

TOWN AND CHARTER

Change Is Proposed by Taxpayers' League.

TO PROVIDE FOR CITY'S NEEDS

Reduction of County Road Tax and Funds of the Police, Fire and Street Departments Discussed at Their Last Meeting.

The meeting of the Taxpayers' League yesterday afternoon was largely attended and the session lasted several hours. A number of measures were discussed at length. Owing to the approaching session of the Legislature, great interest is now being taken in probable legislation, and, as the membership of the league is made up of a number of Portland's nearest taxpayers, their views on the question of taxation are of some importance, as they help foot the bills. The executive committee made a full report upon the joint meeting held last Saturday with the members of the Multnomah delegation. Other matters then came up for discussion, the most important of which was a proposal to amend the city charter so as to make it more flexible in providing for the actual needs of the city government.

County Roads Levy.

The levy for county roads was taken up and considered. It was shown that for the past four years there had been expended on county roads about \$200,000, as follows:

1926	\$5,715.67	\$199	61,226.74
1927	5,932.12	200	62,500.00
1928	6,066.12	Total	\$200,235.54

These amounts are what have been raised by road tax, and have nothing to do with the expenditure of the city on bridges over the Willamette, nor do they include the bicycle tax. The figures for previous years were not at hand, but it is perfectly apparent that in the last 30 years an immense amount of money has been spent on county roads. The members of the league are unanimous on the proposition that this levy should now be reduced to not more than 1 mill. The roads are generally reported in good order, and they feel that for the present, at any rate, this expenditure should be reduced as indicated. The members of the league feel that, inasmuch as the city pays much the larger percentage of this tax and has paid it for years past, it is but fair that the city should have some say in the matter. During this year the city has had about \$600 worth of work to maintain its streets.

Reduction of County Expenses.

Other matters in connection with county expenses were also discussed. The Constables of the Justice Court now receive \$100 per year, and no charge for service is made to litigants. In other words, the county furnishes the salaries of Constables. The members of the league feel that this is a very large sum, and they feel that the city should have some say in the matter. During this year the city has had about \$600 worth of work to maintain its streets.

Streets and City Departments.

The executive committee of the league called for an expression of opinion as to the advisability of having the city take over the care and maintenance of the streets and of the different departments of the city government. The members were practically unanimous in the view that the only possible way streets could be kept in order was through a maintenance fund, raised by a general tax, the improved streets to be kept in order during their life. The city has a large force of men employed in the maintenance of the streets, and they also thought that it should be of sufficient effectiveness, at least to cause people to feel reasonably secure in going about their ordinary vocations, and that the city should be able to maintain the streets in good order. Their conclusions were based on figures that were considered simply unanswerable. For instance, there is now provided by the charter a fund to pay interest on the bonded debt. The amount is 2½ mills on the assessed valuation. On a valuation of \$30,000,000, if all were collected the fund would have \$75,000. As the interest on the bonds is \$125,000, it can easily be seen where such a policy would land the city. As business men and large taxpayers they desire these conditions remedied.

Charter Amendment Proposed.

As expressing the sense of the league the following resolution was adopted: That the charter be amended so as to provide that the amount to be raised for the different departments shall be based on a valuation of \$30,000,000, and the various levies limited as at present provided; that I mill instead of 2½ mill be raised for street purposes, and that instead of fixing the levy arbitrarily at 2½ mill for interest, it shall state that the levy shall be sufficient for the purpose.

It was further the sense of the meeting that it should be made the obligation of any vehicle license tax should go to the street repair fund. The league does not believe in cutting off absolute essentials, but in cutting off the position where, in order to maintain the credit of the city, they shall have to violate the law.

The following illustrations will show how the proposed change will operate:

Police department—Levy, 2½ mills; present valuation, \$30,000,000; amount raised, \$75,000.
Levy, 1½ mills; proposed valuation, \$30,000,000; amount raised, \$45,000.
Estimate of Police Commission for 1931, \$35,000.
Fire department—Levy, 3 mills; present valuation, \$30,000,000; amount raised, \$90,000.
Levy, 2 mills; proposed valuation, \$30,000,000; amount raised, \$60,000.
Estimate of Fire Commissioners for 1931, \$102,500.

It is the same with lighting. Although reduced to a very reasonable sum on the present valuation, it is simply impossible to meet the payments. The present charter was based on the assumption that thereabout, but the assessment for the last two years simply made it hopeless to carry on the departments as was expected when the charter was enacted.

There is not so much objection to fixing a maximum amount, but in doing this it must be done in a reasonable way. Indeed, there is a considerable sentiment that it might not be a bad idea in some way to limit the expenditures of the city in like manner as are those of the city.

It is well known that the members of the league hoped that this Legislature would give the people of Portland an opportunity to formulate and adopt a charter for themselves. The members, however, are hopeful that temporarily at least the amendment outlined will be sufficient to carry the city along in a reasonable way until the people have an opportunity to formulate a charter for themselves. This is the plan that has

CARRIED INTO U. S. COURT.

Payment of Sixth-Street Improvement Further Restricted.

J. Thorburn Ross, as trustee, yesterday commenced suit in the United States Court against the City of Portland, Board of Public Works, Common Council, Chief of Police McLoughlin, and Auditor Devlin, to enjoin the city from collecting the assessments against lots 1 to 4, block 178, for the improvement of Sixth street, amounting to something over \$100.

Plaintiff alleges that all the proceedings, and the assessment and the threatened lien on the property, and the City of Portland, and the Chief of Police, are null and void; therefore he asks for an injunction restraining the city and its officers from selling the property for the collection of this assessment, and asks that the entry on the docket of city liens be declared null and void and cancelled, and for his costs and disbursements.

Judge Bollinger, yesterday, after hearing John Kollock, of counsel for the complainant, made an order that the defendants appear January 3, to show cause, if any, why a provisional injunction should not be issued.

The legality of the assessments for the improvement of Sixth street has lately been decided in favor of the city, by the Supreme Court of the state, but the present owners of the property involved in this suit, represented by Mr. Ross, are apparently dissatisfied with the decision, and so have brought suit in the United States Court to get out of paying the assessments.

Court Notes.

Charles Barnes has filed suit in the State Circuit Court against Frank E. Hart, et al., to foreclose a mortgage for \$12,000 on 11-13 acres of land.

The case of J. C. Olsen vs. the Northern Pacific Lumber Company, in the United States Court, was yesterday set for hearing January 2.

The suit of Morris Labowitz to compel his sons to support him was dismissed yesterday by the Board of County Commissioners, who decided that the board had no jurisdiction in the matter. An appeal from the decision was taken to the State Circuit Court.

In the case of Morris & Whitehead vs. the East Side Railway Company et al., the United States Court, a motion was made yesterday for the receiver to turn into the registry of the court the surplus moneys of the East Side Railway Company now in the hands of the receiver. The motion was set for hearing January 4.

PERSONAL MENTION.

Dr. W. C. Bell, of La Grande, is at the Imperial.

James Manary, a logger of Stella, is at the Imperial.

Dr. D. Y. K. Deering, Sheriff of Union County, is at the Imperial.

W. M. Pierce, a Wendleton lawyer, is registered at the Perkins.

George N. Crossfield, a merchant of Astoria, is at the Perkins.

E. D. Stillman, an attorney of Pendleton, is at the Perkins.

C. L. Dogget, a Ketchikan, Alaska, mining man, is at the Perkins.

P. B. Kelly, of Astoria, State Senator for Union County, is at the Perkins.

Herman Wile, ex-postmaster of Astoria, is registered at the Imperial.

J. O. Storey, a lumberman of Cascade Lock, is registered at the Imperial.

George A. Young, a cattle raiser of Shanks, is registered at the Imperial.

Alex Shannon, a horse and cattle raiser of Walla Walla, is at the Perkins.

Sheriff J. W. Matlock, of Morrow County, registered at the Perkins last evening.

George A. Wines, of Portland, Oregon, is at the Perkins.

Lena Office, is registered at the Imperial.

D. H. Welch, a capitalist of Clatsop County, is registered at the Perkins, from Astoria.

R. A. Booth, of Eugene, member of the Booth-Kelly Lumber Company, is at the Imperial.

Professor Clyde A. Dunaway, of Stanwood, B. C., spending the Christmas holidays with relatives here.

W. A. Wood, a mining man of Wallace, Idaho, is at the Perkins, on his return from a visit to San Francisco.

W. K. Hapner, a lumberman of Astoria, and family, are at the Perkins, with a view to settling permanently in Oregon.

William D. Hanley and wife, of Burns, are staying for a few days at the Imperial, on their way to the coast.

Extensive hayloaders of Harney Valley, and has 2000 acres in natural meadows, from which he cuts the hay. He reports a very good crop, and that the hay is making the roads very difficult to travel, on account of the mud and slush.

DAILY CITY STATISTICS.

Real Estate Transfers.

J. W. Richards to M. A. McEachern, lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

J. W. Richards to M. A. McEachern, lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622,