

Oregon City Enterprise

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ANXIOUS FOR ANNEXATION.

Not all the countries on this hemisphere are afraid of annexation to the United States. One of these is the Republic of Honduras.
Just now the Honduran government is negotiating a large loan which does not meet the approval of a great majority of the people of the republic. The objectors assert that the consummation of the proposed deal would place the country at the mercy of the syndicate of capitalists furnishing the money, the syndicate of course being composed of foreigners.
Leading Hondurans have decided that their best interests for the future lie in annexation to the United States, and to that end have been agitating the matter, with the result that a petition with more than 100,000 names will be sent to Washington asking for annexation to the United States.
The sentiment prevalent in Honduras is in striking contrast to that existing in Canada prior to the recent Canadian elections, when the proposition for reciprocal trade with this country was met with the reply that reciprocity would mean annexation, and that annexation would entail trust domination for the Dominion.

PENSIONS FOR VETERANS.

An interesting feature of the report of the commissioner of pensions treats of the soldiers who served in the Spanish-American war.
The figures show that there are now 33,000 invalid soldiers of the Cuban, Porto Rican and Philippine campaigns on the pension roll, in addition to 3,032 dependent mothers, 1,217 widows, 522 fathers, nine brothers and sisters and 327 children of deceased soldiers.
In the aggregate 23,490 persons are receiving pensions from the Federal government on account of the war. This number exceeds the strength of the regular army when the war was commenced and is said to be 10,000 more than all the troops we had before Santiago. On account of the war there are also pending \$386 claims for pensions.
Up to the present time our Spanish-American and Philippine war expenses have been \$24,142,976.37, which approaches within \$12,000,000 of the entire pension cost of the wars of 1812, or that with Mexico. And red-blooded, patriotic Americans cheerfully contribute their share of the cost.

LENGTH OF A DRINK.

What is whisky has been disposed of as a vexatious question and now appropriate enough comes an official definition as to the length of a drink—of whisky, of course.
Senator John Worth Kern, of Indiana, who once upon a time attracted general attention by sailing across the political horizon as a tall to the Bryan presidential comet, is responsible for the definition.
During the Lorimer investigation the senator was interrogating a witness named Sturmer, who excused or explained his inability to remember by the plea that he had been rather bibulous.
"How many drinks had you had?" asked Senator Kern of Sturmer.
"That depends on how much you think makes a drink," was the reply of the witness.
"Well, about two inches and a quarter," replied the senator.
The bibulously inclined can henceforth govern themselves accordingly.

Most likely it is a surprise to the majority of the people that the majority in California for the "recall" was greater than that for the "initiative and referendum." For both amendments the majority was overwhelming.

but that for the recall exceeds that for the initiative and referendum by several thousand. That verdict probably means that the people of California are dissatisfied with some court decisions in their own state and elsewhere, a conviction that the judiciary, as well as other officials, is not immaculate and that the best corrective for judicial and other shortcomings lies in the power of the people to bring the offenders to court. Evidently also, the contention that the power to recall will lessen reverence for the courts and make judges the mere instruments of demagogues did not weigh with the Californians.

There is no discounting the fact that woman suffrage has made a great gain in the victory achieved in California. Naturally one looks to the western states for experiments in legislation, economics and social relations because they are less influenced by those old established customs that affect the Eastern states. But the people of the west are just as quick in throwing over experiments if they do not prove satisfactory as they are in making them. Therefore an equal suffrage has prevailed in five of the western and mountain states for some time. The result in California can only mean that the majority in that state is satisfied that woman suffrage has proved successful where tried. It goes without saying that the cause of woman suffrage has received a decided impetus.

If the boys in the farm home more often had a financial share in the farm instead of being treated like hired help there would be a greater desire to stick to the farm. But when a boy is not consulted or taken into his father's confidence it is no wonder that he has but little interest in the farm and makes up his mind to go to the city as soon as possible.

If it is true, as stated on high authority, that New York banks refuse employment to any man who testifies in court against defaulting bankers it is not going to inspire much confidence in the honor and business integrity of the banks. Not only that but it shows that the management of the banks should be thoroughly investigated.

Why has butter advanced in price? In the absence of any other explanation we can blame it on Attorney-General Wickersham and let it go at that.

Chairman Mack of the Democratic National Committee looks forward to a Democratic victory in 1912. Mr. Mack had the same vision in 1908.

The earth will be inhabitable for ten million years a scientist says. Those highbrows will hand out a chunk of joy once in a while.

Conditions in China remind the people of the United States that the opening of the Panama Canal will come none too soon.

Comments the Toledo Blade: "Some people are so pessimistic that they can't believe anything but bad news."

Champ Clark says he will give no more interviews. But will Champ be able to keep mum until next June?

You need not wait until the New Year to make a resolution to throw selfishness to the winds.

Confession may be good for one soul and at the same time make a lot of others anxious.

The school house will effect the revolution most needed in Mexico.

McNamarism blew the Harriman majority campaign to pieces.

The poet is also doing his Christmas poeting early.

TREATY ABROGATED.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—The Senate, by a unanimous vote tonight ratified President Taft's notification to the termination of the termination of the treaty of 1832. The joint resolution reported a substitution for the Sulzer resolution that passed the House, 309 to 1, was adopted after debate over Russian discrimination against the Jews of America.

Something Just as Good Can only be the case when it is another bottle of Dr. Bell's Pine-Tar-Honey. Every bottle the same. Look for the bell on the bottle. Geo. A. Harding, Druggist.

U'REN HIT BACK AT TAX CRITICS

(Continued from page 1)
intimation that the possession of these powers by the people of Oregon has actually injured the business of anyone but the professional politicians. Messrs. Hedges, Stipp and Mayor-elect Dimick and other Live Wires will take new courage if they will inform themselves of the growth of population and business in Oregon since 1902."

WATER POWER IS TAXABLE—STIPP

CITY RECORDER TAKES ISSUE WITH U'REN AND COUNTY OFFICIALS.

PRESENT LAW ADEQUATE, HE SAYS

"Proposition Used As Bait By Single Taxers To Get Votes For Bill," Declares Lawyer.

Livy Stipp, City Recorder and Assistant District Attorney, Saturday took issue with the single tax advocates on a matter of vital importance. The land tax men say that under the present laws water power is not taxable. Mr. Stipp says it is. His statement follows:

I understand that the "Single Taxers" are claiming that their bill will add much in the way of taxable property by providing for the taxing of water power and franchises, and that these things are not now taxed.

This claim was formerly made as to both of these matters, but I believe that they have now withdrawn the claim as to franchises for the reason that the present law provides positively that all "franchises and special franchises" shall be assessed.

This water power proposition is used by the single taxers as a bait to get votes for their bill, for that reason it is important to know what the present law is and whether the claims are just.

Section 3551, L. A. L. (Our present laws) says that all property not exempt shall be assessed and taxed. (I am only giving the substance of the law and I find that water power is not exempt.) Section 3552 says that land that does not include the land itself but everything "appertaining to it."

Section 432, Vol. 2, Farnham, Waters and Water Rights, says that water and water rights are to be assessed with the land in connection with which it is used and the land is to be assessed with the added value. I find that the other text-books on law and the decisions hold the same thing. So under our statute the water is to be assessed with the land.

The duties of the Board of State Commissioners is defined under Section 3617, L. O. L., sub-sections 5 and 6, of which are as follows:

5. To construe the tax and revenue laws of the state whenever requested by any officer acting under such laws, or by any interested person, and to instruct such officer in relation to his duties with reference to assessments and taxation and collection of public taxes, dues, and revenues.

6. To issue instructions and directions to the County Assessor, County Boards of Equalization, County Clerks and Tax Collectors as to the methods best calculated to secure uniformity in the systems of assessment and collection of taxes, to the end that a full cash valuation for assessment and taxation of ALL PROPERTY, REAL AND PERSONAL, TANGIBLE AND INTANGIBLE, INCLUDING FRANCHISES and special franchises, also shall be obtained, and to prescribe the blank forms of reports for that purpose.

Mr. U'ren says that the P. R. L. & P. Company is using and selling water power in Clackamas county that is worth at least \$5,000,000, which is not, and which good lawyers say cannot, be legally assessed for taxation under present laws. No good lawyer ever said that after having made a careful study of the laws. Some lawyer interested in single tax might have said it for the purpose of promulgating the single tax theory, or some lawyer whose clients are interested in water power might say the same thing. I do not believe that the Tax Commission will give any such opinion in writing as Mr. U'ren says they gave him.

I am convinced enough to believe that I can convince the Supreme Court of this state (if they need convincing) that water power is assessable and taxable under present laws.

Mr. Jack says that he never gave any opinion that water power was not assessable. Certain it is, he never asked any assistance of me in solving this question.

If the Board of State Tax Commissioners say that water power is not assessable or taxable under present conditions, it is perhaps because they do not wish to do so, or it might add to their labor, and so is taboo.

The truth is, the present law is adequate and it is only because we have incompetent officials or because they are not interested as they should be.

The above assumes the values as stated by Mr. U'ren to be correct. I said nothing about freak laws myself and just why U'ren mentions me in the conclusion of his article I do not know.

Not Good for everything. Sutherland's Eagle Eye Salve is good for nothing but the eyes. If you use it and are not satisfied come back and get your 25c. You be the judge. Geo. A. Harding, Druggist.

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DIMICK SAYS U'REN RECEIVED \$16,775

SINGLE TAXER GETS SALARY OF CIRCUIT JUDGE, DECLARES MAYOR-ELECT.

ARGUMENTS ARE CALLED UNFAIR

Water-Power at Oregon City For Most Part Artificial, Therefore Not Taxable, As Alleged, Says Lawyer.

Grant B. Dimick, mayor-elect, Wednesday afternoon gave out the following interview in reply to the statements of W. S. U'ren made in a recent issue of The Enterprise. Mr. Dimick is well posted on local tax conditions and goes to the root of the whole matter in his research:

I have read with a great deal of interest the interview of Mr. U'ren, published in the Morning Enterprise of December 16, and also in the Oregonian, wherein he takes to task several of our citizens, including myself for discussing a question that is of vital importance to every farmer and home-owner in Clackamas county, and from the tenor of his interview it would indicate that he has a sole and exclusive patent on every argument that might be presented for or against the single tax question. I have read the pamphlet very carefully and I have spoken by invitation upon the question of taxation in a large number of the Commercial Clubs and gatherings in Oregon, and Mr. U'ren is the first one to my knowledge who has ever questioned my veracity or the figures which I have presented at those meetings, and I have never heard an argument presented by a single tax advocate who was fair in his presentation of the question, but always seem to content himself in trying to work up a prejudice against the heavy taxpayer and in favor of the smaller.

It is in addition to the foregoing, the Commission has sent out a quantity of such literature as is obtainable, and plans are now under way for the preparation of a "Merchants and Manufacturers' Booklet," the object of which is to show that Land Value Taxation means a saving of dollars—taxation means a saving of dollars—to merchants and manufacturers. The booklet will give actual examples taken from several states in which Land Values and Improvement Values are separately assessed, and will show contracts between the effects of the general property tax and the Land Value tax on mercantile and manufacturing business.

I also call your attention to the first paragraph on page 27 of said pamphlet, as follows:

"Ordered that the 'Merchants and Manufacturers' Booklet' be printed in comprehensive form and sent to all the merchants and manufacturers of the United States."

I desire to ask why the single tax advocates are devoting their energies toward the merchants and manufacturers if it is not for the purpose of exempting their merchandise and manufacturing plants so that the burden of taxation will fall upon the home-owners and farmers, and thereby exempt the companies and individuals who can better afford to pay their just portion of the expenses of state and county government. As a matter of fact the fund known as the "Fels Fund" is supported by large merchants and manufacturers and they are the ones who are advancing the large sums for the purpose of exempting buildings, railroads, merchants and manufacturing institutions from taxation, and thereby throw the burden from themselves on the owners of real property.

As far as the home-owner and farmer in Oregon is concerned the "Fels Fund," supported by Eastern millionaire merchants and manufacturers, is the most vicious fund that was ever collected together for the purpose of fostering on the people of a commonwealth, a system of taxation whereby railway companies, mercantile houses and other buildings, manufacturing plants, machinery, goods and merchandise are to be exempt from taxation and the amount of their exemption cast upon the owners of real property.

I notice also on page 31 of said pamphlet Mr. U'ren received out of that millionaire manufacturers' fund, known as the "Fels Fund" the magnificent sum of \$16,775, and in addition thereto he is now receiving out of that fund a salary equal to that paid to the average circuit judge in the state of Oregon, and there is a good reason why he flies off from the handle every time a citizen attempts to argue against that system of taxation advocated by the hiring of the "Fels Fund" in their endeavor to exempt the railroads, building owners, merchants and manufacturers from paying their just proportion of taxation.

Wife Seeks Divorce. Bessie Hollowell filed suit Monday for divorce against William C. Hollowell, alleging abandonment. They were married in Pocatella, Ida., March 19, 1909.

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COMMERCIAL CLUB GAINS 43 MEMBERS

(Continued from page 1.)

Hammond, George A. Harding, V. Harris, G. E. Hayes, Joseph E. Hedges, G. L. Hedges, Rev. A. Hillsbrand, R. L. Holman, Wm. B. Howell, C. G. Huntley, W. A. Huntley, V. R. Hyde, Otto Hoge, Fred Hoge, Dr. Geo. E. Humphreys, George J. Hall, Chas. J. Hood.

Dr. L. G. Ice. A. F. Jack, J. E. Jack, Frank Jaggar, Dr. G. L. Jenkins, G. F. Johnson, Harry Jones, Linn E. Jones, Jos. Justin, Carl Johnke, R. V. D. Johnson, H. H. Johnson.

H. L. Kelly, L. H. Kirchem, John Knapp, B. Kuppenbender, Arthur W. King.

J. J. Lagesen, N. R. Lang, E. S. Larsen, C. D. Latourette, M. D. Latourette, J. R. Latourette, Ward B. Lawton, George Lazelle, M. J. Lazelle, J. Levitt, A. J. Lewis, John B. Levithwait, John W. Lohr, Earl Lutz, Dan. Lyons, F. D. Lindsey.

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L. A. Noble, Charles S. Noble, Emory J. Noble.

F. A. Olmsted, Henry O. O'Malley, Theodore Osmund, Oregon City Enterprise.

E. L. Pope, O. A. Pace, C. T. Parker, R. C. Parker, M. E. Parks, Pacific Telephone Company, R. Petzold, Dr. L. J. Picken, Forbes B. Pratt, A. A. Price, George E. Pusey, R. G. Pierce.

Rev. C. W. Robison, George Randall, Thomas P. Randall, E. P. Rands, H. A. Randa, John F. Riley, Charles W. Risley, E. G. Roberts, Thomas F. Ryan, L. Ruconich.

L. A. Smith, W. W. Smith, H. C. Stevens, R. L. Shepherd, F. B. Schoenborn, Henry C. Salisbury, J. C. Sawyer, Fred Schafer, W. F. Schooler, C. Schuebel, W. A. Sheehan, H. G. Starkweather, Carl A. Schram, Ed. Schram, J. E. Sealey, W. H. Silcox, Wm. Shehan, C. E. Spence, Dr. E. A. Sommer, Samuel L. Stevens, Livy Stipp, H. W. Strickland, Dr. M. C. Strickland, Wm. Stone, Jr., W. B. Stokes, Dr. C. A. Stuart.

Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

CONVICT'S POETRY WINS HIM PAROLE

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., Dec. 16.—(Special.)—Albert Ferguson, convict poet and magazine writer, who left the penitentiary on parole today, owes his liberty to some extent to the fact that while in prison he conducted a school for illiterate prisoners. More than one convict who entered the prison unable to read or write left it with a fair education, because of Ferguson's efforts. This gained for him the aid of the penitentiary officials.

It is said Ferguson is a member of an excellent Kentucky family. He gave his age as twenty-four when he entered the penitentiary January 2, 1906, under a ten-year sentence for robbery, from Kansas City. Ferguson, from his cell, kept up correspondence with several publications and wrote much verse.

He is paroled to William Marion Reedy, a St. Louis editor, who published some of Ferguson's poems and at every opportunity pleaded for clemency for him. The parole requires Ferguson to obtain from the use of intoxicants.

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