

# Crook County Journal

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## SAYS TAX SYSTEM IS OUT OF DATE

Howard F. Jones of Redmond Suggests Many Changes in Manner of Assessment

### WOULD ASSESS BY TOWNSHIPS

Thinks Every Taxpayer Should Receive a Copy of His Assessment Previous to the Meeting of the Board of Equalization

Editor Crook County Journal—One of the first questions asked by a prospective settler, or by those contemplating investments in town property or mercantile pursuits is: What is your tax rate in Crook county? While Crook county compares favorably with most counties in Oregon in its tax rate, I think it is conceded by a majority of taxpayers that the system now in vogue, not only can be greatly improved to the financial benefit of the county, but that it has outlived its usefulness, just as much so as the tallow candles of our grandfathers have been superseded by electric lights.

To illustrate: Under the present system of copying the taxroll from year to year and adding to it the new names of property owners found by the assessor, is out of date for any county that is rapidly increasing in wealth and population, and especially so for Crook county which has the brightest prospect before it of any county in Oregon. So many changes could be enumerated that in an article like this

only a few of the most important can be mentioned.) The law requires a just and equitable assessment of all assessable property in the county—is it just that the bull pine timber claims on Grizzly mountain pay the same tax as claims of three to five million feet on the Cascades? This is how they are assessed this year. If the claims on Grizzly are not over-assessed then some timber lands are not paying one-fourth of their just share into the treasury of Crook county. The county judge, county clerk and assessor of the several counties of this state constitute a county board of equalization, to examine and correct the assessment roll with power to increase or reduce the valuation of property assessed. Three weeks' public notice of their meeting being published their meetings continue for one week if necessary to give all taxpayers a chance to appear before them and have redress against an unequal and unjust valuation of property on said roll, whether the same is caused by overvaluation of his own property or undervaluation of that of others. Last year no one appeared before the board of equalization. Why? Because they did not know what their taxes were to be. That is, probably not one taxpayer in fifty demanded a copy of his assessment and unless his memory recalled what he gave in to the assessor and took it for granted that the assessor had made no change, he would be in ignorance until he received a notice from the sheriff six months after the board of equalization had met giving him the amount he must pay. Under the present system, if a school district wished to levy a tax on the assessable property in the district, it would be like hunting for a needle in a

haystack to get the amount from the present roll. Prineville or Bend would be in the same boat. A method to improve the present system and have it conform to that adopted by a majority of assessors in Oregon, embraces the following important changes.

To make an entirely new assessment roll by township, giving the name of the owner of each legal sub-division of land in the township and to note all non-assessable property—state and government lands thereon.

The assessor to make a plat of all government surveys and of all town plats, and to note thereon the name of each owner of land or lot, and to describe the land in the roll in the order of its location upon the ground, also whether semi-arid or proportion irrigable.

The assessor to make a new taxpayers' index for each year, with the names arranged in alphabetical order, to be a public record subject to general inspection.

The assessor to make carbon copies of all property assessed, the taxpayer to be given one copy for reference. When the property of non-residents is assessed a copy of assessment to be mailed when residence is known, giving to each taxpayer the fullest opportunity to appear before the board of equalization to remedy any mistake made in their assessment.

Having had four years' previous experience as assessor in Colorado and fifteen years as real estate agent and appraiser, I realize fully the responsibility and labor involved in adopting this plan, and I pledge myself that if nominated and elected to give to Crook county a strict business administration, with no favoritism to any person, corporation or other interest, an honest and just assessment to all parts of the county without fear or favor to the best of my ability.

H. F. JONES.

## ORATIONS, MUSIC AND RECITATIONS

Interesting Program Prepared for the Inter-Society Contest of the High School

Much interest is being taken in the coming inter-society contest in declamation and oratory, which is to be held in the Club Hall next Friday evening. Both societies are practicing yells and the contest promises to call forth a great deal of spirit.

The following programme will be rendered:

Piano Duet—"The Mill in the Black Forest"—Lora and Nora Stearns.

Recitation—"Legend of Bergentz," Adelaide Procter—Celia Nelms.

Oration—"Tendency Toward Centralization"—Randolph Ketchum.

Recitation—"Neuhaugh," John G. Whittier—Lorene Winnek.

Oration—"Annexation of Cuba"—Robert Cram.

Recitation—"The Lost Word," Henry Van Dyke—Ethel Moore.

Recitation—"A Setting Hen"—Wilford Belknap.

Oration—"The Father of Oregon"—Edgar Barnes.

Recitation—"Death bed of Benedict Arnold," Heppard—Ethel Kidder.

Oration—"Recall"—Arthur Lindborg.

Recitation—"Rufus Ralin's Ride"—Hall—Donald Larwood.

Oration—"The Powers of the Press"—Luther Moore.

Recitation—"The Soul of the Violin," Margaret Merrill—Clara Horney.

Vocal Duet—"I Live and Love Thee," Campana—Mrs. Hudson and Mr. Lanus.

## Registration Now 1581

The following is the showing of the registration books in the clerk's office up to date and is practically complete. A few names will come in from outlying precincts during the next few days. This week's figures show an increase of the registration over last week of about 350.

Ashwood—	42
Republicans	42
Democrats	13
Socialists	2
Bend—	2
Republicans	22
Democrats	12
Socialists	1
Black Butte—	87
Republicans	87
Democrats	26
Socialists	4
Prohibition	1
Independent	2
Bear Creek—	17
Republicans	17
Democrats	20
Socialists	1
Independent	1
Beaver Creek—	32
Republicans	32
Democrats	25
Breeze—	13
Republicans	13
Democrats	4
Socialists	1
Cross Keys—	4
Republicans	4
Democrats	1
Camp Creek—	16
Democrats	7
Independent	1
Deschutes—	37
Republicans	37
Democrats	19
Socialists	2
Prohibition	1
Independent	1
No party	1
Haystack—	62
Republicans	62
Democrats	23
Socialists	7
Prohibition	11
Hay Creek—	24
Republicans	24
Democrats	8
Independent	1
No party	1
Howard—	7
Republicans	7
Democrats	3
Hardin—	10
Republicans	10
Democrats	6
Independent	1
Ireland—	21
Republicans	21
Democrats	3
Johnson Creek—	19
Republicans	19
Democrats	17
Socialists	1
Kutcher—	136
Republicans	136
Democrats	32
Socialists	8
Prohibition	1
Independent	4
No party	1
Ladlaw—	63
Republicans	63
Democrats	16
Socialists	5
Prohibition	2
Lanonta—	29
Republicans	29
Democrats	23
Socialists	1
Independent	2
Lyle Gap—	35
Republicans	35
Democrats	4
Socialists	6
Prohibition	2
Independent	4
No party	1
Montgomery—	20
Republicans	20
Democrats	13
Socialists	2
No party	1
McKay—	32
Republicans	32
Democrats	28
Socialists	2
Mill Creek—	8
Republicans	8
Democrats	11
Socialists	1
Independent	1
Maury—	1
Republican	1
Newsom—	16
Republicans	16
Democrats	16
Prineville—	110
Republicans	110
Democrats	103
Socialists	4
Independent	3
Powell Buttes—	33
Republicans	33
Democrats	14
Socialists	15
Redmond—	63
Republicans	63
Democrats	21
Socialists	3
Prohibition	1
No party	3
Summit—	3
Republicans	3
Democrats	3
Warm Springs—	6
Republicans	6
Democrats	1
No party	5
Willow Creek—	16
Republicans	16
Democrats	7
Independent	1
No party	1
Totals by parties—	964
Republicans	480
Democrats	64
Socialists	18
Prohibition	21
Independent	14
No party	14
Grand total to date	1581

loss will be Prineville's gain. George desires to go into business for himself, and he has been employed with his father for the past several years in the manufacture of cigars in Lakeview, and is competent in every way, his friends are glad to see him start out for himself, and have no misgivings as to the result of his venture. George will return to Lakeview about the first of May and take his wife to his new home. There is an immense lot of "red tape" connected with establishing a cigar factory, hence his first trip into the field a month before starting into the business. He has received considerable encouragement to go into the cigar business in Prineville, from business men of that city. We feel sure that they will never have cause to regret having encouraged him.—Lakeview Examiner.

### Dr. Merryman's Standing

The Klamath Falls Republican, the leading republican paper of Klamath county, says: One week from tomorrow will be the day on which the people of this district will make the final decision as to who will be the next state senator from this district, and in view of that fact it will not be amiss to call attention to the condition of the "senatorial market" as it appears today.

The general opinion is that Dr. G. H. Merryman will be the successful candidate. He is admittedly the strongest man before the people of this district, and that he will carry this county is absolutely certain. Lake county is conceded to him, and while there is a dispute about Crook, Dr. Merryman's attitude on county division insures that he will more than break even over there. Had it not been for him Crook county would have been divided, and with it would have gone a good slice of Klamath and Lake. He would listen to no compromise at any stage of the game and was able to defeat it and thus saved the interested counties.

His record in the House has been one of the best ever made by a Klamath representative. His standing among the leaders of the state is well known and if he goes to the senate he will be stronger than any other man the county can send. Every one knows that it is strength of this character that counts when it comes to getting things for the district represented. Merryman has this strength and it is this that makes him more capable of representing the interests of this district than any other man.

One of the important bills introduced by him and passed by his sole influence, was that refunding the incorporation tax and annual license fee of the Klamath Water Users Association for the past three years, and forever remitting the same. This brings it right home to the pockets of the stockholders of the association, and they are not likely to forget it either.

It is not probable that anything can arise between now and the primaries that will prevent the nomination of Dr. G. H. Merryman.

## BEND POSTMASTER IS SHORT \$3200

Had Appropriated Money To His Own Uses During Period Covering Two Years

### CLEVERLY EVADES INSPECTORS

Made Fake Duplicates of Remittance Letters Which Were Counted As Cash—Bondsman Now in Charge of the Post Office

Alfred H. Grant, the postmaster at Bend, has been removed by Postal Inspector R. J. Stockmyer of the Spokane division, and his bondsmen are in charge of the postoffice.

It became apparent to the department some time ago that there was some irregularity in the manner in which money order funds were being transmitted to the depository at Portland and an investigation was made at once.

After being questioned Postmaster Grant made a confession to the postal inspector and Mr. Hunter, one of his bondsmen, which is said to have been in effect as follows: Irregular practices in handling the funds and appropriation of sums at different times have been made by Mr. Grant for over two years. Whenever a postal inspector was in the vicinity, a fake duplicate of a remittance letter was made to cover the amount and with other papers in the cash box were counted as cash when the office was checked up by the inspector. Thus inspectors were evaded during a period of two years. He said further that some amounts had been borrowed and repaid to the money order funds.

The office was short some \$3200, \$2600 of which had been taken since the first of this year. What has been done with the funds Mr. Grant would not state, further than that they had been appropriated to his own use. "I will repay it some day," he said, but that was all.

It seems that through some defect in the bonds the government is only secured to the amount of \$1000, which has already been paid by Bondsman Hunter who has charge of the office at present. The other bondsman is A. M. Drake, who is spending the winter at Naples, Italy.

Mr. Grant is an Englishman by birth and past middle age. He has been in this country for several years and was postmaster at Hay-creek for a number of years before removing to Bend, where he was appointed postmaster when the timber rush was on several years ago.



## Very Newest Millinery At Low Prices

During the past week our Millinery Department has had the busiest time in its history. If you have not already visited our newly arranged store and especially our Millinery Department you have no idea of what we have to offer you. The very newest millinery at low prices

### Comfortable Shoes

This cut does not begin to represent our shoe lines. This department has been fitted up especially for the comfort of our customers. It will give you pleasure to wear shoes bought of us

### Fast Black Ribbed Hosiery

Hosiery fast black from 12c to \$1.00 per pair. Have you ever worn a good grade of ribbed hose? We will show you the kind to wear

### Young Mens Clothing

Made up like high grade mens clothing and costs no more than the ordinary. Sizes 14 to 20 years. We ask you to look over this line

### Dress Skirts

Today we open up an immense line of the celebrated "R. & W." dress skirts—15 different patterns in the season's choice weaves—includes Voiles, Panamas, Serges and the staple Mohairs. This line is pronounced the best on the market for the moderate prices asked. These skirts are on exhibit this week

Call and look through the big line of muslin underwear—not like you find at other stores

Coming—as fast as express can bring them—The Jackson Corset. One of the lines will be the 1908 pattern of the Lace Front. Prices range from 75c to \$4.00.

The talk of the town could not be on a better topic than of our department store. It is our aim to supply every demand for good merchandise. Our wonderful success in selling enables us to buy in the best markets at the lowest prices

PRINEVILLE'S **C. W. ELKINS** PRINEVILLE'S

BIG STORE

PRINEVILLE'S **ROYAL BAKING POWDER** PRINEVILLE'S

BIG STORE

Economizes the use of flour, butter and eggs; makes the biscuit, cake and pastry more appetizing, nutritious and wholesome.

# Royal Baking Powder

ABSOLUTELY PURE

This is the only baking powder made from Royal Grape Cream of Tartar.

It Has No Substitute

There are Alum and Phosphate of Lime mixtures sold at a lower price, but no housekeeper regarding the health of her family can afford to use them.