there to ring a bell, on which is inscribed "Proclaim brotherhood throughout all the earth, unto all humanity."

Successful Business Persons

make a thorough investigation of the possible results before undertaking to start in any line, why not you use the same caution before buying a piano? There is nothing more appropriate for a home than a fine piano, and it will last a lifetime if properly chosen. For this purpose call at Sherman-Clay & Co., 134 W. Main street, where you will find the Steinway, also the peer of inner players—A. B. Chase, as well as the well known Ludwig, Kingsbury and Wellington. One price to all is our motto.

184 VAN WALTERS, Manager.

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