

# OREGON CITY ENTERPRISE

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## WHY TAXES ARE HIGH

JUDGE DIMICK ADDRESSES LETTER TO TAXPAYERS IN WHICH HE ITEMIZES EXPENSES.

## BIG OUTLAY FOR ROADS

Says Taxpayers Themselves Make High Taxation by Petitioning for New Roads and Bridges, then Blame Court.

To the Editor: I feel it my duty, as a member of the County Court, to request space in your columns, in order that I may furnish to the tax payers of Clackamas County some reasons why taxes for 1908 are higher this year than in former years, and I would kindly ask every reasonable tax payer to study the figures carefully and if possible point out a way to the County Court by which we can lower the levy other than which I mention in this communication. We have had, during my administration, a large amount of outstanding road warrants, and on the second day after I took charge of the affairs of Clackamas County, as County Judge, I had the Clerk give me a statement of the amount of road warrants outstanding and unpaid on that date, and I still have that statement in my possession, and which statement shows \$19,624.10.

Now, in addition to that sum there had been held out of the road fund belonging to Oregon City under its charter, certain amounts which the County Court had refused to give to the city, and which had been levied under the head of a bridge tax, and we refused to pay the city that sum unless we were sued and compelled to pay it, for the reason that it was a claim against the County, and if a valid claim, the former County Court should have paid it.

The city then sued the County and Judge McBride held that the city was entitled to recover the same, as the bridge fund was a part of the road fund and the amount involved, which we were compelled to pay Oregon City by the decree of the Circuit Court, was approximately \$4,000.

Then, in addition, we had to pay for a rock crusher amounting to \$125.00 which the former Court had purchased and also for the building of the Pudding River bridge and the Sucker creek bridge which amounted to more than \$5,000, and in addition hereto there was unpaid road claims against the County amounting approximately to \$3,800.00; and we were compelled to run the County from July until the next February without a dollar of road money in the treasury. I mention this matter for the reason that some of the tax payers are under the impression that the road fund was free from debt when I was elected County Judge.

Now, during the year 1907, there were more than 80 miles of new road petitioned for, which with the bridges and culverts that were made upon those roads, cost the tax payers of Clackamas County a large sum of money, and during the year 1908 more than 120 miles of new road were petitioned for, and of that mileage a large portion was allowed and opened, which necessarily called for an expense of more than \$30,000.

These roads were made, not at the instance and request of the County Court, but at the instance and request of the tax payers themselves, and in addition to that expenditure we had 364 bridges more than 75 feet long, and over 1800 smaller bridges and culverts, all of which required about \$35,000 per annum to keep them in repair.

We also had to keep in repair the improved County Roads, such as plank roads and gravel roads, which required more than \$20,000 per annum, and in addition thereto the County Court was compelled to make large expenditures in clearing and grading other county roads, which cost the taxpayers about \$60,000 per annum.

Now since the tax payers of Clackamas County are raising such a cry over the amount of taxes they are compelled to pay, I wish to inform them that this great expense has been brought on by themselves in petitioning the County Court for new roads and bridges and for the improvement of those roads which have been laid out before and never improved.

It might be well at this time to state the different funds which we are compelled to raise: First, we will take the running expenses of Clackamas County which includes the running of the Courts, expenses and mileage of jurors and witnesses, boarding prisoners, caring for the poor, insane account, indigent



DR. C. A. STUART, chosen President for third time of Willow Creek Mining Company.

soldiers, salaries of County officers and all stationery, stamps, etc., which aggregate the sum of \$40,000.

Then in addition to that sum we have 9,188 children of school age, which the law compels the County to make a levy of \$7.90 per scholar therefor, which this year amounts to \$64,316.00.

Then the State tax which Clackamas County is compelled to contribute for the year 1909 is approximately \$43,000.00.

Then comes the roads and bridge which are the greatest burden that the tax payers of Clackamas County have to carry. The repair and building of bridges, \$35,000 per annum. Repair of plank and gravel roads, \$20,000 per annum. Those two items

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## INCREASE 100 PER CENT

BUSINESS OF OREGON CITY POST OFFICE ALMOST DOUBLES IN EIGHT YEARS.

Postmaster Randall has compiled figures comparing the money order business and postal receipts of 1900 with those of 1908. The statement shows an increase of nearly one hundred per cent in the business of the Oregon City postoffice since 1900. The figures follow: Money orders issued in 1900, 5467; money orders issued in 1908, 10,703; total sum of orders issued in 1900, \$56,799.57; total sum of orders issued in 1908, \$93,697.38; orders paid, 1900, 4455; orders paid, 1908, 6768; total sum of orders paid, 1900, \$56,381.57; total sum of orders paid, 1908, \$86,870.10. Postal receipts, 1900, \$6,493.06; postal receipts, 1908, \$13,324.24.

Born, Tuesday, February 8, a seven pound boy to Mr. and Mrs. William Rivers, of Gladstone.

## BARCLAY GIRLS VICTORS

BASKETBALL GAME LAST FRIDAY NIGHT ENDS IN SCORE OF 8 TO 32.

The basketball game Friday evening between the Eastham and Barclay schools of this city proved to be a very interesting event. The large attendance taxed the capacity of the Riverbank Rink. The energetic rooting by the friends and students of each school gave evidence of the keen rivalry and good school spirit.

The assistance of the Oregon City band added much enthusiasm. The game resulted in a score of 8 to 32 in favor of Barclay. Both played well but the excellent team work of the Barclay girls gave them an important advantage. Although the Eastham team was unfortunate in not having sufficient preparation, they played well in all but a few points. They are confident of success at the next game. Two out of three games will determine the championship between the two schools. The winners will probably play one of the Portland teams. The line-up was as follows:

Eastham: Barclay Martha Myers, Ruby Francis, Maud Farr, R.G., Lillian Gillett, Jennie Schatz, L.G., Floy Stewart, Varissa Owenby, R.P., Pearl Francis, Clara Fields, L.F., Ethel Jefferson.

## MILWAUKEE BOY HERO.

Ross Swaggert Jumps into Icy Waters and Saves Little Child's Life.

Ross Swaggert, a 12-year old boy residing at Milwaukee, played the part of a hero on Sunday while in Portland, which entitles him to a Carnegie medal. A little child was playing near a houseboat at the foot of East Morrison street and fell into the river. Swaggert seeing the child's predicament jumped into the cold waters and rescued the child from drowning. The name of the child's parents was not obtained by Young Swaggert, as he rushed from the scene to procure dry clothing.

## \$1250 FOR OLD HOME

HOUSE VOTES ABOVE SUM FOR PRESERVATION OF THE McLOUGHLIN HOME.

## MUCH WORK UNDONE

Cochran Tells Us What the Clackamas Delegation is Accomplishing in the Legislature.

(By John W. Cochran.)

With commendable diligence the Legislature this week settled down to a sober consideration of the important legislation that remains to be disposed of during the session. As expected, the House refused to concur in the Senate resolution calling for final adjournment on the 10th inst., and is atoning for its extravagant waste of time during the first four weeks by convening at 9:30 A. M. and continuing its afternoon sessions until about 5 P. M. Even then the House will be rushed if it winds up the great amount of business awaiting its consideration.

Due largely to the earnest and persistent efforts of the Clackamas delegation, the House this week passed the bill creating a board of trustees and providing funds for the purchase and preservation by the state of the old home of Dr. John McLoughlin at Oregon City. There is little doubt but that the Senate will pass the bill and in this small way do something to commemorate that intrepid state builder. As originally presented the bill asked for an appropriation of \$2500, but this was shaved down by the committee on ways and means to \$1250. It is believed that this will be sufficient. If expended carefully as it will be by the trustees to be appointed, to remove the building from

its present location onto land owned by the city where it will be preserved for generations to come.

With only 11 dissenting votes, the House on Tuesday on reconsideration passed Campbell's bill taking the control of the Oregon Soldier's Home at Roseburg out of the hands of the Governor and vesting it in a Board of Control, consisting of three members of the Grand Army. While this bill was under consideration in the House, Campbell and McCue made especially eloquent addresses in its support. They urged that inasmuch as the old veterans themselves desired the passage of the bill, the least the members of the legislature could do was to comply with their request. With this explanation the bill passed, notwithstanding that just before the vote was taken a report was read from a special visiting committee that had visited the institution and reported finding it managed properly and to the satisfaction of every one of the 163 inmates of the Home. C. A. Williams, of Oregon City, is one of the members of the first Board of Control as provided in the bill.

Representative Dimick's bill, appropriating \$500 annually for the Clackamas County Fair Association, is still pending before the ways and means committee. Because of the enormous demand for state funds with which this Legislature is confronted there is a strong probability that numerous bills of the same character as that introduced by Dimick will be reported unfavorably by this committee. The members of the Clackamas delegation, however, are doing what they can for the bill and will secure the appropriation if it possibly can be done.

In the unsuccessful fight that was made in the House Tuesday to have the emergency clause removed from the Senate bill providing for the retention of the two Commissioners to the Supreme Court, Campbell, Dimick and Jones were all found lined up on the losing side. However, they were standing with the forces in the House which insisted that before the membership of the Supreme Court should be increased for a longer time, the people should not be denied the opportunity to elect judges of their own choice.

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## SEES VISIONS OF RAILROAD

FROM OREGON CITY TO MOLALLA IN TWENTY-ONE MONTHS.

## CONTRACT DRAWN UP

Sarcastic Molalla Correspondent Tells People to Get Used to the New Order of Things.

(By Molalla Correspondent.)

All aboard again—F. M. Swift, still on deck and promoting the Southern Clackamas County Railroad Company. A contract has been gotten up that seems to be free from flaws and serious objections. At any rate there is no money demanded until the railroad is built and the cars rolling on to the Molalla Prairie from Oregon City. Isn't that good enough for anybody? And so long as we get the goods delivered, on the ground, before payday comes, who cares whether it is F. M. Swift, the O. W. P., or some other powerful railway company that carries out the rolling contract. The job is to be done out this far in 21 months; that's none too soon, let it come; get a move on old boys, let's get used to the new order of things early.

County Superintendent Gary's school meeting at the Grange Hall, last Saturday, was a great success in many ways. Although the weather was cold and rainy, about 100 people were in attendance. The professor's 15 questions were very thoroughly "threshed" out, seemingly, to the satisfaction of all present. The only complaint heard was the day was entirely too short to do anything like justice to so many important questions. This was the first meeting of the kind ever held in the county, and



J. E. JACK, who Attended State Board of Equalization at Salem this week.

We would like to have the Superintendent circuit the county with these meetings. They would tend to shorten and bridge the gulch, which lies between the parents' home and the school house—educational co-operation.

The Molalla Commercial Club at its regular meeting last Friday night, assigned an essay to each member on some resource or industry of the Molalla Valley. These writings are to be made by persons engaged in their particular line of business and the club's next meeting promises to be very interesting, when all this data is turned into the common fund of information, whereupon a folder is to be issued descriptive of Southwest Clackamas county in general and the Molalla Valley in particular.

## MORE KNOTS SEVERED

JUDGE MCBRIDE GRANTS SEPARATION PAPERS TO THREE UNHAPPY COUPLES.

Thomas A. McBride, judge of the circuit court, returned from his brief visit at Deer Island on Wednesday and held court Thursday disposing of several cases that were pending. Ina Carter was the plaintiff in the divorce suit brought against her husband, Kerney J. Carter. Plaintiff was awarded the care and custody of a minor child, Hallie Carter. Mrs. Carter was given the divorce on the grounds of desertion.

Caroline Rinehart was granted a decree of divorce from Charles Rinehart, and was allowed to resume her maiden name, Caroline Stribling.

On the grounds of cruel and inhuman treatment, Cereida K. Tuttle was granted a divorce from Samuel L. Tuttle.

Judge McBride is now in St. Helens holding a week's term of court.

## ATHLETIC FIELD MEET

GLADSTONE THE SCENE OF BIG ATHLETIC CONTEST MAY FIRST.

Through the efforts of Prof. Hill and Goetz, of the Eastham and Barclay schools, an organization has been perfected under the title of the "Clackamas School League." The executive committee of the League met at the court house last Saturday and made preparation to carry out the plans of the league. It was decided to hold the first field meet at Gladstone on Saturday, May 1. On the evening of the same day the League will hold at Oregon City a literary contest, awarding prizes for the best declamation and for the best original production.

The following athletic events will take place at the field meet: 50-yard dash, 100 yard dash, 220 yard dash, 440 yard run, half mile run, 120 high hurdles, 220 low hurdles, 12 pound shot put, discus throw, broad jump, high jump, pole vault, one mile relay race, 4 to enter, and two and 1/2 mile relay race, 10 to enter. First place in each event to count 5 points, second place 3 points and third, 1.

All schools wishing to enter the baseball league must make application and send one dollar entrance fee to the secretary, Brenton Vedder, of Gladstone, on or before the 26th of February.

The committee will meet again the 27th of February to arrange a schedule for the ball games to be held by the league. Prizes to be offered will be announced later by the committee.

## ANOTHER CASE OF SMALLPOX.

J. A. Serber, Head of Family Takes Down with the Disease.

Another case of smallpox has appeared in the Serber family at Greenpoint. J. A. Serber, the head of the family, is bedfast with the disease. Dr. Stuart, the attending physician, reports the other three cases getting along nicely. The saloon of Serber was closed Saturday and fumigated.

## WILL OPEN JUNE FIRST

ALASKA-YUKON-PACIFIC EXPOSITION WILL BE READY ON SCHEDULE TIME.

## COULD OPEN SOONER

Grounds and all Buildings Rapidly Nearing Completion Under a Regiment of Workmen.

With four months to go to the opening day of the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition, the exposition is ninety per cent complete and, should hurry orders come from the directors to open on May 1, instead of June 1, it could be done, and with everything in its place.

With the exception of the government buildings, all of the principal structures on the grounds are finished, so far as exteriors are concerned, some little interior decoration and finishing remains to be done, but to all intents and purposes the buildings are ready for the installation of exhibits.

Work on the handsome buildings which will house the Government exhibits from the Philippines, Hawaii and Alaska, is well under way. A regiment of workmen has been thrown into the field by the contractors and the daily growth of the structure is marvelous.

The Forestry Building is still in course of construction, but so nearly complete that its magnificent proportions, particularly its pergola of gigantic fir trunks is in full view.

The towering Alaska shaft, which stands at the head of the Cascades and marks the central court of the exposition, is in place and the work of coating it with gold will be begun as soon as the rains of midwinter have ceased. The cascades, which, with the Geyser Basin will make one of the most beautiful electrical spectacles ever conceived, are completed and the last work of wiring them for the powerful submerged electric lights, is being done. Forty thousand gallons of water will pour down this wonderful fall every minute and at night it will be illuminated from beneath with every color of the solar prism, making it a tumultuous rainbow. Geyser Basin, into which the fall plunges, will be similarly illuminated.

Now that spring is at hand, some idea is to be had of the beauty of the gardens which are shot through the whole exposition reservation. Many of the plans have been in the ground through the winter and warmed by recent sun they are everywhere bursting into bud and bloom. The landscape gardeners with scores of men, are putting in the pansies, Geraniums, violets and other blooms which will later make the grounds a riot of color and everywhere is going in the cactus dahlia, the official flower of the exposition. Flowering trees from every clime are being set out and many of them have not waited for transplantation to break into bud.

So nearly complete is the electric system of the exposition that a formal test of it was made by night recently and a foretaste given a few of the fortunate ones of what the exposition is to be, as a night spectacle. In the decorative scheme of the inner court alone nearly one million eight-candle power incandescent lamps are used besides a multitude of arc lights for illumination of the streets and ways. Every one of the big buildings is thrown into brilliant outline and the Alaska shaft looks like a huge flame.

The Pay Streak, which will be the big amusement center, will be another electrical triumph. Besides the thousands of lights provided by the exposition, every concessionaire is required to supply a heavy quota, with the result that, by night, the "funny streak" of the exposition looks like a general conflagration.

Paving of the streets, boulevards and courts with cement and bitumen is practically at an end—thirty days will see the last tap done upon even the great turnpike along the shores of Lakes Washington and Union, upon which the Exposition City lies.

All in all the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition will more than make good upon its slogan—"The Fair that will be ready."

Little Bessie Barton Taken to the Hospital.

Little Bessie Barton, the eight-year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Barton, of Stone, was brought to this city Tuesday accompanied by her parents and taken to Portland for surgical treatment by a specialist in that city for hip disease.



HONEST ABE, WHO OPENED HIS EYES TO THE WORLD JUST A CENTURY AGO TODAY.