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**THE MILLAGE TAXES ONCE AGAIN.**

Elsewhere on this page, O. M. Kem comes back strong in another round on the millage taxes for the institutions of higher learning, and seems to have a difficult time convincing himself that he and The Sentinel are entirely in harmony. Mr. Kem can not understand how we could have been satisfied with a 3 per cent limitation on the amount the millages could be increased and could at the same time defend the boost of the limitation to 6 per cent. We shall repeat what we tried to make plain in the first place: To us personally the 3 per cent limitation seemed to provide liberally, especially when it was considered that the legislature can be depended upon to be liberal with our educational institutions, but the people voted the millages and, whether or not they were certain what they were doing, the millages have not produced what it was anticipated by the people and by those in authority at the institutions of higher learning that such millages would produce. Like Governor Patterson we do not question the wisdom of the will of the people, if a servant of those people, we should endeavor to see that their wishes were complied with. We might endeavor in the regular and proper manner to endeavor to get the people to change their minds upon some subject on which their wishes had been expressed, such as when they followed the advice of The Sentinel and abolished capital punishment, later reinstating it, also at the suggestion of The Sentinel.

Had we been a member of the recent legislature, although personally satisfied with the 3 per cent limitation, we should have voted to boost that to 5 per cent, because the people have not yet indicated that they regret what they did when the millages were originally voted, at which time it was anticipated that such millages would produce by this time even more than they can under the 6 per cent limitation.

Personally we believe that the expense of every educational institution in the country should be greatly reduced, and we believe

that a committee of laymen could reduce the expense of education with profit to those being educated. After we had reduced present expenses, we might turn around and add to the salaries of educators, for our main idea is profit for the student.

And this fact can not be too highly emphasized: We are not likely to develop in the next 50 years under our present system of education any greater men than those who were developed or have developed with more coarse food and less pie and cake in the schools. No name of any graduate of our colleges in recent years, or in the near future, is likely to live longer than those of Washington, Lincoln, Elliott, Horace Greeley, Thomas Edison, William Jennings Bryan, William Shakespeare, Charles Dickens and Woodrow Wilson, all of whom were educated during times when we had a less elaborate educational system than that of today. No name is likely to live longer than that of Lincoln, who had almost no school education but did have an education of which any college graduate might be proud.

Also these same men lived in an age when expenses of state, county and city government, or the government that corresponded to these, was a small fraction of the present cost of government. Also these men lived in an age when young men and young women did not find it necessary to spend their entire salaries for something to put on their backs and something to go into their stomachs.

We are not going to be more severe with our institutions of learning than we are with our state government, our county government, and our city government, and Mr. Kem knows that he is not going to either.

Here is something that may better explain our attitude toward some expenditures by the institutions of higher learning: The University of Oregon has a magnificent administration building. A building that would have answered the purpose could have been erected at a saving that would have permitted the erection of another building on the campus. But we are proud of the building we have. We take pride in showing the building to visitors from states where we used to live. It is a sort of Sunday suit of clothes for the university and, if we could, we should not be willing to exchange this one beautiful building for two of severe and plain design that might answer their purposes fully as well so far as the actual work of the university is concerned.

When we said that the taxes for the institutions of higher learning would not be increased at all, we meant that the necessities, or what we consider necessities, of the institutions would be found to be such that the legislature would make up the difference between the amount to which Mr. Kem would limit the millages and the amount the millages can produce under a 6 per cent limitation. The tax money would come from the two sources, but the total would be approximately the same as though a 6 per cent increase were permitted.

Mr. Kem points to a \$3,000,000 increase in assessed valuation. If his figures are correct, about \$1200 is the amount of additional money that the University of Oregon will get and \$1800 is about the additional amount O. A. C. will get. Surely he will not claim that this amount will cripple the taxpayer or flood the university's treasury.

Al Smith, potential presidential candidate, defends his religious beliefs in a manner that is satisfactory quite to most Americans with the exception of his belief that parents should be the judges of whether or not their children should attend the public schools. Most of us believe that only by attendance at the public schools during a child's younger years does he become a real American.

Claude Ingalls, perspicacious paragrapher and confounded columnist of the Corvallis Gazette-Times, twists us because a squawker preaching at Eugene located hell at about the exact distance from Eugene that the maps show Cottage Grove to be. It is a fact that we have not yet fully recovered from Claude's visit here last summer.

"Wilma Banky Drops Suit," the headlines tell us, but we are left in the dark as to many details that might have made a good news story. Was it a suit she had on and, if so, was it worn outside or underneath—or don't they wear more than one suit at a time these days?

The government is collecting income tax from bootleggers. The government, it seems, has no trouble putting on the screws when it is a matter of taxation. The prohibition enforcement officers might well take some lessons from the tax collecting department.

A bandit has robbed a Portland apparel shop. Probably the work of a dad of two or three girls who had told him that they just had to have something that the Brown and Jones girl had.

**THE MILLAGES ONCE AGAIN.**

COTTAGE GROVE, April 15.—(To The Editor.)—I have just read your reply to my letter of inquiry with great pleasure because I agree with much you say.

I agree that The Oregonian should have a reporter attend the sessions of the legislature who is equipped with eyes, ears and brains and am sorry I did not know of these defects in Kelly's anatomy before I quoted him so voluminously, otherwise I might have shortened it up considerably. But, in my ignorance of his physical defects, when I read that, "Not until after the governor had approved senate bill 288 was it discovered that the original provision of the measure had been amended sometime during the final hours of the session;" and again, "And this amendment escaped general observation in the confusion of the windup," it was quite natural for me to conclude there was confusion, and it was also quite natural for my mind to revert back to a period of almost 40 years ago and envisage a performance that indelibly impressed itself at that time. It was the last hours of a legislature body, it was in the "we sma" hours and the clock had been repeatedly turned back in an effort to finish the work within the time limit (a thing that is frequently done in all legislative bodies, or perhaps, I had better say, was done). The uproar and confusion was worse confounded and ended in an exchange of ink bottles and cuspidors hurled through the air with more or less accuracy. I am indeed pleased to know that this was a dream only and had no counterpart in the adjournment of the Oregon legislature. It is evidence that "the world do move" and that our civilization is civilizing.

I am pleased to be able to again agree with you in all you say about economy in the home and in the schools and about training children and would not for a moment accuse you of any desire to "increase the cost of education," but am at a loss to reconcile that with your other statement that "We should have been entirely satisfied with the 3 per cent limitation."

Now, I think it fair and reasonable to assume that the reason you were satisfied with the 3 per cent limitation was because you believed that sufficient for the real needs of the beneficiaries of the millage taxes. This being true, why are you defending a limitation that brings them double the amount? If 3 per cent is sufficient, isn't it logical to conclude that twice that amount is more than sufficient?

The only reason you give for this seeming change of front is, following the above quotation, "But The Sentinel does not believe that the boost of the limitation to 3 per cent will give the institutions of higher learning any more money than they would have received had the assessed valuation of the state increased in anything like the proportion it was anticipated that it would increase when the people voted the millage taxes."

Have not the institutions of higher learning received the same benefit from the steadily increasing assessed valuation of the state, whatever that has been, as the other beneficiaries of the millage taxes? If not, why not? If The Sentinel believed that the 6 per cent boost will bring no more money to these institutions than was anticipated under the old law, why was it satisfied with 3 per cent? If it is quite true that these schools require more money, and no inconsiderable amount more, than they did 13 years ago at the time of the enactment of the millage law. However, we must not forget that although it has not been what was anticipated, there has been a steady increase in the receipts of these institutions from the steadily increasing value of the taxable property of the state. The amount I do not know but I have just seen a news item to the effect that the increase in assessed valuation this year is \$3,000,000, which is keeping pace in part with the increased demand and I think you will agree with me that up to the present time they have gotten on quite well. Now, when we add to this the 3 per cent you were one time satisfied with, which is twice more than they have ever had before, coupled with the increasing value of assessable property that will go on perpetually, I cannot resist the belief that it is sufficient for all needful purposes.

I most heartily approve of what you say about pumping less into the child and eliminating from our schools the unnecessary courses and instruction. However, you spoil it all by letting out the following wail, "But this is not any more likely to be done than it is likely that we are going to send our girls to school in faded cotton socks and underclothes made of flour sacks."

I think I can agree with you fully that we are not going to send our girls to school in faded cotton socks, but as to the flour sack underwear, I am not so sure. I am quite confident it might be done with both comfort and profit, and also with safety did the party wearing them remove the letter-

ing. Otherwise, with the mosquito-bar outer garments now in vogue, the public might become acquainted with the brand of flour the family uses.

However, I am quite aware of the difficulty of going against the god of fashion. Of all the gods that have ever been conjured up by the mind of man, none of them has had the devotees that the god of fashion has, and always has had. We all rail against the extravagance of the age but few, if any, have the courage of our convictions. It is pretty much a case of letting "George do it," and he forgets. Even Governor Patterson was not proof against the lure. He started out bravely wielding his battle ax valiantly against appropriation bills and salary grabs but, alas and alas, he weakened in the good work and fell by the wayside before he reached the goal.

You seem to think it hopeless to reform the schools along the lines you have suggested, and I agree with you readily if we are going to supply them with all the money they want, to continue their experiments and the things we all know are not essential. You know that you and I will continue to furnish the kids with silk hose and underwear so long as we have any money and maybe longer. Just so with the school officials, so long as they can get the money there will be no reform, and what breaks my heart is, you are lending yourself to the very thing you condemn and giving it aid and comfort.

You say, "We do not believe that taxes for the institutions of higher learning will be increased at all, for the reason that unless the millages provide more money, the legislature will make up the deficiency by direct appropriation."

I am frank to say that I haven't the slightest idea of what you mean by the above language. First, you do not believe that the taxes for the higher schools will be increased at all, and then, because if the millages do not provide more money the legislature will make up

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Men's full mercerized lisle dress socks 6 pair .....\$1.25	One lot men's linen collars, all sizes, each .....10c	Women's kingham and print house aprons, good quality, each .....80c	One lot women's and girls' slippers, good styles, a pair— \$1.95 to \$2.49	New spring coats—made by Palmer, all wool, for women and girls, each .....\$13.95
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One large lot men's white soft collars, values to 30c, ea. 15c	36 inch wide cretonne, medium and dark patterns, a yard .....17c	81 inch bleached seamless sheeting, heavy weight, a yard .....48c	12x12 turkish wash cloths, blue and pink plaid, 4 for .....25c	30 inch guaranteed washable silk crepe de chine, a yd. \$1.39
36 inch English prints, pongee finish, fast colors, a yard .....22c	Men's pure worsted wool, three piece suits, very best tailoring, a suit \$29.50	Boys' two-piece corduroy suits, ea. \$4.95	Gordon brand, pure silk stockings, full fashioned, \$2.00 value, a pair .....\$1.69	Gordon brand, pure silk stockings, full fashioned, \$1.50 and \$1.65 values .....\$1.39
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Other source of revenue for these schools than the millage that might come to these institutions. Much more might be said but I have already exceeded my space limit.

O. M. KEM.

You say my cheeks are rosy red,  
I'll tell you how that came.  
My mother always made me eat  
Honey-sweetened

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who are full of pep and fun and noise, there is one food that brings them joys—in health and strength and vigor and poise. That cracker is Grahams from Tru-Blu. They're good for kiddies and they're good for you. They build up muscle, bone and sinew—and make you feel the strength that's in you.

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**Tru-Blu G**

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