

**The Ontario Argus**  
AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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**RAISE THE VALUATIONS.**

The principal reasons for the dangerous condition in which the state institutions find themselves at the present time is the fact that valuations in Oregon are no higher now than they were ten years ago.

On its face it is apparent that there is something rotten in offices of the assessors of the state, or this condition would not exist. No doubt a portion of the blame should rest with the state tax commissioner and the boards which pass on the rolls. These latter bodies, however, have only a minor portion of the guilt to bear for they can not in the ordinary course of events do more than equalize the work of the assessors on the basis upon which the original roll is made.

It would appear that the assessors and other state officials would have noted the trend of conditions and done something toward keeping the tax rolls abreast of the growing commercial values of all classes of property.

It is preposterous to think that with all the war development in the lower Columbia and Willamette regions, with the vast additions of buildings for all kinds of purposes, to say naught of the added industries, increased land values, etc., that Oregon's taxable wealth has not increased. Everyone knows it has, except the county assessors, apparently.

Of course the cause of this condition lies farther back than the assessors. It can be laid at the door of the voters who insist on electing men to office who have but a slight conception of their duty, and who are usually elected to office thru promises to cut taxes, and proceed to do so by reducing valuations—then the matter is out of their hands—for they can blame any one else if the levy is raised to make up the difference, and usually they blame the county court, the legislature and the school boards.

The system should be changed. There should be a greater co-ordination of powers. All over the state the basic principles of levying values should be the same and then the assessors should be compelled to adhere to these principles and to make their levies accordingly.

If this were done the cry of one section keeping values down could not be raised and assessors in other counties where the people recognize the fact that governmental institutions must be adequately maintained could proceed without fear of doing their people an injustice.

**ANYTHING TO BEAT JOHNSON.**

It is apparent that a fear that Hiram Johnson will be the Republican nominee for the Presidency, or at least will have so large a body of delegates in the convention that he will have to be reckoned with, is shown in the utterance of many staunch Republican papers of the "old school."

With them it is a case of anyone to beat Johnson and they are devoting not a little time and thought to the stormy petrel from California. Perhaps they may succeed in defeating Hiram, but it must be evident to Republican leaders that they can not ignore his following by nominating a reactionary not acceptable to Johnson or out of sympathy with the things for which he stands.

To a large degree the California primary will determine what the leaders must do. If Johnson wins a decisive victory over Hoover in their home state there is every likelihood that he will sweep Oregon, too, just as he did Montana. Then if the Republican leaders in Oregon are wise they will not precipitate a situation such as existed in California in 1916, but will accept the verdict of the majority and go to Chicago and endeavor to nominate a Pacific Coast candidate.

Whether they like Johnson or not, and most of the Republican leaders do not like his methods while acknowledging his personal power—Oregon Republicans will do well to remember that he understands the West as does no other candidate. He, better than anyone else, will be able to handle the Japanese question. That is something in his favor as far as Oregon is concerned.

At the present time it is safe to say that Leonard Wood is the favorite of most Oregon Republicans, and would be satisfactory to the Johnson adherents if their favorite can not secure the nomination—next to Wood they would take Lowden while they like Harding and Hoover in a corresponding diminishing ratio.

This year, instead of being first, Oregon is the last of the primary states and its importance is as great as, if not greater, than before. The reason for this is that the Oregon vote will be indicative of the continuing hold of the various candidates. From now on, therefore, every attempt will be made to arouse the Oregon voters from the apparent indifference which now marks their attitude toward the various candidates.

**IS FEDERAL AID FAILING?**

The high hopes which advocates of Good Roads entertained when the federal government undertook to assist in the construction of highways have not yet materialized. Although congress appropriated more than \$175,000,000 for this work, so far

only \$15,000,000 has been spent. Oregon is one of the few states in the Union that has taken advantage of the federal aid plan, and even in this state the work has not progressed as it should. The reason for this is that the federal department of roads has to unwind too large a reel of red tape before it can get appropriations approved for various projects. Another reason is that the federal engineers have not been able to follow a definite plan for the work in hand. The specifications of the state and federal government have not been harmonized.

Of course these difficulties are not

At the Agricultural College State University and Oregon Normal School

classes are so overcrowded, rooms so overloaded, and teachers so few, that the three institutions will have to close the door on at least 1000 Oregon boys and girls, and perhaps upon twice that number unless the new millage support bill passes on May 21

These three institutions have, when compared with the year when the present millage support bill was passed

150 per cent More Students but only

15 per cent More Classrooms and less than

4 per cent More Income

The fact that higher education in Oregon is in a crisis cannot be said too strongly. You are urged to work for the Higher Educational relief measure, and to help it with your vote on May 21.

Paid advertisement inserted by Collin Dymont in behalf of the Joint Alumni Relief Committee for Higher Education in Oregon, 514 Pittock Block, Portland.

insurmountable, and will be overcome when the federal department has been longer at work. The end which all desire to achieve is the same and can only be secured by united efforts.

The states have just begun to get in position where they can take advantage of federal aid and the present system should be given a thorough trial before any change in the system is contemplated by the federal government.

**VOTE FOR ROADS AND SCHOOLS.**

Education and means of communication are two of the first duties of the state. Without these Oregon can not do justice to its people. Unless the people ratify the millage measure and the road bill higher education in Oregon state institutions will be denied hundreds of Oregon boys and girls, and all road work in the state will stop. This can not and must not be permitted.

The younger our office devil gets the wiser he becomes. Now he asserts that the only sure method of keeping out of debt is not to get into debt.

**SEED CORN SHOWS LOW GERMINATION**

Reports from farmers who have tested seed corn for germination this spring indicate that there is an unusual amount of poor seed. This is probably the result of weather conditions during the winter. Many ears which appear to be well matured and sound prove to be worthless for seed when tested out.

A good way to test seed corn is to remove the butts and tips from the ears selected for seed and then take three or four grains from each ear, after numbering the ears. The grains to be sprouted are then placed between blotters or soft cloth, first marking squares and numbering them to correspond with the ear numbers. Keep the germinator moist and moderately warm for a few days until the good grains have started to grow. Discard all ears which show weak germination or that will not grow at all.

Scabby potatoes, or those affected with Rhizoctonia, if they must be used for seed, should be treated with corrosive sublimate dip. Directions for the correct method of treatment as recommended by the Agricultural College can be had by applying to the county agricultural agent.

**SHOES---**

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EITHER of the two models shown here will add a touch of fashion to your appearance which can only be obtained by wearing stylish shoes that fit properly.

Made over splendid fitting lasts these pumps are distinctive in one point—they will not slip at the heel or bulge at the sides.

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**19.75**

Values to \$42.50

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The Season's Newest Styles and Colors.

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