

OREGON CITY COURIER

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Official Paper for the Farmers Society of Equity of Clackamas Co

M. J. BROWN, Editor

"GETTING EVEN"

The Courier editor has \$10,000 loose money. (This is just a ghastly newspaper joke to illustrate with.)

He can convert it into five dollar bills, make a bundle like a roll of wall paper and shake it in the face of the assessor and tax collector. There will be no taxation on it.

He can take it to the bank and get an interest-drawing certificate of deposit for it, and yet he won't have to pay taxes on it.

He can loan it out on a note or mortgage at 8 per cent (and get \$50 a \$1,000 bonus on it besides, as many Oregon money lenders do) and yet will not have any assessment on his investment or taxes to pay.

But— If he puts that \$10,000 into a factory on a vacant lot he has in Oregon City and give employment to men whose families are hungry—the assessor and tax collector will jump onto him with gleve.

For 'tis the law. If he put this money into a flock of cows and help to push along the sadly neglected dairy industry of Clackamas county, or if he put the money to work on a logged-off tract and help to develop the state—then would he have to get into line and pay the price of progression.

W. S. U'Ren's \$1500 exemption bill will be voted on in November, and the probabilities are it will become a law. "It's class legislation," big business newspapers yell—"it's taking taxation off the little man and forcing it onto the rich, and it is not morally or legally right."

Just as morally and legally right as it is to exempt cash, notes, mortgages, household furniture, diamonds, etc. It was stated in the newspapers last week that one-fourth of Oregon is owned by men and corporations that are foreigners to the state.

A Michigan timber company owns vast tracts of timber in this county that it will not sell, or operate. Eastern speculators and corporations have invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in lands in Oregon that they have never seen and may never see.

Their agents have seen them and reported good investment; that future Oregon development will raise the price of lands far more than legal interest rates, and as taxes are low on dead land, the investment is safe.

So the men who make Oregon; the farmers who clear land; the workman who builds a new house; the capitalist who starts a factory—these men have to put up the big end of high taxation in Oregon; while they are doing it they are making more valuable the idle land holdings of men who do not even live in the state.

It may be "class legislation" to exempt from taxation \$1,500 worth of workers' and developers' industry, but it is class legislation to break even for exemptions the rich are now favored with it.

"But it will all have to come back on the land," big business and big business newspapers will tell you. "You will take it off from buildings, live stock, and improvements and put it back on land through higher levies and taxation."

Sure 'nough. But it will take \$20 off the average Clackamas county farmer and the home builder for his improvements and put from \$2 to \$5 back on land, and they will be from \$15 to \$18 ahead because of their industry.

It will raise the levies on the speculative land holdings, on the timber tracts, the railroads, the franchises, to make up for the exemptions.

It surely will raise the levy on the land, but the man who has the big holdings, the speculators with many acres will have to put up the bulk of it, for a working land owner will have to have a lot of land to have the increased levy offset the exemptions.

So it's the little man's benefit, this U'Ren \$1,500 exemption bill. It will help the worker because he improves and has something to be exempted, while the speculator who holds lands out of cultivation will have nothing to exempt and will have his levy raised to offset those who will have exemptions.

There you have it. Doesn't it take taxes off the men who deserve it and put them on the property that should be made to come through for the support of Oregon? Clackamas county had better play this game and play it hard.

POWER

A bank account will enable you to satisfy any hidden ambition. After you have worked for your money, your money goes out and works for you. It enables you to help friends when in need, thus clinching and increasing their loyalty, which has a money value. It gives you respect of your fellows and standing in your community. Gives you power—you can work in distant places without going there, have men working for you, and have beautiful property and industries that will be the marvel of other men.

The Bank of Oregon City OLDEST BANK IN CLACKAMAS COUNTY

'RAW FOR THE LAW

Last week this page commented on how a former millionaire congressman from New York smuggled a \$100,000 necklace, was caught at it, pleaded guilty, and was let off with a fine, which was absolutely no punishment—not even an inconvenience. Here's another:

Remigio Galindo, a young Spaniard of Portland, stole a pint bottle of milk from the door step of A. L. Mills president of the first national bank, because he had not eaten in several days and was starving. He went to jail for 25 days.

Now both these sentences were entirely within the law, and according to the code were just.

Littaur, the congressman, had always worked for high protection. He had a big glove factory at Gloversville, N. Y. When high tariffs made him rich, then he turned smuggler—he didn't want to pay duties on the stuff he didn't make. He was a thief and traitor to his country.

The Spanish boy in Portland was starving and he kept nature's first law, and he went to jail for saving himself. Both sentences satisfied the law, but both were aggravated cases of injustice.

One was a traitor to his country and he was not punished. The other was saving himself from starvation and he went to jail for it.

Littaur should not have got caught with the goods. Galindo should have starved to death. Then this would not have been written.

LOOKS PECULIAR

Alaska is going to have a government railroad. The Courier's idea is that the purpose is a splendid undertaking, but that the system under which the government will get its coal out is very weak. For illustration an editorial paragraph in the Portland Journal says—

Under the leasing bill a certain generous portion of the lands will remain in the possession of and be operated by the government for use of government railroads, for the navy and as an emergency check against possible monopoly if it should develop under the leasing system.

Now the point we take is WHY if the leasing system is going to be such a benefit to the country in the way of cheaper coal, WHY doesn't the government also employ the system? If it is good for the country why is it not equally good for the navy and the government railroads?

And if it is good for the government to operate its own mines and use its own railroads, why isn't it equally beneficial to the country at large, and why nominated for Governor should do its own business after expending millions of dollars to build its own railroad to its own mines in its own country?

Does the government owe coal operators more than it does the people? JOSEPH FELS

Joseph Fels, millionaire philanthropist, single taxer and personal friend of W. S. U'Ren of this city, died at his home in Philadelphia on Sunday night, of pneumonia. He was 67 years old.

Mr. Fels had spent hundreds of thousands of dollars and years of labor to bring about the system of single taxation in this and other countries—a system which he had long advocated was for the benefit of the poor man, and was the only solution to just and equitable taxation.

In speaking of his death Mr. U'Ren says: "The world has lost, in the death of Joseph Fels, one of its best men. He was always looking for a square deal for the common man, and he was always endeavoring to do justice, or primarily to benefit the man working for wages. I don't know anyone else among the class of wealthy men who was spending money so freely to get benefit for the man at the bottom of society."

A VOICE IS CALLING?

A voice, in fact a great many voices, are calling some good, live, wide-awake, up-to-date Democrat to get out in the First Congressional district and defeat W. C. Hawley. As the Messenger has said before, there never has been a better candidate as the present to send a Democrat from this district to Congress. Considering this, it is surprising that so little interest is shown. A few names have been mentioned for the place, but one of the men are unknown and some of very ordinary ability, while none appear to enter into the fight with any enthusiasm. There are plenty of able Democrats in the First district and the services of an able man are required at Washington at this time, and we should like to see a man get into the race at once. The general opinion is that almost any competent Democrat can be elected. —Salem Messenger.

"The Democrats of this congressional district are given a rare opportunity this year to elect a Democratic Congressman. A similar opportunity was thrown away two years ago." The Wilson administration has met with the approval of the people of Oregon and they will give the administration a vote of confidence by electing a Democratic Congressman where the party lives up to its obligations and nominates good, clean and progressive men." —Toledo Sentinel.

Of course the Republican machine wants Colonel Booth for governor. But the motives for his candidacy find a deeper source than the local aspirations (or despondencies) of the machine. The fact is big business gritting its teeth and biting its upper lip beneath an acquiescent smile, seeks once more to regain influence in affairs of national legislation. The influence of Booth as a senator in that direction could not be without value. With Lane promising to introduce a bill for giving back to the state its lost harbor rights, and grabbers in Portland would expect ally like to have the influence of Booth in the senate chamber.—Banks Herald.

Get your letterheads and envelopes printed with the name of your farm on them. The Courier will make them cheap for you.

NOT ADVERTISED

Here is a matter of much public interest the daily papers don't appear to be giving to their dear readers in any considerable news stories, or through very lengthy editorial comments.

One year ago the city of San Francisco went into the public ownership game on a small scale.

Thereby began the operation of a 7-mile street railroad on Gary street, and in the first twelve months of its municipal control it netted the city \$266,000—over a quarter of a million dollars profit on seven miles of street road.

In December 1913 the city also took over another line whose franchise expired, and in the first 21 days of its operation by the city its average receipts were \$1,000 a day.

During this year eight additional street railroads will be built and operated by the city at an expenditure of \$3,500,000.

This is the first city in the United States to compete with the traction companies on a big scale, and the results of its first year's experience makes news that big business doesn't like to have circulated.

On the 7-mile line over 9,000,000 passengers were carried during the year and not one was killed or injured.

Now the reasoner will ask "if a 7-mile municipal owned railroad will net the city over a quarter million dollars, what would all the lines produce?"

And the answer is they would probably pay the taxes of San Francisco. Public ownership of utilities and necessities are coming as fast as public sentiment and private votes will bring them.

And why shouldn't they? Under such ownership the profits are divided with the many. Under corporation control the profits make a few millionaires.

FOR REPRESENTATIVE

To the Voters of Clackamas County: I have decided to become a candidate at the Primaries for the Republican nomination for Representative for 27 years. For the last 20 years I have lived on a farm at Beaver Creek.

If nominated and elected I will advocate economy in all appropriations. Our state is overtaxed and I will fight to reduce it to the lowest limit consistent with the proper management of the various departments of the state government.

There are too many boards and commissioners and tax is endeavoring to reduce the number to such as are absolutely necessary.

As a member of farmers' organizations I am familiar with their policies and demands, and I shall do all in my power to aid in securing such legislation as they desire.

There are undoubtedly too many bills introduced at each session of the legislature. It is almost impossible for members to give so vast a number proper consideration. I will favor any measure to limit the number of bills introduced to what is not more laws, but fewer and better laws.

I have always stood for Oregon's progressive laws, as enacted by the people through the Initiative and Referendum, and I shall always be on the watch for any attempt to curtail the people's power along this line.

W. Grisenthwaite

INCREASED VALUATIONS OF PROPERTY DOUBTED

Estimates of T. W. Sullivan Regarding Road Bonds are Questioned. Editor Courier:— I have read the discussion about the county road bonds, in last week's Courier with a great deal of interest. This is the right way to handle this matter. Give every one a fair chance to express his opinion on the subject through the columns of the county papers, and I can assure you that we appreciate the fairness of the Courier in publishing these articles. It makes the Courier always a welcome visitor.

Now it is hard for me to find the words to sufficiently express my opposition to this county bonding, for road building. There is hardly anything about it that is favorable to the farmer. The farmers don't want it, and if the farmers don't want it, why should the city people try to force it on them?

A direct tax that would be equal to what they would pay out each year, as interest and sinking fund on the bonds, would be just as easy to pay as the interest and sinking fund on the bonds, and we would get the benefit of about \$50,000 more money for road building than we would by bonding.

If we should have to pay 6 per cent interest on those bonds, which I think we would, the interest alone would cost us about \$50,000 before we got the bonds paid off.

Mr. Sullivan's table, which he prepared, was based on 5 per cent interest and this would amount to about \$465,000, and if we had to pay 6 per cent it would add about \$93,000 to the table of his preparation. Mr. Sullivan's system of bonding is very unsatisfactory to the farmers. It does not indicate prosperity for the farmers but just the reverse. Raising the assessed valuation of the county two or three millions of dollars each year does not better the condition of the farmers any. Instead of his wealth increasing so as to enable him to pay his taxes easily it works just the reverse with him. It is a good deal like life insurance—you have to die to get the benefit of it, and the only way the farmer could get any benefit out of Mr. Sullivan's plan of working, would be to sell out and leave the county.

I am surprised at any legislature that would pass a law and leave it in such a questionable condition as they did that last road law. Every member of both houses should have too much respect for his own reputation to allow such a job to pass out of their hands. The construction of the law by the county court and the county attorney is in better shape than the Legislature left it in.

Give us direct tax and a good Roadmaster, but no bonds. George Hicinbotham.

Dates to Remember

April 10—Last day upon which nominating petitions may be filed with secretary of state.

April 15—Last day upon which nominating petitions may be filed with county clerk.

May 1—Closing of the registration books by county clerk until after the primary election.

May 15—Primary nominating election for Democratic, Progressive and Republican parties.

July 2—Last day upon which initiative petitions may be filed with the Secretary of state.

BOOST FOR U'REN; LOOK OUT FOR BOOTH

Parnell Averill Gives Courier Reader a Few Points to Think On. Editor Courier:— I notice your enquiry to your readers as to their opinions about Mr. U'Ren's idea about building good roads and thus not only doing a great work towards building up and developing this great "Oregon country" but giving work to a great many idle men. For one thing I think very highly of this idea and particularly of the source from which he proposes to derive his funds for doing this great and much needed improvement.

If there is anyone who ought to bear public burdens it is that class of people who are abundantly able to do so. It is true that the great Oregonian fairly froths at the mouth about U'Ren's plan of tax exemption \$1500 of personal property from the comparatively poor man's home, but it is easy to understand the cause of this violence, to-wit: it would make more taxes to be raised by the idle rich.

Think of the pitiful predicament of poor old John D. He is asked and required for that matter, to pay an income tax of nearly \$10,000,000 and in anguish of heart nearly akin to mortal agony, he flies from Cleveland to evade service there in hopes that some wily attorney in New York city will find some means for him to evade it, and to be sure they will mighty nigh accomplish that purpose.

By the way, Mr. Editor, did you see that the Czar of Russia, in a recent journey through his realm was saddened at heart to see so many evidences of abject and squalid poverty among his subjects? Has anything ever been known of old John D., in his travels through his realm in this country (he owns nearly \$1,000,000,000) of this kind (?) Christian (?) gentleman (?) ever expressing any sorrow about the great and appalling poverty he sees daily in our great cities? Not much!

He is actively scheming to deprive them of what little they have left. His coal mines in Colorado are known to be worse and more brutalizing than anything in Russia, such money monsters have had their day and a Nemesis is on their track and will surely overtake them.

The land of Washington, Jefferson and Lincoln is not to be given over to satisfy the insatiable greed of a set of cold-blooded and ruthless more cruel and merciless than any pirates that ever sailed the seas under the black flag.

The Oregonian is now daily booming the candidacy of Mr. Booth of Eugene for the office of U. S. Senator from Oregon. Ourselves! Birds of a feather flock together. This man Booth, it is a matter of record, acquired some 40,000 acres of valuable timber land from that aggregation of Big Business sharks, the Southern Pacific R. R., at a nominal price far below its actual worth, notwithstanding the government especially stipulated in its contract with this lawless combination, that this land should be sold to actual settlers in tracts not more than 160 acres at the uniform price of \$2.50 an acre.

Later, when the government instituted suit against the S. P. for violation of contract Booth and his associates set up the plea that they were "innocent purchasers."

This was and is one of the most transparent falsehoods ever uttered and John U. Court, but a short time ago U. S. Attorney of Portland, told the writer that he wrote to the new

Attorney General, Wickersham, that he would not stand for that kind of a deal and the proposition did not look good to him a little bit. Later he resigned to avoid giving his sanction to the scheme. Innocent purchaser! Rats! If there is any innocence in any of that bunch it would take a more powerful microscope to discover it than any that has ever been invented.

Reduced to its last analysis this candidacy of Booth with his backer, the Oregonian, is to secure another large tract of valuable timber land on the Siuslaw or in that region, where there are hundreds of quarter sections with timber on them, conservatively worth \$200,000, also timber land in the same Oregon & California land grant in and around Scotts Mills in this county. You may be sure that these blood-suckers have long had their greedy eyes on these choice morsels and they propose to grab them in the not distant future, if they can persuade the yaps and boobs to vote them into office.

When William the Conqueror landed on the English shore from Normandy away back in the 14th century in his eagerness to jump ashore, being the first man to make the attempt—he slipped and fell prostrate on the ground, his followers appalled by this start. It was a superstitious age, but they were satisfied and revived by the Conqueror's wit, who, rising from the ground with both hands full of English dirt, exclaimed in thunder tones: "Lo! here I have this much English soil! Let us go on and grab the remainder!" So it is with Booth and Pittock of the Oregonian. Having both hands full of Oregon soil, they now propose to go and grab the remainder.

Will the people of Oregon stand for this land-grabbing scheme? No! Not if it is done under the seeming and fair guise of pretended patriotism, and high and lofty devotion to the best interests of the state. We have been fooled too much.

Parnell Averill.

The King of All Laxatives

For constipation, use Dr. King's New Life Pills. Paul Mathulka, of Buffalo, N. Y., says they are the "king of all laxatives. They are a blessing to all my family and I always keep a box at home." Get a box and get well again. Price 25c. As druggists or by mail. H. E. Bucklen & Co. Philadelphia or St. Louis.

Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

Voters of City and County Warned They Must Register

All voters of the city and county must re-register now for the ensuing two-year period. All registrations made before January 5 are now absolutely void, because of the recent decision of the supreme court, declaring the 1913 election law invalid. Persons who have not registered cannot vote at the primaries May 15. Register early and avoid the crowds of the last few days.

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We honestly believe we have the best remedy in the world for indigestion and dyspepsia. We urge you to try it at our risk. If it doesn't relieve you—as we feel sure it will—we'll give back your money without a word. You know us—your family druggist. You know we wouldn't dare recommend anything we didn't know about, nor dare to break a promise. Therefore, when we recommend any remedy it is because we believe it to be better than any other to relieve the ailment for which it is made, and when we prove our faith in it and our sincerity toward you by promising to give back your money if it doesn't relieve you and in every way satisfy you, you have no possible excuse for doubt or hesitation.

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