

TO A FLEXIBLE TAX SYSTEM

OREGON LEGISLATURE STRONGLY INCLINED TOWARDS STEP.

Appropriations, Incomes and Inheritances Chief Object—Methods of Other States.

SALEM, Or., Jan. 17.—The members of the Oregon Legislature manifested a decided inclination today towards a part of the state revenues by means of a method of taxation that those heretofore employed. The chief aim seems to be to acquire corporations, incomes and inheritances. Secretary of State Dunbar discussed these subjects in his biennial report. In addition to his own recommendations, numerous amendments heretofore published, the Secretary of State set forth in brief the taxes imposed by some of the other states upon corporations. As showing what Oregon might do in this respect, the following extracts from this very valuable report are presented:

"The Controller of the State of New York, after five years' service, says in his annual report to the Legislative Assembly for 1919, concerning suggestions for the improvement and management of the public resources:

"I suggest the raising of revenue for state purposes from what we have come to call indirect sources, i. e., from sources other than the direct property tax, in order to remove a profitless source of injustice between the counties and the citizens of the state."

"In the state 50 per cent of the revenue is received from sources other than the general tax. Illinois, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Michigan and other states receive a large part of their revenue from indirect sources."

"The following are the fees required to be paid by a corporation in a number of states:

"In Arkansas, \$25, excepting religious, literary, benevolent and scientific operations. Connecticut provides that no corporation having a capital stock shall commence to do business until it pays to the Treasurer of the state not less than \$100, and not more than \$500, as may be assessed and determined by the State Board of Equalization."

"Colorado demands that every corporation, domestic or foreign, shall pay a fee of \$10, where the capital stock does not exceed \$50,000, and 1 cent for each \$100 in excess of that sum."

"Delaware provides that it is unlawful for any corporation created by the laws of any other state to do business therein until it files a certified copy of its charter, with the name of its authorized agent, and pays for the use of the state \$50."

"Corporations organized under the laws of Illinois pay the sum of \$25. Foreign corporations for pecuniary profit, before authorized or permitted to transact business therein, shall maintain a public office or place of business, file in the office of the Secretary of State a copy of its charter or articles of incorporation, and pay for the use of the state upon the proportion of its capital stock, represented by its property and business, the taxes and fees required of corporations formed under the laws of the state."

"In Indiana the fee for filing articles of incorporation of a corporation whose capital stock is \$100,000 or under is \$10, and one-tenth of 1 per cent, if the amount is increased."

"In Iowa the fee is \$25, and an additional fee of \$1 per \$1000; where the capital stock exceeds \$10,000; \$50 where it exceeds \$50,000, and \$10 for each additional \$50,000."

"In Maryland the fee is \$25. In Massachusetts the fee for filing articles of incorporation is one-twentieth of 1 per cent of the value of the capital stock, but in no case less than \$5 or more than \$200."

"Michigan provides that every corporation is required to file articles of incorporation, and every foreign corporation permitted to transact business in the state shall pay a franchise fee of one-half of 1 mill upon each dollar of the authorized capital stock of the corporation being required to file certified copies of their charter or articles of incorporation and appoint an agent for service of process."

"Minnesota provides that at the time of filing articles of incorporation a fee shall be paid the State Treasurer of \$50 for the first \$50,000 of capital stock, and \$5 for each additional \$50,000 of capital stock."

IN EULOGY OF THE QUEEN

TRIBUTES PAID TO VICTORIA BY PORTLAND MINISTERS.

"Type of the Ideal Ruler," Said Dr. Ackerman—"Good Queen and Noble Woman," Said Dr. Blackburn.

Services in memory of Queen Victoria were held in the churches yesterday. Rev. A. W. Ackerman, of the First Congregational Church, chose as his morning topic, "Victoria, a Type of the Ideal Ruler."

Rev. Alexander Blackburn, of the First Baptist Church, spoke in the evening on "The Good Queen and Noble Woman." At the First Presbyterian Church, Rev. E. P. Hill paid tribute to the Queen. At the First Methodist Church, Rev. J. F. Gorman's evening topic was "The Pre-Eminent Things in the Reign of Queen Victoria."

At the First Episcopal Church, in the morning, a requiem celebration of the holy communion was sung in memory of the Queen, and Rev. J. E. Simpson preached a memorial sermon. Introducing the evening service at the Taylor Street Methodist Episcopal Church, Rev. H. W. Kellogg, conducted a brief memorial service. Rev. B. J. Hoadley, of the Clarke Methodist Episcopal Church, spoke in the evening on "The True Crown Victoria Wore."

In the East Side churches memorial services were held, also. At the Wesleyan Methodist Church, Rev. G. W. Gue preached in the evening on "Memorial Thought on the Death of England's Noble Queen." As a prelude to his morning sermon, Rev. G. W. Gue, of the Third Presbyterian Church, spoke on "Queen Victoria's Influence on the Home Life of Christianity."

Rev. H. E. Thompson, of the Episcopal Church, in the morning, introduced the evening service at the Taylor Street Methodist Episcopal Church, Rev. H. W. Kellogg, conducted a brief memorial service. Rev. B. J. Hoadley, of the Clarke Methodist Episcopal Church, spoke in the evening on "The True Crown Victoria Wore."

"It is sometimes urged that this kind of taxation is confiscation in disguise. That the fraction of an estate as a condition of transmitting it to an heir or legatee is a claim that the state has a right to lay its hands upon the estate, not to receive it, but to receive a share for its own use."

"But it has not been the history of this form of taxation when it has existed, at least in this country, that extreme legislation has been adopted; on the contrary, the rate has generally been a low one and liberal exemptions have been allowed."

"In those states where this tax has been advocated and adopted, it was urged as one method of securing adequate taxation for personal property. The same condition which we find in Wisconsin existed elsewhere. While personal property was greatly increasing in value each year the amount found by the assessor was often diminished. It was found, that the dead hand of the owner could no longer be removed by the mortgage, and that dead properties had been protected by the law and were ready for the appraiser, but that they had contributed to the tax and were ready for the state. As one instance, among many others, an estate in New York was found to be worth \$50,000,000, which had been taxed only \$10,000,000. The good that could be done by the state was found to be worth vast accumulations of personal property can be brought from their hiding places at least once each generation and make contribute their part to the support of the government. It would be at least one step toward the equalization of taxes."

"Perhaps there is no more clearly coincident a revenue which more clearly coincides with the generally accepted canons of taxation. An inheritance or bequest at once increases the ability of the recipient to pay a tax, and there can be no more convenient time than this for him to contribute something to the state whose laws have secured his inheritance. The addition to his property of a considerable sum generally without his personal effort and often unexpectedly. We mention this fact because the death of the bread-winner in the family diminishes its income, but the event also diminishes the expenses of living and such a sudden increase of wealth as should be collected with little expense and with but small opportunity for evasion."

Senator Fweek, of Multnomah County, is fathering a bill to increase the compensation of the Supreme Court Reporter from \$900 per year to \$1500 per year. The incumbent of that office was at the beginning of the year looking for the interests of the bill, and anticipates no trouble in its passage. He says that the work of the office has greatly increased since the year 1918, and that the Supreme Court is now turning out five volumes in two years, while it formerly turned out but three in the same length of time. It is on account of the increased work that he asks the raise in his salary.

FEED GRAIN TO HOGS.

Palouse Farmer Makes Wheat Worth 80 Cents a Bushel.

E. L. Smith, the Minnesota farmer who has been addressing agricultural meetings in the Columbia River Basin for several months, is at the Imperial. He is preparing for a series of meetings to be held in the Willamette Valley, and expects to urge upon stockmen the importance of sowing tame grasses on their worst soil pastures. He flatters himself that his lectures progress, and that farmers have begun to bear fruit, as he frequently meets farmers who have been interested in the methods he suggests.

Mr. Smith thinks the farmers of the Northwest can make a good deal more by feeding their wheat to hogs and cattle than by selling grain at the present market prices. He mentions that a Palouse farmer who gave him the results of an experiment in feeding hogs according to his suggestions. This man had 30 hogs in a pen. He weighed the feed he gave them. He found that 3 1/2 pounds of chop feed and 1 1/2 pounds of skimmed milk produced a pound of pork. The figures show a revelation to him, as they brought the wheat up to 80 cents a bushel. This is nearly double the ruling price for wheat, delivered at any of the various grain houses of that region. This particular farmer is no longer watching the daily wheat quotations with his former interest. At the present prices of fat steers or hogs, Mr. Smith is sure that the grain raiser can make profit by turning his wheat into beef and pork.

ROBBERS GET \$21,076.

PEORIA, Ill., Jan. 17.—The exact loss sustained by the Peoria National Bank in the robbery Friday night last has been determined to be \$21,076. The stuff taken consisted of revenue stamps of the Peoria National Bank, the weight of the plunder was nearly 900 pounds.

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The Pullman company controls the sleeping-car privileges of every railroad in the United States except the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul and the New York, New Haven & Hartford. In the general plan of consolidation, the two companies doing business on these roads will also be purchased with those of the Pullman.

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FAVORS OPEN GAMBLING. Views of a Merchant Frankly Expressed. PORTLAND, Jan. 16.—(To the Editor.)—I am in favor of open gambling-houses, with a heavy license, or fine, regulating the same. I know what closed gambling-houses mean. I have seen them in the year 1907 to 1920 for \$200,000, yet I have never played a card or gambled in my life. It does not propose to inform the public how much money was stolen from me, as that is the only thing that counts. I will bring you this letter now if I did not want open gambling, so that the public can see who plays. Close the doors, and you screen her enemies from employers cannot find out the doings of those who work for them. Another reason why I want open gambling is that I want people to come and live here. I don't care what the law is in the first place, Portland has few manufacturers; it's a store-keeper city, with a small transient trade, since the panic of 1914. The past seven years have been a struggle to get a great many of our best people. When you, kind reader, walk along the streets, count the pass-by, and you will find over half who pass are bankrupts, who were people of prominence and wealth in 1914. Look at the hundreds of dwellings in this city with moss on their roofs, thick as green grass, the houses unoccupied, or decaying. Why? Because the owner is too poor to keep up repairs, while taxes eat the very vitals of what is left of him.

I want open gambling because it brings people here to follow that vocation for their lives. They spend their money freely; they live in good rooms, patronize the best restaurants, eat 50-cent and 75-cent meals and that is more than most of our people can do. They are cheerful; they have a great deal of fun; they are better than the past year in bettering things in Portland. Nearly every merchant here wants open gambling, but most of them are too cowards to express themselves. A man need not gamble unless he wants to. If a laboring man, when paid off Saturday night, stops and loses his wages at play, he is a fool. He is a fool because he will come Monday morning and it won't be but a few minutes before the game "dips up," and she goes home happy. Her husband is taught a lesson and barred from further play. The Bible says gambling has existed for generations past and it is going to exist. You can't stop it, because life itself is a gamble; but you can regulate it and make those who want to play pay dearly for the privilege.

I hope this letter will bring the matter up so that our Legislature can pass a new law licensing gambling, so it will

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FAVORS OPEN GAMBLING. Views of a Merchant Frankly Expressed. PORTLAND, Jan. 16.—(To the Editor.)—I am in favor of open gambling-houses, with a heavy license, or fine, regulating the same. I know what closed gambling-houses mean. I have seen them in the year 1907 to 1920 for \$200,000, yet I have never played a card or gambled in my life. It does not propose to inform the public how much money was stolen from me, as that is the only thing that counts. I will bring you this letter now if I did not want open gambling, so that the public can see who plays. Close the doors, and you screen her enemies from employers cannot find out the doings of those who work for them. Another reason why I want open gambling is that I want people to come and live here. I don't care what the law is in the first place, Portland has few manufacturers; it's a store-keeper city, with a small transient trade, since the panic of 1914. The past seven years have been a struggle to get a great many of our best people. When you, kind reader, walk along the streets, count the pass-by, and you will find over half who pass are bankrupts, who were people of prominence and wealth in 1914. Look at the hundreds of dwellings in this city with moss on their roofs, thick as green grass, the houses unoccupied, or decaying. Why? Because the owner is too poor to keep up repairs, while taxes eat the very vitals of what is left of him.

I want open gambling because it brings people here to follow that vocation for their lives. They spend their money freely; they live in good rooms, patronize the best restaurants, eat 50-cent and 75-cent meals and that is more than most of our people can do. They are cheerful; they have a great deal of fun; they are better than the past year in bettering things in Portland. Nearly every merchant here wants open gambling, but most of them are too cowards to express themselves. A man need not gamble unless he wants to. If a laboring man, when paid off Saturday night, stops and loses his wages at play, he is a fool. He is a fool because he will come Monday morning and it won't be but a few minutes before the game "dips up," and she goes home happy. Her husband is taught a lesson and barred from further play. The Bible says gambling has existed for generations past