

# LETTER FROM WASHINGTON

By Harris Ellsworth, Member of Congress

The actual shortage of existing freight cars in the United States is much more serious than most people realize. Colonel J. Monahan of the ODT, together with other members of the interstate commerce commission, were before our committee and presented some startling facts regarding the freight car situation. The actual need right now is 10,000 new freight cars. With 1,700,000 cars in operation, the figure is one-half million cars short of previous high points, we are already seriously short of replacements without taking into consideration the fact that cars are going out of service at the rate of 7,000 per month. A high percentage of the cars in service are nearly 26 years old, the estimated retirement age of freight

cars is averaged around 3,500 per month, or a total of about 40,000 for the year. Recent conferences participated in by the steel manufacturers and railroads indicated that production this year would be stepped up to 10,000 cars per month the first of July. Production is 5,000 to 18,000 cars per month and it is necessary to supply replacements during the next several years. At the present time, we estimate there is equipment enough to move only 75% of the freight volume.

Now, if you want to tear your hair a little, consider this: fifty thousand new freight cars were shipped abroad last year. Even a number of cars for shipment overseas are being contacted.

The City of Washington, D. C., for the last ten days, "enjoyed" the foulest weather I have ever seen. Eight inches of snow fell, and most of it is still on the ground. The thermometer has kept generally below freezing. Streets are filled with dirty heaps of snow, and a miserable cold blows continually. If you are planning a trip to Washington, wait until May.

This week I sent one of the folders, prepared by the Oregon State Highway Commission, to each member of the House of Representatives. With

the folder, I sent a letter inviting the members to visit Oregon this fall when congress was not in session. Many members have commented favorably regarding the folders, and I have received several letters thanking me. I feel that it is not only a service to members to place such information about Oregon in their hands, but I am sure the state and congress will benefit if a number of the members of the house make a visit to Oregon this year.

Persons interested in unpatented mining claims will want to remember that the wartime moratorium on assessment work expires June 30, 1947, since hostilities were declared ended in the executive proclamation of December 31, 1946. The moratorium was for the duration plus six months.

Accordingly, parties having such claims should plan to undertake and complete the required annual assessment work some time during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1947. Also, it is important that the annual statement, claiming the benefit of the suspension of assessment requirement, be filed before the above date.

## Tax Cost Revealed For "Brookings"

If the City of Brookings is incorporated it shall be necessary for those who own real estate with the city limits to pay city taxes. While most of the money, raised by taxes, would be spent in Brookings, it is still a matter of concern to all as to the amount of these taxes. The following questions and answers are set forth for the purpose of explaining our problem of city taxes:

**Question: From what sources does a city receive its revenue?**

**Answer:** From real property taxes and a group of other taxes which may generally be said to be indirect taxes.

**Question: Shall all of the expenses of operating the city be paid by real property taxes?**

**Answer:** No. The so-called indirect taxes are used to pay the operating costs of the city, as

far as possible, and the balance of the operating cost is paid for by taxes on real property.

**Question: What are the names of these indirect taxes?**

**Answer:** Personal property tax, business license tax, franchise tax, liquor tax, gasoline tax, court fines, county aid, state aid.

**Question: What would be the total amount secured by the city of Brookings from these so-called indirect taxes?**

**Answer:** About \$5,000.00 per annum.

**Question: What should be the annual cost of operating the city of Brookings?**

**Answer:** The city should be able to operate adequately on a budget of \$7,500.00 per annum.

**Question: Would the \$5000 so raised by indirect taxes be applied to this amount of \$7500?**

**Answer:** Yes. This would leave a remainder of \$2500 to be raised by taxes on real estate.

**Question: How much would this amount to on an assessed valuation of \$1000?**

**Answer:** This may be best answered by a formula: The total assessed valuation of the proposed city is about \$350,000. The amount of money to be raised is \$2500 by real property taxes. 2500 divided by 350,000 equals approximately .0072. Therefore, each assessed valuation of \$1000 would pay \$7.20 per year in city taxes. (Proof: 7.20 (per thousand) times 350 (thousand) equals approximately 2,500.

**Question: How much would a property owner who owns property assessed at \$10,000 pay?**

**Answer:** He would pay \$72 (approximately) per year.

**Question: Is the assessed valuation of property its true value.**

**Answer:** Usually it is not.

**Question: Approximately what would be the true value (selling price) of property assessed at \$10,000?**

**Answer:** It would be worth ap-

proximately \$30,000.

**Question: Then, under this computation, property actually worth \$30,000 would pay \$72.00 per year for City taxes if Brookings were incorporated?**

**Answer:** Yes, that is generally correct.

(See next week's questions and answers for more information about the proposed incorporation of Brookings).

## Gard of Thanks

To our many friends of the Brookings-Harbor area we wish to express our thanks for their kindnesses and sympathies.

Mrs. R. H. Bunnell,  
Myrtle and Lloyd.

## Notice To Creditors

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has been appointed executrix of the estate of Robert Henry Bunnell, deceased, by the Circuit Court of Klamath County, Oregon, and that all persons having claims against said estate of said deceased are hereby notified to present the same to said executrix at the office of the undersigned at 9 Loomis Building, Klamath Falls, Oregon, together with proper vouchers, within six months of the date of this notice.

Dated this 25th day of February, 1947. IDA MAY BUNNELL  
J. C. O'Neill, attorney,  
Klamath Falls, Ore. 1-4t



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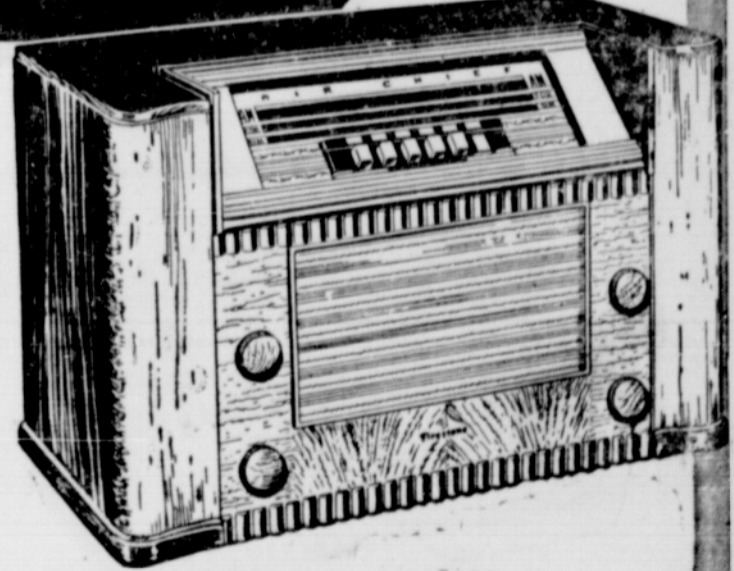
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