

MEDFORD DAILY TRIBUNE

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INCREASED VALUATIONS.

Assessed valuation for taxation is a serious matter for Medford, because of her large bonded indebtedness. A decrease in totals means an increase in tax rate. As the tax rate is already high, caution should be exercised to keep it from climbing higher, through unfair equalization.

A high tax rate is a good thing, if the money is wisely expended. It indicates an era of improvement and progress. The fact that Medford in two years is spending a million dollars in public improvements is the best advertisement the city could have. It tells the world that Medford is alive.

The fact that Ashland is spending half a million in street paving, parks and other municipal improvements speaks louder for that charming city than its low tax rate ever did. It indicates the awakening of Ashland.

Central Point has a water system under way also. Jacksonville is planning one. These mean higher taxes for property owners. It indicates the growth of the entire valley in spite of the objection of the mossback, to whom taxes are a constant bogey.

Owners of non-income producing improved property such as residences should not be assessed too highly. A penalty should not be put upon progress and enterprise. Those land owners who are content to keep their lots vacant and watch them increase in value through the investments of neighbors should be taxed so high that they will be forced to sell them or improve to secure an income.

Assessment work requires more skill, knowledge and science than any branch of the public service. It should be a business by itself and non-interested experts be employed. It is one of the errors of our political system that the ability and fitness of candidates for public office does not enter into the question of their candidacy, which is based solely upon personal popularity. Those elected are not to blame; it is the system, for an official must serve several years in almost any office before he understands the work, and just as he becomes useful a political revolution follows.

HOTEL ARRIVALS.

At the Nash—Boudinot Conner, Ta-ble Rock; Conro Fiero, Central Point; H. M. Russell, Boston; Allen Hunt-ington, New York; E. H. Grossenfir, E. Baldmann, F. R. Shore, San Fran-

cisco; Mrs. E. Billings, Ashland; J. C. Donovan, Oregon City; D. M. Grif-fith, Cincinnati; H. A. Lafe, Frank-fort; M. M. Conlin, San Francisco; R. G. Smith, Grants Pass; R. W. Lane, A. Ford, Roseburg; E. E. Bar-ker, Greeley; D. B. Vatt, Denver;

C. E. Baele, H. Hale, J. F. Nick-erson, Portland; P. Bowers, La-Grange; D. G. Morgan, Berkeley.
At the Moore—V. W. Ash, Waldo; W. G. Howard, St. Paul; F. E. Cauci, dei, Roseburg; A. Eppenstein, San Francisco; M. B. London, F. L. Wil-cox, Philadelphia; Mr. and Mrs. Fred-erick Pelous, Eagle Point; P. H. Gorman, G. H. Scott and family, Spo-kane; R. V. Groat, Roseburg; L. T. Howard, Roseburg; Sam Kling, Chi-cago; Thomas Irvin, G. B. Tilling-hast, J. W. Pierson, W. W. Grover, J. C. Marshall, Portland; Marian Dingman, Boise; E. H. Boyce, St. Louis; Mr. and Mrs. James Craig, Eagle Point.

Arthur Jones of Washington, D. C., is looking over the valley this week.

BUTTE FALLS ITEMS.

F. V. Medynski and his son-in-law, Will Bates, passed through town on Monday on the way to Homestead.

The Sawyer location crew moved all their camp and belongings to Doubleday's on Monday and are now running the railroad line beyond and above the Falls.

Porter Bros. have sent to Edsall camp a drove of 76 mules for work on the railroad right of way and all along the line from Eagle Point to Butte Falls work is being rapidly pushed.

We have had two days and nights of splendid rains and the ground is in excellent condition for plowing.

Camp supplies are being hauled from this point to the railroad camp located on the Doubleday ranch and the line is being run in the Willow Creek section and will probably cross near Entrop's and go on towards Parker's or else over the Klamath section, the latter being the more probable.

Oscar Erickson and his brother of Sweden have been trading with our merchants. Mr. Erickson says he raised four tons of oats and other grain hay on one acre of ground and that he values his land much higher than he does the timber on it.

C. E. Wolverton and wife, who have been visiting Central Point, have returned to their homestead near Sills Springs.

A Mr. Massie of Denver, Col., was here on Thursday looking around for an investment in property.

The public school has now an en-rolled attendance of 40 scholars and is progressing satisfactorily.

A stranger came in on Thursday and made a deposit on two business lots.

The athletic club is making great preparations for the "calico and over-all" ball to be given on the night of October 30, Halloween. Parties are expected from Medford, Eagle Point, Brownsboro and other points and great anticipations are expected from the occasion.

Mrs. Scott Claspill and Miss Pet-ers have gone to Grants Pass to be absent a week or more.

The late rains have made the roads

somewhat heavy, so that teaming is rather hard, and our merchants are making extra efforts to get in their winter supplies.

There has hardly ever for years been as great scarcity of game as at this season. None of the hunting parties appear to be in luck. It seems as if the game was far upon the hills.

Constable Singler and M. F. Winkler of Medford were hunting in our section during the week past, but they did not have any luck as the game has not come down from the hills.

Lee Edmonson of Derby mill was here on Saturday looking for men to work at the mill. Mr. Netherland and Edmonson have a large railroad contract and need men for work.

Mr. Allen has the good will and wishes of all parties and it is most encouraging to us all to hear him speak and see him writing so enthusiastically of the railroad and country. We congratulate Medford that such a man of ideas and public spirit has taken hold of our local enterprises, which is an assurance of success.

A son of Contractor Brainhard arrived at Butte Falls on Saturday on a visit to his father.

Beulah Hildreth, who has been on his homestead for some time, left for the valley on Sunday on business.

There is much dissatisfaction at the Washington decisions on home-stead matters, it appearing that nearly all the rulings, apparently mis-construe the homestead law and apply the law of departmental rulings to homesteaders as it is now formulated, and fails to consider the law at the time of the entries. It is the evident intention to deprive the homesteader of his home upon technical grounds and unfavorable views taken of homesteaders' rights. The syndicates, the timber and the railroads can get and hold all the land, but the humble homesteader has no consideration. If justice was meted out to all alike no complaint would be made. A homesteader cannot be absent a few days or weeks without it is construed he does not reside upon his homestead and that he seeks the timber. What is the essential difference if a man, through his homestead holdings, by selling the timber on the same, buying for him-self and a family a small tract where he can enjoy the benefits of school and society, secures a permanent home? Was it not the intention to give him a home, and is it expected that he must always live upon the homestead? The spirit of the home-stead law does not contemplate this, and the government cannot attach any conditions interfering with the alienation of the land any more than an individual when an honest purpose is shown all the way from the inception of the homestead right to its alienation. It is very easy to sit in a cushioned chair, thousands of miles away, and pass upon the honest labors of worthy men and women and confiscate their homes. It is about time a change was made and

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Van Dyke's

equitable principles applied. The care and it it with the stretch from The class distinction will not be less- Ayres is graveled, travel will be very ened by such interpretations nor the much helped. This Reese creek road is a very important highway and the patriotism of the men who become heavy travel is over it and the county the defenders of the country to be promoted and the seed now being sown will certainly yield a bountiful harvest of increase to the socialists. Engineer Beveridge has established Mr. Vestal is doing good work on the piece of county road under his camp at Edsall's within three miles of the Falls.

Perry Subdivision

THIS PLACE POPULARLY KNOWN AS THE I. W. THOMAS PLACE TO BE DIVIDED INTO 10 ACRE TRACTS BEST LAND IN ROGUE RIVER VALLEY, FOR SALE BY

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